

Niels Marquardt, US Ambassador, retired; Dennise Mathieu, US Ambassador, retired; Deborah McCarthy, US Ambassador, retired;

Bill McCulla, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired; Nancy McEldowney, US Ambassador, retired; Former National Security Advisor to the Vice President; Michael McFaul, Former US Ambassador to Russia; Elizabeth McKune, US Ambassador, retired; James Melville, Jr., US Ambassador, retired; Leo Michel, Senior Executive Service, DoD, retired; Thomas Miller, US Ambassador, retired; Derek Mitchell, Former US Ambassador to Burma (Myanmar); Luis Moreno, US Ambassador, retired; Joseph Myers, Former Chief Risk Officer, US International Development Finance Corporation; James Nealon, US Ambassador, retired.

Brian H. Nilsson, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; Suzanne Nossel, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; Joseph Nye, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense; Geoffrey Odum, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired; Ted Osius, US Ambassador, retired; Maurice S. Parker, US Ambassador, retired; David Passage, US Ambassador, retired; Michael Pelletier, US Ambassador, retired; Robert Perry, US Ambassador, retired; David Petri, Commander, US Navy, retired; James Petti, US Ambassador, retired.

Annie Pforzheimer, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired; Randal Phillips, Senior Intelligence Officer, CIA, retired; William Piekney, Senior Intelligence Officer, CIA, retired; Steven Pifer, US Ambassador, retired; Michael Polt, US Ambassador, retired; Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; Michael Posner, Former Assistant Secretary of State; Ned Price, Former Spokesperson, Department of State; Charles Ray, US Ambassador, retired; Helen Reed-Rowe, US Ambassador, retired; Stacy Rhodes, Senior Foreign Service Officer, USAID, retired.

Susan Rice, Former National Security Advisor, Former U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations; John Ries, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired; Thomas Robertson, US Ambassador, retired; Enrique Roig, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; Peter Romero, US Ambassador, retired, Former Assistant Secretary of State; Jeremy Rosner, Former Special Assistant to the President; Leslie Rowe, US Ambassador, retired; Eric Rubin, US Ambassador, retired, Former President, American Foreign Service Association; Richard Sanders, Senior Executive Service, DoD, retired; Janet Sanderson, US Ambassador, retired.

Teresita Schaffer, US Ambassador, retired; Mark Schneider, Former Assistant Administrator, USAID, Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; Eric Schwartz, Former Assistant Secretary of State; Kyle Scott, US Ambassador, retired; Tod Sedgwick, Former US Ambassador to the Slovak Republic; Michael Senko, US Ambassador, retired; Mattie Sharpless, US Ambassador, retired; Dana Shell Smith, US Ambassador, retired; Dilpreet Sidhu, Former Executive Secretary of the National Security Council; Emil Skodon, US Ambassador, retired.

Adrian Sneed, Former Counsel and Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator Jeffrey Merkley; Sylvia Stanfield, US Ambassador, retired; Gregory Starr, Former Assistant Secretary of State; Adam Sterling, US Ambassador, retired; Clyde Taylor, US Ambassador, retired; Harry Thomas, US Ambassador, retired, Former Director General of the Foreign Service; Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US Ambassador, retired, Former U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Susan Thornton, Former Assistant Secretary of State; Thomas Tiernan, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired; Charles Uphaus, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired.

Kurt van der Walde, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired; Alexander Vershbow, US Ambassador, retired, Former Deputy Secretary General of NATO, Former Assistant Secretary of Defense; Shari Villarosa, US Ambassador, retired; Patricia Wagner, Senior Commercial Service Officer, retired; Alexander Watson, Former Assistant Secretary of State; Linda Watt, US Ambassador, retired; John Wecker, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired; Bruce Wharton, US Ambassador, retired; Kevin Whitaker, US Ambassador, retired; Pamela White, US Ambassador, retired.

Stephanie Williams, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired, Former Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General; Bisa William, US Ambassador, retired; Jonathan Winer, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; David Thomas Wolfson, Senior Foreign Service Officer, retired; Marcia Wong, Former Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID; Kenneth Yalowitz, US Ambassador, retired; Stephen Young, US Ambassador, retired; Marie Yovanovitch, US Ambassador, retired, Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; Jane Zimmerman, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; Ricardo Zuniga, Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW SCHIFF

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrew Schiff, an extraordinary community leader, who after 17 years of service, will retire from his role as chief executive officer of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

In helping meet the basic needs of Rhode Island's most vulnerable people, Andrew has led the Rhode Island Community Food bank through some challenging times. He took the helm at the food bank back in May 2007, mere months before the Great Recession began, and continued to lead the organization through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. During Andrew's tenure, demand for food assistance has increased—but so has the food bank's capacity to help. Indeed, Andrew helped double the amount of food distributed to those in need each month by the food bank and its 147 member agencies.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when hunger in Rhode Island jumped by 41 percent in a matter of months, Andrew and the food bank were there to help, serving over 70,000 Rhode Islanders each month by the end of 2020. More than that, Andrew helped keep Rhode Island's local growers and harvesters afloat by developing new partnerships to deliver locally produced food to those in need.

Demand for food assistance in Rhode Island and across the Nation remains high as pandemic-era assistance programs have ended. But under Andrew's leadership, the Food Bank has stepped up to the plate and now serves a record number of Rhode Islanders—over 84,000 people each month. That is a tremendous statistic but isn't the whole of Andrew's work.

Recognizing that those in need also deserve the dignity of choice in their food, Andrew has also focused on ex-

panding the food bank's offerings of healthy and culturally relevant foods to ensure that Rhode Islanders receiving food bank assistance have access to foods they are familiar with and that suit their tastes. Andrew has also advocated on the State and Federal levels to expand other food access programs, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, (WIC); and access to universal school meals, to ensure that no Rhode Islander goes hungry.

Before joining the food bank, Andrew was assistant director at Project Bread—the Walk for Hunger, an anti-hunger organization in Boston, director of professional services at Jewish Family and Children's Service in Boston, and director of mental health at the Neponset Health Center in Massachusetts. He attended Haverford College as an undergraduate and received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Emory University.

As a result of his years of effort to alleviate hunger, countless Rhode Islanders have ended the day with full stomachs, and the State as a whole is better off. I join many others in thanking Andrew for his work and distinguished service to our State. I wish him and his family all the best as he embarks on this next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO DANNY REMINGTON

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I rise as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and on behalf of the members of the committee and its staff to pay tribute to Danny Remington, the committee's director of IT and operations, as he retires after 30 years of Senate service and almost 29 of those years with the committee. Danny joined the staff in October of 1996, hired by then-committee Chairman MCCONNELL. In total, Danny served with 10 committee chairmen, five staff directors, and dozens of Senate colleagues who will remember his steady demeanor and willingness to assist with any task. Danny's tenure spans decades of technological advancement and process improvement. Joining the committee in a world of floppy disks and years before the office had an internet connection, Danny transitioned the committee into 21st century, or at least 20th century, technology while maintaining an enduring commitment to the core principle of confidentiality that guides all the committee's work. Beyond the technical achievements, Danny represented the committee well throughout the Senate community by establishing connections with his fellow staff members, whether they worked for the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeant at Arms, Secretary of the Senate, another committee, or a Member office.

As Danny retires, he looks forward to spending more time with his family, his wife Theresa, and their grown sons

Ryan and Reece coaching volleyball and enjoying some well-deserved time on the beach in Ocean City, MD. On behalf of the members and staff of the Select Committee on Ethics, I thank Danny for his decades of service and commitment to the U.S. Senate. I offer my sincere best wishes and gratitude to Danny and his family as he begins his retirement. Thank you, Danny.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE ABRAMS

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a long-time member of my staff Kyle Abrams, who has spent more than 4 years on my team during my time in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Throughout her service, Kyle has been steadfast in her commitment to constituents across the State of California and been a truly dedicated public servant.

Prior to joining my office, Kyle served as an intern for Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND and the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and joined my House office as an intern in 2021. We immediately recognized her immense talent and asked her to take on the role of scheduler. Being a scheduler is no easy feat, and being a good scheduler requires patience, organization, and grace—all of which Kyle has in abundance. With her intelligence, personal skills, and strategic thinking, Kyle quickly took on the additional roles of director of scheduling, policy adviser, and most recently, senior adviser, all at a young age and in the midst of a campaign for Senate.

It has been a true pleasure to watch Kyle progress through her various roles on my staff, and to see her mentor junior staff. I am grateful for the responsibilities she took on during the transition from the House to Senate, ensuring that everything went smoothly, and that I could deliver for the people of California without interruption.

Kyle will be leaving my office to start her first year at Harvard Law School. She will be joining a tradition of excellence at my alma mater, and I am eager to see what she will accomplish far beyond the classroom.

In my almost 24 years in Congress, I have learned the important lesson that every member is only as good as their staff and seldom as good as that. We could not do our jobs for our constituents without them and their labors, and my staff have been laser focused on providing the highest level of service for the great people of southern California in the House and now the whole State of California in the Senate. Kyle is no exception; I extend my utmost gratitude for the time she has spent on my team, and I am looking forward to seeing all she will go on to achieve in this next chapter.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MECKDEC DAY

• Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of MeckDec Day. On May 20, 1775, exactly 250 years ago, the citizens of Mecklenburg County took a bold and unprecedented step by adopting the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. This historic document, believed to be the first declaration of its kind, signaled the beginning of America's quest for independence from the oppressive rule of the British Crown. In the wake of the Battle of Concord, a committee of concerned citizens gathered and declared that Mecklenburg County's ties to Great Britain were hereby dissolved. Their courage laid the groundwork for the fight for liberty that would shape our Nation's future.

North Carolina honors this pivotal moment in our history by featuring the date of the Mecklenburg Declaration—May 20, 1775—prominently on our State flag, alongside another key milestone: April 12, 1776, the date of the Halifax Resolves. The Halifax Resolves, adopted by the North Carolina Provincial Congress, marked the first official action by an American Colony calling for independence from the British Crown. This bold resolution laid the groundwork for the presentation of the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress less than 3 months later, solidifying North Carolina's leadership in the fight for American liberty.

On May 22, 2025, the Charlotte Museum of History in Mecklenburg County, NC, will officially celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration.

The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, issued in Charlotte, NC, on May 20, 1775, reads as follows:

Resolved—That whosoever directly or indirectly abets or in any way, form or manner, countenances the invasion of our rights, as attempted by the Parliament of Great Britain, is an enemy to his country, to America, and the rights of man.

Resolved—That we, the citizens of Mecklenburg County do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us with the mother county and absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British crown, abjuring all political connection with a nation that has wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanly shed the innocent blood of Americans at Lexington.

Resolved—That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people, that we are and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing people under the power of God and the general Congress; to the maintenance of which independence, we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor.

Resolved—That we do hereby ordain and adopt as rules of conduct all and each of our former laws, and the crown of Great Britain cannot be considered hereafter as holding any rights, privileges, or immunities amongst us.

Resolved—That all officers, both civil and military in this county, be entitled to exer-

cise the same powers and authorities as heretofore; that every member of this delegation shall henceforth be a civil officer, and exercise the powers of a justice of the peace, issue process, hear and determine controversies according to law, preserve peace, union and harmony in the county, and use every exertion to spread the love of liberty and of country, until a more general and better organized system of government be established.

Resolved—That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by express to the President of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia, to be laid before that body.

Signers were: Abraham Alexander, Chairman, John McKnitt Alexander, Secretary, Ephraim Brevard, Hezekiah J. Balch, John Phifer, James Harris, William Kennon, John Foard, Richard Barry, Henry Downs, Ezra Alexander, William Graham, John Queary, Hezekiah Alexander, Adam Alexander, Charles Alexander, Zaccheus Wilson, Waightstill Avery, Benjamin Patton, Matthew McClure, Neill Morrison, Robert Erwin, John Flenniken, David Reese, John Davidson, Richard Harris, Thomas Polk, and Duncan Ochiltree.

I invite you to join me in commemorating the 250th anniversary of a defining moment in our Nation's path to independence. •

TRIBUTE TO LUPE WISSEL

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, I congratulate Lupe Wissel, of Eagle, ID, on her outstanding career of advocacy for senior citizens and veterans.

Lupe is retiring from serving most recently for nearly 10 years as State director of AARP, Idaho. Prior to joining AARP, Lupe dedicated more than 14 years to working for the U.S. Senate. This includes her service of more than 10 years as staff director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and her prior service as staff director for the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging. A proud alum of Boise State University, she was also appointed by former Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne to serve as director for the Idaho Commission on Aging. And, previously, she devoted 21 years to serving as assistant regional manager/rehabilitation counselor III at the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. In all, Lupe has spent more than four decades in public service, advocating for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Lupe has used her immense experience to inform her tireless, measured, and well-informed advocacy for seniors. She has provided trusted counsel to our congressional delegation as we have worked on issues of importance to Idaho seniors. She helped administer AARP-hosted tele-townhalls, ensuring Idahoans across our great State had opportunities to voice their views on issues before Congress. Throughout, she has been kind, efficient, professional, effective, and sincere to her cause.

Lupe's service to others stretches beyond her employment; she has also