

simply doing their jobs. While the number of journalists killed in Gaza over the past 2 and a half years is overwhelming, journalists have been threatened, imprisoned, tortured, and killed in many countries, including in our own hemisphere.

Press freedom is fragile abroad, and fragile here at home. President Trump's rhetoric and attacks on the press must be condemned. Journalists in the United States have been threatened, attacked, and targeted by their own government for doing their jobs: reporting the truth.

We take pride in the First Amendment, and the United States has long been seen as a global defender of freedom of expression. But the situation is becoming worse, not better. The very concept of independence of the media is being challenged. Journalists are regularly subjected to ridicule and denied access to the White House and the Defense Department for merely asking hard questions.

Being a journalist is more dangerous today than at any time in history. In recognition of World Press Freedom Day, Congress should pause to remember the lives of journalists killed while reporting and recommit to defending press freedom in our own country and around the world.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM GREENBERG

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today, along with Senator BLUMENTHAL, we honor the life and mourn the loss of Judge William Greenberg, who dedicated more than 50 years of his life to public service in the U.S. military and as a civilian judicial leader.

In both Kansas and Connecticut, we understand the value and sacrifice of military service. Judge Greenberg served our Nation proudly, enlisting in the 117th Cavalry, 50th Armored Division of the U.S. Army in 1967 and serving as a cavalry scout. He would go on to commission in the Judge Advocate General's Corps and remained in the Army Reserves for 27 years, eventually retiring as a brigadier general.

After his time in uniform, he received his law degree from Rutgers University and said the highlight from his law school experience was his civil procedure class that was taught by future Supreme Court Justice, the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Following a judicial clerkship within his home State of New Jersey's Superior Court, he began a long and distinguished career as a trial lawyer.

In 2009, he was appointed Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, where he advised the Secretary of Defense and led efforts to expand legal support for wounded and injured servicemembers. His dedication earned him the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, the Department of Defense's second-highest civilian honor. In November 2012, he was nominated to the Court of Vet-

erans Appeals by President Barack Obama.

Judge Greenberg dedicated his life to serving those who served our country, including founding a program in New Jersey that provides free legal assistance to reservists called to Active Duty and advocating for wounded servicemembers going through the medical discharge process. His commitment rightfully earned him national recognition, including being awarded the Medal of Honor from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

The Court of Veterans Appeals was created in 1988 by President Reagan to examine claims for service-connected disability compensation and other benefits that are appealed by veterans and their families upon decisions by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the VA Board of Veterans Appeals. This court was the first of its kind and provided a forum for veterans and their dependents to advocate for themselves when they disagreed with VA. Judge Greenberg was the 17th judge appointed to serve on the court and did so faithfully for 13 years.

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, then-chairman Senator Johnny Isakson charged Judge Greenberg to "be an outspoken judge, just as you have been an outspoken lawyer." As judge, he lived up to this. He would go on to write more separate opinions than all of his colleagues, besides former Chief Judge Bruce Kasold.

Judge Greenberg always looked for ways to improve the lives of his fellow veterans, and he should be an example for each of us to follow as we continue to seek to improve care, benefits, and services for veterans, servicemembers, and their families, caregivers, and survivors. We know his legacy will live on in the veteran community and with the people he loved. He will be sorely missed and our prayers are with his family, friends, and colleagues.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RANDY MASSANELLI

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a dear friend and outstanding Arkansan, Randy Massanelli, as he concludes his service at the University of Arkansas and begins a well-earned retirement.

Randy's lifelong commitment to public service and the State of Arkansas is remarkable. Born and raised in Pine Bluff, he earned a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Arkansas before serving with distinction in the U.S. Army. His military career included numerous stateside and overseas assignments, leadership of the Pershing II Nuclear Missile System in Europe and a combat tour in the Persian Gulf War. For his service, Randy received the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oakleaf clusters, and

many other honors that reflect his dedication and courage.

Following his time in uniform, Randy continued to serve Arkansas and our Nation. He held leadership roles in the Arkansas attorney general's office and then as State director for former U.S. Senator Mark Pryor, helping shape meaningful State and Federal legislative accomplishments. In these roles, he demonstrated his ability to work with diverse stakeholders and achieve meaningful results for the flagship University of Arkansas institution in Fayetteville, as well as residents across the State.

Since 2014, Randy has served as vice chancellor for governmental and community relations at the University of Arkansas. In this role, he has been the university's chief liaison with local, State, and Federal officials, civic organizations, and private partners. His leadership has been instrumental in securing multimillion-dollar Federal research grants, increasing State support, and fostering relationships that have strengthened the university's mission and impact. Randy's insight, experience, and guidance have shaped policy, strategy, and partnerships that will benefit the university community for years to come.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Randy is a friend and upstanding Arkansan who has dedicated his career to our State's progress and opportunity. I have had the privilege of knowing him personally and witnessing his integrity, wisdom, and genuine care for the people and institutions he serves. The insights and warm hospitality he constantly delivered have been invaluable to me and countless others over the years.

As Randy steps into retirement, I join his family, colleagues, and all those whose lives he has touched in celebrating a career defined by service, leadership, and friendship. His legacy will continue through those he has mentored and the countless contributions he has made to our State and Nation.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I congratulate Randy on his success and wish him the best in his next chapter. Arkansas and our country are better because of his dedication and service.●

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SYLVAN GROVE, KANSAS

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 150th anniversary of Sylvan Grove, KS, a historic occasion that coincides with the 250th anniversary of the United States of America.

Around 1868, the first migrant settlers arrived in the area of Sylvan Grove's original townsite. Five years later, the community's first post office was established approximately 1 and a half miles south of present-day Sylvan Grove.

A water-powered grist mill along the Saline River initially attracted farmers and settlers to the community. When the mill was destroyed by a flood in 1886, the town's future became uncertain. However, renewed hope arrived just 1 year later with the construction of a new railroad, sparking a population boom.

By the early 1900s, Sylvan Grove developed into an established township. Several businesses and homes emerged north of the new railroad depot, laying the foundation for the community that stands today. Telephone and electric service were introduced, residents gained access to running water, and Sylvan Grove High School graduated its first class.

Like many rural towns, Sylvan Grove endured the hardships of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and devastating grasshopper infestations during the 1930s. Closely tied to the agriculture industry, Sylvan Grove's fortunes have long risen and fallen alongside those of its farmers and ranchers. Yet through every challenge, the community stands strong, embodying the resilient spirit of America's heartland.

On Saturday, May 23, Sylvan Grove will commemorate its 150th anniversary with a full day of community events. The celebration will feature a parade, food and vendor booths, children's activities, and agricultural displays highlighting the town's heritage. A reenactment of the 1894 attempted bank robbery will serve as the centerpiece, bringing to life one of the community's most memorable historical events.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sylvan Grove, KS, on 150 years of history, alongside the 250th anniversary of our Nation.●

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAGINAW COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Saginaw County Community Action Committee. Over the past 60 years, the Saginaw County CAC has served as a proactive and dedicated community partner, working to problem-solve for residents and help create a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. It is a privilege and an honor to celebrate the organization's 60th anniversary.

The Saginaw County Community Action Committee was formally established on January 29, 1965, not even a year after President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964, which created the Office of Economic Opportunity and led to the start of Community Action Programs all around the Nation. The focus was on fighting poverty on a local level, with a requirement for "maximum feasible participation" for the poor, recognizing that those closest to the hardship know best what their problems are and how resources can most effectively be deployed to address them.

The Saginaw County CAC was founded through leadership from Kenneth V. Anderson, Henry Marsh, Thomas Retherman, R. Kenneth Letherar, Henry Nickleberry, Emilio Martinez, and Jack Frye, local civic leaders referred to today as the organization's "Seven Pillars." They wanted to ensure that hard-working residents of Saginaw had the tools available to improve their own lives. Early programs included job training and employment programs, emergency assistance, housing referrals, and youth development initiatives.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the SCCAC continued to expand as Federal anti-poverty programs began to mature and funding stabilized. The agency became a local administrator of Head Start, bringing early childhood education to Saginaw County's youngest and most vulnerable residents. Services grew to include dental care initiatives, legal aid, weatherization assistance, food distribution, and more. In 1984, the organization moved to their current home at 2824 Perkins St, in Saginaw, establishing a permanent presence in the community it serves.

When Michigan's manufacturing economy wavered in the early 2000s and the Great Recession worsened hardships for families across the State, the SCCAC played a key role in delivering Federal and State emergency assistance and expanded emergency assistance and added foreclosure prevention programs.

The Saginaw County CAC continues to evolve to this day, adding home repair programs, neighborhood revitalization initiatives, and food access efforts. When the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020, the organization was once again there to help residents through. They provided CARES emergency assistance, including food distribution, diaper support, and outreach to vulnerable seniors across Saginaw County.

Today, the Saginaw County CAC serves about 2,000 residents annually through emergency assistance programs. Over the years, the organization has generated over \$90 million in grant funds and over \$5 million of in-kind time value donated through volunteer engagement to the agency. The organization has allocated \$3.5 million in housing and home repair projects and over \$8.5 million of emergency assistance to Saginaw County residents facing hardships.

Under the leadership of executive director Hurley J. Coleman III and deputy director Mary McMath, the Saginaw County Community Action Committee remains as committed as ever to the founding mission: reducing poverty and expanding opportunity for all Saginaw County residents.

The Saginaw County Community Action Committee has spent the past six decades providing resources and support to help families thrive. I trust that my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating the SCCAC and

thanking everyone who has made this work possible.●

REMEMBERING ART FILLMORE

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the late Arthur Fillmore II, one of Missouri's true champions. Throughout his entire life, Art's spirit was focused on those around him, as he continually searched for opportunities to protect and serve others. After graduating from the University of Missouri, he would receive a commission and join the U.S. Army, deploying first with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam, and later earning the rank of captain, serving in the Strategic Ammunition Support Command in Europe as a nuclear weapons adviser to American and Belgian forces. During his service, he earned multiple decorations for his outstanding work, receiving several Bronze Stars, several Air Medals, and an Army Commendation Medal and was awarded two Purple Hearts.

Upon retiring from Active military service, Art graduated from the University of Missouri School of Law, beginning a remarkable career as an attorney. While practicing law, he also served on the Veteran Administration's Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of War Veterans and the National Security Advisory panel for the Central Intelligence Agency. In his free time, Art became a fierce community advocate, devoting himself to helping other brave veterans transition back into civilian life, founding the Heart of America Stand Down Foundation, and St. Michael Center for Homeless Veterans, cofounding the Kansas City Vietnam War Memorial, and serving on the board of directors for the Kansas City chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Art's charitable work was not limited to veteran advocacy. He spent several years in leadership roles with the University of Missouri-Kansas City Athletic Association, the Kansas City Art Institute Board of Trustees, and the Kansas City Ballet, later working alongside former Senator Kit Bond as chairman of Heart to Heart International Airlift, which provides vital medical supplies and aid to those in need overseas. For his outstanding volunteer work, Art was honored with multiple awards, including the Harry S. Truman Silver Veterans Medal, Daughters of the American Revolution Lifetime Achievement Award, Vietnam Veterans Community Service Award, and was admitted to several Halls of Fame.

Art was a devoted family man, a cherished father to three children, and a proud grandfather to six grandchildren. He was also a committed grill master and lifelong fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. Art Fillmore was a deeply selfless man and lived a life defined by compassion and service to others. His remarkable drive to volunteer and dedicate his time to charitable causes