

counting of ballots in Federal elections, I would have voted nay.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 97, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Hawley amendment No. 4794; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to extending the prohibition on Medicaid payments to abortion providers, I would have voted nay.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 98, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Markey amendment No. 5001; To create a point of order against legislation that would not decrease home electricity bills, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 99, Paul amendment No. 5378; To reduce new budget authority for functions 150, 250, 500, and 600 in order to offset \$70,000,000,000 of new spending by cutting \$45,000,000,000 of foreign aid, eliminating \$5,000,000,000 in refugee spending, cutting \$16,000,000,000 from the Department of Education, and cutting \$4,000,000,000 of National Science Foundation funding, I would have voted nay.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 100, Merkley amendment No. 5235; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the impacts of hedge fund ownership of single-family homes and rent prices, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 101, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Sanders amendment No. 5159; To reduce the price of prescription drugs in the United States by more than 50 percent by adopting Most Favored Nation drug pricing so that the American people pay no more for prescription drugs than Europeans or Canadians, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 102, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Padilla amendment No. 4855; To create a point of order against reconciliation legislation that would provide funding to Federal agencies that have unobligated funds from previous reconciliation bills, I would have yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 103, Wyden amendment No. 5336; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study related to economic consequences of private or confidential drug pricing agreements struck by any Federal department, agency, or office with any pharmaceutical manufacturer, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 104, Schiff amendment No. 5333; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the obligation of amounts appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out the public assistance and hazard mitigation programs, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 105, S. Con. Res. 33, As Amended; A

concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035, I would have voted nay.

REMEMBERING DIRK KEMP THORNE

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER to honor the life and legacy of our dear friend Dirk Kempthorne, who recently lost his hard-fought battle with cancer.

Few individuals have devoted more of their lives to serving their community than Dirk Kempthorne. From his first elected office, student body president at the University of Idaho, it was clear that Dirk was a true statesman who was born to serve. Over the decades that followed, Idahoans repeatedly put their trust in him, electing Dirk as mayor of Boise, U.S. Senator, and ultimately as Governor. In each role, Dirk carried that trust with humility and purpose, always putting the needs and hopes of Idahoans first.

As the 51st mayor of Boise, Dirk led Idaho's capital city through a transformation period. Following decades of uncertainty, demolition of historic buildings, and stalled development, Dirk brought people together to chart a new course. Under his steady, locally driven leadership, Boise experienced unprecedented job growth and the revitalization of infrastructure and commerce. Dirk's tenure led to many of the Boise landmarks residents and visitors know today, including the Grove Plaza, Boise Centre, and the Wells Fargo Building.

Dirk carried that same approach to the U.S. Senate after his election in 1992. Dirk quickly made his mark in Congress, recognized by then-Majority Leader Bob Dole as "one of the Senate's rising young stars." While in DC, Dirk advocated for Idaho and the West on several key committees, including Armed Services, Small Business, and Environment and Public Works.

He also authored and passed several important pieces of legislation, including the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, which provided much-needed relief for State and local governments burdened by Federal regulations. Equally significant was his leadership in writing the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, a bipartisan effort that passed the Senate unanimously and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. The legislation, which gave local communities and water systems the flexibility to meet local needs while protecting public health, was drafted in collaboration with officials from all levels of government, water providers, public health experts, and environmental advocates. It was emblematic of Dirk's unique ability to build consensus and deliver real results.

Dirk returned home after one term and was elected Idaho's 30th Governor

in a decisive victory. As Governor, he built upon the strong foundation set by his predecessor and mentor Phil Batt and guided Idaho into the era of prosperity and resilience we enjoy today. Dirk prioritized the responsible stewardship of Idaho's natural resources, establishing the department of environmental quality and office of species conservation. He also secured the then largest ever appropriation for our State parks and developed wolf and grizzly bear management plans, balancing States' rights and proven, community-based solutions.

Governor Kempthorne also championed the historic GARVEE bond program, delivering unprecedented funding toward long-overdue transportation improvements across the State. At the same time, Dirk implemented numerous economic development and education efforts, including an initiative focused on ensuring every Idaho child could read at grade level by the third grade.

In addition to his many legislative successes, Dirk was pivotal to leading Idaho and her people through the economic recession of the early 2000s and the aftermath of 9-11 with steadiness and compassion.

In 2006, Dirk was once again called to serve his country when President George W. Bush appointed him as the 49th U.S. Secretary of the Interior. There, Dirk brought Idaho's common sense and shared values to the executive branch. He spearheaded the Department's work to ensure America's public lands were preserved and managed wisely, balancing conservation with the needs of the communities that depended on them. As he had done throughout his life, Dirk prioritized collaboration and local input, particularly when it came to forest health, species management, and wildfire prevention. Dirk's dedication to the outdoors continued to his last day, through his support for the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise and The Peregrine Fund.

Another core pillar of Dirk's leadership was his steadfast advocacy for the men and women of our armed services. Most recently, Dirk had devoted his talents to initiatives supporting the families of servicemembers, like Operation Military Blessings, and the commissioning of the USS *Idaho*. Dirk's leadership on the USS *Idaho* Commissioning Committee helped ensure not only the success of the ship but also raised enough to provide scholarships to every crew member and their family for the life of the ship.

It is only right that his incredible legacy will live on in the heart of the USS *Idaho*, its engine room, which is named in his honor and bears a plaque reading: "The Honorable Dirk A. Kempthorne, A Driving Force for the Great State of Idaho, Whose Legacy Endures, Above and Below the Waves."

Idahoans owe a debt of gratitude to Dirk Kempthorne for a lifetime spent shaping what he called the "43rd star

in the galaxy of states that make up the greatest nation in the world.” As we mourn this remarkable leader, we pray for Dirk’s loved ones, including his children Heather and Jeff, and his bride of nearly 50 years, Patricia. We were all honored to know Dirk and to have served alongside him. Dirk was our friend, a dedicated public servant, and advocate for Idaho, our veterans, our great outdoors, and more. He will be dearly missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BRIGHT MINDS ACADEMY OF HAYS, KANSAS

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Bright Minds Academy of Hays, KS, in celebration of National Small Business Week and to commend its nomination as the 2026 Kansas Rural Small Business of the Year.

Since 1963, National Small Business Week has highlighted the essential role of small businesses in driving economic growth and creating jobs in communities across our Nation. Every year, the U.S. Small Business Administration honors businesses that exemplify innovation, resilience, and a commitment to service.

Founded by Nick and Andrea Felder, Bright Minds Academy has become a trusted provider of early childhood education for families in Hays. As parents themselves, they were inspired to open a childcare center to support children’s learning and serve the needs of working families in their community.

From its beginnings as a single childcare center, Bright Minds Academy now spans multiple locations across Hays, a reflection of its steady leadership. Today, it employs approximately 100 staff and is licensed to care for over 300 children.

Bright Minds Academy is dedicated to providing a safe, fun, and nurturing environment for infants and young children. Their mission to provide high-quality care and education ensures that Kansas children have a strong foundation for success in the future.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bright Minds Academy for its service to Kansas families and communities and in congratulating Nick and Andrea Felder on this well-deserved honor.●

RECOGNIZING BROKEN BOWL CATERING

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am proud to honor Broken Bowl Catering in New Plymouth as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for April 2026.

Jacob Bybee began Broken Bowl Catering in the spring of 2018. At just 14 years old, Jacob fell in love with culinary arts and always dreamed his path would lead to traditional restaurant ownership. After graduating from high school, a job offer with a Utah-based catering group gave him the opportunity to follow his passion and create an elevated experience for customers.

Today, Broken Bowl Catering takes pride in playing a role in many of life’s most important moments. Whether Idahoans are celebrating an anniversary or new beginning, Jacob and his team strive to provide high-quality and special experiences for all. Their commitment to exceptional food and service is shown through their control, clarity, and trust when working with clients behind the scenes.

The name Broken Bowl comes from a story of faith that inspired Jacob during a challenging period. In the story, a follower faces a setback when his bow breaks, seemingly a final straw, but the follower turns to prayer, relying on his faith. Jacob has found himself in a similar place, and while he has never broken a bow, he has certainly broken a few bowls—each broken bowl representing lessons learned through adversity, shaping both him and his business.

Congratulations to Jacob and the Broken Bowl Catering team on being recognized as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for April 2026. Your dedication to excellence makes Idaho proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO GAIGE HOMER

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Gaige Homer for his hard work as an intern in my Bozeman, MT, office this spring.

Gaige is a native of Truckee, CA. He currently attends Montana State University, where he is studying to obtain a degree in political science. Gaige has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana.

I want to thank Gaige for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this spring, and I look forward to having him join us in our Washington, DC, office for an internship this summer.●

TRIBUTE TO JOE McDONNELL

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Joe McDonnell for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this spring.

Joe is a native of Ridgewood, NJ. He attends Wake Forest University, where he is studying to obtain degrees in anthropology and classical languages. Joe has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation’s Capital.

I want to thank Joe for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this spring, and I wish him all the best as he continues to build a bright future for himself.●

TRIBUTE TO AVA NORTHRUP

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Ava Northrup for her hard work as an intern in my Bozeman, MT, office this spring.

Ava is a native of Leavenworth, WA. She currently works as a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service and obtained a degree in political science from Montana State University. Ava has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana.

I want to thank Ava for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this spring, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO MADISON SPEAR

• Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Madison Spear for her hard work as an intern in my Missoula, MT, office this spring.

Madison is a native of Missoula, MT. She currently owns her own photography and bookkeeping businesses. She attended University of Montana where she obtained her associate of arts degree. Madison has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana.

I want to thank Madison for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this spring, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD CHILDRESS

• Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Richard Childress, a North Carolina native, NASCAR Hall of Fame team owner, and a leader whose impact reaches far beyond the racetrack.

From humble beginnings, Mr. Childress built Richard Childress Racing into one of the most respected organizations in motorsports, creating jobs for hundreds of North Carolinians and competing at the highest levels of the sport. He has led his teams to more than 200 victories and 17 championships, including 6 with the legendary Dale Earnhardt, and helped shape NASCAR into what it is today.

What stands out most about Richard Childress is how he has used that success to support others, especially those