

special passion for supporting the lowest paid members of the union. He believed in the dignity of work and creating pathways for all workers to advance. He embodied the spirit of solidarity.

We will miss him and will strive to live by his example.

REMEMBERING J. MICHAEL DOWNEY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to honor my friend, J. Michael Downey, who was the president of Rhode Island's AFSCME Council 94. Mike passed away in August, leaving behind his wife Claudette, their three children Corey, Faith, and Michael, and their spouses. He also leaves behind two siblings and nine grandchildren. Mike was born in Providence and grew up in a union household. Both his father and grandfather served in leadership roles in their local unions.

After graduating from LaSalle Academy, Mike earned his master plumbing license through a 5-year apprenticeship program. Mike went on to work as a plumber at the University of Rhode Island and later as chief plumbing investigator at the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. It was during Mike's time at URI that, like his father and grandfather before him, he found his passion for organized labor and advocating for the rights and well-being of workers. For more than 27 years, Mike served as president of Local 528, which represents workers at URI. Mike also served as president of AFSCME Council 94 from 2005 until his passing.

Mike was an avid sports fan and loved New England's teams—the Celtics, Red Sox, and Patriots. He also enjoyed coaching youth sports and could often be found cheering in the stands at his grandkids' sporting events. Mike was a great guy, an enthusiastic leader, and a good friend in the fight. I thank him for his tireless advocacy on behalf of workers across Rhode Island. I will miss him.

TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Ambassador J. William Middendorf. Ambassador Middendorf is an extraordinary Rhode Islander and an extraordinary American. Last Sunday, we had a chance to celebrate his birthday at his home in Little Compton, RI, and he was as sharp and insightful as ever. Today, along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I would like to take a moment to honor his impressive career in service to our country.

Ambassador Middendorf, now a resident of Little Compton, RI, was born in Baltimore, MD on September 22, 1924. As a young man, he attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. In 1945, as World War II raged in Europe, Ambassador Middendorf inter-

rupted his education to serve in the Navy as an engineering officer and navigator aboard the landing craft support ship USS *LCS-53*. After the war, Ambassador Middendorf continued his education and graduated from Holy Cross with a bachelor of naval science. He later attended Harvard College, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree, and in 1954, he earned an M.B.A. from New York University's Stern School of Business.

Ambassador Middendorf then became an investment banker. Eventually, as a cofounder of the prominent Wall Street firm Middendorf, Colgate and Company, he began to involve himself in politics. He took on important roles within the national Republican Party, including as treasurer of the Republican National Committee from 1965 to 1969.

Eventually, Ambassador Middendorf left his investment firm and began his long career in public service. In 1969, President Nixon appointed him to be U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, where he represented our Nation with distinction. In 1974, he returned to the U.S. to serve first as Under Secretary of the Navy, and then as the 62nd Secretary of the Navy, a position he held until 1977.

As Secretary of the Navy he pushed for the development of four new Navy programs, particularly the *Ohio*-class submarine program. He also led the way on developing and fielding the AEGIS missile system, Trident missile program, CH-53E heavy-lift helicopter, and the F/A-18 Hornet attack aircraft. The introduction of these programs resulted in major improvements for the Navy and remain key national defense assets to this day. The Navy's growth under Ambassador Middendorf's leadership is in large part thanks to his relationships in Congress and reputation as a respected leader.

After serving as Secretary of the Navy, Ambassador Middendorf returned to the private sector. He served as the president and chief executive officer of Financial General Bankshares, which eventually became First American Bank.

After the 1980 election, Ambassador Middendorf led the CIA transition team for President Reagan's incoming administration. President Reagan then nominated him to be U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States in 1981. He served in this position until accepting an appointment as U.S. Representative to the European Community, now known as the European Union.

In retirement, Ambassador Middendorf has remained a person of tremendous intellect and achievement and has become a prolific writer. Ambassador Middendorf continues to share his strong and insightful opinions as a frequent contributor to the "Providence Journal." While we don't always agree, his columns always make for a lively and interesting read. He has also written several books, and his newest

title, "On My 100-Year Watch: Tyrants and Patriots," is set to be released later this year.

Following the tradition of naming naval destroyers after U.S. naval leaders and heroes, the future *Arleigh Burke*-class guided-missile destroyer—DDG-138—will be named USS *J. William Middendorf*. Once commissioned, the USS *J. William Middendorf* will join U.S. naval forces in protecting our country for years to come. And today, I am proud to rise in recognition of Ambassador J. William Middendorf, an exceptional Rhode Islander and American, and wish him a happy 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to J. William Middendorf II, known to family and friends as Bill. Bill lives in Little Compton, RI, and celebrated this remarkable milestone on Sunday. Bill led a distinguished career in public service. He served in World War II as a naval engineering officer and navigator. He was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands in 1969. Following his ambassadorship, he served as Under Secretary of the Navy.

In 1974, Middendorf was appointed by President Nixon to serve as the 62nd Secretary of the Navy. During his leadership in the Navy, Middendorf championed the Navy's submarine program and oversaw the creation of General Dynamics Electric Boat's Quonset Point location. Rhode Islanders know well the importance of the Quonset Point facility to our State's economy and its role at the forefront of our national security efforts. Bill was also instrumental in the development of the F/A 18 Hornet, which was in part named for the Revolutionary warship, the USS *Hornet* that had been commissioned by his ancestor, Captain William Stone. And he approved the first Marine Corps Marathon, which is still run to this day.

Last December, I was very pleased to take to the Senate floor to celebrate that an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer was named USS *J. William Middendorf*, which follows the tradition of naming destroyers after U.S. naval leaders. That recognition was a testament to Bill's remarkable career in public service and many contributions to our State and country. Bill, my best wishes to you on your 100th birthday.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today on behalf of my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself, to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Community College of Rhode Island—CCRI—which opened its doors on September 24, 1964. Over the last six decades, CCRI has grown into New England's largest public, 2-year degree

granting college, expanding educational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders.

From its modest beginning in Providence with just 325 students, CCRI opened its Knight Campus in 1972 to nearly 3,000 students, after Royal Webster Knight gifted 80 acres of his estate in Warwick to the college. CCRI has grown to nearly 20,000 enrolled students each year and now has four campuses across Rhode Island, including an education center and online classes, ensuring that residents throughout the State have access to educational and career development opportunities.

Students have more than 20 academic departments to choose from—from the arts, to science and mathematics, to business, and more—all at an affordable price. In 2017, the Rhode Island Promise Program was launched, making CCRI tuition-free to recent high school graduates seeking opportunities.

But CCRI also understands that education is a lifelong journey, and it is never too late to learn something new. The adult education team at CCRI offers a wide range of classes to prepare adults to join the workforce, including GED classes, English language studies, and corporate language training. By working in close collaboration with industry and business leaders, CCRI ensures students are meeting workforce needs in the Ocean State. Just last year, CCRI was selected by the Biden administration as one of just 17 new Industrial Assessment Centers, working with the Department of Energy to expand clean energy workforce training opportunities, for in-demand, high-quality jobs.

CCRI is a pillar of hope for the community, consistently rising to the challenge of meeting the educational and workforce needs of the present and the future. In the last 20 years alone, CCRI has guided students and employers through the Great Recession and COVID-19 pandemic and earned the designation as a Hispanic-serving Institution, reflecting its commitment to meeting emerging community needs. Its campuses also serve as community hubs, connecting residents to vital services and activities, job preparation workshops, free flu and COVID shots, and more. This is all thanks to the dedicated faculty and staff, who work tirelessly to carry out the mission of the college every day.

CCRI is a bedrock institution to the State of Rhode Island, and we are so proud of the hard-working people who have changed the lives of so many individuals over the last 60 years. Along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I would like to congratulate the entire CCRI community on this important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. MARK E. DEVER

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, it is a privilege today to honor the Rev. Dr. Mark E. Dever on the occasion of his

30th anniversary as senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, here in Washington, DC.

Mark Dever was born in Madisonville, KY, in 1960. Initially a skeptic, he became a Christian as a teenager and went on to study at Duke University, where he met his wife Connie. Preparing for a life in academia, Dr. Dever completed degrees at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, before earning a Ph.D. in ecclesiastical history from Cambridge University.

Providence had plans other than academia, however. In January 1993, Dr. Dever was invited to apply for the recently vacated pulpit on Capitol Hill. To the surprise of many, he did—and has pastored in the shadow of the Capitol ever since.

Since his installation as pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Dr. Dever has not hesitated to preach “the whole counsel of God,” Acts 20:27. Under his faithful leadership, the church has grown from a few hundred to a thriving congregation of nearly a thousand. In January 1995, that same leadership was felt in this Chamber, when he briefly served the Senate as interim chaplain.

Dr. Dever has dedicated his life to the work of the ministry and to the idea that a pastor should preach, pray, love, and stay. And those who have been blessed enough to know him or to be members at his church know he embodies that ideal.

His preaching—and he would be sure to note that it is expositional preaching in particular—has taught many to better understand God and God’s word. His constancy in prayer and willingness to wait on God’s timing has produced an inspiring level of patience and trust in God’s purposes. He loves through his encouragement and regular prayers. He has an almost singular ability to shape leaders and inspire pastors. And his dedication to staying in the place God has called him has made Dr. Dever a blessing to the thousands of Capitol Hill and executive branch staffers who have passed through his church doors.

Dr. Dever is the author of over 20 books. He is the grateful husband of Connie, the father of Annie and Nathan, and the proud grandfather of Penelope.

On behalf of the Senate and countless colleagues who have been inspired, pastored, and taught by him, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Mark Dever for his distinguished service to the church and to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN T. BROOKS

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, today I congratulate Dr. John T. Brooks, on his retirement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. Dr. Brooks is retiring from the CDC with more than 26 years of hard work on behalf of our country. Dr. Brooks began his career as an epidemic intelligence service (EIS) officer

at the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases. In this role, he investigated domestic outbreaks of foodborne disease and managed domestic surveillance for cases of botulism.

Most recently, as the chief medical officer of the CDC’s Division of HIV Prevention in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Dr. Brooks was essential in leading efforts in the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. He pushed for Federal guidelines to prevent and treat HIV and multiple other infectious diseases, as well as authored over 250 peer-reviewed publications and textbook chapters.

Thank you, Dr. Brooks, for 26 years at the CDC, for dedication to public service, and for a lifetime of work that has truly made a difference in the health of our Nation and around the world. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the great State of Georgia, I recognize Dr. Brooks for all of the important work he has done and wish him the very best in his next phase of life.

ANTIQUE TRACTOR PRESERVATION DAY

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, today, I rise to pay tribute to an observance that honors the thousands of Americans who devote their daily toils to the excellence of our Nation’s agriculture industry. That observance is embodied in a new celebration: Antique Tractor Preservation Day, observed in Kansas on August 22.

As a Senator from Kansas, my devotion to our State’s leading role in American agriculture has been a cornerstone of my tenure. As a fifth-generation farm kid, I understand firsthand that the success of agriculture would not be possible without the tractors that facilitate its development. It is therefore imperative to mark Antique Tractor Preservation Day in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In doing so, we pay homage to antique tractors, which symbolize American agriculture.

A focus on antique tractors is of particular importance. Uplifting antique tractors allows the public to appreciate the impressive spirit of innovation that has driven continued improvement in the efficiency of today’s tractors, resulting in a direct improvement of the modern farming sector. A specified day to celebrate antique tractors and display them in various venues empowers families who own these tractors to preserve their farming heritage by sharing stories with a wide audience. Educational opportunities regarding our Nation’s farming history are crucial to the continuance of this essential industry. Antique Tractor Preservation Day offers such an opportunity. Just as friendships have been forged on tractors for over a century, so, too, does the observance of Antique Tractor Preservation Day provide an occasion to solidify the bonds of fellowship between farming enthusiasts and those