

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 expository 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

who have not yet learned about the significance of antique tractors.

A special mention must be made to Mr. Michael Hinton, a native Kansan who has committed his efforts to educating the American public about antique tractors and the legacy they represent. Mr. Hinton pioneered the concept of Antique Tractor Preservation Day and maintains a tremendously helpful website at talkingtractors.com, which serves as a resource for those who seek to learn more about tractors and agriculture. For his distinguished passion and efforts, I am grateful.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Antique Tractor Preservation Day and, in so doing, the storied legacy of American agriculture, which is paramount to our Nation's merit.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA EDWARDS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cynthia Edwards, as her tenure as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Arkansas comes to a close.

We have been fortunate to have Ms. Edwards's careful and expert guidance at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture since 2011. In that time, the department has continued to make strides in bettering the lives of Arkansans, especially our farmers and ranchers, and much of this progress can be directly attributed to her dedication to the industry.

Growing up in DeWitt, AR, Ms. Edwards is no stranger to the agrarian charm the Natural State is renowned for. DeWitt is a small community in the Arkansas Delta, a region of the country where people roll up their sleeves and work hard until the job is done.

The same can be said for Ms. Edwards. A lawyer by trade, with undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Arkansas system, she has dedicated her career to public service, first working under a great leader for the State Senator Blanche Lincoln and culminating in her work for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

The lasting impact on the state of Arkansas that Cynthia Edwards is responsible for will be hard to even measure, as well as her influence on future generations of women hoping to pursue careers in the areas of agricultural law and policy. Her example is an inspiration, and it is exciting to see others following in the path she has paved.

I congratulate Ms. Edwards on her outstanding service to the State of Arkansas and its agricultural pursuits and wish her the best in her retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE CINCINNATI OHIO VET CENTER

• Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise to honor the Cincinnati Ohio Vet Cen-

ter for receiving the 2024 Vet Center Excellence in Customer Experience Award, given to the highest performing vet center in the Nation. In the past year, the Cincinnati Vet Center has improved the well-being of veterans in southwest Ohio. The center expanded community access points to local college campuses at the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University and conducted strategic outreach on smaller local college campuses. The team also expanded outreach to local gyms and fitness centers, going above and beyond to meet veterans where they are, to spread the word about the services vet centers provide to our Nation's heroes.

The counselors at the Cincinnati Vet Center have added to the evidence-based treatments available to veterans and servicemembers and worked to find new ways for veterans to heal and build lasting connections with one another. The team accomplished all of this while remaining steadfast in their commitment to its Vietnam era groups and its long-running African-American veteran group.

Veterans and their families have sacrificed so much to keep our country safe. We owe them more than our gratitude; they deserve the healthcare, benefits, and educational opportunities that they have earned through their service to our Nation. That is why the work that places like the Cincinnati Ohio Vet Center do matters so much and why we can never waver in our commitment to veterans and their families.

I would like to personally recognize these employees at the Cincinnati Vet Center for making this possible: Cher Runtenelli, vet center director; Ryan Scharfenberger, outreach specialist; Zachary McGuffey, program support assistant; Taylor Katt, readjustment counselor; Stephanie Downard, readjustment counselor; and Chasitee Little, readjustment counselor.●

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY LOZADA

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Kimberly "Kym" Lozada of Manchester as September's Granite Stater of the Month. After her husband passed away, Kym felt a drive to find ways to support her community—and now, through her barbershop, Get Faded, Kym offers free haircuts and other events to support adults and kids alike.

Kym, a mother of six, opened Get Faded in February 2023. When her husband passed away 6 months later, she wanted to find a way to help other single parents who might be struggling with the busy back-to-school season. She started an annual event with free haircuts for local students, and this year, the shop also gave out 150 backpacks filled with school supplies. The business has also hosted trunk-or-treat for kids on Halloween. Get Faded prioritizes ensuring that all children feel comfortable; it is a certified sen-

sory-safe barbershop, where the barbers are trained to give haircuts to children with autism or sensory processing sensitivities that can make it difficult to experience a traditional haircut. Overall, Kym makes Get Faded a place where every child can feel supported—and, of course, get the haircut they want to feel stylish and confident.

In addition, like many Granite State families, the Lozada family has experienced the effects of the fentanyl crisis. Kym's late husband dealt with addiction, and she is open about his experience in the hopes that she can inspire others to get treatment. In Kym's words, "I will keep telling my story in the hope that it can save someone's life." Get Faded recently hosted free haircut events for adults at Hope for NH Recovery, a center that offers peer-based support for those dealing with addiction, and at AmeriHealth Caritas, an organization that works to bring healthcare to communities throughout the State.

Kym's dedication to helping those in need is a true example of the Granite State spirit of pitching in to help our fellow citizens. Her family's experience is one that is not unique in our State, but her perseverance and commitment to helping Granite Staters in her own way can inspire all of us.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEE EDWARDS

Mr. LEE. Madam President, the resurgence of American conservatism over the last three-quarters of a century had many fathers: James Burnham, Willmore Kendall, Frank Meyer, Richard Weaver, Milton Friedman, Russell Kirk, and, of course, William F. Buckley. They laid the intellectual foundation for the political transformation launched by Senator Barry Goldwater and brought to fruition by Ronald Reagan. All those are names of the past, but one individual remains with us who knew most of them, wrote about them, and popularized their thinking that transformed American society.

This is Dr. Lee Edwards. Now in his tenth decade, he has been an irreplaceable part of the conservative movement longer than most of us have been alive. He is a scholar and teacher with a doctorate from the Catholic University of America and further study at the Sorbonne. He is a philosopher, formerly the distinguished fellow in conservative thought at the Heritage Foundation. His books have been translated into as many languages as societies and their peoples have hungered for freedom.

His volumes still speak eloquently to young Americans who wonder where we go from here: "The Collapse of Communism," "The Power of Ideas," "The Conservative Revolution: The Movement that Remade America," "Reading the Right Books, a Guide for the Intellectual Conservative," and biographies of half a dozen major conservative leaders. He knew them all.