

Barbara was raised in Casper by her parents Russell and Barbara Sage. As a fifth-generation Wyomingite, she developed strong ties to the community and State. In 1965, she graduated from Natrona County High School. She went on to earn a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Creighton University in Nebraska.

After graduation, Barbara worked as a social worker for senior citizens and disabled adults. She was also a substitute math and science teacher and a chemist for the Wyoming Machinery Company.

In 1975, she met and married William Frederick "Fritz" Cubin, M.D., a Casper physician. Together, they raised two sons William "Bill" and Eric. During this time, Barbara managed Fritz's medical practice. She also continued to be active in the community, participating in the local parent-teacher association and as a volunteer.

With her family's support, Barbara's political career began in 1986, when she was elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives. She represented Natrona County for 6 years. She later served in the Wyoming Senate from 1992 to 1994.

In 1994, Barbara successfully ran for Wyoming's at-large seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. As the Equality State, Wyoming is well-known for its notable, pioneering women. Barbara added her name to this list of trailblazing women by becoming the first woman to represent Wyoming in Congress.

She was sworn into the 104th U.S. Congress in January 1995. During her 14-year tenure, she served as the deputy majority whip, the secretary of the Republican Conference, and finally as the deputy Republican whip. She also served on the Commerce Committee—later renamed the Energy and Commerce Committee—and as the chair of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee.

Barbara cofounded the Congressional Mining Caucus, known today as the Congressional Western Caucus. Its members advocate for commonsense policies that promote domestic energy production and fight against Federal overreach.

In all ways, Barbara was pro-energy and pro-Wyoming. She championed legislation that reduced Federal royalties on soda ash production, increased the acreage limits on Federal sodium mines, and supported an "all of the above" national energy portfolio.

She also was passionate about preserving Wyoming's heritage. In 1998, she passed legislation establishing the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper. The center's free, interactive exhibits highlight the real-life stories of America's westward migration and how they defined Wyoming. Last November, I joined my congressional colleagues in introducing legislation to rename the center as the Barbara L. Cubin National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in her honor.

Barbara's final term ended in January 2009. I had the honor of working alongside her at the beginning of my first term in the U.S. Senate. It was a privilege to serve the people of Wyoming together.

On September 17, 2025, the Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming will host their 27th Annual Awards and Recognition Breakfast in Casper. This event will honor Barbara Cubin for her dedication and service to the State of Wyoming.

I am confident her family will join many others in celebrating her achievements. They include son Dr. Eric and Dr. Jonna Cubin, of Casper, and their children Barbara, Vivian, and Lily; son Bill and Jessica Cubin, of Casper, and their children Will and Reagan; as well as her late husband Fritz.

Barbara's selection as the Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming's 2025 Person of the Year is a fitting tribute to her decades of public service. A symbol of strength and perseverance, Barbara continues to make important contributions to her community. She lives by the principles of the Code of the West: living each day with courage and doing what needs to be done.

It is an honor to recognize Barbara Cubin for this honor and for her many years of public service.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, on Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was recovering from COVID and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 504, confirmation of the nomination of Edward Artau to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was recovering from COVID and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 505, confirmation of the nomination of Maria Lanahan to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was recovering from COVID and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 506, the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert Law to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was recovering from COVID and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 507, confirmation of the nomination of Robert Law to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was recovering from COVID and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 508, the motion to in-

voke cloture on the nomination of Kyle Dudek to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was recovering from COVID and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 509, confirmation of the nomination of Kyle Dudek to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was recovering from COVID and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 510, the motion to table the Schumer Point of Order related to S. Res. 377.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was recovering from COVID and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 511, the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider S. Res. 377.

#### TRIBUTE TO MELISSA APPLETON

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, today I am proud to celebrate Melissa Appleton, a true champion for children, families, and the future of post-permanency support. As a leader in the Post-Permanency Program at Lund, Melissa's impact on the lives of children and families in Vermont is truly unmatched.

With nearly two decades of experience providing exceptional post-permanency services, Melissa brings a rare combination of clinical expertise, ethical leadership, and compassionate advocacy to her work as Lund's post-permanency services coordinator. Her initiative, insight, and deep commitment to family-centered practices ensure that the Lund Post-Permanency Program remains a model of excellence.

Vermonters praise Melissa for the support and empowerment she provides. For that reason alone, she is a wonderful nominee for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Angels in Adoption honor. But it is also Melissa's extraordinary commitment to empowering diversity and inclusion through her work and at the recommendation of those who have witnessed her dedication that I submit her name for this honor today. Under Melissa's value-driven guidance, staff are encouraged to grow, reflect, and lead.

Melissa's tireless commitment to making life better for children in need is further evident in her advocacy to secure additional funding and support for the post-permanency programs in Vermont. She played an instrumental role in writing and securing a grant that will bring a dedicated clinician into the program to support children and families.

Vermonters like Melissa Appleton are at the heart of what makes our State so special and such a wonderful place to grow up and raise a family. She has truly raised the bar for what it

means to be a leader in providing exceptional post-permanency services. I cannot imagine a more qualified or more deserving individual to receive this year's Congressional Angel in Adoption Award on behalf of Vermont.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### RECOGNIZING THE 2025 INDUCTEES OF THE ARKANSAS BROADCASTERS HALL OF FAME

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of five distinguished Arkansans who have been selected for induction into the Arkansas Broadcasters Association—ABA—Hall of Fame. These individuals exemplify the highest standards of commitment and leadership across their industry, and their trusted voices have shaped the media landscape within the Natural State.

This year's inductees have made tremendous contributions to broadcasting that enriched countless communities. Former chief meteorologist at KTHV in Little Rock Ed Buckner's reliable forecasts and calming presence guided Arkansans through severe weather and everyday conditions alike. The owner of Bunyard Media Group and KDQN in DeQueen, Jay Bunyard's entrepreneurial spirit and passion for local radio have engaged communities across southwest Arkansas. A veteran broadcaster from Clinton, Sid King's decades-long career has informed, entertained and served generations of Arkansans. Bob Knight, former ABA president and KTLO Radio station head, pioneered local radio and news coverage in Mountain Home while also leading advocacy efforts that strengthened the industry statewide. Tom Nichols, the owner and operator of KVRE Radio in Hot Springs Village, dedicated his professional life to community-focused programming beginning in 1959 and continuing to serve listeners today.

These inductees reflect the diversity and excellence of Arkansas broadcasting, from television to radio and large markets to smalltown audiences. Their careers are defined not only by professional achievement but by a deep commitment to public service and community engagement.

I extend my sincere congratulations to each inductee and share our gratitude to their families, friends, and colleagues who help them tell the stories that have informed, educated, and connected with viewers and listeners over decades. Arkansans have been well served by their professionalism and skill.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERCY HOSPITAL IN ROGERS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate 75 years of dedicated

service to the people of northwest Arkansas by Mercy Hospital in my hometown of Rogers. For three-quarters of a century, Mercy Hospital has been a community pillar while providing high-quality care, compassion, and hope to countless families throughout the region.

Founded in 1950 as Rogers Memorial Hospital, this institution quickly grew from a small local facility into a regional leader in healthcare. Since then, it has remained committed to meeting the evolving needs of residents amid the area's drastic transformation, from joining the Sisters of Mercy Health System in 1995, to opening a modern facility in 2008 and now completing a \$247 million expansion featuring a seven-story medical tower. Mercy Hospital has consistently advanced the standard of care and strengthened access for individuals and families.

At the heart of Mercy Hospital's success are the physicians, nurses, staff, and volunteers whose dedication and compassion truly make a difference every day. Their work has touched countless lives, including my own when I experienced a medical emergency that required immediate, complex surgery. I am forever grateful for the exceptional and empathetic care I received and that I know numerous other families, neighbors, and loved ones also depend on.

Mercy Hospital has long extended its mission beyond clinical care, championing community health across northwest Arkansas. Through outreach programs, health education efforts, and strategic partnerships with local organizations, Mercy has worked tirelessly to ensure Arkansans have access to the tools and support they need to lead healthier lives. Its commitment to serving vulnerable populations and extending the reach of vital health information and support helps underpin the fabric of the region.

On this 75th anniversary, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire Mercy team. Thank you for your decades of service, and may the next 75 years be marked by continued growth, innovation, and fidelity that saves lives and improves health outcomes.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL WILLIAM "BILLY" BYRD

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, as our Nation and its allies mark the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day that formally ended World War II, it is with profound respect that I call attention to U.S. Marine Corps Corporal William "Billy" Byrd of Richland, MS, an American hero whose bravery at Iwo Jima exemplifies the highest ideals of American valor.

As a young rifleman in one of World War II's fiercest battles, Billy Byrd showed remarkable courage and resilience. Landing among the first waves on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, 18-year-old Billy and his fellow marines faced a determined enemy in what was

expected to be a short campaign. Instead, it became a grueling 36-day struggle, marked by staggering losses.

Despite the overwhelming odds and the constant threat of death, Billy and his fellow marines fought with unwavering courage, inching forward under fire. The capture of Mount Suribachi, immortalized in the iconic photograph of the flag raising, became a lasting symbol of hope amid the carnage.

Even after enduring the horrors of Iwo Jima and the loss of many comrades, Billy answered the call again, volunteering for service in the Korean war. His commitment speaks volumes about his character and devotion to our country.

Marine Corps veteran Billy Byrd, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on September 17, stands as a living testament to the strength, courage, and selflessness of the American fighting spirit. He represents the best of Mississippi and the best of America.

Like so many families in our great country, Billy's service was borne out of a fierce sense of patriotism. His father served in the Army in WWI, and all five Byrd brothers served in the military.

The anniversary of the formal end of the Second World War is a touching reminder of the hard-fought peace secured by brave Americans like Billy Byrd. And the legacy of their sacrifice endures in the freedoms that we enjoy today.

So it is more than appropriate that fellow veterans, family, friends, and others will celebrate Billy Byrd's 100th birthday on September 17 and honor his extraordinary life and service. While his beloved wife Louise is no longer with us, Billy's daughter Kristen will be there to help spread his story, which reminds us of the true cost of freedom and the lasting debt we owe to all who serve.

On behalf of the people of Mississippi, my Senate colleagues, and the entire Nation, I join in wishing Mr. Byrd a very happy 100th birthday. May his legacy continue to inspire generations with honor, courage, and unwavering dedication.

Let us all strive to live lives worthy of the sacrifices he and so many others made to protect our freedom.●

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHEYENNE CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

• Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, as our Nation gets closer to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it is essential that we acknowledge those who are playing a crucial role in the planning of this monumental celebration and to thank those who have helped guide us to this point. I am certainly looking forward to it, as I have very fond memories of our 200th anniversary in 1976 and believe the celebration next year will be an incredible showcase of our Nation's