

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

works to develop programs to support school readiness, improve literacy, and decrease youth substance use.

As executive director, Mrs. Singletary has initiated and led several important local programs, including Heaven's Sleigh, a Christmas giveaway where more than 1,070 children received toys, food, and books last year; the Mercer University Health Reporter System in Brooks and Cook Counties to decrease health inequities for rural families; and the Feeding and Reading project through the recently completed Community Transformation Grant from Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning, which helped collect and distribute food and supplies to those in need.

Mrs. Singletary also leads the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, which funds efforts to prevent youth substance abuse.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Natalie Singletary for her service as executive director of Brooks County Family Connection and for her work to help our kids learn, grow, and thrive.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. AMY STEVENS

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to commend Dr. Amy Stevens, Ed.D., for her remarkable contributions to the State of Georgia, the United States of America, and for her unwavering dedication to honoring the service of our veterans.

A native of Augusta, ME, who now lives in Marietta, GA, Dr. Stevens is the founder of the Facebook social network group "Georgia Military Women," which has over 5,000 members. Georgia Military Women helps provide a unique insight to the issues faced by women in the military, highlights the often-overlooked sacrifices and achievements of these brave individuals, and has helped countless women get the benefits they have earned.

Dr. Stevens earned her undergraduate degree from Lynchburg Baptist College and master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the Citadel. She also earned her doctorate from Argosy University in counseling psychology.

Dr. Stevens served on Active Duty in the U.S. Navy from 1979–1990, including multiple temporary duty assignments (TDY) to Korea from her duty station in Yokosuka from 1981–1983. She has been Navy-wide Officer Recruiter of the Year, a boot camp division officer, and her final duty station was director of education and training for Navy Telecommunications Headquarters.

After Dr. Stevens' military service, she worked for the U.S. Department of Labor. Retiring in 2004, she later became a licensed professional counselor, opening a small private practice and also served as the director of psychological health with the Georgia National Guard from 2009–2012. She currently serves as a military family life

consultant with Department of Defense contractors, and as a professional volunteer, she is a disaster mental health manager for the American Red Cross with 25 years of deployment experience.

Dr. Stevens' dedication and work has earned her numerous accolades. In 2021, she received the Nikki J. Randal Servant Leadership Award from the State of Georgia Women's Legislative Caucus. She was also the recipient of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Distinguished Citizen Medal; two awards of the Navy Commendation Medal; the Korea Defense Service Medal; the National Defense Medal; and various others.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Dr. Amy Stevens for her extraordinary career and contributions to our State and our Nation, and I thank her for her service.●

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER PINEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to commend and celebrate the 110th anniversary of the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, widely known as "The Church with Helping Hands."

In 1914, Piney Grove Church was organized and founded in a three-room house at 101 Bell Street in northeast Atlanta. A small band of worshipers first met on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Its distinct, initial location was nestled alongside great historical churches such as Wheat Street Baptist Church, Big Bethel A.M.E, and Ebenezer Baptist Church.

In 1917, 3 years after Greater Piney Grove's founding, the Fourth Ward community suffered one of the worst devastations the city had ever seen, the Great Fire of Atlanta. Thousands of Fourth Ward residents' homes and personal property were destroyed, including some members of this newly formed church. Piney Grove joined other churches and communities in helping to aid those dislocated by the fire.

In 1939, the church moved from 101 Bell Street to 101 Boulevard, providing a larger facility, more stability among the congregation, and better resources with which to aid the membership and the surrounding community.

In 1956, Piney Grove called its fourth pastor, the Rev. Frank Jones, whose tenure as pastor was the longest tenure of any of the pastors of Piney Grove and who changed the name of Piney Grove Church to its current name, the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, to envision the church as greater in all aspects of ministry and community services.

After Reverend Jones passed away in September 1989, Rev. Dr. William E. Flippin, Sr., was named senior pastor. Under Reverend Dr. Flippin, Sr.'s leadership, the church has inaugurated a family life center, a 1500-seat worship

center, a community resource center, and the Grove's Gardens at East Lake Senior Living Community.

On Sunday, August 18, 2024, the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church formally celebrated its 110th anniversary.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend and congratulate Reverend Dr. Flippin, Sr., First Lady Sylvia T. Flippin, Rev. Dr. Richard C. Flippin, the deacons, administrative staff and ministry leaders, and the entire community of "The Grove" on this historic milestone.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to celebrate and commemorate the 100th anniversary of Booker T. Washington High School, a historic institution in the heart of Atlanta, GA, that has fostered excellence in education and empowered generations of students over the last century.

Established in September 1924 as the first public high school for African-American students in the State of Georgia, Booker T. Washington High School has played a crucial role in advancing educational opportunities for young men and women in our State.

Throughout its 100 years, Booker T. Washington High School has produced a distinguished roster of alumni who have gone on to make profound contributions in fields ranging from civil rights and public service to arts, science, and business. Among its most notable graduates is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose leadership in the civil rights movement changed the course of our Nation's history.

The school's commitment to academic rigor and social responsibility is reflected in its programs, which have inspired students to become lifelong learners and community leaders. Today, as we celebrate this milestone, we recognize the efforts of the faculty, staff, and administrators who have nurtured a rich legacy of scholarship and service.

I join local leaders in celebrating Booker T. Washington High School for its 100 years of excellence and its unwavering commitment to educational equity and empowerment.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIELLA BADER

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I recognize Daniella Bader, a summer 2024 intern with my Orlando office, for the good work she did for my office and the people of Florida.

Daniella is a dedicated and diligent worker who was devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Daniella, and I look forward to hearing of her good work in the years to come.●