

join the people of New Gloucester, ME, in celebration of the town's 250th anniversary. It is an honor to recognize this milestone for a town with such a storied and compelling history.

Nestled in the northern part of Cumberland County, New Gloucester was first settled in 1739 under a Massachusetts Bay Colony grant by 60 inhabitants from Gloucester, MA. These early settlers built a small establishment above North Yarmouth where they enjoyed bountiful fishing from the Westcustogo River, today known as the Royal River, which originates at Sabbathday Lake in New Gloucester. Named in honor of their hometown, the early settlers hoped New Gloucester would be to them what Gloucester had been to their parents: a place of opportunity and prosperity.

Conditions on the early northeastern frontier were not always easy, and the settlement had to be abandoned for nearly a decade amid the tumult of the French and Indian War. Ultimately, however, the resilience and determination of those who would make New Gloucester their home won out. Settlers returned in 1754 and erected a blockhouse within a large palisade which protected and housed 12 families until it became safe to build individual homes, with the town rapidly growing into the friendly, tight-knit community locals know today.

New Gloucester boasts abundant natural beauty with its idyllic countryside and rolling hills, which have been tilled by hard-working farmers for generations. Today, it is home to Pineland Farms, one of Maine's largest food producers and best-known brands, as well as many family-owned farms who continue the work of their families going back generations.

The town is also unique for its rich cultural and religious heritage. The Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, which sits at the western end of the town, is home to the last active Shaker community in the world. The village contains a barn, library, and museum which share knowledge of the Shaker's way of life and contain artifacts and heirlooms telling the group's story. It remains an important center for the community, hosting events year-round that include tributes to the history of the native Wabanaki population, harvest festivals, and much more.

I joined hundreds of townspeople and many more from across the State for a parade and fair held in commemoration of the town's anniversary. The fair featured over 60 community groups, crafters, and vendors, multiple historic displays, and live music. I so enjoy celebrating Maine's rich history, and Saturday's events were a wonderful example of what unifies the wonderful communities across our State.

New Gloucester's 250th anniversary is a time to honor the great people who have made the town such a beautiful and welcoming place to call home. It is my pleasure to offer congratulations and best wishes to them for this very special milestone.

TRIBUTE TO TRUDI McMURRY HOLTHOUSE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of Trudi McMurry Holthouse. Trudi is a remarkable individual whose dedication and generosity make a tangible difference in her community.

On September 18, 2024, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming will recognize Trudi during its 26th Annual Awards and Recognition Breakfast in Casper, WY.

Trudi's dedication to Wyoming's spirit of service is exemplary and commendable. Through her philanthropic efforts, she has significantly shaped the lives of countless individuals, particularly our youth.

Trudi's roots in Wyoming run deep. Her parents, renowned Wyoming philanthropists Neil "Mick" McMurry and Susan "Susie" McMurry instilled in her the values of the Code of the West. Through their example, Trudi learned the importance of taking pride in her work. She also learned that actions speak louder than words. Mick and Susie shared with her their deep-rooted belief in the power of community service. Today, Trudi continues her parents' legacy of service as the treasurer of the McMurry Foundation.

Since its founding in 1998, the McMurry Foundation has awarded over \$104 million in grants. Notably these include large contributions to the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Medical Center, the Casper Family YMCA, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming.

The foundation also gives back to "the little guys," including local churches and other small nonprofits. Each year, the foundation provides grants to more than 50 organizations across Wyoming. Priority is given to those "with potential to make a lasting difference."

Trudi has the honor of serving alongside her family. Her husband Tyler is the McMurry Foundation Board's vice president. Their daughter Tayla Trujillo is the board secretary and director of foundation affairs. Together with a dedicated team of individuals, the Holthouses remain committed to the foundation's simple principles: "Pay it Forward" and "Build a Better Wyoming."

One of the cornerstones of Trudi's charitable work is her service on the board of directors for the WYO Complex. This nonprofit was created to fund and oversee the WYO Sports Ranch, a multisport training and recreation center. Trudi and her husband Tyler are the driving force behind this project.

The Sports Ranch, located in Casper, is scheduled to open in early 2025. The facility will host local, regional, and national tournaments, as well as community events and trade shows.

Trudi's parents were well-known for creating a safe and loving environment for the hundreds of children they fostered. This impressed upon her the im-

portance of advocating for disadvantaged youth. As a major supporter of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming, Trudi honors her mother's legacy as a former long-time board member.

Established in 1969, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming seek to "enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens." With 11 locations in central Wyoming, the organization is the largest low/no-cost youth development provider in the State. The clubs offer thousands of youth a safe, nurturing environment to grow, learn, and thrive.

Trudi's ongoing support ensures the clubs remain a beacon of hope and opportunity for our children. Her favorite program is WyoTowne, a financial literacy program. WyoTowne gives members lifelong workplace readiness and financial management skills. In Trudi's words, the program "provides all the kids . . . an important perspective on belonging to a community."

Trudi's selection as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming 2024 Person of the Year is a worthy recognition of her decades of service to Natrona County and our great State. Her contributions will surely be celebrated by her family: husband Tyler; daughters Alaceia "Lou" Davis, Tayla Trujillo (Nathan), Tillie Holthouse, and Ellie Holthouse; and grandchildren Neil and Lavender Sky.

Trudi McMurry Holthouse represents the best this State has to offer. I am happy to join her family, friends, colleagues, and all those who benefit from her generous spirit in congratulating her for this distinct honor.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM N. PHILLIPS

Ms. BRITT. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and honor LTG William "Bill" N. Phillips, a distinguished veteran of the U.S. Army, where he retired as the senior acquisition officer after 38 years of exemplary service. Lieutenant General Phillips's career was marked by his exceptional leadership, strategic foresight, and commitment to our Nation's soldiers and defense.

During his tenure as the Military Deputy to the Army Acquisition Executive and as Acquisition Advisor to the Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Army, Lieutenant General Phillips made profound contributions to our military capabilities. Leading an organization of 16 Senior Executives and 6,000 personnel, he had oversight of more than 600 programs and transformed Army acquisition policy and processes resulting in savings of more than \$2 billion through rightsized and efficient program execution.

As the commander of the Joint Contracting Command for both Iraq and Afghanistan, his leadership was instrumental in managing operations that

executed more than 38,000 contracts totaling more than \$8 billion and providing critical and timely support to our combat forces.

Serving as the Program Executive Officer for Ammunition, he managed 12 Army ammunition plants and depots and delivered more than 300 different categories of ammunition totaling \$4 billion, providing critical capabilities to every service. As the Deputy Program Executive Officer for Aviation, he effectively managed the Army's five major aviation programs totaling more than \$14 billion. His strategic initiatives directly impacted the modernization of over 80 percent of the Army's aviation fleet.

Following his distinguished military career, Lieutenant General Phillips continued to impact our national defense strategy through his senior roles in the defense industrial base, notably at the Boeing Company in Huntsville, AL. There, he was responsible for delivering combat capabilities to the military, including AH-64 Apache, CH-47 Chinook, Long Range Precision Fires, Future Vertical Lift Unmanned Aerial Systems, and support across a broad array of Special Operations Aircraft.

His service to our country has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards, including Army Acquisition Commander of the Year, induction into the Defense Acquisition University Hall of Fame, the "Federal 100" award, and an Honorary Doctorate at Middle Tennessee State University, underscoring his vast influence on our national defense.

Therefore, on behalf of the people of the great State of Alabama and our Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Lieutenant General William "Bill" N. Phillips for his dedicated service and enduring contributions to our Nation's safety and security.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the Veterans Celebration Committee, which has been together since 1999 to honor and support veterans throughout northwest Louisiana.

Every year, the Veterans Celebration Committee puts on a veterans honor ceremony in Shreveport. This past year, they held a program at the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium on Veterans Day. At that event, they honored specific veterans who make enormous contributions to their country and community. One such veteran was Mr. Sam Archie Mattox, who turned 104 years old last September. He served in the 642nd Company Army Field Organization and in Australia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Japan for 26 months during World War II. He was awarded two Bronze Stars, among other medals, and worked as a brick mason until he was 92 years old.

The Veterans Celebration Committee also honored veterans who served in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and in other theaters and now support churches, businesses, nonprofit groups, and other veterans in northwest Louisiana. One overcame homelessness to help homeless veterans in Shreveport. Another organizes fundraising events for Toys for Tots. Yet another serves as the assistant medical director for Overton Brooks VA Medical Center. The Veterans Celebration Committee ensures that northwest Louisiana knows about their accomplishments and service to the community, by publicly honoring them.

They also hold a veterans parade on the day after the veterans honor ceremony to give the community another opportunity to show their love for veterans. This year's parade will be the 13th to take place. Moreover, they hold an annual event close to Memorial Day that supports the family members of veterans and honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

When the Veterans Celebration Committee started its work in 1999, one of its cofounders was retired Air Force Colonel Steve dePryssler, who is the only known American to serve in World War II, Korea, French Indo-China, and Vietnam. He helped veterans obtain disability benefits, hosted annual POW-Purple Heart veteran's luncheons, established the Northwest Louisiana Veterans Home Trust Fund, and volunteered for 47 years at the Barksdale AFB retiree center, without pay. He passed away in 2020 at the age of 101, and every year, the committee gives an award in his name for outstanding service to veterans.

Today, the Veterans Celebration Committee carries forward the legacy of Colonel dePryssler to support and honor veterans in northwest Louisiana. I want to specifically thank Caddo Parish Commissioner Ken Epperson, Sr., for chairing the committee, and everyone who supports their efforts, including American Legion and VFW posts, Active and Reserve military units, Barksdale Air Force Base, and elected officials throughout the region. Thanks to them, our veterans are not forgotten and never will be. •

RECOGNIZING BROWN'S SHOE FIT 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 Brown's Shoe Fit Co. of Mt. Pleasant, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1952, Brown's Shoe Fit Co. opened its doors right off the Mt. Pleasant town square before Kurt Moon, a loyal employee since 1986, became a managing partner in 2000 and purchased a storefront in the heart of Main Street.

Kurt renovated the building and expanded the shop to offer an extensive selection of shoe sizes and styles for everyone from farmers to runners. Brown's Shoe Store Co. offers complete sit-and-fit shoe services, specifically training its staff to cater to every client's lifestyle and has become a staple in the Mt. Pleasant community.

After managing Brown's Shoe Fit for over 30 years, Kurt looked to his daughter Tara Mullin to take over the Mt. Pleasant store. Tara trained under her father and other members of the company, and in 2020, she became a managing partner. In addition to running the shop's daily operations, Tara is a member of both the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber and the chamber board. She has also volunteered on the Mt. Pleasant July 4 planning committee.

Throughout the company's history, Mt. Pleasant has consistently voted Brown's Shoe Fit Co. as their favorite shoe store. In 2018 and 2023, Brown's Shoe Fit Co. was named a Mt. Pleasant Small Business of the Year finalist. Similar to the previous storefront owner, Adventure Land Video, Brown's Shoe Fit Co. sells community event tickets to commemorate the storefront's history and foster community engagement. Tara and the team have dubbed the shop the "Ticket Master of Mt. Pleasant." This has helped unite the community and honor the history of the place they have called home for nearly 25 years. This year, Brown's Shoe Fit is celebrating its 72nd business anniversary.

Brown's Shoe Fit Co.'s commitment to providing the Mt. Pleasant community with high-quality shoes is apparent. I want to thank Kurt, Tara, and the entire team at Brown's Shoe Fit Co. for their continued dedication to Henry County, and I look forward to witnessing their continued development and success in Iowa. •

RECOGNIZING GREAT DAY CAFE

• 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 Great Day Cafe of Keosauqua, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2015, Jennie Lee opened Great Day Cafe on Main Street which provides the Keosauqua community with specialty coffee, homemade breakfast, lunch, and Iowa comfort foods such as scratch fudge, biscuits and gravy, and even Dr. Gary Lee's homemade popcorn.

Their stellar service and high-quality food have made Great Day Cafe a staple in Van Buren County and beyond. Great Day Cafe is a community hub and has become the spot for veterans to congregate and discuss opportunities. Each month, the Van Buren County Veterans Affairs office hosts a meeting at the cafe where speakers come