

to know Charles both at his home on Indian Island in Maine and in Normandy at the 75th anniversary of D-Day; he was a world-class individual who brought honor to his home State, to his Tribe, to his family, and to the people of America. I know he will be missed by his many friends and admirers around the country, but especially on Indian Island. It is my privilege to share a little bit about him so that we may all honor and cherish his memory.

Charles was one of about 175 Native Americans who were among the 34,000 Allied troops who stormed the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944. He said that he had been “given a job” and that it was “up to [him] to complete [his] job.” Charles “did not have time to worry about [his] situation of being there and perhaps losing [his] life. There was no time for this.” On that day, Charles saved soldiers from drowning at Omaha Beach by turning them on their backs, dragging them ashore, and dressing their wounds. He said that “. . . I don’t know where my strength came from, but they say once the adrenaline starts flowing in your body, you can do unbelievable feats.”

After D-Day, Charles and his unit—the First Infantry Division, known as the Big Red One—participated in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest and the Battle of the Bulge. In March 1945, he and his squadron were captured by the Germans near Auel, Germany. He was held as a prisoner of war for several weeks at Stalag VI-G, until Americans liberated the camp in April 1945, eventually forcing Germany’s surrender the following month.

Unfortunately, as a Native American, Charles found few opportunities for work and faced outright discrimination when he returned home. Despite being a war hero with a Silver Star, Charles was turned away when he tried to vote in the fall of 1945, since Maine did not grant Native Americans the right to vote in Federal elections until 1954 and in State and local elections until 1967. Charles said later, “Well, there was just no chance for young American Indian boys to gain proper labor and earn a good job.” So, he re-enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Vienna as a medic with a military police unit. During the Korean war, he again saw combat, earning a Bronze Star. Charles retired with the rank of master sergeant in 1952.

While stationed in Vienna in 1950, Charles married Lilli Bellarth, a native of the city. They lived in the city for many years, and in 2003, they moved back to Indian Island. Charles spent his time promoting the culture and history of the Penobscot Tribe and was instrumental in the reprinting of his grandfather’s book, “The Life and Traditions of the Red Man.” Charles also successfully lobbied for a Maine law designating June 21 as Native American Veterans Day.

Charles first returned to Omaha Beach in 2007, and from 2018 until his passing, he lived nearby with his care-

taker, Marie-Pascale Legrand. For several years, Charles performed a sage-burning ceremony overlooking Omaha Beach to honor the dead. He said he moved to France to be close to his fallen brothers, saying, “I believe that I can talk with the souls of the men that are still wandering on the beach here. And I just tried to assure them that they are not forgotten.”

Today, a monument honoring Charles sits overlooking Omaha Beach, so even though Charles is no longer physically here to speak with the souls of his fallen brothers, I know his spirit remains with them, and his memory will live on for generations to come. I send my deepest condolences to Charles’ son and grandson, his family, and the entire Penobscot Nation. Maine and the Nation are better because of people like Charles and it is our honor to carry on his legacy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALINE ANDRES

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate Aline Andres, Ph.D., R.D., CLC, on her election to the National Academy of Medicine, one of the most prestigious distinctions in health and medicine. This recognition reflects not only Dr. Andres’ remarkable professional achievements, but also her deep commitment to improving the health and well-being of mothers and children in Arkansas and beyond.

Dr. Andres serves as professor and section chief of developmental nutrition within the department of pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and a project leader for the Arkansas Children’s Nutrition Center in Little Rock. Her work has placed Arkansas at the forefront of critical research into maternal and child health.

She is internationally regarded for her leadership understanding how exposures during pregnancy and lactation can influence outcomes. Through rigorously conducted randomized controlled trials of diet and lifestyle interventions in pregnant and lactating women, Dr. Andres has helped establish causal relationships that shape pregnancy outcomes, breast milk composition, and the programming of metabolic health in children. Her contributions are improving care, informing policy, and guiding future scientific discovery.

Beyond her research accomplishments, Dr. Andres is known for mentoring the next generation of scholars and health professionals. She brings exceptional thought and integrity to her work, ensuring her students and colleagues are equipped not only with technical expertise but also with the compassion essential for serving families. Her influence extends well beyond Arkansas as she collaborates with national and international partners who rely on her expertise.

Dr. Andres’ election to the National Academy of Medicine is a testament to her extraordinary contributions and her unwavering dedication to advancing maternal and child health. Her achievements are a source of tremendous pride to UAMS, the Arkansas Children’s Nutrition Center, and our entire State. We are pleased to celebrate her on this distinguished honor and her continued service to families and communities across the Nation. ●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH THOMPSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate Joseph W. Thompson, M.D., M.P.H., on his election to the National Academy of Medicine, one of the highest honors in health, medicine, and public health research. This recognition reflects Dr. Thompson’s decades of leadership and his enduring commitment to improving health outcomes for families across Arkansas and the Nation.

Dr. Thompson serves as president emeritus of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement and as a professor in the College of Medicine and Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. Throughout his career, he has been a driving force behind innovative, evidence-based improvements to the healthcare system. As Arkansas’ former surgeon general, he helped shape our State’s public health priorities and strengthened the foundation for statewide, data-driven health reform.

Among his many contributions, Dr. Thompson pioneered the design, implementation, and evaluation of episode-based and primary-care payment models that placed Arkansas at the forefront of value-based care. These efforts not only improved the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery within our State but also served as a model for similar reforms at the Federal level. His work has helped public policy to reflect the realities of patient needs and provider challenges as well as prioritize accountable, high-value care.

Dr. Thompson is also a national leader in health data integration, guiding efforts to connect and analyze information in ways that advance a continuously learning health system. His vision has strengthened Arkansas’ capacity to use data to improve population health, respond to emerging challenges, and support better decision-making across sectors. This work continues to serve as a benchmark for other States and organizations seeking to modernize health infrastructure. Additionally, he has been a dedicated mentor and collaborator whose passion for service, integrity, and innovation have earned him deep respect and gratitude.

Dr. Thompson’s election to the National Academy of Medicine is a well-deserved honor and positive reflection on UAMS, the Arkansas Center for

Health Improvement, and the people of the Natural State. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his distinguished service and this recognition of his lifetime contributions to public health and medicine.●

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILDREN'S CABINET

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a significant milestone for The Children's Cabinet, a nonprofit organization that has protected the safety and well-being of countless children in Nevada for the last 40 years. Founded in Reno, The Children's Cabinet has since grown to provide community-based support across all corners of the State to ensure children and families have the resources they need to succeed and thrive. I have appreciated our strong partnership over the years to improve the lives of Nevada families.

Intending to create a high-level "cabinet" of community leaders across Washoe County, Nevada businessman Michael Dermody brought together a diverse group of public officials and business professionals to create The Children's Cabinet in 1985. Together, that group worked to lay the foundation for an organization now serving over 15,000 families each year across southern and northern Nevada.

A key factor in The Children's Cabinet's success is their unique structure built on numerous public-private partnerships across the State. Today's partners range from State and local government entities to academic institutions, charities, and private nonprofit organizations. These collaborative efforts aid The Children's Cabinet in identifying the most pressing issues facing Nevada's children and families and swiftly developing programs to address a wide range of challenges over the years.

The Children's Cabinet serves as an incredible resource to our community as their programming features everything from parenting classes, childcare subsidy assistance and referrals, an on-site food pantry, an alternative high school, free family counseling, legal case management, workforce development, and crisis intervention. Their programs touch the full spectrum of economic, social, and educational needs and are available to children and families at no cost.

The Children's Cabinet also offers Safe Place, a 24/7 service for youth experiencing violence, abuse, exploitation, mental health crises, and other unsafe situations. Safe Place staff connect vulnerable youth to resources they need, including counseling, temporary shelter, and case management services. The Children's Cabinet also provides tools for adults so they can identify and help youth struggling with depression, addiction, and crises. These supports are critical when families too often face obstacles in accessing mental health care.

In addition to providing direct support to children and families, the organization's many programs also assist child care providers and employers across the State in ensuring they can offer the services and flexibilities that allow parents and caregivers to be there for their children—and those programs have continued to grow. Earlier this year, The Children's Cabinet launched the Pathways to Program Success initiative to equip Nevada's childcare providers with guidance to build sustainable childcare programs with a strong workforce of early childhood educators that serve children from all backgrounds. This is just one of many examples over the years of The Children's Cabinet's comprehensive approach to filling in gaps for Nevada families.

What started as a group of local community leaders who identified a gap in support has evolved into a statewide organization powered by the many staff, volunteers, and partners who have continued to go the extra mile to provide essential services to families in need. I am proud of the work The Children's Cabinet has done over the last 40 years to ensure every Nevadan has the resources they need to build a strong foundation for their family's future. I look forward to their continued work for decades to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA MITCHELL

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today, with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO, Representative MIKE SIMPSON, and Representative RUSS FULCHER, to recognize the retirement of Sandra Mitchell, a remarkable leader and advocate whose 50 years of dedicated public service have enriched the lives of Idahoans and our State's natural landscapes.

Sandra began her career in 1975 as the manager of Congressman, and later U.S. Senator, Steve Symms' Lewiston office, where she worked for 12 years. In 1994, she accepted a role with Joe Scott and the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation to focus on enhancing visitor access to Idaho's public lands and waters.

Throughout her career, Sandra has demonstrated exceptional leadership. As the executive director of the Hells Canyon Alliance and Public Lands Director for the Idaho State Snowmobile Association, she has been a tireless advocate for outdoor recreation. Her involvement with the Southwest Idaho Regional Advisory Council, the Southwest Idaho Basin Advisory Group, the North American Motorized Recreation Coalition, and the Hells Canyon Subgroup reflects her commitment to balanced and sustainable policies. Additionally, as a Blue Ribbon Coalition board member, Sandra continues to champion the rights of outdoor enthusiasts across Idaho.

Sandra's research on snowmobile and wolverine interactions played a crucial role in documenting data that informs

State policy decisions. Her work on off-highway vehicle activity and the impacts to sage grouse populations showcases her dedication to both recreation and wildlife conservation. She is quick to adapt and offer innovative solutions, as illustrated by her contributions to nonmotorized and E-bike trails in the evolving landscape of outdoor recreation.

Sandra Mitchell embodies the spirit of Idaho through her dedication to our values, communities, and outdoor spaces. Her hard work and advocacy have significantly shaped the recreational landscape of our State, ensuring future generations can enjoy Idaho's natural beauty.

It is with great pride that we recognize Sandra for her outstanding contributions and wish her the best in her well-earned retirement. Thank you, Sandra, for your exemplary service and commitment to making Idaho a better place for all.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3385. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit.

S. 3386. A bill to provide a health savings account contribution to certain enrollees, to reduce health care costs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1949. An act to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3385, S. 3386, and H.R. 1949

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3385) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit.

A bill (S. 3386) to provide a health savings account contribution to certain enrollees, to reduce health care costs, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 1949) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9; that following the