

echoed by countless women across the county who have worked tirelessly to compete in the sport they love.

Generations of Americans have devoted themselves to promoting and advancing women's sports, including right here in the Gem State. In 2020, Idaho became first in the Nation to enact legislation that protects female athletes through the Fairness in Women's Sports Act. I thank Representative Ehardt for spearheading this bill and Idaho Governor Brad Little for signing it. The Fairness in Women's Sports Act protects the integrity of women's sports and guarantees fair competition for Idaho's female athletes.

Despite more than 50 years of progress, threats to dismantle and distort the protections in title IX persist. Today, Americans fear the loss of safety and opportunity for their daughters in education and athletics.

In Congress, I will continue to fight to protect fairness in women's athletics and defend the provisions in title IX from these dangerous attacks. We must not erase the contributions of women and girls in athletics. We must empower and provide the framework that allows young girls and women to play, compete, and win.

With the support and incredible work of people like Representative Ehardt, I am certain we will ensure these rights for women in Idaho and beyond. I am proud to deliver Representative Barbara Ehardt with this gold letter in recognition of her devotion to fairness in women's sports and selfless efforts to provide Idaho girls and women with opportunities to succeed.

#### REMEMBERING DR. ELEAZER ROOT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to ask that the Senate join me in honoring an accomplished Revolutionary War veteran, doctor, and former president of the Columbia County Medical Society of New York, Dr. Eleazer Root. Dr. Root dedicated his life to serving his community and his country, and it is a privilege to recognize him here today in honor of his grave dedication on October 13, 2024.

On July 28, 1764, in Coventry, CT, Eleazer Root was born to Thomas Root. In the face of uncertainty for the future of North America, Root enlisted in 1779 at the young age of 15 to serve with the patriots and helped usher out an era of aristocracy and monarchy in favor of establishing a republic democracy which stands strong to this day.

Stationed in West Point, NY, Root served there for 1 year. Following his service in the war, he traveled north to Spencertown, NY. It was there he began his pursuit of a career in medicine.

Dr. Root's medical career was met with much success, made evident by his appointment as president of the county medical society in Columbia County, NY. This position served as a

testament to his expertise in medical care and leadership.

While in Spencertown, Dr. Root would go on to marry Lucinda Bostwick, also from Coventry, CT, in 1793. They then relocated within Columbia County to a city called Canaan, where they would plant their roots and raise a family. While in Canaan, their 10 children were born: 7 sons and 3 daughters. Many of Dr. Root's children would go on to share his passion for service of others, three of which followed in Dr. Root's footsteps, becoming doctors themselves.

Following his 48 years of continual, dedicated service to the greater Columbia County region, he eventually relocated to the Michigan Territory in 1834. He moved to Manchester, MI, in Washtenaw County, just 8 years after the city's establishment.

Then tragically on January 31, 1837, just 4 years after his migration to what will come to be known as the Great Lakes State, Dr. Root passed away at the age of 72. He became the first grave to be buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Manchester. His wife Lucinda was buried by his side 12 years later, following her passing, where they both remain to this day.

His immense passion and care for the serving his community have had lasting impacts that supersede centuries, culminating to his honoring here today on the Senate floor. He helped fight to make the Nation we see before us today and led a life of service. Dr. Root's grave serves as a poignant reminder that the freedom and independence we enjoy today was brought about by the sacrifice and service of others.

I trust that my colleagues here in the Senate will join me in honoring Dr. Eleazer Root for his contributions to the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today, as well as his lifetime of service to the public health of his local community.

#### RECOGNIZING THE U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD TEAM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the U.S. Ski & Snowboard teams as they prepare for the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Milano-Cortina, Italy.

For nearly 120 years, U.S. Ski & Snowboard has provided leadership, support and direction for young athletes as they work to achieve excellence in their sports. U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes participate in 10 different Olympic sports, including alpine skiing, para snowboarding, cross country skiing, ski jumping, and many others. At a typical Winter Olympics, U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes compose more than half of Team USA. In the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing, U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes won 60 percent of Team USA's medals. These able-bodied and adaptive athletes share a commitment to excellence, team work, and fair competition.

To Coloradans, skiing and snowboarding are more than just sports; they are part of our State's rich history. During World War II, 15,000 soldiers traveled to Camp Hale—located between Leadville and Red Cliff, CO, in the high alpine terrain of the Rocky Mountains—to train to defeat the Nazis. These Americans formed the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division. Among them were the best skiers in America. The men of the 10th Mountain Division trained relentlessly in 10 feet of snow and temperatures of 50 below zero. In 1945, 10th Mountain soldiers climbed more than 1,800 feet up a Riva Ridge and scaled Mount Belvedere to surprise the Germans who believed their position in the Alps was unassailable. The 10th Mountain Division took the skills they learned in the Colorado mountains and punched a hole through the German line to clear the way for Allied victory in Europe.

After the war, veterans of the 10th Mountain Division founded Colorado's ski and outdoor recreation industries, including ski resorts like Steamboat Springs and Vail. As a result of their hard work, Steamboat Springs has produced more Winter Olympians than any other town in the United States, and Vail is now known as the birthplace of the most decorated ski racer of all time, Mikaela Shiffrin.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard team and its able-bodied and adaptive athletes for inspiring all of us as they compete on the international stage and for their positive representation of American ideals throughout the world.

#### TRIBUTE TO KRISTINE HANISCH

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, I rise to honor and recognize the extraordinary career of Kristine Hanisch, whose dedication to the U.S. Senate spans over 35 years. During her storied tenure, Kris has diligently and graciously served in the offices of four U.S. Senators: Senators Symms, Craig, Allard, and myself. She has witnessed and contributed to a significant chapter of American and Senate history.

Kris's journey from a small town in north Idaho to a senior position in the U.S. Senate is a testament to her determination and commitment to improving the lives of others. Few possess Kris's depth of knowledge about the inner workings of the U.S. Senate. Her insights and understanding of the legislative process have made her a valuable asset to our team and to the institution as a whole.

In addition to her many accomplishments, Kris was involved with, and at one point led, the Administrative Managers Steering Committee—a select, bipartisan group of administrative managers and chief clerks chosen to represent their peers in the Senate community. This committee focuses on influencing solutions that improve efficiency and modernize operations within the Senate. She was a member of the

very first advisory group that helped create the Senate personnel system, known as OTIS. Kris also participated in the peer support group through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), demonstrating her commitment to fostering a supportive environment for her colleagues.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Kris for her exceptional service. She is truly one of a kind, and our office will not be the same without her. On behalf of myself, Vicki, and all who have worked alongside Kris in the Risch organization over the past 16 years, I want to express our deep appreciation for her contributions to Idaho and our Nation.

As Kris embarks on this new chapter in her life, we wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Thank you, Kris, for your devotion and for being an integral part of our Senate office.●

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING S5G AT THE NAVAL REACTORS FACILITY

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, alongside my esteemed colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, I rise today to honor the formal turnover of the S5G Prototype from the Naval Reactors Idaho Branch Office (NR-IBO) and Fluor Marine Propulsion, LLC (FMP) to the U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Cleanup Project (DOE-ICP) and Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC). This momentous occasion marks the early completion of the turnover of the S5G Prototype, a defueled naval nuclear propulsion plant that holds significant historical and strategic importance in safeguarding our national defense.

The S5G Prototype is a technological marvel born in 1961 and represents a pivotal chapter in our Nation's engineering history. Operational from September 1965 to May 1995, this remarkable prototype played a critical role in training 11,844 enlisted, officer, and civilian operators. The third and last prototype at the Naval Reactors Facility (NRF), S5G represented the pinnacle of science and technology in its generation, and the contributions to Cold War military applications and the U.S. Naval Nuclear Program is recognized by S5G's eligibility for listing in the National Record of Historic Places. The accomplishments of the S5G Prototype paved the way for the construction and commissioning of the USS *Narwhal*, SSN-671, a submarine of such versatility that much of its record is still classified.

The NRF's original, and main purpose, until 1995, was to test the concepts for nuclear propulsion and train sailors on their applications with three NRF Prototypes: S1W, A1W, and S5G. This turnover brings us to the final leg of a journey with a clear and achievable goal: the removal of all three prototypes at NRF by 2030. The journey

began with the turnover of the S1W in January 2022, followed by the turnover of the A1W Prototype in November 2023, and, now, the turnover of the final prototype, S5G.

This turnover marks the end of an era and a continued commitment from the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program to manage radioactive and hazardous materials from cradle to grave, ensuring no adverse effects on the environment or public health. Decommissioning older, non-mission-critical facilities not only reduces workforce needs, but also allows resources to be allocated more efficiently to support the core mission of the U.S. Navy.

The formal turnover of the S5G Prototype serves as a milestone and testament to the incredible results that can be achieved when people and organizations are united with a shared purpose. We extend our sincere gratitude to each person involved for their unwavering dedication and hard work. This turnover is a significant step toward ensuring the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program continues to power maritime dominance for the Navy and our Nation well into the future. It also reaffirms our steadfast commitment to safeguarding our national defense, paying homage to our history, and preserving our national treasures.●

##### RECOGNIZING SOLDIER MOUNTAIN HIGHLANDS & HUNS

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month, I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Soldier Mountain Highlands & Huns as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for November 2024.

Soldier Mountain Highlands & Huns (SMH Ranch) is a first-generation family ranch nestled on 120 acres at the base of the Sawtooth Mountains. The fulfillment of Dennis Stitt's lifelong dream, SMH Ranch focuses on promoting a healthy lifestyle, conserving precious wild lands, and preserving the heritage of small farmers and ranchers. SMH Ranch is feeding the world one steak at a time. Stitt has proven that small farms can be profitable by producing the best steaks through environmentally enhancing soil regenerative practices. SMH Ranch prioritizes sourcing from and selling to the local community, even buying hay from farmers on the Camas Prairie. They take pride in their herd of heritage Scottish Highland cattle, which are naturally hardy and thrive on arid grasslands. In addition to their cattle production, Soldier Mountain Highland is home to an Airbnb for those who wish to learn more about the operation.

Dennis Stitt, the founder of SMH Ranch, served in the Army and Army National Guard for 39 years, including

as an engineer officer and commander at the company, battalion, and brigade level of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team and the Idaho Training Center. Dennis is active in the veteran community, serving on the boards of the Idaho chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition, FARE Idaho, and the Idaho Horse Council. He is the founding chair of Soldiers of the Soil LLC and Idaho Mounted Cavalry LLC. Soldiers of the Soil, a podcast dedicated to educating and inspiring veteran farmers and military trained land managers, is one of Dennis's many efforts to improve the veteran and farming community.

Congratulations to Dennis and the rest of the team at SMH Ranch on their selection as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for November 2024. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

##### RECOGNIZING BMW MANUFACTURING

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor BMW Manufacturing for its 30th anniversary and strong legacy of promoting economic growth, job creation, and innovative excellence in South Carolina's Upstate.

Since 1994, BMW's presence in the Upstate has demonstrated South Carolina's top-of-the-line workforce to the rest of the world. South Carolinians' focus on excellence has allowed BMW to prosper over the last 30 years and hopefully for future generations.

Today, BMW's Spartanburg plant employs nearly 43,000 jobs and produces over 1,500 vehicles daily, totaling over 400,000 yearly.

This continued partnership has grown a \$600 million investment into over \$26.7 billion in assets that flow from the automotive industry in our State, directly impacting countless local families and strengthening our State's economy.

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Engelhorn and the entire BMW Group for this incredible milestone and ongoing partnership.●

##### RECOGNIZING GREENWOOD GENETICS CENTER

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor Greenwood Genetics Center as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago, the first independent center in the United States to offer comprehensive genetic services was established. Beginning as a small building tucked away in the heart of Greenwood, SC, Greenwood Genetics Center quickly blossomed in more ways than one. Greenwood Genetics Center has