

elevated recruiting and retention efforts that had struggled amid the pandemic through innovative approaches, including partnership with skills and vocational initiatives; ensured guardsmen's preparedness to not only deploy in defense of our country to Europe and the Middle East, but also around the State of Arkansas and to the U.S. southern border; built and expanded partnerships, particularly with National Guard State Partnership Program counterpart Guatemala; and helped inspire confidence in the Arkansas Guard's capabilities and personnel through excellent communication, professionalism, and unmistakable passion.

It was a special pleasure and honor to work alongside General Stubbs to secure a new flying mission at Ebbing Air National Guard Base and help guide necessary preparations for the Active Duty-Air Force bed down in advance of the formal arrival of the Foreign Military Sales Program in Fort Smith. His expertise and diligence were indispensable to the success of this incredibly consequential opportunity for the State of Arkansas that will also greatly benefit U.S. national security.

As he begins this new chapter leading our Army National Guard, we are tremendously grateful for all his contributions to our State and stewardship of the Arkansas Guard for so many years. General Stubbs will undoubtedly continue to make the Natural State proud through his exceptional leadership, steadfast commitment to the guardsmen under his command, and dedication to the defense of the United States, its allies, and interests. We wish him well in this new role.

RECOGNIZING THE 555TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY BATTALION, "TRIPLE NICKLES"

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize and honor the legacy of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, known as the "Triple Nickles," a unit that exemplified the highest standards of excellence and professionalism in the U.S. Army. As the first all-Black parachute infantry battalion in the U.S. Army, the Triple Nickles made extraordinary contributions to our Nation. Formed in the face of adversity and prejudice, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was composed of highly skilled and dedicated soldiers who demonstrated exceptional courage and resolve, breaking barriers and laying the groundwork for the integration of our Armed Forces. The Triple Nickles forged a legacy of bravery, skill, and dedication that continues to inspire us.

In 1945, the Triple Nickles were assigned to a unique and critical mission known as Operation Firefly, where they parachuted into the rugged terrain of the American Northwest to extinguish forest fires started by Japanese incendiary balloon bombs during World War II. This mission was both dangerous and essential, as these brave

soldiers helped protect our homeland from a new and insidious form of warfare. Their skills and bravery during these operations set the standard for future military smokejumpers and left an indelible mark on the history of airborne operations.

The legacy of the Triple Nickles extends beyond their military achievements. Their success challenged the prevailing attitudes of the time and contributed to the eventual desegregation of the U.S. military. When the battalion was integrated into the 82nd Airborne Division, it marked a significant step towards the equality of treatment and opportunity for all servicemembers, regardless of race.

Today, as we reflect on the contributions of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, we honor their service and sacrifice. They were more than just soldiers; they were trailblazers who fought for their country and the right to serve it with dignity and respect. Their courage continues to inspire generations of soldiers and reminds us of the progress we have made as a nation. Their contributions to our Nation's history are immeasurable, and their legacy endures in the freedoms we enjoy today.

It is with great pride that I recognize the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the Triple Nickles, and ensure that their story of service and excellence is remembered and celebrated in our Nation's history.

RECOGNIZING THE BLUE ANGELS 2025 OFFICER SELECTIONS

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize the newest selectees for the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, as they prepare to join this esteemed team for the 2025 air show season. The Blue Angels are a symbol of naval aviation excellence and a vital part of Florida's rich military heritage, with their home base at Naval Air Station Pensacola.

Each year, the Blue Angels inspire millions of spectators with their precise and daring aerial performances, showcasing the skill and professionalism of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. The team's presence in Florida is a source of immense pride, reinforcing the deep connection between our State and the military.

This year, after a highly competitive selection process, five outstanding officers have been chosen to join the Blue Angels for the 2025 show season: Maj. Brandon Wilkins, from Beaufort, SC; Maj. Scott Laux, from Chantilly, VA; Lcdr. Lilly Montana, from Vienna, VA; Maj. Joshua Horman, from Smithville, MO; and Cmdr. Jen Murr, from Jackson Center, OH.

Their selection is a testament to their extraordinary skill, dedication, and commitment to the values of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. The Blue Angels are more than just a demonstration team; they are ambassadors of goodwill, fostering a sense of com-

munity and patriotism across Florida and the Nation. Their performances inspire future generations of aviators and remind us all of the critical role our military plays in safeguarding our freedoms.

I congratulate Maj. Brandon Wilkins, Maj. Scott Laux, Lcdr. Lilly Montana, Maj. Joshua Horman, and Cmdr. Jen Murr on their selection. I look forward to the 2025 show season and the continued success of the Blue Angels, a team that embodies the very best of our Nation's Armed Forces.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LOUISE QUINBY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to wish a very happy birthday to Mary Louise Quinby, a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, from Ocosta, WA. Mrs. Quinby turned 100 years old on August 26, and she continues to be the driving force within her family, which now consists of 8 children, 30 grandchildren, 56 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Born August 26, 1924, Mary grew up on a small family farm. In 1942, during World War II, she married her high school sweetheart Robert, and while he served in the Navy, Mary worked as a Rosie the Riveter in a local shop in Aberdeen.

After the war, Mary and Bob settled in Bremerton, where Bob worked in the shipyards as a machinist. In 1948, Mary's uncle, a cranberry grower in Grayland, encouraged her husband and brother Jack to try their hand at farming cranberries. They bought their first bog of two acres from her uncle and moved their small family to Grayland.

During the years after their first cranberry bog purchase and until the early 1970s, they bought about 23 acres of bogs. Mary supported her husband while he worked his second job as a machinist in a local plant by weeding, irrigating, and doing frost protection when necessary.

In the early 1970s, Bob became ill, and they started selling portions of their bogs to their oldest son, Robert P. Quinby. During this time, Mary—mostly by herself—farmed about eight acres. She raised a bumper crop, and it topped the highest yield on that acreage. She never let her husband forget it.

Her husband was the West Coast director for Ocean Spray for many years, during which time Mary played an instrumental role in teaching other farmers about Ocean Spray and cranberry farming.

During all of that time, and through today, her family has remained her top priority, and the legacy of that 1948 decision to become a cranberry farmer has been passed down in her family. Today, two sons, one daughter, and eight grandchildren grow cranberries.

From their first purchase in 1948 of two acres, Mary's descendants have

amassed close to 275 acres in the Grayland area and are busy training the next generations of cranberry owners.

Mary is a shining example of the American dream and beloved by all who know her. Her dedication to her family, her community, and her farms is obvious, and I wish her the happiest of birthdays.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 100-year anniversary of the Nevada Association of Counties, also known as NACO. NACO was established in Reno, NV, in 1924 under the name of Nevada County Commissioners' Association. NACO was established when Nevada had a total population of 84,000 residents. Today, NACO represents all 17 counties in Nevada, from Clark County with a population of over 2,000,000 residents, to Esmerelda with a population of less than 1,000 residents. Every year, I make a dedicated effort to visit all 17 Nevada counties because I know how important each community is to our State's economy and culture.

Counties serve as a vital administrative arm of Nevada's State government. Their work is critical, as they play a key role in maintaining records, overseeing courts and law enforcement, supporting fire protection, administering health and welfare assistance, assessing property, collecting taxes, building roads, and conducting elections. Nevada counties perform these important functions and many others through their elected representatives who serve as general purpose government for both unincorporated and incorporated areas, thereby servicing all people within Nevada.

Since 1924, Nevada counties have grown in population, experienced urbanization, and undergone economic evolutions. Over the past 100 years of Nevada's development, NACO has helped county governments to meet this change. NACO's initiative, leadership, and proactive problem solving have helped counties across Nevada act and usher in positive change.

Today, Nevada counties face unique challenges and opportunities. Even though Nevada is one of the most urbanized States in the Nation, the State has a large rural population. NACO continues their legacy of ensuring Nevada county governments have the best opportunity to make positive change and can lead all Nevada communities into the future, no matter their size.

As a representative of all 17 counties in Nevada, NACO plays a large role in ensuring all people within Nevada benefit from local, regional, State, and national decisions. This is accomplished through their continued nonpartisan

efforts to provide county governments with educational and support services, advocacy at a State and Federal level and opportunities to make legislative change in the State. I know that our Nevada congressional delegation appreciates working directly with this hard-working organization and its members.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing NACO's 100 years of dedicated service to all people within Nevada and NACO's efforts to meet the challenges and opportunities facing Nevada's counties. We look forward to continuing the legacy by working collaboratively for the next hundred years.●

RECOGNIZING FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WHITE HALL

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, the First Baptist Church of White Hall is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The White Hall Baptist Mission was organized on July 24, 1924, by Dr. J. D. Sayers, Brother J. L. Lee, and the deacons of First Baptist Church of Pine Bluff. There were 11 charter members.

The new church shared a school building with the First Methodist Church of White Hall until Mrs. Clara Pinkington donated the property at 8203 Dollarway Road for a new building in October 1924. In 1925, a church building was erected and the name was changed to Lee Memorial Baptist Church in memory of Brother J.L. Lee. It was completed debt-free in 1926. In 1985, under Brother Jack Ramsey, members voted to change the church name to its present-day name, the First Baptist Church of White Hall.

While additional structures were added to the facilities throughout the years, the older buildings are still used today for educational space, children and youth ministries, and other fellowships. First Baptist Church of White Hall has had 18 pastors in the last 100 years. And remarkably, the tenure of the last two pastors Brothers Bob Harper and Paul Williams have spanned 36 of those 100 years. I join the church members, White Hall community, and State of Arkansas in recognizing First Baptist Church of White Hall in this milestone.●

RECOGNIZING SCE

• 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 SCE of Cherokee, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Upon graduation from Iowa State University in 2003, Cory Bouchard began working as an operations supervisor for Schoon Construction, Inc. He worked at the company for 11 years until the owner was looking to sell part of the business. Cory knew he was interested, and his wife Maria recognized the need for reliable excavation

and construction services in Cherokee and throughout western Iowa. They purchased part of Schoon Construction, Inc., and created SCE.

Since its founding in 2015, SCE specializes in providing commercial and residential site utility services, cementing their reputation as the go-to company in fixing the city's water, sewage, or utilities. Today SCE employs seven local community members who are all committed to upholding SCE's service standards.

During the severe floods in Iowa this summer, SCE played an instrumental role in saving the city from potentially irreversible damage. The team worked around the clock alongside the Cherokee Volunteer Fire Department to pump out water and sewage, fix main water lines, and operate the city's vital water pumps. During the floods, the Cherokee sewage lift station that moves wastewater, nearly collapsed, prompting SCE to jump in and get it back on track. Once the flooding receded, SCE and local volunteers continued their work by focusing on clean-up and recovery.

Beyond their operational contributions, SCE has a deep-rooted presence in the Cherokee community. The company is committed to helping local schools and community groups receive needed resources through their sponsorships. For example, SCE sponsors the Cherokee County Fair and the Cherokee County Rodeo. SCE is also a member of both the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce and the Better Business Bureau. In 2016, the Cherokee Chamber recognized SCE as the Small Business of the Year. Early next year, SCE will celebrate its tenth business anniversary.

SCE's commitment to reliable construction and excavation servicing is clear. I would like to thank the Bouchard family and the team at SCE for their dedication and incredible commitment to Cherokee County and the western Iowa area. I look forward to seeing their continued development and achievements in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, this week, as they are honored with the 2024 Medallion of Excellence Award, the highest accolade awarded by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, I rise to celebrate the over five-decade career of California-based norteño band, Los Tigres del Norte.

While they would eventually go on to become one of the most successful Latin music groups of all time, few people would have guessed it when they booked their first trip north to the United States to perform at a State prison in northern California—without even having a band name.

Raised in the town of Rosa Morada, Mocorito, in the Mexican state of Sinaloa, 3 of the 11 Hernandez children grew up playing music together in