

supply chains. As a witness told us last year, “Physical impacts have been widely observed for everything from extreme heat waves to flood events compromising roads, tarmacs, pipelines, and rail lines, with direct repair and delay costs being felt throughout the economy. Annual direct damage costs for road and rail impacts alone are estimated to be just under \$20 billion a year by 2050.”

This past July, New York had to close the Third Avenue Bridge from the Bronx to Manhattan because 95-degree heat caused the steel to expand.

Severe flooding struck Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota in June and led to the collapse of a railroad bridge, the near failure of a dam, and the destruction of hundreds of homes.

A bridge in Lewiston, ME, recently closed because its pavement started to buckle in high temperatures. One expert told the New York Times that extreme heat and flooding are accelerating the deterioration of bridges, causing them to “fall apart like tinkertoys.” And this will get worse: Extreme temperatures could cause one in four steel bridges to collapse by 2050.

Americans aren’t just paying the cost of fossil fuel emissions through climateflation; they are paying it through direct Big Oil price-gouging. The oil and gas market, so-called, is actually controlled by an international cartel. And when OPEC jacks those prices, Big Oil in the United States happily rides along, loading up the biggest corporate profits in history. That, too, drives inflation.

One last thing. Last year, I came to the Senate floor and talked about what was then the hottest June on record, followed by the hottest July on record, followed by the hottest August on record, and then the hottest September on record. Well, this July, the world experienced the hottest day in at least 100,000 years.

We have talked a lot about costs and costs matter. The point of this speech is the economic harms of climate change, but that heat kills.

Our hearing on public health warned how climate change acts as a “threat multiplier with health impacts happening through a variety of mechanisms, including worsening temperature extremes.”

Shortly after that hearing, Phoenix, AZ, experienced 31 straight days of 110-plus-degree temperatures, shattering the previous record. This year, the Phoenix hot streak continued, with temperatures breaking 100 degrees from late May for more than 100 straight days.

In Maricopa County, where Phoenix is located, at least 150 people have died from heat, and hundreds more deaths are still under investigation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that over 1,200 people are killed by extreme heat in the United States every year. Heat deaths in 2023 were the highest in 45 years.

In just 1 month—just 1 month, July 2023—the death count was near the annual average. One month nearly matched the annual average. An estimated 1,130 U.S. residents died of heat. And as work from Brown University and others have shown, that is likely an undercount.

In spite of all of this danger and its severe fiscal implications, some of my Republican colleagues complain that the Budget Committee is giving climate change too much attention. To them, it is not enough of a risk to our Federal budget, never mind that at least \$10 trillion of our national debt stems from economic shocks—“exogenous” they would call it in economics—economic shocks; specifically, the 2008 financial crisis and the COVID pandemic.

Well, climate change portends the biggest systemic shock of all. That is the lesson of all of these economic reports and studies, the lesson of the cover article from *The Economist*, and the lesson of our testimony in the Budget Committee hearings.

For homeowners in Florida, those dangers are already on their doorstep. They are suffering through sea level rise, extreme precipitation that floods homes and cars, intense hurricanes that batter families and communities, and the soaring insurance premiums that result, leading into the cascade from the insurance market to the mortgage market, to the property values market that Freddie Mac’s chief economist warned about.

To all of this, what is Florida Republicans’ answer? To try to silence conversation about the climate crisis, to forbid State employees from discussing climate change, even when it is an affordability crisis for their own constituents.

There is really no doubt the dangers are growing worse and more widespread. The economic shadow of those dangers is looming. Folks with fiduciary responsibilities told us in the Budget Committee: We have to address the dangers. Folks with business responsibilities told us in the Budget Committee how they have to adjust to these new dangers. And I have been telling you for a while now, and I hate to say “I told you so,” but it is here now, and dammit, I told you so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASAN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 208, the nomination of Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 209, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Anne Marie Wagner to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 210, on the nomination of Anne Marie Wagner to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 211, the motion to invoke cloture on the Motion to Proceed to S. 4554.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 212, On the Point of Order Is the Point of Order Well Taken Re: To the Privilege Status of S.J. Res. 89.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall vote No. 213, on the nomination of Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARY MEDICAL CENTER

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, on September 5, 1924, a new hospital opened its doors in my hometown of Caribou, ME, and admitted its very first patient. Today, I join people throughout the region in celebrating a century of expert, compassionate care at Cary Medical Center.

It is fitting that this 100th anniversary coincides with Cary being named as one of the Nation’s Top 100 Great Community Hospitals by Becker’s Hospital Review. This latest addition to the long and impressive list of national awards and recognitions underscores what CEO Kris Doody said when that announcement was made this summer: “Working at Cary Medical Center is not just a job. It’s a calling.”

From the start, Cary has been a community hospital with the emphasis on “community.” It was built on the foundation laid by Dr. Jefferson Cary, a physician as devoted to the people of northern Maine as he was to the practice of medicine. He came to Caribou in 1877, a time when house calls, even in the frigid winter, were made by horse and buggy, medical supplies were scarce, and payment for services was often made with farm products and firewood rather than cash. His skill as a physician was matched, as a friend put it, by his “untiring devotion to the cause of humanity.”

When Dr. Cary died in 1912, he left the bulk of his estate to Caribou. His

bequest enabled the construction of the original hospital and created a legacy of generosity and support that the people of Caribou and the neighboring communities continue today.

The new Cary Medical Center, built in 1978, offered greatly expanded facilities and new technology, but the focus on patient-centered care remained unchanged.

Cary Medical Center is a nationally recognized leader in providing quality healthcare to rural veterans. Maine has one of the highest percentage of veterans in the country, and we Mainers are proud of our State's commitment to protecting our Nation. We also are proud of our State's care for the brave men and women who have served in uniform, and Cary has led the way.

One of the most significant milestones in Cary's storied history came in 1987, when our Nation's first community based outpatient clinic for veterans was established in Caribou. That pioneering work has been of great benefit to America's 3.5 million rural veterans who now receive care close to home at nearly 730 CBOCs throughout the country. The commitment by Cary Medical Center, the Veterans Administration, local veterans, and the entire community transformed healthcare for the men and women who defend our freedom.

Based on that success, Cary was selected in 2011 as one of just five sites nationwide for the Access Received Closer to Home pilot program. Maine's successful ARCH program paved the way for the Veterans Community Care Program that enables rural veterans to access the care they need in their communities. Veterans throughout America are grateful for Cary's leadership.

From professional education to diabetes care, oncology, and women and children's health, Cary Medical Center offers an ever-expanding array of services. These expansions are made possible by generous community support, led by the active and dedicated professionals and volunteers. The Cary team of physicians, nurses, technicians, staff, and volunteers are joined by grateful and supportive people throughout Aroostook County.

Through its partnership with Tufts Medical School's Maine Track Program and Cary's partnership with Pines Health Services, Cary Medical Center is a leader in strengthening rural healthcare. The selection of Cary as a pilot site for the Maine Medical Center and Dartmouth Institute Healthcare Improvement Project further demonstrates Cary's commitment to excellence.

My family, like so many others in Aroostook County, has close ties to Cary. My father served as chairman of the board of directors and actually signed the mortgage when the new hospital was built. Decades later, my brother Gregg chaired the board, and today, my niece Clara is a board member. For many years, my uncle Doug Collins, an internist, practiced medi-

cine in Caribou and at Cary. The wonderfully compassionate and skilled healthcare providers at Cary cared for both of my parents during the final days of their lives. I am personally grateful for the leadership of all who have served in this outstanding community hospital.

More than a century has passed since Dr. Jefferson Cary practiced medicine, and he could not have foreseen the dramatic advances in healthcare since that time. But he had a vision that his generous gift to the community would benefit future generations. Thanks to the efforts of so many, that vision is a reality.

My congratulations to Cary Medical Center for 100 years of going above and beyond, and my best wishes for the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING VAN DENOVER JEWELRY

• Ms. ERNST. Madam 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 Van Denover Jewelry of Oelwein, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1962, Jim Van Denover bought the watch and jewelry business known as Davis Jewelry. In order to purchase the store, Jim was required by the local bank to attend specific certifications to qualify for a loan. He took the opportunity to move his family to Quincy, IL, where he completed watch, clock, and jewelry repair courses at Gem City College.

Upon completing his courses in 1962, Jim secured and founded what is now known as Van Denover Jewelry. For over 25 years, Jim established Van Denover Jewelry as a household name in Oelwein and throughout Iowa, known for reasonable prices. He collaborated with 14 local jewelry store owners to create the Regional Jewelry Organization, a central hub for fair-priced jewelry. The organization went on to become the largest retail jewelry organization in Iowa, which serves more than 1,000 members under its new name, Retail Jewelers Organization.

As a family-owned and operated business, Jim's daughter Linda purchased the company from her dad in 1988. She grew the business further until her son, Chad Benter, assumed full ownership of the company in 2019. As a certified master bench jeweler, Chad brought his expertise in diamond and gemstone grading to the business which ensured the highest standard towards craftsmanship. He improved the store's packaging and oversaw a significant renovation, the first transformation since 1968 when a tornado hit the city. This resulted in Chad being recognized by the

Oelwein Chamber of Commerce in 2021 with the Expansion/Most Improved Business of the Year award. Today, Chad serves on the board of directors for Oelwein Chamber & Area Development, Inc., and is an active member of the city's chamber of commerce.

Today, Van Denover Jewelry is a full-service jewelry store that offers a diverse range of products, from diamond rings to custom timepieces—all high-quality crafted jewelry with the option to customize each piece.

Van Denover Jewelry remains active in the Oelwein community through their support of donation events such as Hazelton's Haze Day, Oelwein Plentiful Pantry, and the Fine Arts Guild. Van Denover Jewelry will celebrate its 62nd business anniversary this year.

I want to congratulate the Van Denover family for their persistence in providing the Oelwein community with high-quality jewelry and exceptional services. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO TEKA JENKINS

• Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise today to commend Teka Jenkins, executive director of Columbia County Community Connections, for her service to the community.

Mrs. Jenkins has dedicated herself to the well-being and upliftment of the people of Columbia County. Her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to community service have made a profound impact on countless lives. For 19 years, Columbia County Community Connections has been providing afterschool programs and opportunities for youth to become engaged, productive citizens of Columbia County.

Mrs. Jenkins' dedication to youth empowerment has been particularly noteworthy. She has worked diligently to create safe and nurturing environments where young people can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Her passion for education and mentorship has inspired many and has helped shape the future leaders of our community.

As a Georgia U.S. Senator, I recognize and commend Teka Jenkins for her outstanding contributions to Columbia County, for her tireless efforts on behalf of our community, and for her enduring commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.●

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE SINGLETARY

• Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to commend a public servant whose service helps keep children and families safe in Brooks County and southwest Georgia.

Natalie Singletary serves as executive director of Brooks County Family Connection, one of Georgia Family Connection's local partners working toward better outcomes for our children, families, and communities. Brooks County Family Connection