

Under Sarah's guidance, my office has assisted thousands of Wisconsinites and their families who were confronted with urgent and often very serious challenges.

Sarah joined our Madison area House of Representatives staff as a caseworker. Constituents coming to our office with concerns were met with Sarah's capable and calm approach to problem solving. She was incredibly effective in addressing all manner of issues and quickly became an indispensable part of the team. She traveled throughout our district, meeting constituents where they were—especially our seniors—in places that allowed them to interact directly with the Federal Government. During this time, Sarah and her husband Dave welcomed two children, which spurred our office to embrace family-forward work policies and practices.

When I took my seat in the Senate, I was delighted that Sarah chose to continue with our team. In my Senate office, Sarah became our director of constituent services, working with a team to address Federal issues from constituents around the State. She developed effective processes and guides for our caseworkers, shared her wealth of experience and best practices, and was always ready to step in and help on the trickiest and stickiest of concerns.

She also created one of our favorite reports: a weekly roundup of casework successes, concerns and trends. Each week, the report of Sarah and her team's exceptional work was filled with stories ranging from expeditious replacement of lost passports to saving small businesses that were facing existential challenges with Federal Agencies.

In 2021, Sarah assumed the role of my State director, overseeing and guiding our outstanding team of outreach staff, caseworkers, and other support staff. Her leadership in this new role was pragmatic, focused, and inclusive. She kept our priorities at the forefront and guided staff to make the best decisions.

In her new role, Sarah immediately hit the ground running and refined and established new processes for our outreach team, in-state scheduling and travel, and continued to support our casework team. My staff often reported to me that she managed to do the impossible: make their jobs less stressful. As State director, Sarah set high standards for our staff, inspiring and bringing out the best in each of them. She led by example and demonstrated the importance and value of having women in senior leadership roles.

She traveled the State both with and without me, continually developing and cultivating important relationships with constituents and organizations throughout Wisconsin. She has been a constant presence at events around the State and always actively pursued opportunities to strengthen ties between our office and the communities we serve. My staff and I will miss the kindness, humility, good humor,

and grace that she brings each day to our team.

Outside of the office, Sarah's an avid traveler and explorer, with a wide group of friends and interests. I am sure that her retirement will bring her more opportunities to travel with her husband Dave and their children Henry and Ursula.

Sarah, thank you for your service to the people of Wisconsin and to our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER GARNER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of Jennifer "Jen" Garner, my northeastern Wisconsin regional representative. Soon, Jen will retire from the U.S. Senate after a lengthy career serving the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

Jen's well-deserved retirement comes after 46 years of working in the political sphere in some form or another. She graduated from Northern Michigan University with a BS in public administration and hit the ground running. She has worked on political campaigns large and small, for and with local union members and leaders, in community and statewide organizations, local government, and finally on our Senate team. Her more than 40-year commitment to public service is evidenced by her strong connections to labor and manufacturing communities in the region that she serves.

I first met Jen many years ago when I was seeking a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and she was working with AFSCME. She will regularly share that I "knocked her socks off" in our initial meeting. But really, I was the one impressed with Jen's strategic approach and tenacity. And I never forgot that during our many interactions throughout my time in the House. When the opportunity came for her to join our staff, it was an easy decision for both of us.

During her time on our staff, Jen has continually developed and strengthened relationships across her service area. Jen serves the people of Wisconsin in 11 counties—Marinette, Oconto, Waupaca, Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Brown, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, and Door—on my behalf. When we travel around together, Jen is an instant ambassador and magnet at gatherings large and small. She is recognized and welcomed warmly in every room, and I know the reaction to her work is authentic and appreciated.

My staff fondly refers to Jen as the unofficial "Dean" of our outreach team. Jen knows all the intricacies on how best to interact with various groups, organizations, and stakeholders. She is a wealth of knowledge and is always available to share context, history, and recommendations on the best way to engage. She is always ready for a gut-check or to share an excellent scene-setting story and knows

that details and history matter when it comes to relationship building and serving constituents. She is also game for a challenge, usually brought on by our team's insistence on the adoption of new technologies and systems.

As Jen begins this new chapter of her life, I know she will not stray far from engagement in her local community and causes dear to her heart. I am delighted that she will be able to spend more time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren, who are the lights of her life. My staff and I will miss Jen's camaraderie, friendship, and leadership through action. We wish her all the best in her retirement, and I am pleased to officially designate her as dean emerita of our outreach team.

Jen, thank you for your service to the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE RAHLF

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of Christine "Chris" Rahlf, my veterans services representative. Soon, Chris will retire from the U.S. Senate after a lengthy career serving the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

Chris began her career as an officer in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. Equipped with a BS in Civil Engineering from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Chris began her Federal service managing construction projects at the Naval Training Center in Newport, RI. She later moved to California, where she directed the quality assurance program and supervised more than 100 evaluators at Diego Garcia. She finished her Active service in the Navy as the course director for the Naval Facilities Contracts Training Center, improving both course pass rates and test scores, as well as developing models for future course curricula.

Following her time in the Navy, Chris received an MBA at San Diego State University and worked in project management at several large corporations based in California. Upon her return to Wisconsin, she joined Faith Technologies located in Menasha and held a variety of leadership positions during her time on their team. She developed strong relationships in her local community, later running for a seat in the Wisconsin State Assembly to serve Northern Ozaukee County and Washington County.

In early 2019, we were fortunate to have Chris join our staff. Her tireless work ethic and commitment to public service were evident from the moment we met. Chris fully dedicated herself to supporting, uplifting, and communicating with veterans across Wisconsin something you could say she has spent her entire life doing. As the daughter of a 100 percent disabled veteran, wife of a veteran, mother of two servicemembers, and as a veteran herself, Chris brought the perspective and

candor of all these different facets of her life experience together to address the specific needs of veterans and their families.

Chris immediately continued to build strong relationships with veterans and veteran's organizations across the State, demonstrating time and time again to Wisconsin's veteran community that our team works hard and gets results. She was recognized as being tough but fair in her work, holding Agencies accountable and garnering respect and trust throughout the State by her approach. She has helped veterans and their families establish closure through obtaining missing service records and medals, fought for pay and services owed to them, and tackled systemic problems in the VA medical system to address incorrect diagnoses and quality of care issues. Her efforts have made a lasting and positive impact on both individual veterans and the wider veterans community in Wisconsin.

When news spread about Chris's upcoming retirement, I heard from many Wisconsin veterans about the quality of her work, her compassion, and her dedication to service. To have earned that kind of respect says all that needs to be said for what Chris means to our office and the work she has done. We will miss her leadership, enthusiasm, and steadfast commitment to service.

Chris, thank you for your service to our nation. And thank you for your service to the veterans of Wisconsin.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF COLUMBIA SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Columbia Savings and Loan Association on its 100th anniversary. It gives me great pleasure to honor this remarkable organization and to commemorate this historic milestone.

Founded by Ardie and Wilbur Halyard in 1924 in Milwaukee, WI, Columbia Savings and Loan is the first—and currently only—African-American owned bank in Wisconsin. For 100 years, Columbia has been dedicated to supporting and uplifting the Milwaukee community, primarily serving low- and moderate-income families in Milwaukee. Now led by Ernest Jones and Will Martin, who continue to uphold the values of its founders, Columbia celebrates its centennial anniversary.

When the Columbia Savings and Loan Association was first founded, the beginnings of discriminatory redlining practices were emerging in Wisconsin. Thousands of Black families were forced to live in the so-called “black belt” in Milwaukee, with similar situations occurring across the United States. These communities struggled to build wealth as insured mortgages were not available to them. However, during that dark time, Columbia Savings and Loan was steadfast in turning the tides and to supporting the Afri-

can-American community in Milwaukee.

One of the many lasting impacts that Columbia has etched into Milwaukee's history is the rise of the Halyard Park area, in the heart of the city. After the construction of Interstate 43, many homes were demolished, displacing many residents. At a time when banks still practiced discriminatory mortgage policies against African Americans, fair housing advocates Ardie and Wilbur Halyard focused on financing for Black individuals and families to revitalize the neighborhood with backing of the Columbia Savings and Loan. Throughout the years, Halyard Park grew and is now a cornerstone of the city of Milwaukee, from hosting various music performances and art shows to being home to some of Milwaukee's well-known restaurants. Without the help of Columbia and its founders, Halyard Park would not be what it is today. While other neighborhoods have seen high population turnover and decreased home values, Halyard Park residents have stayed and have boasted higher valued homes.

After the savings and loans crisis in the 1980s and 1990s, hundreds of savings and loans organizations were impacted across the Nation, with many having to close. But Columbia survived, is thriving, and is one of the only left in Wisconsin. I applaud their hard work and dedication to serving the Milwaukee community over the last 100 years. Countless people and families have had their lives changed because of the Columbia Savings and Loan Association. I look forward to the association's continued success in the years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, all of Vermont celebrates the University of Vermont Men's Soccer Team on winning the NCAA Men's Soccer National Championship.

The UVM Men's Soccer Team affectionately known as the “Cardiac Catamounts,” pulled off a historic comeback on Monday, December 16 to win 2-1 against Marshall University after a 95th minute golden goal, earning their first title in program history and becoming the first team in the America East Conference to win a national championship.

It was a game for the record books, literally Marcell Papp's perfectly timed goal gave the Catamounts a golden opportunity in overtime, and Maximilian Kissel's winning goal—his 11th of the season—will be remembered for all time.

The entire squad—Niklas Herceg, Lou Liedtka, Nathan Siméon, Mike Bleeker, Cole Richardson, Adrian Schulze Solano, Connor Thompson, Andrew Millar, Niels Hartman, Maximilian Kissel, Nick Lockermann, Yaniv Bazini, Nash Barlow, David Ismail, Ethan Czapowski, Gianluca

Armellino, Ioanis Vassiliou, Marcell Papp, Toby Grant, Karl Daly, Sydney Wathuta, TJ Liquori, Pieter Bultman, Ryan Zellefrow, Zach Barrett, Jeremy Tsang, Max Murray, and Mitchell Ringman—played an important part in this season's success.

To the casual observer, the Catamounts may have been the tournament's underdogs or a Cinderella story. But to the team and the Vermonters rooting for them back home, this championship win was not a fluke or a lucky break. It was inevitable.

In the 2024 season, the Catamounts scored 22 goals in the 76th minute or later, with the championship equalizing goal being no exception. Late game victories were a habit for the Catamounts this tournament, beating San Diego University in overtime during the third-round match and tying the University of Denver in the dying minutes of the semifinal match to push the game into penalty kicks, where a save from Catamounts goalkeeper Niklas Herceg secured the Catamounts a ticket to the finals.

The Cardiac Catamounts is only the third unseeded program to win a championship since the National Collegiate Athletic Association expanded the tournament to 16 seeded teams in 2003.

The Cats have shown heart, persistence, and never lost their cool all season, Vermont Values through and through. With this championship, the Catamounts put UVM athletics on display and made all of us proud to cheer for Vermont.

I congratulate the University of Vermont Men's Soccer Team for their well-deserved championship win and for representing the values of Vermont.

And a special congratulations to the Catamounts' Head Coach Rob Dow and his wife Loren Bowley Dow, who welcomed their second child Russel only weeks ago.

This is a team of champions, not underdogs. They have made Vermont very proud.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO JEFF REH

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today, I want to recognize Salina, KS, native Jeff Reh upon his well-earned retirement after more than four decades of dedicated service.

Jeff is a graduate of Kansas State University and American University Washington College of Law. While pursuing his degrees, Jeff worked as an intern on Capitol Hill for Senator Bob Dole, worked at the Pentagon, and, tapping into his entrepreneurial spirit, started a consulting business during law school.

Jeff's career then led him to join the oldest active firearm manufacturer and one of the oldest continuously operating companies in the world, Beretta.

Initially working as a consultant to Beretta USA Corporation, he played an