

years of excellence next month in Fargo.

TrueNorth Steel began as Fargo Tank Company by a Norwegian immigrant named Ole Rommesmo. Upon coming to America, he worked as a lumberjack in Minnesota before learning the trade of welding at a steel tank plant in Minneapolis. He moved to Fargo as a welder for the Fargo Foundry Company and tried unsuccessfully four times to start his own business before finally succeeding. During World War II, he worked in northern Canada for the United States military as a welder and construction foreman for an airbase.

It was after the war in 1945 when Fargo Tank Company began, and the business has been going strong ever since. Reflecting Ole's values and principles of integrity, humility, commitment and knowledge, it has added products and services that now reach around the world. He died in 1990, and his son, Ole Rommesmo, Jr., took over the business.

In 2011, the company's seven steel businesses merged to become TrueNorth Steel. Today, it serves many industries, including agricultural, construction, mining, road building, energy, and others on projects at power plants, refineries, golf courses, hospitals, fire stations, airports, stadiums, schools and universities, government, apartment and commercial buildings, wind farms, coal mines, river watersheds, water treatment plants, aquariums—and more.

I congratulate the Rommesmo family for 80 years of providing steel solutions. TrueNorth Steel is testament to the importance of family-owned businesses across the Nation, and the impact bold entrepreneurs have had on our American economy. To my friends at TrueNorth Steel, you have enhanced the quality of life we treasure in our region and have set a very high bar for being a dedicated community partner at your locations across North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana. Thank you for all you have done to build the foundations of industry and infrastructure across our Nation. I hope you will thrive for many years to come. Happy Birthday, TrueNorth Steel.●

RECOGNIZING L.R. FALK CONSTRUCTION CO.

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize L.R. Falk Construction Co. of St. Ansgar, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1922, LaVerne Falk founded L.R. Falk Construction Company. With just a Ford Model T and a shovel, LaVerne established a hauling business, moving items between Chicago and Iowa. La-

Verne recognized the untapped potential of the transportation industry and, over time, expanded the company to encompass more services. By the late 1930s, the company acquired its first rock quarry in St. Ansgar, IA. Now, L.R. Falk Construction hauls everything from large vehicles to agricultural materials.

In 1970, LaVerne's son David Falk became president of L.R. Falk Construction. Under his 40 years of leadership, the company grew to 35 employees, expanded operations to seven quarries, and achieved sustainable growth across the State of Iowa. For over 50 years, the company's main office stayed on St. Ansgar's Main Street. In 2009, L.R. Falk Construction moved its office but remained in the community. In 2010, David stepped down from leadership, and his son Lindsey Falk assumed the role of president of the company.

Over its 102-year history, L.R. Falk Construction has consistently developed and diversified its products and services. Today, Lindsey Falk, the third-generation owner-operator, leads a team of over 60 full-time employees across nine quarries and three sand pits. The company has expanded its offerings to include custom crushing and products such as concrete stone, landscaping materials, and agricultural lime. In 2018, Lindsey founded Saint Stone, a subsidiary of L.R. Falk Construction that repurposes excess stone into marketable products that ships products nationwide.

L.R. Falk Construction Company plays an active role in the St. Ansgar community, organizing events such as the Quarry 5K Run to benefit the Clausen Park Renovation Project. The company also established the ROCK Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization which supports local projects ranging from organizing starting a local food bank to financing mental health professionals in local schools. Lindsey also acquired the Enterprise Journal, the local Mitchell County newspaper. He hopes that it would stay local and continue to serve as a community resource for Mitchell County residents, as it has done since 1861.

In September of 2022, the North Iowa Area Community College Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and the Iowa Small Business Development Center honored L.R. Falk Construction Co. with the Entrepreneur of the Month Award. Additionally, the Limestone Producers Association presented the company with the Good Neighbor Award several times. The Falk family has embedded their life into the great State of Iowa, and all three generations have served as president of the Iowa Limestone Association, marking a first in the organization's history.

L.R. Falk Construction's commitment to providing quality services and products in St. Ansgar, IA, is evident. I want to congratulate the entire Falk family for building such an incredible family-owned and operated business that continues to serve Iowans and be-

yond. I am eager to see how the company continues to expand and reach new heights of success.●

TRIBUTE TO LOU D'ALLESANDRO

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize State Senator Lou D'Alessandro for his decades of public service and advocacy on behalf of his fellow Granite Staters. Senator D'Allesandro—Lou as many of us call him—has been dedicated to constituent service for more than 50 years and has represented New Hampshire's District 20 in the New Hampshire State Senate for 13 consecutive terms. He leaves a legacy of fairness, determination, and genuine care for his constituents. Lou's exemplary years in New Hampshire government will be fondly remembered by communities across the State and by his colleagues in Concord.

Born and raised in Boston, MA, Lou studied at Worcester Academy before attending the University of New Hampshire. He was not only a focused and diligent student, but also a player on the UNH football team and cocaptain his senior season. He also played 2 years of lacrosse and a year of baseball for the Wildcats. In 1963, shortly after graduating from UNH, Lou served as the first athletic director and as a basketball coach at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Lou was inducted into the SNHU Penmen Hall of Fame in 1970 after his team won three consecutive conference titles. A year later, he would continue his educational path by earning his M.Ed. from Rivier University. Lou's academic persistence, extracurricular achievements, and impressive career were an early indicator of his leadership skills and compassionate team-player mentality—all attributes that would guide his transition into public service.

Lou first ran for a seat in New Hampshire's House of Representatives in 1973, and his career in public office blossomed from there. He served two terms in the house and three terms on the New Hampshire Executive Council. In 1998, Lou began his quarter-century long run as a State senator representing District 20. During his time in office, Lou chaired the finance and capital budget committees and was a member of the administrative rules committee. This term, he also served as vice chair of the ways and means committee.

Legislatively, Lou has worked tirelessly to listen to his constituents' values and reflect them in his extensive voting record. With a keen focus on the future, Lou concentrated much of his legislative attention on education and supporting New Hampshire's students. He has sponsored bills ranging from increasing access to free and reduced-priced school lunches to breaking the barriers to higher education. He has prioritized access to early-learning opportunities for young children, noting the importance of public education in

boosting the State's economy and future-driven development. Lou has passionately promoted funding the New Hampshire Community College system and the University of New Hampshire, demonstrating his lifelong commitment to ensuring Granite Staters' access to quality public education in K-12 schools and beyond. In addition to education policy, he has also supported statewide action to address climate change and fought to expand access to Medicare and reproductive health services. His passionate advocacy for these issues and more earned him the nickname, "the Lion of the Senate."

Throughout a half-century of public service, Lou has fostered genuine relationships built on trust, courage, and partnership. During his time in office, he frequently reached across the aisle to ensure that his constituents' needs came before partisan division. He clearly understands the value of compromise and of compassion, even in a divisive and strenuous political climate. The public announcement of his retirement drew bipartisan messages of bittersweet congratulations from his Senate colleagues, including the Democratic leader who commended his leadership and commitment to public service, as well as the Republican senate president who praised his dedication to accomplishing meaningful work as an elected official. Lou has exuded grounded, thoughtful wisdom, which not only helped him achieve legislative successes, but also made him an approachable and reliable representative for his constituents. As his colleague Senator Donna Soucy expressed, Lou D'Allesandro was and continues to be a "North Star," guiding future generations of State senators and leaving a legacy of service and mentorship.

Lou's decades of public service will be celebrated later this year, and friends, family and colleagues will join together to reflect on his remarkable accomplishments. Having spent most of his life as a community leader, Lou will undoubtedly continue to serve his friends and neighbors with care and compassion in meaningful ways. He is surrounded by love and affection from his wife Pat and their three children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. I join in celebrating and thanking Lou for all he has done for the Granite State.●

REMEMBERING SHARON NORDGREN

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Sharon Nordgren and recognize a longtime public servant who gave so much to the Granite State.

Sharon spent her younger years in Chicago, IL and St. Louis Park, MN, before attending the University of Minnesota. She was an extremely active member of the campus community, a hint at her future calling as a dedicated local leader and regular presence in New Hampshire's Upper Valley.

Sharon played clarinet in the band, organized the school's first golf team, and participated in the local chapter of a youth development group called Camp Fire. She also met her husband Richard in college. They wed in 1965 and planted roots in Hanover, NH 7 years later.

As a Hanover resident, Sharon almost immediately immersed herself in local affairs and started making enduring connections with others around town and across the region. She helped mobilize and empower her fellow citizens as part of the League of Women Voters in the 1970s. In the 1980s, Sharon won a seat on the Hanover Selectboard and made history as the first chairwoman of that elected body. She developed relationships with local leaders as well as Hanover-based institutions like Dartmouth College and Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital. Sharon built on this strong foundation of experience and knowledge as a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. She was first elected to the position in 1988, and her constituents voted to send her to the State capital as their State representative for 18 consecutive terms.

At the State House, Sharon instantly earned the respect and admiration of her peers. She had a warmth, integrity, work ethic, and quick wit that enabled her to make fast and lasting friends on both sides of the aisle in New Hampshire's citizen legislature. Her kindness and sense of humor were especially treasured by her colleagues on the House Finance Committee, and she could always be counted on to give thoughtful advice or lighten the mood with a soft-spoken joke as they worked long hours together to craft a State budget every 2 years. In addition to her expertise on State finances, Sharon was also a passionate advocate for affordable healthcare, reproductive rights, sensible gun regulations, and robust funding of public education. She even served as deputy Democratic leader from 1998-2004.

Sharon sadly passed away earlier this year, and her absence in just the past 5 months has been hard to miss in her hometown of Hanover, as well as our State capital of Concord. Sharon's accomplishments as a long-serving State legislator include the many State budgets she helped to write, the many bills she helped to pass, and the many issues she helped to elevate in our public discourse. As an experienced legislative leader, she could be formidable without being hostile and thorough without losing sight of the big picture; yet Sharon's legacy must also include the many people who crossed her path and came away with a smile and a new perspective on things. She was a guiding force for so many of her colleagues, and they will continue to look to her example of a devoted public servant and a determined advocate for the best interests of her constituents.

Sharon's family—including husband Richard, son Rob, and daughter Krisy—

as well as her many friends will gather this month for a celebration of life, and they will undoubtedly share and cherish many fond memories of her. I will be with them in spirit as they reflect on the life of this good and generous woman.●

TRIBUTE TO EVAN FIRMAN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Evan Firman, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Evan is a graduate of the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity- Ramstein High School in Ramstein, Germany. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where he is pursuing degrees in economics and political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Evan for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GRAYSON HOWES

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Grayson Howes, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Grayson is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending Fordham University in New York, NY, where he is pursuing a degree in global business. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Grayson for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GRIFFIN PETERSEN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Griffin Petersen, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Griffin is a graduate of Sully Buttes High School in Onida, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where he is pursuing a degree in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Griffin for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time: