

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR PATIENT PARTNERSHIPS

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the Center for Patient Partnerships on its 25th anniversary. I am pleased to honor this organization and to commemorate this historic milestone.

Founded in 2000 by Meg Gaines, a law professor and cancer survivor, the Center for Patient Partnerships was built on the belief that we must work together to transform healthcare for all. For 25 years, the Center for Patient Partnerships has advanced a vision of patients working in partnership with medical and legal professionals in the fight for patient advocacy.

The Center for Patient Partnerships serves those with life-threatening and chronic illnesses by providing a full range of advocacy services. It helps patients navigate complex healthcare systems through personalized support in order to better understand their treatment options and access necessary medical and legal resources.

For 25 years now, the Center for Patient Partnerships has supported thousands of patients, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and guidance necessary to make informed decisions about their care.

In addition to individual services, the Center for Patient Partnerships is helping shape the future of healthcare through education. Offering training programs that bring together law, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy students, these programs give students the skills needed to become compassionate advocates and professionals in healthcare. This model has established the organization as a national leader in patient-centered education and advocacy.

The Center for Patient Partnerships also contributes to research and policy efforts aimed at improving healthcare delivery and patient-centered care. Its work focuses on consumer engagement and systemic reform to influence how healthcare systems respond to the patient needs.

As we recognize the Center for Patient Partnerships, we also honor the leadership of Meg Gaines, whose work has transformed countless lives and inspired a new generation of advocates. I am grateful for the center's continued service to patients and their commitment to strengthening our healthcare system. I look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING DIVERSIFIED ENERGY

• Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize an important milestone for a crucial leader in American energy, Diversified Energy, as they celebrate 25 years in business. During this quarter-century, Diversified Energy has grown into a powerful

example of American innovation and energy production.

Back in 2001, Rusty Hutson bought a single gas well in West Virginia. His vision and execution turned that one well into what Diversified Energy is today, an industry leader that continues to set an example for others to follow. As President Trump's energy dominance agenda advances, it is imperative that we champion strong producers that promote responsible, forward-looking operations that prioritize providing Americans with affordable and abundant energy resources.

Diversified Energy has built its reputation on this approach. By utilizing existing fossil fuel infrastructure in areas once thought depleted, the company has continued to meet demand in a dependable and efficient manner while keeping environmental responsibility front and center. Diversified Energy has effectively demonstrated that successful operations and responsible stewardship can go hand in hand. By incorporating modern monitoring systems and the latest in methane reduction infrastructure, Diversified Energy has taken meaningful steps to reduce its impact on the environment while continuing to unleash America's energy capabilities. As we continue to strengthen American energy independence and dominance, a long-term strategy like this is essential.

Above all, Diversified Energy's success is rooted in its unwavering commitment to safety. The company has fostered a culture of safety where protecting its workforce and communities it serves is paramount. Through sustained investment and adherence to rigorous safety standards, Diversified has ensured that its operation are not only productive but also responsible and secure.

Over the last 25 years, Diversified Energy has created jobs, strengthened local economies, and facilitated energy abundance that Americans depend on each and every day. Milestones like this are a testament to the importance of resilience, trust, and the dedicated individuals who make this success possible.

I am pleased to recognize Diversified Energy on this 25th anniversary and commend its continued leadership in advancing responsible energy production, driving innovation, and supporting American energy dominance for years to come.●

RECOGNIZING MILL CREEK CAFE

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Mill Creek Cafe of Cedar County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2010 by Jamie Wilhau and Marcia Syring, Mill Creek Cafe is a welcoming, locally owned spot where

the Clarence community gathers over quality, home-cooked meals. Over the years, this woman-owned small business has grown into a hub for families, friends, and neighbors, known for its consistency, hospitality, and made-from-scratch dishes.

The cafe offers a wide variety of dining options on a rotating 6-week menu, including sandwiches, soups, salads, and desserts with daily specials displayed on a restored schoolhouse chalkboard. Out of the many delicious choices, in typical Iowa fashion, the tenderloin is easily the crowd favorite.

In addition to their work at Mill Creek Cafe, Jamie and Marcia also run an event management business together at their Highpoint Event Center venue that includes catering services and on-site overnight accommodation. They are actively engaged members of Clarence Main Street and the Cedar County Economic Development Group, where they support local economic growth and strengthen the small business community by hosting fundraising meals that benefit local businesses and schools. Through this involvement, they continue to invest in the long-term vitality of Main Street while preserving the character of their community by hosting fundraising meals that benefit local businesses and schools.

Mill Creek Cafe has earned statewide recognition, representing Cedar County on a list of 99 Must Try Iowa Restaurants, as well as the Warren Coleman Honorary Award from the Stanwood Lions Club for their exceptional catering services. Beyond accolades for their dining service, Jamie and Marcia also received the Friends of Iowa Renovation Award for their event venue.

Run solely by Jamie and Marica from the beginning, their business supports the home-style dining needs of Iowans while contributing to the vibrancy of Clarence and the broader Cedar County area. Mill Creek Cafe exemplifies the spirit of American entrepreneurship through its commitment to service and community.

I am pleased to recognize Jamie Wilhau and Marcia Syring from Mill Street Cafe for their dedication to Cedar County. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING ZEB'S SMOKEHOUSE

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Zeb's Smokehouse of Taylor County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

After moving back home to Bedford, IA, Zeb Schuelke and his wife Andrea converted a vacant building into a meat processing facility. Zeb's Smokehouse was officially opened just in time for hunting season in 2015. Starting as a dream, the small wild game

processing operation soon grew as farmers, hunters, and families across the country relied on a butcher they could trust.

Today, Zeb's Smokehouse offers custom meat and wild game processing, retail cuts of locally raised beef and pork, and an exclusive farm to table service. Zeb's brings a refrigerated reefer trailer straight to the farm to harvest the beef or pork. The animal is processed on the property, then taken back to the locker to be finished. By working directly with area farmers and livestock producers, the shop connects customers with food raised close to home and helps keep Iowa's agricultural traditions strong.

Over the past decade, Zeb's Smokehouse has expanded its product range and now distributes smoked meats and specialty products through additional retail outlets throughout the country. In 2023 and 2025, Zeb's was the winner of the Best of Southwest Iowa Best Meat Locker Award. I have been delighted to see how this team worked together to serve their community and continue the success of Zeb's Smokehouse.

Zeb's Smokehouse is a proud member of the Bedford Chamber of Commerce, and Andrea has participated in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program in Iowa, a nationally recognized initiative that champions entrepreneurship and small business growth. Beyond serving local farmers and customers, Zeb's processes wild game for hunters and donates venison to help feed families in need. Their commitment to community runs deep: from contributing to charity auctions to raising money for cancer patients and participating in other local initiatives. In communities like Bedford, businesses such as Zeb's Smokehouse do more than process meat; they help neighbors fill their freezers, support local producers, and preserve traditions that have been part of rural life for generations.

I am pleased to recognize Zeb and Andrea Schuelke, along with the entire team at Zeb's Smokehouse, for their dedication to Taylor County and beyond. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

REMEMBERING JOHN HENRY CASHWELL III

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to take a few minutes to remember and celebrate the life of John Henry Cashwell III, one of my oldest friends and a great friend to Maine.

John passed away on November 24, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love for his family, for our country, for the communities where he lived and served, and also for our great forests.

All who knew John will remember him for his thick New England accent, his unyielding candor, his brilliant and at times irreverent sense of humor, and a warmth of heart that made him an

instant friend to all, especially the disadvantaged and those in need of a little extra encouragement and confidence.

John loved his daughters Morgan and Mollie, and he raised them as the proverbial "acorns that didn't fall far from the tree." Each is a strong, virtuous, and independent-minded woman who is not afraid to do hard things and to put their shoulders to worthy causes. I know this firsthand because Morgan served as my legislative director and helped me through some tough moments, most especially the "Christmas Miracle" that saved our lobster industry from death by regulation several years ago.

He loved his grandchildren and made sure they knew it. As a father and grandfather, he instilled in his family laughter, belonging, and the belief that they could do anything they put their mind to.

John was a devoted husband to his wife of 42 years, Julie Norton. John demonstrated his determination and unique power of persuasion by asking his future father-in-law for Julie's hand while taking him on a helicopter ride. Looking out the window at 1,500 feet, Julie's father felt that a positive response to John's request was prudent. John and Julie made their first home in Calais, ME, in a house they built in a blueberry field and where their daughters were born. John and Julie were devoted to each other and their daughters and filled their home life with adventure, friends, and a respect and awe for the wonders of nature.

John was a patriot to his country. He served as an Army helicopter pilot during two tours of Vietnam delivering provisions and ammunition wherever they were needed, evacuating wounded soldiers, and eventually commanding the air as a gunship pilot with the call sign "Stingray 56." John's service was fearless and heroic. He courageously logged 1,800 combat hours in his second tour of duty, earning him two silver stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Army Soldier's Medal, a Bronze Star, the National Defense Service Medal, 44 Air Medals, a Purple Heart, and the Army Good Conduct Medal. John was and will always be remembered with gratitude by the many who owe their lives and posterity to him.

John was a civil servant who cared for the people and places in which he lived. He served on the city council and eventually mayor of Calais, where he worked tirelessly to improve the quality of the community and quality of life of its citizens. John befriended those he served and made them lifelong friends. After moving to Bangor, John became a member of the city council and soon chaired that council, where he helped make performing arts, entertainment, and the Bangor waterfront more vibrant and available to all.

To those who knew him professionally, John was always the champion of the forest. John received his forestry degree in 1979 and used it for

the ensuing 46 years to steward the forests of Maine. Using his piloting skills, John fought fire, fertilized trees, protected forest health, restocked rivers with salmon, and ensured our forests were managed sustainably for future generations. John served as director of the Maine Forest Service, where he led the drafting and passage of the Maine Forest Practices Act and modernized the State's fire control air fleet. He later led the Seven Island Lands Company and BBC Land, LLC. One of John's forest legacies was helping the Pingree family and New England Forestry Foundation create the largest conservation easement in the country. John's leadership in forestry earned him the prestigious Albert D. Nutting Award from the Maine Forest Products Council, recognizing his many contributions to sustainable forest management and environmental stewardship.

John leaves behind a legacy that will bless the citizens of Maine for generations. He always said that "he was what he was." To those who knew him best, he was a "hero's hero." We honor that heroism today as we pay tribute to John for a life lived well in the service of his family, our Nation, and the friends, communities, and forests he loved.●

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL ANDY McDUFFIE

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, the days following 9/11 were a scary time for our country and world. Yet even in those dangerous times, many brave young men and women ran toward danger, instead of away from it. That is true for U.S. Marine Corps CPL Andy McDuffie of Dothan. Andy was a junior in high school when the Twin Towers fell. He felt it was his duty to join the Marines to defend our country and deployed to the Middle East shortly after his high school graduation in 2003.

Andy loved being part of his high school football team and joining the military gave him the opportunity to be part of a team with a deeper meaning. He served as the squad leader of four units that acted as security for Navy EOD units, better known as the "bomb squad." They performed many successful missions and saved many lives by securing the areas so that bombs could be defused. In 2006, Andy was on a routine mission when an IED blast was set off, killing multiple of his team members, who had become like brothers to him. Andy also sustained serious wounds to his right arm, ending his plans of having a career in the military.

After medically retiring from the Marine Corps, Andy went back to school and graduated from Troy University. As Andy healed from his injury, he also battled with survivor's guilt. He rededicated his life to Christ and set out to help other veterans in the Wiregrass. Through his involvement with Jeep Sullivan's Wounded