

and moving services 150 miles farther away to Spokane.

Agriculture plays a huge role in communities in eastern Oregon, a connection between land and life that Kathleen knows from growing up in Union County. As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I lead a committee that has jurisdiction over things like tax policy, Medicare, and Medicaid. Understandably, it can be hard for folks in Eastern Oregon to understand how exactly those policies impact them. Kathleen has always known how to help connect the dots. She made the case for a national review of drug manufacturing and quotas for ADHD medicines in eastern Oregon. She was our leading voice when the Baker Hospital closed its maternity ward with less than 30 days notice to the community.

One of the biggest ways Kathleen helped connect the dots was through the Finance Committee's work on trade.

With such a robust agricultural sector, trade policy has a deep impact on the farmers, ranchers, and producers in the eastern part of our State. Kathleen, among her many talents, is a master convener. She put her expertise and connections to good use, working with local ranchers and the State of Oregon, as well as the USDA, to support Oregon in reinstating its State meat inspection program.

This program is helping protect Oregon our ranchers from inflationary pricing of larger national meat processors, while striking a blow against national and international meat monopolies. It is also more humane for the animals and helps cut down on carbon emissions associated with cattle ranching and meat processing.

With accomplishments like these, it is no surprise that Kathleen's teamwork in eastern Oregon earned her the 2023 Above and Beyond Award from the Oregon Wheat Growers.

Simply put, Kathleen Cathey came to play every day for rural Oregon and always fought to improve the lives of those in its small communities. She battled to expand rural broadband in recent years into every nook and cranny of our State. And she worked just as hard each year to ensure eastern Oregon secures its fair share of Federal funds for roads, schools, and more from the Secure Rural Schools or Payment in Lieu of Taxes programs.

Bottom line, I have always counted on Kathleen for her good counsel, even temperament, and deep community connections. I have no doubt that a public service dynamo like Kathleen will find many ways to keep helping eastern Oregon in the future.

Kathleen leaves my office with all my best wishes for a happy retirement with her husband Larry, hugging and doting on their grandkids—all while she carves out time for peaceful walks, smooth bike rides, quiet reading, and preparing pumpkin muffins and other tasty offerings in her kitchen.

As we like to say in our little corner of the world: once a member of Team

Wyden, always a member of Team Wyden. I will miss Kathleen's passion, guidance, and friendship immensely. I will always be grateful that she chose to share her talents with our team, and I take comfort in knowing that her good counsel will never be more than a phone call away.●

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD HIRSCH

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise on behalf of myself and Senator CRAPO, speaking as chair and ranking member of the Finance Committee. Today, we commend Harold Hirsch on his service to the U.S. Congress for over 47 years. Mr. Hirsch served as a lawyer and tax expert on the staff of the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation of the United States Congress from the beginning of 1977 to October 2024, when he retired. Prior to 1977, Mr. Hirsch had worked as a lawyer for the office of the Judge Advocate General and for the legislation and regulations section at the Internal Revenue Service, government service for which we also thank him.

As is well known, the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation staff performs useful or at times indispensable functions to the Members as the Congress develops tax legislation. Mr. Hirsch's legal acumen, drafting brilliance, and deep understanding of tax policy issues contributed to the quality of tax legislation in numerous tax bills over the period he served on the JCT staff. Though reserved, even self-effacing, Mr. Hirsch brought thoughtful commentary to the development of proposed tax legislation. He gave an extremely careful reading of proposed legislative text, and his keen eye for possible statutory errors averted problems that would otherwise have plagued taxpayers, practitioners, and government administrators alike. Mr. Hirsch's technical skills and expertise in the craft of helping the Congress produce the best statutory representation of Members' intent redounded to the benefit of the American taxpayer.

This dedicated work should not go unknown and unrecognized. The Congress thanks Mr. Hirsch for his service in the field of tax legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MATTHEW "MADDOG" GUERTIN

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize Maj. Matthew "Maddog" Guertin who has worked in my Senate office this year as a defense fellow. Major Guertin—soon to be lieutenant colonel—is a patriot who has served our country nobly and made it a safer place. In 1 short year, he has proven to be an invaluable member of my staff.

Major Guertin commissioned into the Air Force in 2010 as a distinguished graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy. After completing his graduate degree from Rice University, he trained at the prestigious Euro-NATO Joint

Jet Pilot Training in Texas before becoming an F-22 pilot. He quickly became a proven combat leader, having flown 150 combat hours in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, including 10 sorties over Syria and Iraq and dozens of defensive counter air hours to protect American ground troops. The Air Force stated that his actions "directly contributed to the defeat of Islamic State insurgents." Major Guertin also flew hundreds of hours on Operation NOBLE EAGLE and alert missions in defense of the Alaskan coast and National Capital Region.

Following his deployment to the Middle East, Major Guertin spent 3 years at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska, flying and instructing pilots on the F-22. There, he earned the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding work in leading 206 airmen, increasing the base's operational capability, and playing a pivotal role advancing Air Force capabilities during Arctic exercises. In 2021, he moved to Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia where he quickly distinguished himself as the Air Force's F-22 subject matter expert.

During his time in Virginia, Major Guertin led all requirements and force structure planning for a fleet of 185 F-22 aircraft, affecting about \$7 billion in investment over a 5-year period. He secured a \$1.4 billion budget increase for the F-22 and successfully executed 30 program requirements. That is three times more program requirements than the last 19 years of F-22 history combined. Major Guertin ultimately championed the upgrades to the F-22 being implemented today that will secure the fighter as the United States' premier air superiority platform throughout the decade and beyond.

For his contributions to such a critical aspect of U.S. military strategy, the Air Force awarded Major Guertin the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Defense Department gave him the 2023 Defense Acquisition Workforce Award for Requirements Management.

I could not have been assigned a more knowledgeable and skilled pilot to join my office in January 2023, representing the Air Force in Congress as a defense fellow.

During his time in my office, Major Guertin staffed high level meetings and helped prepare me for numerous committee hearings, briefings, and legislative efforts. His colleagues deeply appreciated his initiative, dedication, and good cheer. He clearly demonstrated his passion and dedication to making this great Nation safer every single day working in the Senate.

Thankfully, the Air Force also recognizes his commitment to service, as it recently announced Major Guertin's upcoming promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Finally, I cannot honor Major Guertin without also thanking his family: his wife Jamie and his four children Abigail, Benjamin, Madison, and Nathan. Major Guertin is clearly a great father and a great husband, and I

am grateful to his family for sharing him with my team.

Major Guertin has had an extraordinary career, and he will serve his country well in the years ahead. He is exactly the kind of man and leader that our military needs. For these reasons and many more, I was honored to have Major Guertin in my office this year. Maddog, thank you for your service to Arkansas and to the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUDGE ANDY JACKSON

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this year, Tennessee lost a great leader, public servant, and American: Judge A. Andrew “Andy” Jackson.

For 33 years, Judge Jackson served as judge of the juvenile and probate Court of Dickson County, where he worked to safeguard the interests of his community while putting the juvenile offenders in his courtroom on the path to becoming responsible, law-abiding citizens. While on the court, Judge Jackson became a leading figure in our State’s juvenile justice system, helping author Tennessee’s first rules of juvenile procedure and serving as president of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Beyond his legal career, Judge Jackson was an exemplary friend and neighbor whose generosity, patriotism, and passion for life inspired so many who knew him. From his early days as an Eagle Scout to pursuing his love for deep-sea fishing, hunting, marksmanship, aviation, cattle rearing, agriculture, or just telling jokes, Judge Jackson lived a life in full.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Judge Jackson’s family, including his beloved wife Elaine, daughters Kelly and Sally, and grandchildren Evelyn, Michael, and Catherine. While our State has lost a great man, Judge Jackson’s legacy will endure in Dickson County and across Tennessee for many years to come.●

REMEMBERING JUDGE DUANE SLONE

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I rise today to honor an exemplary community leader, public servant, and Tennessean: Judge Duane Slone, who tragically passed away at the age of 61.

For 26 years, Judge Slone served on Tennessee’s 4th Judicial District Court, where he pioneered innovative efforts to combat drug addiction and the opioid crisis. In 2009, he founded his district’s first drug recovery court, which provides many east Tennesseans the resources and support they need to end their substance abuse and become law-abiding citizens. Four years later, Judge Slone built on this effort by

founding the Tennessee Recovery Oriented Compliance Strategy, which provides similar support to those struggling with addiction but who do not qualify for recovery court.

Judge Slone’s work has been credited with decreasing crime and substance abuse while keeping vulnerable Tennesseans, including countless pregnant women and single mothers, out of jail. Replicating his success, 14 Tennessee counties now use Judge Slone’s Tennessee Recovery Oriented Compliance Strategy, which has helped more than 1,000 people. In recognition of his work, Judge Slone in 2019 received the National Center for State Courts William H. Rehnquist Judicial Excellence Award, the Nation’s highest honor for State court judges.

We join all Tennesseans in mourning the loss of this incredible leader, who had such a profound impact on our State and every person who passed through his courtroom.●

REMEMBERING DR. MILDRED THORNTON STAHLMAN

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I rise today to honor an incredible Tennessean: Dr. Mildred Thornton Stahlman, whose research and innovations transformed how generations of physicians have saved newborn lives.

In 1961, Dr. Stahlman established one of the first intensive care units for newborns in the country at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. There, Dr. Stahlman pioneered the use of miniature iron lung machines—typically used for children with polio—to treat premature babies suffering from respiratory lung disease. By helping the newborns draw air into their lungs, Dr. Stahlman’s innovation significantly improved outcomes for babies who otherwise faced little chance of surviving.

As head of the hospital’s neonatology unit from 1961 to 1989, Dr. Stahlman led lifesaving medical research, including on pulmonary function and respiratory distress syndrome. At the same time, she developed an emergency response system that brought premature babies to VUMC for treatment from community hospitals across 30 counties in Tennessee, a groundbreaking endeavor that saved countless lives.

After a life full of care, generosity, and courage, earlier this year Dr. Stahlman passed away at the age of 101. We join all Tennesseans in mourning the loss of this truly remarkable woman, whose legacy will live on for generations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEC FARMER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alec Farmer on his upcoming retirement from the Arkansas State Highway Commission after 10 years of dedicated service, including as chairman since 2023.

In 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed Alec to the Arkansas State

Highway Commission in light of his exemplary record of public service. As a native of northeast Arkansas, he has spent a lifetime contributing to and uplifting his community, the region, and our State.

After graduating from Arkansas State University, he earned a J.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. Farmer has operated his family’s farm and property investment and management company while also playing an active role on numerous boards and commissions throughout his professional life. That commitment has encompassed roles on the Craighead Conservation District, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, the Arkansas State Police Commission, the Arkansas Agricultural Board, as well as several positions on various municipal and economic development-focused organizations in Jonesboro including 4 years on the city council.

Since his appointment to the Highway Commission, he has devoted himself to helping lead the diligent maintenance, construction, and expansion of our State’s highways and broader transportation infrastructure.

During his tenure as a commissioner, he has provided invaluable leadership and vision, which has helped facilitate projects across the State including 2,600 miles of roads and over 800 projects in northeast Arkansas alone. His efforts have been instrumental in the passage of permanent funding for State, municipal, and county roadways; designating two interstates; and granting safe passage for farm equipment. Most recently, Chairman Farmer helped coordinate the redesignation of U.S. Highway 67 into Interstate I-57, a major milestone in the effort to further connect Arkansas with the rest of the country.

He has consistently prioritized meeting the public’s expectations for quality surface transportation in their own communities and across Arkansas. That mindset has helped deliver tremendous progress that will continue to be felt for years to come.

His commitment, over 25 years of public service, has been so significant that Craighead County Judge Marvin Day declared Friday, September 13, 2024 as “Alec Farmer Day.”

I know he has been gratified to follow in his father’s footsteps in serving on the Arkansas Highway Commission, and our State is better for their efforts. As he prepares to depart the commission, I want to extend our deepest gratitude on behalf of all Arkansans for using his time, skills and resources for such important work. I greatly appreciate his friendship, partnership and dedication, and wish him all the best in his next chapter.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the