

Under Joanne's leadership, CCAP expanded its reach and services to the community. Her approach to leadership was to involve the community, collaborate with partners, and streamline administrative costs in order to maximize resources available for direct services. When she took the reins, CCAP had a budget of just over \$3 million and a staff of 60. Today, it has a budget of over \$40 million and a team of 350 employees who serve over 40,000 people annually.

The growth of CCAP under Joanne's leadership has resulted in partnerships to create affordable housing, expand childcare and preschool programs, establish new opportunity homes for pregnant and parenting teens, create the first parent/child center in Rhode Island, build a community youth center in partnership with the city of Cranston, develop a fully integrated family health model, and open several health centers. CCAP has done all of this while also providing workforce development, home heating and weatherization assistance, and a food bank for residents in need.

Just as Joanne has left an indelible mark on CCAP and the communities it serves, CCAP has shaped her life. She carries out her work with joy and gratitude. In her words, "CCAP has given me boundless gifts and rewards I never imagined. Professionally, with my team, we have created a system of care designed to provide services while focusing on poverty and the alleviation of it. Personally, I met my husband when creating housing at St. Matthew's Church with CCAP. All my life milestones have involved CCAP at some level. I could never begin to give back to CCAP what it has given me."

As someone who shares Joanne's deep connection to the Cranston community, I have seen firsthand how her friendship and kindness has transformed lives. Her genuine empathy for those most in need is an inspiration, and her lifetime of action helping those experiencing poverty is an example that we should emulate.

I join countless other Rhode Islanders in wishing Joanne a happy and healthy retirement, filled with new adventures, in the company of her husband Kenny and her daughters Maddie and Annie. She has earned it.

TRIBUTE TO LASHAWNDA SMITH

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize LaShawnda Smith on her retirement after 29 years of service with the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LaShawnda first joined the committee in 1993 as a detailee from the Department of Veterans Affairs, working on what was then the Subcommittee on the VA, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies. She later accepted a role at the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Congressional Affairs. It was not long, however, until

she would find herself back on the committee as a detailee, this time on loan from HUD.

LaShawnda eventually joined the committee full-time in 1995 under the leadership of then-Chairman Mark Hatfield and Vice Chairman Robert Byrd. Since then, LaShawnda has faithfully served under the Republican leadership of Senators Ted Stevens, Thad Cochran, Richard Shelby, and now me, providing support to the committee and its various subcommittees.

Anyone who has worked with LaShawnda knows what a dependable member of the Senate community she has been. She has helped the wheels of the Appropriations Committee move forward in service to the American people throughout her career. LaShawnda will be missed by her colleagues and friends, and she deserves this Chamber's collective thanks for her dedicated work as she leaves to spend time with her family in Tennessee, including her daughters Dominique and Briana, two granddaughters Nyelah and Nyani, and two grandpups Lucci and Cairo.

The committee will miss LaShawnda's steady, stabilizing presence, and we wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement from the Senate and in her new full-time role as a doting grandmother.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR THOMAS E. DICKSON

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute and say a special thank you to a truly exceptional U.S. Army officer. MAJ Thomas E. Dickson has served admirably as a congressional budget liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller, for the past 2 years. I have come to know Tom personally over this time as he has escorted me on countless congressional delegations across the globe, to include numerous trips to Ukraine and Israel, doing so with a level of skill and professionalism that has left a lasting impression on me and my staff.

Major Dickson graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 2013 and commissioned as a military police officer. Major Dickson's first assignment was as a platoon leader with the 230th Military Police Company in Sembach, Germany. While stationed in Germany, Major Dickson attended the United Nations Military Police Course in Aalborg, Denmark, where he trained alongside students from 17 different nations including Ukraine, Montenegro, and Rwanda.

After serving as the executive officer for the 92nd Military Police Company, Major Dickson was selected to attend the Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School in Quantico, VA. During his time in Quantico, Major Dickson published an article for the U.S. Naval Institute and earned honors as a distinguished graduate.

Next, Major Dickson served in 2-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT)

out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. While in 2-2 SBCT, Major Dickson graduated the Army's Ranger School in 61 days and served as the brigade provost marshal prior to commanding its headquarters and headquarters company.

After command, Major Dickson deployed and attached to 6th Battalion, 4th Security Forces Assistance Brigade in Kabul, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. While in Afghanistan, he planned and executed over 50 adviser missions integrated with multinational partners.

As a Congressional Budget Liaison, Major Dickson has been the Army's conduit to several congressional offices, including my own, and he has built a reputation of trust, respect, and competency. Just mere days after the attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, Major Dickson helped quickly stand up and lead a historic bipartisan U.S. Senate congressional delegation of five Republicans and five Democrats to Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. His efforts have been nothing short of incredible.

Major Dickson's extraordinary career is a testament to his hard work and unyielding desire to make himself, his organizations, and his fellow soldiers the best they can be. Our Nation has been enriched by his leadership, thoughtful judgement, and exemplary work. On behalf of the State of South Carolina, the U.S. Senate, and a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Major Dickson on his service to our Nation. We wish Tom all the best as he continues his journey in the Army.

TRIBUTE TO KAAREN HINCK

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Kaaren Hinck and her 20 years of service to the U.S. Senate. Although she is never one to seek the spotlight, we can't let her walk out these doors without acknowledging what has been a tremendous career in public service to eight Senators and one Representative across four States and two Presidential campaigns.

Kaaren's Senate career got off to an auspicious start one day while she was at home playing hooky from school in Minnesota. Watching TV, she saw an ad for the Senate page program and thought that sounded like something she might like to do. In a sign of things to come, not only was she selected to become a page for her home State Senator, but she also worked it out with her principal so she could do an "independent study" and avoid the page program classes altogether, a born dealmaker even before stepping foot in the Chamber.

After studying art history at Boston University, she returned to the Senate, this time interning for the "Lion of the Senate" himself, Ted Kennedy, before becoming his volunteer coordinator. Thus began her long association with the gentlemen and gentlelady from Massachusetts.

Ted Kennedy would be a high watermark for most Senate careers, but Kaaren would go on to work for Senator John Kerry at the height of his Senate career and follow him onto his Presidential campaign. After the heart-breaking loss of 2004, she would embark on a new adventure: the post-Mickey Drexler Gap.

But the siren call of the Senate beckoned, and Kaaren returned not long after leaving the Presidential campaign trail, this time to work for Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE before returning home to Senator Kerry's office.

A glutton for punishment, she would go on to work campaigns again—this time for Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, including on her 2020 Presidential run, a campaign that will be remembered for the enthusiasm it inspired.

Fortunately for me, she became one of my very first hires when I was elected to the Senate. You can imagine how fortunate I felt that someone with her experience would help us stand up the office.

And now, almost 4 years later, Kaaren is the rock we have built that office on. It is hard to imagine the office without her. She is everyone's first stop when they hit a wall and have no idea what to do next. She is the one who makes the seemingly impossible, possible—the person who laughs at the idiosyncrasies of Senate rules and finds joy working around them. She is kind to everyone she meets, always generous with her time to help staff figure out their next career move or how to fix whatever problem has them stumped. Maybe that is also what makes her resolve so impressive. I pity anyone who sees in her kindness a person who rolls over in the face of a challenge.

For our office—and I suspect for every office she has served—she has always been exactly what our office needed her to be. From a trusted adviser present at the creation, to acting chief when we needed a steady hand.

I don't know what Kaaren will do next, but I know we haven't yet seen the height of her career. We wish her the absolute best and miss her already.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NORTHSIDE AND SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF 1966

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a special occasion in my hometown of Fort Smith, AR: the 58th class reunion of Northside and Southside High School's class of 1966.

This event marks the first time these two rival high schools have come together to celebrate the anniversary of their graduation. Since many of the graduates had been schoolmates at various Fort Smith elementary and junior high schools, it is appropriate that they share the celebration of their high school graduation. It should be noted

that the class of 1966 was the first to graduate from Southside High School.

As a proud Northside Grizzly myself, who was only a few years behind them, I saw the impact both schools' graduates had in our community then and in the years since. Sadly, many of the class of 1966 are no longer with us. Through the deep connection of shared experiences, these men and women come together again to remember those who have gone before and to reconnect with those remaining.

Many things helped bond Fort Smith's youth during this period, including new music that became poetry and played an important part in high school life. Motown produced anthems and dance tunes that are still requested today.

In 1966, the average new home price was \$14,200. A new car cost just \$2,600. Gasoline was 52 cents per gallon. The first episode of "Star Trek" was broadcast. The miniskirt became a fashion standard, changing the way young women would dress for the remainder of the decade. Ford and Chevrolet introduced the Mustang and Camaro muscle cars.

But 1966 was a year marked by sharp contrasts. The United States had more than 500,000 troops in Vietnam; the Black Panther Party was forming; and China initiated its Cultural Revolution. The Civil Rights movement, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., continued to press for equality and justice for all Americans.

Closer to home, 1966 was also the year that five Black students successfully integrated Fort Smith high schools. These students forever transformed Northside athletics and helped demonstrate the important lesson that our society is stabilized, not destroyed, when everyone enjoys the same rights.

Certainly, every senior year is unique. The Fort Smith classes of 1966 shared a year of experience and observation. Led by their families and teachers, they have gone on to establish lives and families, contributing their own measure to our collective society. I am proud to mark their 58th class reunion as part of the U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.●

TRIBUTE TO GENE POWELL

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Gene Powell, who has served the Louisiana constituents of Shreveport, LA. Since September of 1976, Gene Powell has donated over 1,900 blood platelet products in over 700 donation visits. As a U.S. Air Force veteran and 90 years of age, I raise the actions of Gene Powell as selflessness.

Today, Gene Powell carries forward his Lifetime Achievement Award by LifeShare Blood Center. His actions ensure improving the lives of countless individuals and service to his community, by publicly honoring him.

Thank you to Gene Powell, a veteran and community serviceman; his service will never be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO ROGER W. JENKINS

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the career of Roger W. Jenkins as he prepares to retire after 11 years as CEO of Murphy Oil Corporation, an oil and natural gas company whose history extends back to the early 1900s in El Dorado, AR.

Roger began his career with Texaco but moved to Murphy Oil as a drilling manager in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2001. In 2007, he was named senior vice president of North America and elected CEO in 2013. Roger was a skilled manager and operator, helping reposition Murphy Oil as a leading producer in the Gulf of Mexico, while solidifying its financial strength.

Roger Jenkins has made extraordinary contributions to south Arkansas, stewarding Murphy Oil's "El Dorado Promise," a generous scholarship program for the graduating high school students of El Dorado, AR. Murphy also recently donated \$10 million to build new dorms and a baseball stadium at South Arkansas College.

Roger has long provided outstanding leadership on the boards of the American Petroleum Institute, National Petroleum Council, and LSU Foundation. He has been recognized as LSU's Alumnus of the Year in 2016 and as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year, Gulf South Region, in 2023. He and his wife Jill have multiple scholarship programs in their own name for veterinarians and engineering students. Roger also serves his community through Catholic Charities USA and United Way.

Thank you, Roger, for your extraordinary contributions to the State of Arkansas and American energy security. Best wishes for a well-earned and enjoyable retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT JAY COTA

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing U.S. Marine Corps MGySgt Jay Cota for his heroism and 30 years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Cota, who lives in Musselshell County, first began his career in the Marine Corps in 1979 when he graduated boot camp, eager and willing for what lay ahead. His first duty station was in Kaneohe Bay, HI, and just a few months later, he engaged in two western Pacific deployments which took him to many ports from the Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, Africa, Australia, Guam, Sri Lanka, and beyond.

Cota was then transferred to Fargo, ND, in 1982, where he gave the ASVAB test to recruits as he worked to build up the manpower within the Marine Corps. Three years later, he was assigned to Camp Lejeune, NC, where he oversaw classified materials. In 1989, Cota was headed to his next assignment, splitting time between Rochester, MN, and Fargo, ND, continuing his work to recruit new applicants. In