

Through these meetings, I was impressed by Jay's professionalism, energy, and ability to motivate others around him to find common ground for the common good. You might say he was a force of nature who lifted up others through sheer grit and determination. I could always spot him in a crowd wearing his signature bow tie. When he served as president and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership, the organization experienced unprecedented growth, expanding to more than 6,500 members. That growth enabled Jay to flex political muscle and put in the work to achieve game-changing investment in the metropolitan area, including recreational amenities, job growth, and big-ticket infrastructure wins, including the new Des Moines International Airport terminal.

A couple of years ago, Jay took on a new challenge to become president of his alma mater Simpson College in Indianola. Once again, Jay brought the Midas touch and made an immediate impact with faculty, staff, students, and alumni. During his first year on the job, Simpson saw its largest first-year student enrollment in more than a decade and increased first-year student retention. I have no doubt that Jay's energy was contagious on campus. He leaned into the Wesleyan values of faith, learning, and service in his professional and personal life.

His character, work ethic, and loyalty were shaped from an early age. From his days as a musician and an athlete in high school to playing intramural games as a law student at the University of Iowa, to what probably seemed like herding cats in the capital city of Des Moines, Jay embodied the Lord's commandment: to see the goodness in others and to love one another.

His distinguished accomplishments and professional accolades were hard-earned and well-deserved. As the dean of the Iowa congressional delegation, I am proud to say Jay made Iowa a better place.

Barbara and I extend our sympathies to the Byers family and loved ones, including his wife Katie and daughters Sophie and Charlotte. May the ones he loved the most, and who are hurting the most with their loss, find peace in knowing this servant of the Lord is resting in Eternal peace.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, had I been present and voting on rollcall vote No. 210, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 75, Lt. Gen. John D. Caine (Retired) to be Major General in the Air Force, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present and voting on rollcall vote No. 211, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 75, Lt. Gen. John D. Caine (Retired) to be Major General in the Air Force, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present and voting on rollcall vote No. 212, motion to invoke

cloture on Executive Calendar No. 74, Lt. Gen. John D. Caine (Retired) to be General for appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present and voting on rollcall vote No. 213, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 74, Lt. Gen. John D. Caine (Retired) to be General for appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I would have voted yea.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, earlier today, I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 80, David Perdue to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, due to my attendance as ranking member at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on mental health care for veterans. I would have opposed Mr. Perdue's confirmation had I been present for the vote, rollcall vote No. 215.

#### RECOGNIZING APRIL 29 AS #ENDJEWHATRED DAY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize #EndJewHatred Day and to affirm my unwavering support for the Jewish community in Florida, across the United States, and around the world. For millennia, the Jewish people have preserved their religious, cultural, and ethnic identity in the face of persecution, enslavement, genocide, discrimination, and unimaginable adversity. Since the arrival of the first Jewish immigrants to America in 1654, Jewish Americans have made extraordinary contributions to every facet of American life—strengthening our culture, economy, and society.

This alarming trend has inspired a growing grassroots civil rights movement, End Jew Hatred, dedicated to making antisemitism and Jew-hatred unacceptable in contemporary American society. This movement empowers Jews to live openly and proudly, celebrating their heritage without fear of discrimination or attack. On April 29, 2022, the first official #EndJewHatred Day was recognized, marking a national commitment to ending anti-Semitism and building a future free from hatred and bigotry.

Today, I join in that commitment. We must stand firmly against anti-Semitism in all its forms, affirm the inherent dignity of every individual, and ensure that the lessons of history are never forgotten. Therefore, I am proud to recognize April 29 as #EndJewHatred Day, and I call upon all Americans to condemn Jew-hatred, to speak out against anti-Semitism, and to work toward a future of respect, security, and freedom for the Jewish people.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT MARTHA ADELAJA

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Air Force, SMSgt Martha Adelaja.

A true champion for our Nation and expert communicator, this New York native and Spelman College graduate brings 21 years of distinguished uniformed service. She has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership and an unparalleled ability to navigate complex legislative landscapes in service to our country and the 116th, 117th, 118th, and 119th U.S. Congresses. She left an indelible mark as the first bicameral Department of the Air Force legislative liaison, providing that vital link between Congress and the Department as she effectively advocated for critical defense priorities. Throughout her military career, she has demonstrated exceptional and unrivaled airmanship and is the epitome of what a noncommissioned officer should be. As an Army combat veteran prior to her transition to the Air Force in 2007, her career spans two services in numerous of positions critical to U.S. defense and its national security interests worldwide.

As a legislative liaison and action officer in the Department of the Air Force's Senate liaison division, she advised Department senior leadership and helped develop strategic engagement opportunities to advance U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force priorities. Her leadership facilitated seamless collaboration on behalf of the Department of the Air Force across 62 congressional offices, serving as the principal Air Force liaison to 17 Senators and their respective staffs. She supported numerous engagements and delegations spanning 150 Senators, Congressmen, and staffers to showcase Department equities in the United States and abroad. Most notably, her strategic acumen was instrumental in navigating congressional concerns regarding the Air Force's divestment of 261 legacy aircraft and securing \$2.6 billion in cost savings, significantly strengthening the Air Force and Senate relations prior to congressional hearings. Her efforts synchronized nine Department of the Air Force directorates with 98 congressional staffers for modernization efforts and ensured the Department of the Air Force's support of the National Defense Strategy in our return to Great Power Competition.

Senior Master Sergeant Adelaja spearheaded international delegations of congressional members, showcasing critical Air Force capabilities and strengthening partnerships at key events like the bicameral Reagan National Defense Forum. Through her tireless efforts, Senior Master Sergeant Adelaja secured direct engagement between Members of Congress and key decision-makers, including the Secretary of the Air Force, resulting in successful advancements of critical Air Force initiatives. Drawing on her deep understanding of Space Force requirements,

Senior Master Sergeant Adelaja successfully championed the Department of the Air Force's position on future space-based missile warning capabilities, ensuring congressional alignment on this critical national security priority.

Finally, as the sole enlisted representative in the Department of the Air Force Senate liaison office, she effectively advocated for Department priorities. Collaborating with U.S. Space Command she arranged seven visits to Colorado Space Force bases in 2024 for key decision-makers, highlighting the quality-of-life concerns of guardians. Her efforts secured a significant \$42.9 billion investment in quality-of-life programs, including a 4.5-percent pay raise. Due to her direct involvement and stewardship, Members of Congress were able to make informed decisions and ensured the Department of the Air Force was properly resourced and funded.

After serving in this crucial role and becoming a fixture on Capitol Hill, SMSgt Martha Adelaja will move on to serve as the congressional liaison for the newly established Integrated Capabilities Command, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon, Arlington, VA. She has sacrificed much in service to our Nation. I am thankful for Martha's service and her work with my office and the Senate over the past year on issues of vital importance to the defense of the United States. I salute this American patriot whose selfless service has kept our country safe and strong.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SCOTT KRUEGER

• Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Captain Scott Krueger on the completion of his tenure as president of the Indiana State Police Alliance. As president, Captain Krueger represented over 1,200 active Indiana State Troopers.

Captain Krueger has proudly served the State of Indiana for 25 years, following in the footsteps of his father as a dedicated member of the Indiana State Police.

The Indiana State Police Alliance champions the values of integrity, superior quality, outstanding service, teamwork, mutual respect, and accountability. It is clear why Captain Krueger was chosen to lead this esteemed organization; he not only understands these values, he embodies them.

On behalf of a grateful State, I thank Captain Krueger for his service and leadership. Indiana is better and safer because of his dedication. I wish you the very best in your continued career.●

##### TRIBUTE TO LOUISE "SAMMIE" McCLELLAND

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I celebrate Louise "Sammie" McClelland,

who turned 105 years old this month on April 14. She still lives on her own and spends her days reading, swimming, and attending mass. You would hardly guess she is Jefferson Davis Parish's oldest resident.

Her joy and adventurous spirit have not dimmed despite living through some of the most difficult periods in American history. During the Great Depression, Mrs. McClelland helped her family by sewing clothes, gardening, fishing, cooking, and caring for her younger siblings.

Mrs. McClelland later left home to pursue a degree at LSU and, subsequently, an impressive teaching career. She served her community for 35 years as a teacher, educating the next generation of Louisiana's leaders.

Now living in Elton, LA, Mrs. McClelland remains steadfast in her faith and thankful that the Lord continues to bless her with the things and people she needs to live well. Mrs. McClelland's fearlessness and hard work, combined with her deep faith in God, make her a true embodiment of what makes Louisiana so wonderful, and we could all learn from her example.

When asked the secret to her long life, she replied, "Eat right, follow God's rule, and exercise." What great advice.●

##### RECOGNIZING BLOOMSBURY FARM

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Bloomsbury Farm of Atkins, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1995, Karen and Dave Petersen opened Bloomsbury Farm on their 2,000 acres, which has been in Dave's family since 1856. In addition to farming corn and soybeans, Karen expanded into floral and landscaping designs, and the couple repurposed a cattle shed on the farm to grow the business further. Early on, Bloomsbury Farms primarily sold floral arrangements for weddings, proms, and funerals. Then, in 1997, when their daughter Sammy's first-grade class visited the farm on a field trip, the family was inspired to transform their farm into an agritourism destination. When a devastating tornado tore through the town in 2004 leaving the greenhouse destroyed, the couple pivoted, offering the community a family-centered destination dedicated to agriculture, fun, and education.

Today, Bloomsbury Farm has become a leading agritourism venue, welcoming visitors from across Iowa and around the globe. Their calendar is packed with seasonal events, including Autumn Days, the Iowa Fall Festival, the Bunny Bash, the award-winning Scream Acres Haunted Attraction, and more. This year, Bloomsbury Farm

added another event, the Iowa Tulip Festival, to celebrate the bloom of over 200,000 tulips that the family planted the previous fall. To ensure top-tier experiences, the family regularly attends conferences nationwide to stay ahead in event technology. Through its commitment to innovation and customer experience, the farm now welcomes more than 75,000 visitors annually.

The family business is led by Dave and Karen alongside their daughters Sammy and Jessica, who became partners in January 2024 and manage everything from event coordination and bookkeeping to marketing and staffing. To meet the seasonal demands, Bloomsbury Farm employs around 140 part-time team members spanning all ages. In addition to community events, Bloomsbury Farm also offers private events, which can vary from intimate family gatherings to professional and corporate events of up to 2,500 people.

Bloomsbury Farm is very involved in its community. The company hosts a major event each year, supporting a designated nonprofit. Bloomsbury Farm works with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, HACAP Food Reservoir, and Four Oaks Family and Children's Services. They also collaborate with local schools by hosting field trips throughout the academic year. Bloomsbury Farm is a member of the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, NAFDMA, an international agritourism association, as well as the Iowa Maize Group. Sammy is a member of the Benton County Farm Bureau Board and is set to assume the role of president in July 2025. This fall, Bloomsbury Farm looks forward to celebrating its 30th anniversary.

The entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence demonstrated by Bloomsbury Farm are clear. I want to congratulate the Petersens and the entire team at Bloomsbury Farm for their hard work and dedication to enriching their community and providing exceptional products and experiences to families across Iowa and beyond. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOYCE RANCH

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 160th anniversary of the Joyce Ranch in Owyhee County, ID—an extraordinary milestone in the history of Gem State agriculture and a testament to the enduring strength of family.

Officially known as Joyce Livestock Company, Joyce Ranch proudly holds the title of Idaho's oldest family-owned ranch. Established by Matthew Joyce in 1865, the Joyce Ranch has flourished over five generations. For the Joyces, hard work, resilience, and family are not just a shared priority, but the key to success. Today, it comprises approximately 11,000 acres of deeded land and an additional 120,000 acres for grazing.