

gift comes a responsibility to help others." As new citizens, you gain rights that people around the world long for—the right to vote, to serve on a jury, and to run for local office, as well as the full protections of our Constitution and laws. But these rights carry responsibilities. Our democracy depends on citizens who stay informed, who speak up, who serve their communities, who defend justice, and who treat others with dignity and respect—even when we disagree; especially when we disagree. You will strengthen your neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and places of worship. You will enrich our culture, our economy, and our democracy. In doing so, you join generations of immigrants who have renewed and redefined what America can be.

We are a nation of immigrants. I am deeply honored to have shared this ceremony with you. What a privilege it is to welcome you as the newest citizens of the United States. This nation is stronger, richer, and more complete because you are now a part of it.

Congratulations—and welcome home.

STACEY D. NEUMANN,

*U.S. District Court Judge for the District of  
Maine.*

#### REMEMBERING DANIEL "DAN" BICE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Daniel "Dan" Bice, a powerful force in Wisconsin journalism and politics who worked as a political reporter and columnist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for 33 years. For Dan, no one was too powerful or off-limits from his reporting, and Wisconsinites are better for the coverage and his pursuit of the truth. Our community mourns his loss, and his contributions will be remembered for generations to come.

Dan was a native of West Virginia and studied ancient Greek and English at Bryan College before receiving a master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago. After spending time as a journalist in Florida and West Virginia, Dan took a job at the Milwaukee Sentinel, where he would go on to spend 33 years conducting award-winning journalism and political reporting.

A few years after the Milwaukee Sentinel and the Milwaukee Journal merged to become The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Dan teamed up with Cary Pivak, another reporter at the paper, to head a new watchdog column where the pair earned the nickname "The Spice Boys." Their work for the column earned it the prestigious National Headliner award for its "first-rate reporting with an attitude."

Dan's writing was known for its mix of humor and humility, but also for his efforts to uncover stories on both sides of the political aisle. His column "No Quarter" has been published since 2007 and is known for its investigative watchdog reporting on scandals, political figures, and campaigns.

Dan built a reputation as a force to be reckoned with in Wisconsin politics. His work will undoubtedly leave an empty space in Wisconsin's political environment and in our hearts. I have no doubt that his undying dedication

to the truth will continue to inspire new generations of journalists for years to come. I share my deepest condolences with his family, friends, and colleagues at the Journal Sentinel.

#### REMEMBERING JOANNE BLAND

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor civil rights activist and icon Joanne Bland. Ms. Bland was only 11 years old when Bloody Sunday occurred in her hometown of Selma, AL, and one of the youngest people to join the historic 1965 Voting Rights March from Selma to Alabama's capital of Montgomery.

I was honored to meet Ms. Bland in 2005, when I joined her and hundreds of others during an early Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage, led by the late Representative John Lewis of Georgia, to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma on the anniversary of Bloody Sunday. We later interacted frequently during her visits to Wisconsin.

Those of us in Wisconsin were privileged to enjoy a special relationship with Ms. Bland. Beginning 25 years ago, after participating in a presentation called "Milwaukee: the Selma of the North," she traveled to campuses and communities throughout Wisconsin dozens of times to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the contemporary meanings of the movement for voting rights. She established ongoing relationships with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Beloit College, sharing her work and story with countless students. In turn, many of these students spent time in Selma to help her build the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute. Ms. Bland was the institution's first director.

Ms. Bland's dedication to activism in her civil and human rights work touched the lives of her community in Selma and far beyond. She grew up in segregated Selma, where she witnessed and participated in some of our Nation's most monumental civil rights battles. Committed to nonviolent civil disobedience—a hallmark of the civil rights movement led, in part, by her teacher and mentor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—she was arrested for the first time at just 8 years old. By the time she reached 11 years old, she had been arrested a further 13 times in pursuit of civil rights.

Throughout her life, Ms. Bland remained a fearless advocate for racial justice and a pillar of Selma's community. She served in the Army and graduated with a bachelor of arts from the College of Staten Island. She was an educator and historian of the Selma March and cofounded the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in 1993, where she stressed the idea that the history of civil rights is not just Black history, but American history. A central tenet of this work was her belief that history had all too often rendered invisible the untold stories of countless women and children who had

been at the core of the March and that these stories now needed to be told. The museum she helped build was grounded in the grassroots, and to this day, the museum has been able to operate for more than three decades without a major Federal funding grant.

More recently, she launched Foot Soldiers Park which, to her, was "more than a memorial." She saw it as a space where young people could come together to learn about history, art, music, and leadership to invest in their own dreams. In 2010, she created her own touring agency, Journeys of the Soul, to teach the public about the history of the civil rights movement with a focus on Selma, AL. In 2015, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary march jubilee, she organized a panel in which now elderly footsoldiers who had been teens in 1965 came into dialogue with the teens of today. It was her way of reminding these young people of the important role they must now play at a time when voting rights are being threatened again as never before. Ms. Bland's passion for educating her community will impact Selma and the Nation for years to come.

Ms. Bland's life work of activism and education towards a better America will be remembered in all our hearts. As a lifelong civil rights leader, her impact on Selma and beyond will continue through the institutions she has built and will be felt beyond her passing. Ms. Bland has taught us the value of giving back to our community and investing in future generations. I am honored to join our community in celebrating her life defined by her love and dedication to this country. We recognize and honor her extraordinary contributions not only to Alabama, but to the greater civil rights movement and fight for racial equality.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD RITTER

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Richard Ritter, a true patriot who has dedicated more than 55 years of service to this country, first as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force and later as a civil servant and Senior Executive Service leader with the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, and the Missile Defense Agency.

A native of New York City, Mr. Ritter graduated from Manhattan College with a degree in electrical engineering, earned a master of science from New York University, and entered Active Duty in 1971 as an engineering officer. Over a distinguished 27-year Air Force career, he served in a range of critical roles, including systems engineering, telecommunications leadership in Germany, and strategic analysis of command, control, and reconnaissance systems.

In 1990, Mr. Ritter was assigned to the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, later the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, where he led theater missile defense systems integration and battle management, command, control, and communications efforts across the Department of Defense and with allied partners. Following his military service, he continued this work as a civilian, serving in senior engineering and leadership roles responsible for system integration, interoperability, and architecture development for the Nation's missile defense programs.

At the Missile Defense Agency, Mr. Ritter served as deputy program manager and later program director for Command and Control, Battle Management, and Communications, C2BMC, where his leadership was instrumental in establishing a global, integrated network supporting the Missile Defense System. There, he helped build a system that integrates data from sensors across 19 time zones and in orbit, providing real-time situational awareness and coordination to combatant commanders. His direction to deliver enhanced command-and-control capabilities and critical system updates directly increased weapon system effectiveness and contributed to the operational success of the Missile Defense System, helping to strengthen the protection of the United States and its allies.

Mr. Ritter also played a key role in deploying forward-based radar systems and missile defense capabilities across Europe, the Indo-Pacific, and the Middle East, strengthening coordination with allies and expanding the reach of U.S. missile defense. His work advanced space-based sensing, communications, and tracking capabilities and supported the development of integrated, multi-domain missile defense architectures that remain vital to our national security.

Mr. Ritter's leadership and technical expertise have left an indelible mark on the Missile Defense Agency and on the Nation's defense. As he prepares for a well-earned retirement, I thank him for his commitment, perseverance, and dedication to the United States of America. I wish him the very best in the years ahead.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANDREA YOUNG

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Andrea Young, a daughter of Georgia, upon her retirement as a transformational executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia.

As the daughter of civil rights icon Andrew Young and international children's advocate and civil rights activist Jean Childs Young, Andrea Young continues their legacy by living a life dedicated to public service. During her nearly 10-year tenure leading the ACLU of Georgia, her quest for a more perfect union produced a record of

achievement and fighting the good and necessary fights, even when success was not always possible.

Early in her career, Ms. Young was a legislative staffer for Senator Edward Kennedy. She served as floor manager and successfully fought the filibuster intended to derail the passage of legislation establishing the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. She also accompanied Senator Kennedy to South Africa during apartheid and played a key role in legislation that established economic sanctions against the apartheid regime. She later served as chief of staff to the first African-American woman elected to U.S. Congress from the State of Georgia. As chief of staff for a newly created congressional district, she developed a staff and legislative priorities, district offices, and constituent services.

Before joining the ACLU of Georgia, she also created the operational structure of the Andrew Young Foundation, including initial staff and policy directives. Later, she served as adjunct professor teaching leadership courses at Morehouse College, the alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Georgia State University. She has also authored and contributed to several books, including "Life Lessons My Mother Taught Me," "An Easy Burden: The Civil Rights Movement and the Transformation of America," and "Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta."

Andrea Young became executive director of the ACLU of Georgia in 2017, at a time when it had a full-time staff of two. Under her leadership, the organization was transformed into a fully staffed, statewide civil liberties organization that has not only improved communities across all of Georgia but also Americans across the country.

She brought a steady, disciplined approach to the work, aligning litigation, policy, communications, and community engagement strategies so the organization could respond clearly and consistently to challenges facing the State and country.

During her tenure, Georgia was at the center of some of the most consequential civil liberties fights in the country. For example, she led the organization through major legal battles, including the successful challenge to Georgia's abortion ban, and stood firm in defending the right to protest and opposing efforts to criminalize peaceful assembly.

Her greatest priority was protecting voting rights, the cornerstone of our democracy. While serving as executive director, the ACLU of Georgia secured a Federal injunction protecting voters from having their absentee ballots rejected without due process, successfully challenged the attempted removal of nearly 160,000 voters from the rolls, and expanded access to voting across the State. Her leadership and vision for a stronger democracy reached communities across Georgia through initiatives such as the Poll Worker

Program and the Local Election Advocates and Defenders Program, which strengthened election operations and increased accountability at the local level. Her efforts to keep voters on the rolls as well as to prevent voting station closings or relocations made a difference in countless local and Federal elections across Georgia.

We continue that work in this body as Federal lawmakers, and I am honored to count Andrea as an ally in our fight to restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act. Her lifetime of service has directly affected many provisions in this critical legislation, and her work has strengthened not only communities in Georgia but the rights of all Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Andrea Young's service to the State of Georgia and to the country.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING WILLIAM "BILL" GEORGE SCHNEIDER

• Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize William "Bill" George Schneider, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and exemplary public servant in my home State of Indiana. Bill left us on April 22, 2026, after a long life of hard work, dedicated service to his family and country, and conservative leadership.

Bill was a fearless conservative leader, advocate, and mentor. For decades, he tirelessly recruited, supported, and counseled conservative candidates at every level of public service, including myself. Bill's steadfast mentorship shaped the careers of countless conservative leaders, and it has left an enduring mark on our State's government.

Bill's journey was distinguished by his commitment to both his family and his community. In 1964, Bill founded Mister Ice of Indianapolis, a company specializing in commercial ice-making equipment. Through years of hard work, he grew the business into a flourishing enterprise.

Bill's passion for the United States, the State of Indiana, and the city of Indianapolis shone brightly during his tenure of public service. He served as a county commissioner in Marion County from 1968 to 1971 and then as an Indianapolis City County councilman from 1971 to 1999. He also served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Marion County Sheriff's merit board and the Marion County Republican Party. For his outstanding service, Bill was honored with the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash, a symbol of his lasting impact on Indiana.

Bill is survived by his devoted wife of 70 years, Patricia Schneider; his loving children Scott Schneider (Kristine),