

Following Mr. Lopez's murder last year, I urged the Honduran Government to take several steps immediately in response to the pattern of violence: Call for an international commission of experts to support the Honduran prosecutor's investigation, to ensure the investigation of Mr. Lopez' murder is thorough and impartial; protect human rights defenders at risk in the Bajo Aguan region; and investigate the abuses and corruption denounced by Juan Lopez and the pattern of violence against the Guapinol defenders.

As far as I am aware, none of those steps have been taken. Nor has the Castro government followed through on her campaign promise to support the establishment of an international commission to combat corruption and impunity.

As a result, impunity for these crimes and the vitriolic attacks against nongovernmental organizations by officials in the executive and legislative branches of government have continued.

My State of Vermont and Honduras have been partners since 1966, just 2 years after the founding of Partners of the Americas. Vermonters have always had an interest in Honduras—its history, people, culture, and development. One of many examples is the Honduran Tolupan Education Program, which arranges for Vermonters and other volunteers to travel to indigenous villages in Honduras to help build community libraries where none exist. Vermonters want Honduras to succeed as a democracy where justice and economic opportunity are available to all its citizens.

After 8 years of President Hernandez and 4 years of President Castro, the Honduran people deserve better. I hope that whoever wins in November will use their office to improve the lives of the people, rather than to enrich themselves. And I hope that the people of the communities in the Bajo Aguan will no longer have to live in fear that powerful companies and corrupt officials will steal their land, pollute their rivers, and murder them for peacefully defending the natural resources that are rightfully theirs.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, today I rise to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Nation's Capital. Visiting from Greece, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was elected in October 1991 as the 270th archbishop of the 2000-year-old church founded by the Apostle Andrew. He has demonstrated extraordinary leadership within the Orthodox Christian community and across the global religious and environmental landscapes.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was ordained as a deacon in 1961 and a priest in 1969. Throughout his ministry, he served as an assistant dean of the Theological School of Halki, personal secretary to Patriarch Demetrios, Met-

ropolitan of Philadelphia, and later Metropolitan of Chalcedon, before being elected ecumenical patriarch in 1991. He has steered spiritual unity among Orthodox Christians, convened the first Synaxis of Orthodox primates in 1992, supported the restoration of autonomous churches in Eastern Europe, and granted autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in 2019.

The Patriarch's role extends far beyond his ecclesial leadership. Widely known as the "Green Patriarch," he has pioneered the integration of ecological awareness with theological ethics, declaring environmental destruction a sin, establishing an annual Orthodox Day of Prayer for Creation, and convening numerous international symposia blending faith, science, and environmental stewardship. His efforts have earned him global recognition, including the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal and the Templeton Prize.

Patriarch Bartholomew's tireless work ethic and dedication has bridged religious traditions, championed interfaith dialogue, advanced environmental justice, and fostered unity among diverse Christian communities. On behalf of Nevada's Greek Orthodox community, it is an honor to welcome him to Washington, DC.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON BAGWELL AND HIS STUDENTS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exceptional Arkansas educator, Mr. Brandon Bagwell of Harmony Grove Middle School in Benton, and to recognize the extraordinary efforts of his students commemorating the legacy of our Nation's military veterans. Their commitment to honoring service and preserving history reflects the very best of our State and values.

Through the National History Day program, Mr. Bagwell and his students received a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This distinguished recognition provides educators and their students with the opportunity to research and enshrine the memories of those who have served our Nation. By providing learning institutions with funding, the National History Day organization serves to encourage historical understanding and engagement among young people.

Over the course of the 2024-2025 school year, Mr. Bagwell and his students undertook a meaningful effort to honor two Korean war-era veterans, U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class Myrtis Lee "Linda" Baxter Baker and U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Leroy Mazel Smith, both of whom are what the program calls "Silent Heroes." These two veterans served honorably, and their sacrifices and contributions remain woven into the fabric of American strength and freedom.

With his guidance, Mr. Bagwell's students conducted extensive research

analyzing primary and secondary sources, engaged in community conversations, and conducted interviews with family members to apply historical context to the two veterans they selected. Through their work, the teacher-student team explored the veterans' lives before the war, their home communities during the 1950s, their military service, and their experience as veterans, often uncovering details previously untold. At the culmination of their research, the team filmed eulogies at their local veteran cemeteries to ensure these veterans received the honor they deserve.

In a time when fewer Americans have personal connections to those who served in uniform, efforts like this bridge the gap between past and present. Mr. Bagwell's classroom is not only a space for academic growth, but also a place where service and citizenship are actively cultivated. His leadership along with his students' dedicated efforts ensures that our veterans' sacrifices are remembered with dignity and passed down to future generations.

Among 71 educators from across the country, Mr. Bagwell was named a National History Day Teacher of the Year nominee—a testament to his dedication to, and impact on, the students in his classroom. Arkansas is fortunate to have educators like Mr. Bagwell who go above and beyond to inspire curiosity, empathy, and civic responsibility. The commitment and diligent efforts demonstrated by his students have not only honored these veterans but have also set a powerful example for their peers across the State and country. I congratulate Mr. Bagwell and his students for their remarkable work. •

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA VISK

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Arkansas educator, Mrs. Jessica Vick of Bay High School, for her exceptional work in preserving the legacy of our Nation's fallen servicemembers. Her dedication to historical education and civic engagement exemplifies the values we hold dear in Arkansas and across the Nation.

Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, Mrs. Vick participated in a distinguished program sponsored by the American Battle Monuments Commission—ABMC—and facilitated through the National History Day program. This initiative empowers educators to research and commemorate "Silent Heroes," American servicemembers who gave the ultimate sacrifice and are memorialized at ABMC cemeteries or memorials.

Mrs. Vick undertook a profound journey to honor one such hero, U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class James Rickey Maxwell, detailing his life before the war as well as his military service. Her research incorporated primary and secondary sources, and whenever possible, she connected with family members and local residents to add

personal insights to her project. Through this work, Mrs. Vick brought to light the story of an individual whose service and sacrifice might otherwise have gone untold.

At the conclusion of her research, she compiled her findings into an online tribute, allowing others to learn about and reflect on the life of the service-member she honored. Her work was featured on the Silent Heroes page of the National History Day's website and on the National Cemetery Administration's Veterans Legacy Memorial website.

Mrs. Vick's commitment to honoring our Nation's fallen through education is a testament to the power of teaching and the importance of historical remembrance. Her classroom is not only a place of learning but also a space where service, sacrifice, and citizenship are actively explored and celebrated.

I commend Mrs. Vick for her dedication to professional development and for her efforts to ensure that the stories of Silent Heroes are never forgotten. Arkansas is fortunate to have educators like her who go above and beyond to inspire students and strengthen the bonds between past and present. I applaud Mrs. Vick for her remarkable work and for helping preserve the legacy of those who served our Nation with honor.●

RECOGNIZING THE EISENHOWER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a remarkable institution in my home State of Kansas, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home, which recently won the Newsweek 2025 Readers' Choice Award for Best Presidential Attraction.

This prestigious accolade is both a tribute to an exceptional historic site and a powerful reminder of President Eisenhower's legacy, shaped by his smalltown upbringing in Abilene, KS. From his humble beginnings on "the wrong side of the tracks" to his election as the 34th President of the United States, Eisenhower's legacy stands as a testament to humility, integrity, and service above self.

The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum brings his story to life for visitors from across the country and around the world. Through its excellent exhibits and educational programs, the museum continues to inspire new generations to appreciate President Eisenhower and his skilled statesmanship.

This award is a reflection of the dedicated staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to preserve and enshrine President Eisenhower's legacy. Their ongoing commitment ensures that this historic site remains not just a destination, but also a living tribute to one of America's most exemplary leaders.

I am proud to see the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum receive this well-deserved recognition, and I invite all Americans to visit and learn more about President Eisenhower's legendary leadership, from the battlefields of Europe to the White House.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home on this national honor and in celebrating the legacy of an American hero from smalltown Kansas.●

RECOGNIZING 7,000 BROADCASTS OF STEVE & TED IN THE MORNING

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a significant achievement in Kansas broadcasting: Steve & Ted in the Morning, a beloved radio program on 98.7 and 1330 KNSS in Wichita, recently aired its 7,000th show.

For over 27 years, Kansans have counted on Steve McIntosh and Ted Woodward to start their day with news coverage, lively commentary, and a sense of local community. Their voices have become a daily staple across southcentral Kansas, reaching listeners at home, on the road, and everywhere in between.

On August 26, 2025, Steve & Ted celebrated their 7,000th broadcast with a live gala show filled with special guests and heartfelt tributes. Joining the celebration were notable Kansans such as Mitch Holthus, the play-by-play voice of the Kansas City Chiefs; former Sedgwick County judge and long-time Wichita State basketball radio broadcaster Dave Dahl; and several other guests, colleagues, and friends. It was a powerful testament to the show's impact and the following these two broadcasters have earned over the years.

This milestone also comes as Steve prepares to retire at the end of the year, capping off an extraordinary 55-year career in radio. Steve's leadership in Kansas journalism is respectable, with Edward R. Murrow and Marconi Awards to his name, as well as his induction into the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Together, Steve and Ted have established more than just a successful radio show; they have built a trusted relationship with thousands of listeners. Whether covering breaking news, interviewing local leaders, or simply sharing a laugh, their presence has been a constant in a rapidly changing media landscape. I have personally had the privilege of joining Steve and Ted on their show several times, and they kindly hosted my Kansas State Fair townhall in 2024.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this major milestone and congratulating Steve McIntosh and Ted Woodward on their 7,000th broadcast.●

RECOGNIZING THE HUTCHINSON MONARCHS

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I would like to congratulate the Hutchinson Monarchs baseball team on an impressive season and their 2025 National Baseball Congress—NBC—World Series victory.

Established in 2009, the Monarchs are a summer collegiate team comprised of current college baseball players. These young men dedicated their summer to improving their skills and playing the sport they all love. While many of the players on the roster are Kansans or attend a Kansas college, some players came from other States like California, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. They live with a host family in Hutchinson, so they could be part of the Monarchs team. Each of these players displayed outstanding commitment to the team, and their hard work paid off.

The championship game's final score of 21-4 underscores the impressive nature of the win. This championship is particularly meaningful because it is the second time in 3 years that the Hutchinson Monarchs have achieved victory as NBC World Series champions.

The Monarchs' championship game also set a record, marking the most single-game runs in the team's history. Players showed up and performed tremendously. Maize native Jaden Gustafson started the team off strong in the first inning with a 2-RBI single; pitcher Pryce Bender threw a no-hitter through four frames; and Andale native Drew Bugner hit one down the line as two runs scored on the double. Each player gave their all on the field, and together, they claimed victory.

Of course, the team would not have achieved victory without the outstanding leadership from their coaches Casey Lippoldt and Ryan Stoecklein. Thank you, Casey and Ryan, for giving your time and commitment to the Monarchs and helping lead them to the championship.

I would also like to thank the host families and members of the Hutchinson community who supported the Monarchs this season. Thank you for opening your homes, preparing meals, and most importantly, showing up to the games to cheer the team on. I know that the players valued every single person who invested in them this summer as they strived to excel during each game.

Winning a World Series victory is no easy feat. This achievement takes countless hours of hard work, sacrifice, and dedication. With this victory, the team of the Hutchinson Monarchs has made our entire State proud. Congratulations again to the Monarchs, the 2025 NBC World Series champions.●

TRIBUTE TO CARL "SPIKE" BENTON

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the