

innovative health career curriculums for pre-college level students and are committed to continuing education, clinical training of health professionals, and responding to community health needs. The Nation's 300 AHECs operate in nearly every State and in multiple U.S. territories.

AHEC clinical training placements put students in a variety of real-world settings, such as urban and rural community health clinics and health departments that provide care to traditionally hard-to-reach populations. Students, in particular those working through their AHECs, are more likely to remain in the communities where they trained, making it critically important to establish training opportunities in rural and underserved areas.

The need to strengthen the healthcare workforce continues. According to new data from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the U.S. could see a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, and the American Hospital Association says more than 200,000 new registered nurses are needed each year to meet increasing healthcare needs and to replace retiring nurses. AHECs have continued to work towards addressing workforce shortage areas, especially in rural and underserved communities. Just in the past 5 years, the AHEC program has trained 2 million healthcare professionals.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with the New Hampshire AHEC and have witnessed the amazing work they do. The mission of the New Hampshire AHEC is to support workforce development activities for current and future healthcare workers in the Granite State. In 2024, the New Hampshire AHEC offered continuing education to over 4,500 healthcare workers, improving treatment options for patients suffering from diseases such as diabetes and substance use disorder. In addition to working with providers, they also offer trainings on chronic disease, chronic pain and diabetes self-management to patients in the community. More than 3,000 individuals have participated in these programs since 2010.

The New Hampshire AHEC team were pioneers in identifying the need for a workforce that bridges healthcare and community. Over the past 27 years, New Hampshire AHEC has focused on building the healthcare workforce by offering both day and residential programs for high school students, while also providing didactics and community-based experiences for health professions students across the State. I cannot stress enough how important the New Hampshire AHEC is for our communities and how important it is that the program continues to be supported by Congress. AHECs not only address current healthcare gaps and challenges, but they recruit, train, and bolster our future health workforce. On behalf of my constituents at the New Hampshire AHEC program and the national AHEC program more broadly, I

call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing March 24 to March 28 as National AHEC Week.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was absent on Monday, March 24, 2025, for rollcall vote No. 137. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 41, Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG BEAM

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today, I want to recognize a U.S. marshal who has served his country and the great State of Kansas for 34 years.

Craig Beam grew up on his family's farm in Esbon, KS, and graduated from White Rock High School in Burr Oak. He continued his academic career at Great Bend Community College, where he earned an associate's degree in criminal justice. Craig later continued his education at Washburn University, where he played football and received a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

After completing his degree, Craig got his first law enforcement job with the Paola Police Department and later joined the Springfield Police Department in Missouri. After serving in local law enforcement for several years, Craig joined the U.S. Marshals Service in 1992 and served as a marshal until his retirement.

Throughout his tenure with the U.S. Marshals Service, Craig demonstrated his leadership, serving as the director of the Federal Fugitive Task Force for the District of Kansas, which averages 200 arrests per month, and as the Acting U.S. Marshal for the District of Kansas.

In 1993, Craig received the U.S. Marshal's Service Director's Distinguished Service Award for his heroic actions during the August 5, 1993, terrorist attack on the Frank Carlson Federal Building in Topeka. He bravely protected judges, cleared hallways, and escorted civilians to safety during the attack.

The U.S. Marshal Service's motto is "Justice, Integrity, Service," all of which Craig has modeled for the last 34 years. As he retires with the title of Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal, I know Craig will continue to uphold the values of the marshals in retirement.

Thank you, Craig, for your years of service, sacrifice, and leadership. I wish you the best in the next chapter of life and hope you enjoy this well-deserved retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING KANSAS FIRST RESPONDERS

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize the first responders

who responded to a tragic multi-vehicle wreck on Interstate-70 on March 14 and remember the victims of this accident.

Kansas is well-known for its windy plains and expansive prairies, but these features of our State can, on occasion, create dangerous weather conditions. Leading up to March 14, high sustained winds coupled with dry conditions on the plains had created the right conditions for a dust storm. In the afternoon of March 14, a dust storm ripped unobstructed across western Kansas, leading to a sudden and deadly dust storm on I-70.

The storm led to low visibility and hazardous driving conditions on I-70 between the two rural communities of Colby and Goodland, near the Colorado border. What began as a few collisions on I-70 quickly spiraled into a hazardous pile-up involving more than 70 vehicles, including several semi-trucks.

Despite the hazardous conditions, first responders from the neighboring communities rushed to the site of the accident still battling the low visibility and dangerous conditions brought on by the dust storm.

In rural communities, the police and fire forces are small and are often supported by volunteers. These men and women dropped what they were doing and put themselves at great risk to help the folks involved in the massive crash.

With limited resources and hazardous conditions, the first responders reacted quickly and with great skill to extract folks from their vehicles and transport them to the closest hospitals.

Goodland Fire Chief Brian James summed up the emergency response like this: "I don't think people realize the dedication these men and women give to make this community safe and secure. We had to think outside the box to get patients transported to hospitals in Goodland and Colby by using our fire department support vehicle with EMTs in the back to using patrol vehicles from Goodland Police Department, Sherman County Sheriff's Office and Kansas Highway Patrol. I'm sorry for the lives lost in this incident, but I'm grateful for the ones we could save."

Emergency crews poured in from neighboring counties doing everything they could to help. This included firefighters, EMTs, police, highway patrol officers, sheriffs and dispatchers from the Goodland Fire Department, Brewster Fire Department, Northwest Kansas Ambulance Service, Colby Fire Department, Goodland Police Department, Sherman County Sheriff's Office, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Game Warden W300, Thomas County EMS, Wallace County EMS, Cheyenne County EMS, and Sherman County Dispatch.

These men and women put themselves at great risk to respond to this accident; and I have no doubt that their efforts saved many lives. I want to thank all the first responders for their service to the Kansans and travelers who they assisted on I-70.

I also want to thank the hospitals who received and treated the victims from the crash. Rural hospitals have small staffs and limited resources, but the medical centers in northwest Kansas did an outstanding job treating and transporting those who were injured.

Citizens Medical Center in Colby treated 30 patients and transported 5 who needed additional care. Goodland Regional Medical Center treated 26 patients and transported 3 who needed additional care. Thank you to the nurses, doctors, and hospital staff who worked through the night and into the weekend treating patients and sending them safely on their way.

I also want to express my gratitude to the Kansas Highway Patrol whose work continued through the evening, and into the weekend, clearing the interstate so it could be re-opened.

This tragic accident led to the deaths of eight people. My heart goes out to the families who lost a loved one in this tragedy on I-70. Losing a loved one is painful, especially in sudden tragic circumstances. It is times like this that communities pull together, and we remember how blessed we are to have neighbors and strangers who are willing to risk their lives to help others.

I hope everyone uses this tragic accident as a reminder to hold your loved ones a little closer and thank the men and women who put their own lives at risk for the sake of others.

Stay safe and may God bless.●

RECOGNIZING THE PORT OF LEWISTON

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Port of Lewiston, Idaho's only seaport and an economic cornerstone of north Idaho and the broader Pacific Northwest.

In 1975, the Port of Lewiston opened, marked by the launch of the first barge to sail westward down the Columbia-Snake River System. Nez Perce County voters approved its creation in 1958, but it took the completion of the Lower Granite Dam in 1975 to make Idaho's seaport fully operational. As the furthest inland seaport in the western United States, the Port plays a vital role in connecting Idaho's businesses to global markets. Over the past five decades, the Port of Lewiston has been instrumental to boosting regional trade, promoting economic development, and generating new jobs in surrounding communities.

The establishment of the Port of Lewiston provided farmers and businesses with a cost-effective alternative to rail and truck transport. Today, approximately 24 million bushels of wheat are transported out of the Port of Lewiston's Lewis Clark Terminal each year. The Columbia-Snake River System continues to serve 11 western States and is the largest pathway for wheat exports in the country.

The influence of the Port of Lewiston extends far beyond trade, serving as a

driver for business and real estate development and public infrastructure investments. The Port has been a catalyst for modernization in the region, notably through the expansion of fiber broadband access in Lewiston and the development of a broadband network from Moscow to Star. These investments ensure Idaho businesses remain competitive in the ever-evolving global economy.

While manufacturing jobs have declined in many areas nationwide, north central Idaho has defied this trend. Thanks in large part to the port, manufacturing jobs in the Lewiston area have surged by 70 percent, adding over 3,000 positions since 1975. This remarkable growth has made north central Idaho's workforce incredibly resilient and distinctive.

Recently, the Port of Lewiston partnered with American Cruise Lines to create Idaho's first cruise ship dock, further diversifying its economic impact and attracting tourism to the region. The port, along with its investments in Idaho, have attracted new manufacturing, transportation, and tourism employers, inspiring greater opportunities for the people of north central Idaho.

As we look to the next 50 years, the Port of Lewiston will undoubtedly remain a key driver in shaping Idaho's economic future and that of the greater Pacific Northwest. Congratulations to the port, its outstanding leadership, and the entire north central Idaho community on this significant milestone.●

TRIBUTE TO ALLIE BENNETT

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Allie Bennett of Palmyra, MO, for her passionate leadership in providing housing for middle-income families in northeast Missouri.

The housing landscape has changed; as more of the workforce is retiring, they are remaining in their homes, resulting in fewer options for the growing workforce to live. To address this shortage of affordable housing, Allie Bennett and the Housing Enhancement Northeast (HEN) Group decided to fill the void through an initial goal of building 12 homes each year throughout the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission. The mission of this initiative is to contribute to the region's economic stability by ensuring that all levels of workers can live comfortably within their community. Thanks to her hard work and contribution to the community, HEN Group has completed its first three homes and has started on the fourth.

Allie is a dedicated leader and community servant helping to make an impact within her community by providing affordable housing. As manager of economic development and member services for Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative, Allie is able to see areas of need in her community and help fill them. She also serves as direc-

tor on the board of directors for the Community Foundation of West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri.

Allie Bennett is truly a Champion of Missouri. I am grateful for her commitment to northeast Missouri and her passion to help improve the lives of so many Missourians. I wish her the best as her team continues to build better futures for hard-working Missourians.●

TRIBUTE TO KIM FAST

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Kim Fast of Wright City, MO, for her heroic act of bravery and saving a life.

On the morning of October 12, 2024, Kim was helping her friend Wright City mayor Michelle Heiliger with work in her garage. Suddenly, they noticed thick black smoke coming from a neighbor's home. Recognizing immediately that their neighbor was likely in danger, Kim rushed toward the burning house without hesitation. Upon reaching the garage, Kim discovered that the neighbor's wheelchair had caught fire, leaving him trapped inside the intensifying blaze. Without regard for her own safety, Kim selflessly attempted to rescue him. The smoke was thick, the flames were spreading fast, and she was alone—but that didn't stop her. When she realized she needed help, she shouted for Mayor Heiliger, who immediately ran barefoot to her side, and together, they dragged the man out of the burning garage moments before flames fully engulfed it. Because of Kim's bravery, that neighbor is alive today. Her instinct to act made all the difference. While she would humbly say she was just in the right place at the right time, the truth is, not everyone would have run into a burning building. But Kim did.

Kim Fast is truly a Champion of Missouri. She embodies selfless service. Her remarkable bravery, compassion, and dedication exemplify the highest standards of community spirit. I commend her and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE HEILIGER

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mayor Michelle Heiliger of Wright City, MO, for her heroic actions to save the life of an elderly neighbor.

While working in her garage one morning, Michelle Heiliger realized something was wrong when she saw black smoke engulfing her neighbor's garage. A fire had set her neighbor's wheelchair on ablaze, making it difficult for him to escape. Michelle and her friend ran into the burning garage and dragged their neighbor out before calling 911. Mayor Heiliger didn't stop there. Recognizing the severity of the situation, Michelle went above and beyond by helping her neighbor's family secure a hotel room while they were displaced and waiting assistance from their insurance agency. Not only is