

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

will be sorely missed in the Show-Me State.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES JEFFREY BEATON

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the incredible and courageous career of Charles Jeffrey Beaton, who has for the last 15 years served as chief of the Glendale Police Department. Throughout his remarkable 33 years in law enforcement, Chief Beaton has continuously striven not only to protect and serve his fellow Missourians as a police officer, but also to serve as an effective leader in countless organizations. He has volunteered his time to serve on executive and advisory boards for the Regional Justice Information Sharing Law Enforcement Advisory Committee and the Law Enforcement Officials of Greater St. Louis. He also served as chairman of the St. Louis Area Police Chiefs Association's Memorial Prayer Breakfast Committee, where he and his colleagues honor the memory of first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Outside of his law enforcement responsibilities, Chief Benton has continued to demonstrate his spirit of service as a dedicated volunteer at his church. Through his work with the Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee, he helped raise nearly \$3 million for Special Olympics programs across the State. He also stepped forward to serve a short term as interim city administrator for Glendale, MO.

Without a doubt, Chief Charles Jeffrey Beaton is among our State's finest uniformed officers and public servants, and he has more than earned his upcoming retirement later this year. I am honored to recognize him as a Champion of Missouri and proud to call him a close friend. I wish him all the best as he begins this next phase of his life.●

TRIBUTE TO ZYAN KNOLLMEYER

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Zyan Knollmeyer of Jefferson City, MO, a 2026 graduate whose wrestling career showcases American resilience. Born in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Zyan faced hardship at an early age with the tragic loss of his mother and spent time in Hawaii's foster care system. However, God had greater plans for him. Through several dedicated case managers, Zyan found his closest relatives in Missouri, who showed incredible compassion and quickly adopted him.

Not long after arriving in the Show-Me State, Zyan had his first encounter with wrestling—and wasn't impressed. But with the guidance of a phenomenal coach who helped him discover his own exceptional strength and determination, Zyan quickly fell in love with the sport and committed himself to mastering his skills. That commitment led him to become the varsity heavyweight for Helias Catholic High School in his sophomore year.

Over the years, Zyan has proven to be one of Missouri's most promising young athletes, finishing a remarkable season undefeated at 40-0 and claiming both the 2026 Missouri State Championship and NFHS National Championship in his class. His dedication to honing his craft is truly remarkable. Zyan has not become complacent, instead taking every opportunity to practice new techniques to ensure he is always at the top of his game. He is the kind of young man who earns respect, leads by example, represents his community with pride, and takes time to encourage younger athletes who look up to him.

Zyan has a bright future ahead, and as he looks forward to graduating, any university would be lucky to have him represent their wrestling program. His journey is a powerful "only in America" story, and I am proud to call him a fellow Missourian.●

RECOGNIZING HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Holy Redeemer Catholic Grade School of Webster Groves, MO, for 125 years of academic excellence. Holy Redeemer has graduated more than 5,000 students since its founding in 1901. To put this in perspective, Holy Redeemer has continually provided quality, faith-based education to Missourians since Theodore Roosevelt served in the White House. Over the years, the school has adapted to student needs and modern challenges remarkably well, transforming from a school primarily staffed by nuns of the Dominican Sisters to a contemporary academy operated by dedicated lay teachers, ensuring that all students who attend are equipped to thrive after graduation.

Holy Redeemer Grade School is one of thousands of Christian schools who have gone above and beyond to ensure our Nation's children are provided with the proper academic knowledge and spiritual formation to face life's challenges. In recognition of this impressive milestone, my office is proud to provide Holy Redeemer Parish an American flag that has flown over our Nation's Capital. I am proud that Missouri hosts such high-quality, faith-based schools, such as Holy Redeemer Grade School. I am deeply appreciative of Holy Redeemer's dedicated staff and religious leaders and wish them the very best as they continue providing children of the Show-Me State with a Christ-centered education.●

TRIBUTE TO JIM MCCLESKEY

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Jim McCleskey upon his retirement as director of the North Carolina Washington Office. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. McCleskey has served the people of North Carolina with exceptional dedication, integrity, and an unwavering

commitment to public service, leaving an immeasurable impact on our State and Nation.

Jim McCleskey is a native North Carolinian who has built a career defined by professionalism, leadership, and a steadfast commitment to strengthening North Carolina's communities and economy. Over many years of service, he has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of countless citizens and advance opportunities for communities across our State.

Throughout his career, Mr. McCleskey cultivated strong relationships across North Carolina and throughout Washington, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues, elected officials, community leaders, and constituents alike. His service has exemplified the highest standards of public service, and I am deeply grateful for the outstanding support and counsel he consistently provided to the staff in my offices on behalf of our State.

In addition to leading the North Carolina Washington Office, Mr. McCleskey served with distinction as North Carolina's Alternate Representative to the Appalachian Regional Commission, serving under five Governors and across multiple Presidential administrations. Throughout his tenure, he worked in a bipartisan manner to strengthen the Appalachian Regional Commission as an effective Federal-State partnership dedicated to improving economic opportunity and quality of life throughout Appalachia.

Among his 13 State peers, Mr. McCleskey is the longest serving alternate representative in the history of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Under his leadership and advocacy, the commission awarded more than \$214 million in funding to support 722 projects across North Carolina improving infrastructure, workforce development, and business growth. He also coordinated the efforts of Appalachian Governors to advocate for robust Federal support for the commission and its mission.

Mr. McCleskey's leadership helped the Appalachian Regional Commission respond to some of the region's most pressing challenges, including substance use disorder, economic transition, and long-term recovery efforts following major natural disasters such as Hurricane Helene. His steady leadership and deep institutional knowledge have left a lasting mark on both North Carolina and the Appalachian Region.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Jim McCleskey for his extraordinary service to the people of North Carolina and the Nation. I wish him happiness, good health, and many rewarding days ahead—hopefully with a few fish on the end of his fly-fishing line.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT KENYA THOMAS

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, oftentimes, the simplest act of service can make a meaningful difference in