

and the president's advisory board, as well as the Women of the Capstone. A true lover of the arts, she also served as president of the Alabama Speech and Theatre Association, where she promoted theatre programming for high schools. Her national leadership was solidified in 2019 when she was appointed to the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts to serve as a representative for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

As two of the most generous, dedicated Alabama trailblazers, Dr. and Senator Shelby have continued to make remarkable contributions that will no doubt strengthen our State for many years to come.

In 2023, Dr. and Senator Shelby established the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership at the University of Alabama. The program endeavors to educate future leaders through civic engagement, research, and public policy. Most recently, Spring Hill College broke ground on the Annette N. Shelby Health and Science Innovation Center. This state-of-the-art facility will not only expand Spring Hill's current nursing and pre-med programs, but also launch new programs.

Dr. Shelby died on July 23, 2025, at her home in Tuscaloosa. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Senator Shelby; two sons Richard Craig Shelby, Jr., and Claude Nevin Shelby (Lisa); two grandchildren Anna Elizabeth Shelby and William Nevin Shelby; and brother Edward Haskell Nevin.

On behalf of Dr. Shelby's friends, family, and students, I am deeply proud to recognize her extraordinary life. Dr. Shelby's quiet strength, keen intellect and discernment, and elegant poise all contribute to her legacy as one of Alabama's most influential figures. Her status is cemented not just in the buildings and programs across the State that bear her name, but for the tremendous, indelible impact she made on all who were fortunate to know her. Alabama and our Nation are undeniably stronger because of her extraordinary life of service.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL REBECCA MCELWAIN

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I would like to congratulate an accomplished North Dakotan who is providing outstanding service to the Nation in the U.S. Army. BG Rebecca McElwain recently became the new Army budget director, and we look forward to working closely with a fellow North Dakotan in this role.

Brigadier General McElwain was raised on a family farm near Karlsruhe, ND, and graduated from Minot High School. She attended North Dakota State University where she was in the ROTC program. She graduated with a bachelor of science in business administration from NDSU in 1997 and was then commissioned into the U.S. Army Finance and Comptroller Corps. From there, she spent significant time serv-

ing abroad, including deployments in Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Middle East, with command assignments at every level.

Prior to this new assignment, she served as an Army congressional budget liaison and then the director of the Army's budget liaison office. Through all of her assignments, she brings as wealth of experience that will serve the Army and Congress well.

Brigadier General McElwain and her husband James have a son Andrew. James is a classically trained chef, and Andrew is a recent graduate of the University of Mary Washington and works with the General Services Administration in Washington, DC.

We benefit enormously from talented leaders like Brigadier General McElwain, and we look forward to her continued contributions to the Army and to the Nation. I congratulate her on this new role and look forward to working with her.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MICHAEL P. MASON

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Air Force, Maj. Michael P. "Mikey" Mason.

As a Department of the Air Force Senate Legislative Liaison Officer, from January to July 2025, Mikey performed his duties well and without reservation supporting the 119th U.S. Congress. Hailing from Scottsdale, AZ, and a graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Mikey has served in the Air Force for over 13 years. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated exceptional and unrivaled officership. A graduate and former instructor at the U.S. Air Force Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School—AMMOS—he brings extensive experience in both nuclear and conventional munitions, gained from diverse roles across Air Combat Command Air Education and Training Command, U.S. Air Force Europe and Air Force Materiel Command.

Major Mason distinguished himself through his professional character and dedication by serving this Nation in uniform as an Air Force Legislative Liaison to the Senate. In this role, he advised Department of the Air Force senior leaders and helped develop strategic engagement opportunities to advance U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force priorities. His 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 21 Senators and their respective staff. He supported numerous engagements and delegations for 109 Senators, Congressmen, and staffers to showcase Department equities in the United States and abroad. Most notably, Mikey spearheaded initiatives within Headquarters Air Force to effectively bridge the information gap between Members of

Congress and the Department of the Air Force.

By fostering a shared understanding of congressional priorities and Departmental objectives, Mikey enabled the alignment of goals and fostered a cohesive, multifunctional approach to achieving them. Mikey's direct support led to the successful execution of nine Senate confirmation, posture, and subcommittee hearings while managing 32 congressional requests, directly shaping and advancing legislative priorities. Additionally, Mikey's diplomatic nature and commitment to enhancing global partnership was evident during four congressional and staff delegations planned and executed under his leadership. These trips, both within the United States and overseas, supported the Air Force Caucus, State delegations, key Senate committees, and our allies and partners. Through these interactions, he successfully strengthened international collaboration and cultivated relationships crucial for advancing shared defense priorities while showcasing select Department of the Air Force equities. Due to his direct involvement and oversight, Members of Congress were able to make informed decisions to ensure the Department of the Air Force possessed the right authorities and resources necessary to equip our warfighters and fulfill their role in the joint fight.

Finally, he led a pivotal congressional delegation to the Middle East to secure key regional partnerships, conduct vital oversight of U.S. military operations, and gain firsthand understanding of critical national security issues, including counterterrorism, the humanitarian crisis, and regional stability. Mikey's significant efforts led to numerous successful engagements between this governing body, current and former administration officials, senior military leaders, industry executives, technology innovators, and leading edge thought leaders. These interactions helped Senators and their staff advance the national security conversation and collaboration required to achieve our shared goal of peace through strength.

After serving in this crucial role and becoming a fixture on Capitol Hill, Major Mason has moved on to become the executive officer to the director, Air Force Legislative Liaison, Washington, DC, office. Mikey and his wife Carolyn have instilled a legacy of service for their two children Walker and Kinsley. They have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I am thankful for Mikey's service and his 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 ARLENE MITCHELL

• Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Mrs. Arlene Mitchell, a tireless servant and philanthropist for the people of Alabama.

Mrs. Mitchell, who grew up just over the Alabama border in Atlanta, GA, quickly made Mobile home with her husband Mr. Mayer “Bubba” Mitchell, a native Mobilian. The Mitchell family’s decades of dedication have paid dividends and strengthened Mobile for generations to come.

Notably, Mrs. Mitchell represented Mobile County on the Board of Trustees for the University of South Alabama—USA—a seat previously held by her beloved husband. In 2022, Mrs. Mitchell made history when she was elected as the first female chair pro tem of the board of the university. Her trailblazing commitment and heart for service proved critical to the university, increasing enrollment growth, spurring record fundraising, and advancing many crucial USA programs. Her oversight of the construction of the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine Building, renovation and expansion of the USA Health Children’s & Women’s Hospital Pediatric Emergency Center, and the establishment of the Arlene Mitchell Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, among countless other initiatives, have been transformational to the university, its community, and the region.

Equally important, Mrs. Mitchell and the entire Mitchell family were instrumental in establishing the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, the region’s only academic cancer treatment and research center. This visionary investment has brought world-class, groundbreaking research and hope to patients and families across Alabama and the entire gulf coast. Throughout the years, Mrs. Mitchell has generously donated to lifesaving initiatives at USA, including the Pediatric Emergency Center project, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit renovation, and the da Vinci surgical system acquisition at USA Health Children’s & Women’s Hospital. Mrs. Mitchell has not only generously given her resources, but her time and compassion, spending countless hours rocking precious babies in the NICU.

Mrs. Mitchell’s service to the Mobile community extends far beyond her work on the board. Her impact can be felt across the gulf coast region, whether through her support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama, the Exploreum Science Center, or the Senior Citizens Services of Mobile. She has been recognized as Mobilian of the Year, the first woman to receive this honor, the Distinguished Friend of Education by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and alongside her husband, has been honored by the United

Way of Southwest Alabama for their lifetime of philanthropy.

This year, Mrs. Mitchell was conferred the honorary title of chair pro tempore emerita of the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees. And while her biggest accomplishment of all, is her life with Mayer, her 4 children and their spouses, 8 grandchildren and their spouses, and 19 great-grandchildren, I couldn’t be more honored to celebrate her legacy of leadership, selflessness, and generosity.

I ask my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. Senate to please join me in extending our heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Mitchell for her extraordinary contributions to higher education, healthcare, and the well-being of countless Alabamians. May her example be a guiding light to us all.●

TRIBUTE TO JAY AND SUSAN WOOD

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Jay and Susan Wood of Powell County as Montanans of the Month. Jay and Susan have made it their mission to ensure Montana’s veterans never go hungry and delivered more than 44,000 pounds of food to veterans across 16 Montana counties in 2024. So far this year, they have distributed tens of thousands of pounds to southwest Montana vets in need.

The Woods have created a community with the Southwest Montana Veterans Food Pantry, where veterans can feel a part of a family. Additionally, they have built an extraordinary network of food pantries, nonprofit organizations, supermarkets, specialty businesses, and countless other groups across the State that work together to identify and support area veterans.

Their work is a worthwhile mission, and Jay and Susan are an inspiration to us all to give back to our communities. Their selfless efforts deserve recognition and serve as a powerful reminder to cherish our freedoms and thank those who have fought to defend our country.

Jay and Susan, thank you for your tireless dedication. Your compassion and service to Montana’s veterans make our State proud. May God continue to bless your efforts and all the men and women you serve.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

• Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, on February 25, 1975, Resolution No. 371 was presented to the City Council of Alexandria, VA, to establish the Alexandria Archaeological Commission. It was the first in the Nation. The commission, composed of Alexandria residents, was tasked with developing goals and priorities relating to the preservation and public interpretation of sites and artifacts that contribute to the history and heritage of the city of Alexandria,

the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States. To this day, the Alexandria Archaeological Commission remains a model for public archaeology in the country.

Over the past 50 years, more than 100 commissioners have served on the Alexandria Archaeological Commission. Working with city officials and staff, developers, homeowners, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and residents, the commission has unearthed and honored history in many ways, including by:

Advocating for the hiring of the first City Archaeologist and the creation of the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, which is today the most visited museum in the city and is nationally recognized for its pioneering work in urban archaeology.

Ensuring that the full history of Alexandria is told by supporting the creation of the African American Heritage Park and the preservation of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial.

Advising on the establishment of the Archaeological Protection Code that requires developers to adhere to archaeological preservation measures.

Developing plans for the interpretation of history and archaeology along Alexandria’s waterfront, including the remnants of four excavated 18th-century ship hulls and tens of thousands of artifacts that tell the story of commerce during the colonial era.

I join countless Virginians in recognizing the extraordinary vision of the residents of Alexandria and the city council in 1975 and the commitment today’s local leadership maintains to preserve Alexandria’s historic and cultural artifacts for future generations.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT W. FLEMING

• Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the late Robert Fleming of Minnesota. Robert passed away in Phoenix, AZ, at the age of 97 on July 31, 2025. He was chairman of the U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey committee for five Olympics, including the 1980 “Miracle on Ice” gold medal-winning team, and dedicated three decades of his life to the sport. He and the 1980 team were inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 2004. He brought a new awareness to hockey, and he developed youth and collegiate programs across the country, helped men’s and women’s teams perform on the international stage, and inspired generations of athletes.

Robert also had a rewarding career at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, where he worked for 43 years, eventually serving as the chief administrative officer for the Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation, where his work helped run a hospital that serves millions of patients. He was also president of the Medical Group Management Association and received the organization’s highest honor, the Harry J. Harwick Award.

He loved his cabin on Beaver Dam Lake in Wisconsin and was committed to making sure his kids and grandkids got excellent educations. Robert is survived by his wife Cynthia, as well as