

point of government, is to make it a little easier, a little more bearable.

So when Republicans come to the floor with a budget that threatens to cut Medicaid so they can give tax cuts and tax breaks to the ultrarich, the choice they are putting before us is making your lives worse and make their lives better. It is making your healthcare worse to make their bank accounts bigger. It is making your future more uncertain to make their futures brighter.

That can't be an acceptable choice, and it is not one we have to make. We can reject this budget resolution and save Medicaid and save healthcare. We can reject this budget resolution and choose to support that expecting mother who just wants to give birth to a healthy child. We can reject this budget resolution and choose to support that child as they grow. We can reject this budget resolution and choose to support our neighbors who work hard but just need that little bit of help to stay healthy and achieve the American dream. Finally, we can reject this budget resolution and choose to support our seniors. We owe the best care to them in their golden years.

This is the moment to show the 2 million New Jerseyans on Medicaid, the nearly 80 million Americans on Medicaid, and every other American across this country that we choose their well-being over the wealth and power of those who already have plenty. Let's reject this budget resolution and do the right thing for them.

I yield the floor.

## MORNING BUSINESS

### REMEMBERING DONNA EASTMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, when people ask me to describe my politics, I sometimes say that I try my best to follow the Gospel of St. Paul. By that, I mean I try to follow the examples of two good and wise men who showed me that politics, at its best, can solve real problems and advance our common good.

The first of these two Pauls was Senator Paul Douglas, the brilliant economist and World War II hero who served in this Senate—in the same seat I now hold—and gave me my start in government when he hired me as a college intern to work in his Washington, DC, office.

The other Paul was Senator Paul Simon, my greatest political teacher and dear friend. When he retired, he encouraged me to run to succeed him in this body. Paul Simon was the most decent public servant I have ever known—a man of uncommon integrity, vision, and accomplishment who was gifted with a capacious intellectual curiosity. And he was helped by a staff of men and women who shared his compassion and tireless work habits.

Donna Eastman was one of those helpers. She was also my friend. And I

was sad to learn that she passed away this past Saturday. She worked for Paul Simon for the 18 years he served in this body. And when he retired in 1996, it was my good luck that Donna agreed to join my staff. She ran my southern Illinois district office in Marion until she retired in 2008.

Donna loved helping people and making their lives better, like so many of the dedicated Federal employees who are being fired illegally today. No case was too hard for Donna. She knew how to cut through redtape and how to calm people who were frustrated, frightened, or angry. She treated every person with dignity and respect.

If you were lucky enough to meet Donna Eastman, you would not forget her. She was tall—5 feet, 11 inches—with a firm handshake, a warm smile, and an infectious laugh. She was quick-witted, caring, generous, and genuine. She also was a woman of many interests and seemingly inexhaustible energy.

She was active in her women's club, her church, and in the civic and political life of her community. She was a gifted "best of show" painter of portraits and still lifes and an award-winning gardener with a magnificent flower garden. For a few years, when she was a young mother, she wrote a humorous column for her local paper, the *Goreville Gazette*.

And those were just her hobbies. In addition to her public service work, Donna's primary occupation was co-owner with her husband Barry of Eastman's Orchard in Goreville, an 80-acre farm that produced some of the most delicious peaches and apples anywhere. Their secret was to wait until the fruit was perfectly ripe before picking it and selling it quickly to loyal customers. You couldn't miss the orchard's big red barn as you drove down Route 37.

Donna and Barry knew each other their entire lives. They were a year apart in school. When Donna was a junior in high school, she was prom queen, and Barry was her escort. Three years later, they were married.

Like Donna, Barry relishes new challenges, like grafting together two different trees to produce a better-tasting, heartier fruit. In the early 1970s, he ran successfully for sheriff of Johnson County.

Donna Kelley Eastman came from good, strong stock. When she was a young teen, she watched her mother Juanita swing a hammer as she helped Donna's grandfather build the Kelley family home.

Donna's father Bill Kelley was a person of many interests and accomplishments, like Donna. He was a World War II veteran and, at various times, an Illinois State trooper, long-distance truck driver, gas station owner, and board member of the local bank.

Her parents taught Donna to be tenacious, work hard, and pursue her passions. They also taught her to be generous to others in need.

The Kelleys were committed Democrats, and in 1960, Donna and her par-

ents were all dazzled by John F. Kennedy. Her parents were awed by his charisma. Donna was captivated almost equally by JFK's idealism and Jackie's elegance. She decided that she wanted to be part of Camelot; she wanted to work for a common cause and a greater good. And she spent the rest of her life doing just that.

Donna Kelley Eastman believed that a wise and compassionate government could help people live better lives and that she had a personal responsibility to help make that happen.

She loved being in her garden and orchard in the springtime and witnessing the promise of another new beginning. She loved her country and community and, most of all, her family.

Loretta and I offer our deep condolences to Barry, Donna's beloved husband of 62 years; their children Teresa, Matthew, and Melanie; and their families, including Donna and Barry's six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; to Donna's sister Pam; and to her countless friends. We will all miss her. I couldn't have asked for a better ambassador.

## VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 162, on passage of the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 24. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

## RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOONIES

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the release of the beloved classic film, "The Goonies." With enduring and relatable themes of adventure, acceptance, and friendship, "The Goonies" has become one of the alltime great American underdog stories. "The Goonies" has withstood the test of time and firmly established its place in American culture. A large part of what makes this film unique and impactful is its iconic setting along the stunning Oregon coastline. Indeed, so significant is the film's location that thousands of fans from around the globe gather each year in Astoria, OR, for a multiday celebration to commemorate the magic that is "The Goonies."

One of the reasons for the enduring success of "The Goonies" is the lessons it has imparted on generations of viewers who come away inspired to stand up to bullies, accept people who are different from them, and "never say die" when it comes to fighting for their communities and the things they believe in. As I travel to my townhalls all over Oregon and hear the deep concerns that so many Oregonians feel about the state of our country and the world, I hope we can all take an important lesson or two from "The Goonies."

Fans from around the world will flock to Astoria this summer for "The Goonies" 40th anniversary celebration. All of them will be able to participate

in treasure hunts, costume contests, and many other Goonies-adjacent events. In addition to Astoria, the 40th anniversary festivities will also include a visit to Ecola State Park, home to some of Oregon's foremost coastal views and the site of some legendary Goonies adventures. Visitors to Astoria this summer will also be welcomed to the Oregon Film Museum, which eagle-eyed fans may recognize as the former Clatsop County jail, which played host to the Goonies iconic jailbreak scene.

Just as the original Goonies fans and stars have grown and matured since the film's release in 1985, so has Oregon's film industry. With its magnificent and diverse natural beauty, Oregon has become a much sought after location for film production. As the backdrop for major television shows and box office hits alike, film production in Oregon brings with it good-paying jobs and tourism that in turn support local businesses and economic development across the State. Certainly all film producers in Oregon and across the country should aspire to achieve the remarkable success of "The Goonies."

Whether we are learning important life lessons from the stalwart friendships in "The Goonies" or taking note of how Oregon has grown a film industry no one could have imagined 40 years ago, what is important is that we all recognize the power in our differences—and to "never say die!"

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL R. BERRY

• Mr. COONS. Madam President, today I would like to talk about MG Michael R. Berry of the Delaware National Guard.

Major General Berry is recommended for the Army Distinguished Service Medal for his exemplary meritorious service as the Adjutant General (TAG) for the Delaware National Guard (DENG). As the 35th Adjutant General of Delaware, Major General Berry's steadfast leadership, expertise in strategic planning, and keen operational oversight have sustained and grown the DENG as a reliable and effective force ready to respond to both State and national challenges and emergencies.

Throughout his tenure, Major General Berry ensured that DENG members and their equipment were always ready to respond and deploy in support of nations across the globe. During his time as TAG, the Delaware Army National Guard (DEARNG) deployed over 500 soldiers to Kuwait, Romania, Kosovo, Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. Additionally, the Delaware Air National Guard (DANG) deployed over 800 airmen in support of six combatant commands.

Major General Berry's leadership was also crucial as demands for the National Guard reached unprecedented

levels during the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest, both in the Delaware and our Nation's Capital. Under Major General Berry's leadership, the DENG was heavily relied upon to administer vaccinations and COVID-19 tests and to manage test sites for hundreds of thousands of panic-stricken citizens. Major General Berry also led the DENG as it supported several food distribution sites, conducted a contact tracing mission, and supported a nursing assistant program to fill the crucial void of nurses needed to combat the pandemic. Major General Berry also provided guidance and direction to support our Nation's Capital during the attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021, as well as support for the 59th and 60th Presidential inaugurations. Major General Berry's deployment of soldiers and airmen to Washington with little notice was critical in restoring order and helping facilitate peaceful inaugurations during these two periods.

In an effort to remain ready and relevant in aviation, Major General Berry led the DANG in two fleet conversions that included the acquisition of eight C-130H2.5 models and seven C-130H3 models totaling \$450 million. These aircraft were critical in the modernization of the DANG's fleet, helping to decrease maintenance requirements and increase flight time. Major General Berry also led the acquisition of a UH-72 Lakota helicopter detachment with two aircraft including flight crew, maintainers, and support personnel. This unit enhanced the domestic response capabilities of the DEARNG. Major General Berry also made it a priority to ensure that DENG facilities remain current and professional, facilitating over \$172 million in increased funding for property acquisition, as well as major and minor construction. These funds were utilized to procure land and build new armories, alongside other major military construction improvement projects.

Major General Berry's service as TAG will have a lasting positive impact on the DENG, Delaware, and our Nation. Despite serving during a tumultuous time, Major General Berry executed his tenure with poise and decisiveness, bringing professionalism and security to the citizens of Delaware. Thanks to Major General Berry's leadership, the DENG has never been better positioned to serve the State and Nation in times of crises. His outstanding leadership and legacy of excellence will endure long after his retirement.●

##### REMEMBERING MARY KAWENA PUKUI

• Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, in January, the U.S. Mint released a dollar coin featuring Mary Kawena Pukui, the renowned Native Hawaiian scholar, anthropologist, ethnographer, author, composer, dancer, and teacher who has influenced generations of individuals through her work on Native Hawaiian

language preservation, history, and culture. Mary is being featured through the U.S. Mint's Native American \$1 Coin Program. I had previously called for her to be featured in another similar program, so I am excited to see her recognized for her accomplishments.

Mary Kawena Pukui was born in Ka'u, HI, on April 20, 1895, to father Henry Nathaniel Wiggin and mother Pa'ahana Kanaka'ole. From an early age, Mary was raised by her maternal grandmother, who taught her valuable lessons about Hawaiian language, history, and culture. Shortly after her grandmother's passing in 1904, she returned to live with her parents. But she carried those early lessons from her grandmother with her for the rest of her life.

Mary was not only dedicated to maintaining her personal connection to heritage, but was also passionate about educating others and raising awareness of Hawaiian culture within her community. In 1921, her passion led her to the start of what would be a long relationship with the Bishop Museum, the celebrated historical, cultural, and environmental institution established in Honolulu, HI, in 1889, and designated as the Hawaii State Museum of Natural and Cultural History in 1988. At the Bishop Museum, she taught various classes and collaborated with museum scholars on matters concerning the Hawaiian language. These collaborations led to several books that she co-authored over the years, like "Hawaiian Stories and Wise Sayings," "Hawaiian Folktales," and "The Legend of Kawelo and other Hawaiian Folktales." Perhaps her greatest collaboration during that time, though, was the English-Hawaiian Hawaiian-English Dictionary, which was crucial to the revitalization of the Hawaiian language.

Later in life, starting in the 1950s, Mary also dedicated a significant amount of her time to traveling throughout Hawaii to make recordings of Hawaiian elders. During this time, she collected a wide variety of recorded materials, from everyday conversations, to songs and chants. Today, these recordings are preserved at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

In addition to her role as a scholar, educator, and author, Mary was also a skilled musician and dancer. Throughout her lifetime, she composed over 150 mele and oli, or Hawaiian songs and chants. Furthermore, to ensure the retention of this practice within her own ohana, she shared her knowledge of hula with her three daughters Patience, Faith, and Pele.

Mary's work had a direct impact on the revitalization of Hawaiian language and culture during the 1960s and 1970s, which is referred to as the Hawaiian Renaissance for the cultural resurgence that occurred during this period and that continues today. She was an important force in the resistance against the erasure of Hawaiian culture and ensured the preservation of