

years, including 16 years as a captain. Once Ray retired, he became the official historian for the Kansas City Fire Historical Society. His 23 books on the department's history start with the first volunteer bucket brigades in 1858. His core mission is to register the deaths of all firefighters who died in the line of duty and ensure they are honored on the city's State memorial to fallen firefighters. Once Ray discovers a forgotten firefighter, their name is laser-cut into the tall metal panels at the Firefighters Fountain and Memorial in Penn Valley Park. Currently, 119 firefighters' names are honored, with Captain Ray Elder being responsible for over a dozen of them. Because of his hard work and dedication to the city's forgotten servicemembers, Ray has been awarded the Lifetime Contribution Award.

Captain Ray Elder is truly a Champion of Missouri. His dedication to honoring fallen firefighters reflects his unwavering sense of duty and commitment to his community. I commend Captain Elder for his service to his fellow Missourians and wish him all the best in his noble mission.

#### TRIBUTE TO KACK HASLAG

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor Mrs. Kack Haslag of Jefferson City, MO, for her service to the State of Missouri.

When I was first elected to the Missouri State Senate in 2008, knew I needed to surround myself with talented and organized staff who would help me serve the people of Missouri. Kack Haslag's impressive record made her a clear choice. Kack diligently served as an attentive public servant. As I reviewed a host of legislation, Kack was able to keep my office focused, and together, we authored tax cuts, advocated for those with special needs, and fought to end taxation by citation.

Kack provided invaluable guidance with such a kind and caring disposition to me, my wife, and my children, and we still think of her fondly as a member of our family. She served as a capable liaison for my office and allowed me to focus on being a lawmaker. Her deep knowledge of the State legislature was of tremendous help to me, and I greatly relied on her advice. She contributed so much to my early success as a legislator, and the knowledge she imparted to me continues to serve me well as I represent Missouri in the U.S. Senate.

Kack is truly a Champion of Missouri. I am indebted to Kack for the time and attention she dedicated to our success during the early years of my service to the great State of Missouri. I wish her all the best in her retirement and hope she enjoys well-deserved time with her family.

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM MEYER

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor Jim Meyer, man-

ager of the Grain Valley Community Center, for his timely and heroic act of service to save the life of a community member.

On the morning of April 7, 2025, a senior citizen collapsed and became unresponsive while using the fitness center. Fellow patrons immediately alerted the staff, and Jim Meyer, the center's manager, sprang into action. Without hesitation, he retrieved the Automated External Defibrillator, AED, and administered it to the man, delivering a shock that restored his heartbeat. This swift and decisive intervention was crucial in saving the man's life and was made possible by the frequent emergency training, including AED instruction, that the center's staff undergo. Thanks to Jim's timely response, paramedics arrived shortly after and transported the man to the hospital, where he made a full recovery. In this crisis, Meyer remained calm and focused, prioritizing the well-being of a community member over all else. Jim's heroic actions not only saved a life but also reinforced the sense of safety and community within the Grain Valley Community Center.

Jim Meyer is truly a Champion of Missouri. His decisive leadership and quick thinking kept a man alive and ensured safety in the community. I commend Jim for his service to his fellow Missourians and wish him all the best with the Grain Valley Community Center.

#### TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL KYLE SEABAUGH

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor Corporal Kyle Seabaugh of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Special Victims Unit for his outstanding investigative work and leadership that saved four young children from extreme, ongoing sexual abuse.

Corporal Seabaugh was assigned to be the lead investigator in a child pornography distribution case in March of 2021. He began by organizing a team of experienced investigators to conduct two searches that helped him dig deeper and locate incriminating evidence of child sex abuse hidden in the suspect's cell phone. This led to the arrest and charging of the suspect as well as another perpetrator with multiple counts of sex trafficking, statutory sodomy, and rape. None of this would have been possible without Corporal Seabaugh's tireless efforts that spanned over 3 years. During this time, he built a strong case and collaborated with many individuals, including officers from the Clinton and Henry County Police Departments, as well as a forensic pediatrician and an FBI expert who helped to accurately identify the child victims. All this ensured that four children would not have to endure any continued abuse. The first suspect has already received 23 life sentences, and the other is currently awaiting trial.

Kyle Seabaugh is truly a Champion of Missouri. His leadership and strong

determination were critical in bringing these criminals to justice and an end to their horrific crimes. I commend Corporal Seabaugh for his service to his fellow Missourians and wish him all the best in his future efforts with the highway patrol special victim's unit.

#### TRIBUTE TO JACOB SHROYER

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor Detective Jacob Shroyer of Kansas City, MO, for his lifesaving response that went above and beyond the call of duty.

While heading home, Detective Shroyer chose to keep his radio on and noticed a vehicle with flashing lights on the far side of the highway. Shortly thereafter, he overheard a dispatch call go out. Without hesitation, Officer Shroyer made a U-turn and rushed to aid a distressed couple. Arriving at the scene, he quickly helped a woman experiencing a medical emergency be lowered to the ground. Aided by Officer Richard DuChaine, they noticed purple and blue creeping into her lips, a sign of impeded breathing. Detective Shroyer immediately administered rapid chest compressions and lifesaving CPR to the suffocating victim. His actions kept her alive until the Kansas City Fire Department arrived with emergency medical equipment.

Detective Jacob Shroyer is truly a Champion of Missouri. He exemplifies the best of Missouri law enforcement. His decisive response while off-duty and the effective execution of his training demonstrate his commitment to protecting the public—even while off the clock. Officer Shroyer received profuse thanks from the couple as they recovered in a nearby hospital. I commend Detective Shroyer for his extraordinary service and his continued excellence with the Kansas City Police Department.

#### TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER STEPHEN SZACHTA, JR.

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor CDR Stephen Szachta, Jr., of St. Charles, MO, a leader to service personnel who have served alongside him, a companion to our Japanese allies, and a true frontline warrior in our ensuing fight for global competitiveness against the Chinese Communist Party.

Commander Szachta began his career in the U.S. Navy, heeding the call to service following the attacks on September 11 and, after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2006, would later attend the Naval Postgraduate School, graduating with distinction and earning a master of science in systems engineering. In his distinguished naval career, he has deployed in support of counternarcotics and counterpiracy operations, as well as in key engineering roles aboard such vessels as the USS *Preble* and USS *Cape St. George*. Commander Szachta held the privilege of commanding the patrol

ship *USS Monsoon* during her mission critical deployments to the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman, where his crew were awarded the coveted Battle "E" award for the ship's superb performance under Commander Szachta's leadership. Commander Szachta recently commanded over 300 sailors of the destroyer *USS Rafael Peralta* in Yokosuka, Japan, where he has found himself as part of the increasing struggle to reign in the influences of the Chinese Communist Party in the Indo-Pacific. In his career, Commander Szachta has been well-deservingly decorated with the Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy Commendation Medals, and two Navy Achievement Medals, as well as numerous other awards and decorations.

CMDR Stephen Szachta, Jr., is truly a Champion of Missouri. His selfless service to his country and fellow sailors have truly given great pride to our State, and I am truly honored to represent him and honored to call him a Champion of Missouri.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO MARY DUQUETTE AND MYRA NIKITAS

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Mary Duquette of Hopkinton and Myra Nikitas of Nashua as July's Granite Staters of the Month. Mary and Myra are working to ensure that all children in Nashua who need dental care are able to get it.

Mary and Myra have both worked in the dental field for more than 20 years and are certified public health dental hygienists. In 2021, when Mary was working for the State of New Hampshire's oral health program, a program that performed dental screenings for third graders in New Hampshire identified Nashua as one of the areas with the highest levels of tooth decay in the State. Mary and Myra joined an existing cavity prevention program, but when funding for that program ran out, they wanted to continue providing services. They took action, applied for grants themselves, and launched their nonprofit Traveling Tooth Fairies.

Traveling Tooth Fairies' goal is to close the dental care gap. During the school year, Mary and Myra visit schools throughout the Nashua area, helping provide cavity prevention care to any child with a signed permission slip, regardless of their insurance status. Treatment is free for patients, paid for through either grant funding or through New Hampshire Medicaid if the child is eligible and enrolled. In addition to removing financial barriers, providing care directly at schools removes another critical barrier: the need for parents to take time off from work to take their child to the dentist. Traveling Tooth Fairies doesn't deny anyone care, and if a family contacts them asking for help outside of school,

Mary and Myra will work with them to get their child treatment. Traveling Tooth Fairies also attend community events and treat families in shelters.

Mary and Myra's dedication to keeping children healthy is an inspiring example of the Granite State spirit of going above and beyond to help your neighbors. Their commitment to their community is why I am proud to name them July's Granite Staters of the Month.●

#### RECOGNIZING HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

• Mr. KAINÉ. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the remarkable legacy and ongoing contributions of Hampden-Sydney College as it celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding on November 10, 2025.

Founded in 1775 on the eve of the American Revolution, Hampden-Sydney is our Nation's 10th-oldest college and the oldest privately chartered college in the southern United States. Its founding mission, "to form good men and good citizens," has remained steadfast for two and a half centuries, shaping generations of young men who have gone on to serve their communities, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation with distinction.

Hampden-Sydney College has also played a formative role in the development of other important institutions. Both the Union Theological Seminary and the Medical College of Virginia, now part of Virginia Commonwealth University, trace their roots back to Hampden-Sydney. These connections underscore the college's far-reaching impact on education, health, and public service in the Commonwealth and beyond.

The college's liberal arts curriculum continues to foster critical thinking, moral character, and civil discourse. Through its nationally respected rhetoric program, Hampden-Sydney places a premium on clear communication, thoughtful debate, and lifelong learning—values more vital today than ever. The college also remains home to the Union-Philanthropic Literary Society, the second-oldest college debating society in the United States.

For 250 years, Hampden-Sydney has prepared students for leadership in fields ranging from law and medicine to education, science, religion, business, the arts, and the military. Its alumni include statesmen, scholars, public servants, and countless individuals whose quiet contributions have strengthened the civic and cultural fabric of our society.

As it steps into the next era of its proud tradition, Hampden-Sydney College remains deeply committed to its founding ideals. Its pursuit of excellence in education, its cultivation of civic responsibility and character, and its unwavering defense of free expression ensure that it will continue to play a meaningful role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the leadership, faculty, alumni, and students of Hampden-Sydney College on this milestone anniversary. Thank you for your enduring service to the Commonwealth and to our country.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1393. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 8451a, the report of an officer departing their position prior to completing three years of service to serve in another position for which they have been nominated; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1394. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1395. A communication from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) 2023 and 2024" (RIN0560-A173) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1396. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Afidopyropen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 12842-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1397. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Major Capital Investment Projects" (RIN2132-AB55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1398. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order