

David was not motivated by attention; he felt a responsibility to speak up for the millions of Americans struggling to afford their medications. With a lifetime of public health and communications experience and his own personal story to tell, David recognized his unique opportunity to take on a system in need of substantial reform. Under his leadership, Patients for Affordable Drugs became a trusted, bipartisan force for reform, centering patient voices in a debate long dominated by corporate interests. And to this day, Patients for Affordable Drugs is one of the only national patient advocacy organizations that doesn't accept funding from organizations that profit from the prescription drug industry.

In 2022, after nearly a decade of advocacy and coalition building, David's work paid off. The passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, IRA, included provisions that, for the first time ever, empowered Medicare to negotiate drug prices on behalf of patients. David and Patients for Affordable Drugs' fierce advocacy helped bring about this generational policy shift.

Known as "the face of opposition to the pharmaceutical industry in Washington," David was a central voice in Congress. He testified before the House and Senate numerous times, and was a go-to, trusted expert. I worked closely with David in our efforts to lower drug prices. I admired his political acumen, his depth of policy knowledge, and mostly, his deep compassion for others going through the same struggle he was experiencing. It was his ability to connect the realities of everyday Americans with policy changes in Washington that made David such an effective advocate.

While Patients for Affordable Drugs may have been his crowning achievement, David also worked on some of the Nation's most effective public-health campaigns, including efforts to reduce drunk driving, increase seatbelt and child safety seat use, and improve roadway safety. His advocacy has saved countless lives, often quietly and outside the spotlight.

David's special power was knowing how to build lasting advocacy campaigns that led to real solutions. He demonstrated that patients are not passive observers of policy, but essential participants. And when someone told him that high drug prices were necessary, David countered with a simple slogan: "Drugs don't work if people can't afford them."

Mr. David Mitchell lived a meaningful life in service to others, and the world is safer, fairer, and more humane because of him. His legacy lives on through his colleagues, family, the laws he helped change, and the many patients' lives he empowered.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO KENT EIKENBERRY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the dis-

tinguished service of Kent Eikenberry, president and chief executive officer of the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank, upon his retirement after a decade of exemplary leadership.

Kent has been a driving force behind the food bank's mission to fight hunger and food insecurity throughout Arkansas. Under his guidance, the organization strengthened partnerships with local farmers, businesses, faith communities, and volunteers, expanding its reach and improving its ability to deliver nutritious food to those in need. His steady hand and thoughtful vision helped the food bank grow into a cornerstone of support for families facing difficult times.

Arkansas is stronger because of Kent's service. His example reminds us of the difference one individual can make in a community. As he begins a well-earned retirement, the impact of his leadership will endure for years to come in the lives of those he helped and his tireless effort to grow the food bank.

I am grateful for Kent's friendship and dedication to advocating for greater food security. On behalf of all Arkansans, I extend my deepest gratitude to Kent Eikenberry and his wife Diana for their lasting contributions and wish their family every happiness in the years ahead.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE COFFEE GROUNDS

• 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 The Coffee Grounds of Monroe County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in October 2023, The Coffee Grounds is a family-owned, veteran-owned small business created to serve the Albia community. For years, residents shared that they wanted a convenient place to grab a quality cup of coffee early in the morning on their way to work. That message was echoed through Main Street Albia and within the Chamber of Commerce, where community members consistently expressed hope for a drive-through coffee option. Listening closely to their neighbors, two local couples, Tyler and Jenny Boley and Wes and Randell Aeschliman, came together to turn that dream into a reality for Monroe County.

Today, The Coffee Grounds operates as both a drive-through and walk-in coffee shop, opening early every day of the week to serve customers before the workday begins. The business offers a wide variety of beverages and treats, including coffee, espresso drinks, teas, energy drinks, smoothies, lemonades, and sweet breakfast items. The Coffee Grounds proudly sources its espresso and coffee beans from producers in

Iowa and features baked goods prepared fresh by local Iowa bakers. With a team of seven employees, The Coffee Grounds has quickly become a daily stop for commuters, families, and neighbors, while contributing to the local economy of Monroe County.

The owners of The Coffee Grounds are deeply invested in their community and exemplify the spirit of local leadership. Tyler Boley is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and serves as president of Welcome Home Soldier, an organization dedicated to honoring veterans and supporting military families. All four owners are actively involved in volunteering with organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Albia, youth sports programs, the volunteer fire department, and the Rotary Club, where Wes serves as president. Beyond the coffee shop, the owners also operate additional local businesses, including insurance and real estate enterprises. Through these efforts, they continue to invest in the long-term vitality of Main Street Albia while preserving the character of their community and creating new opportunities for residents.

In just a short time, The Coffee Grounds has become more than a place to grab a cup of coffee, it has become a gathering point that reflects the values of service and community connection. By listening to their neighbors and investing back into Albia, the owners have strengthened Main Street and demonstrated the lasting impact small businesses can have in rural communities.

I am pleased to recognize the Boleys, the Aeschlimans, and the entire team at The Coffee Grounds for their dedication to Monroe County. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

#### RECOGNIZING LeRETTE FUNERAL CHAPEL

• 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 LeRette Funeral Chapel of Montgomery County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1914, LeRette Funeral Chapel began with a mission rooted in service, compassion, and community care. Established originally as the Perryman Funeral Chapel in downtown Red Oak by Raymond and Gertrude Perryman, the business was created to provide families with dignified, respectful support during life's most difficult moments. With a dedicated team of two full-time and three part-time employees, the chapel has become a place where families turn for guidance and comfort. Over the decades, the funeral chapel transitioned through family ownership, reflecting the evolving needs of the community it served. In

1951, Ted and Ann Nelson assumed ownership and constructed a new chapel, expanding its capacity while preserving its personal, family-focused approach. In 1971, Mike and Erin Boylan continued that tradition, strengthening the chapel's role as a dependable presence for generations of Montgomery County families.

In 2001, Brian LeRette, who had worked at the funeral chapel for years, and his wife Dawn became the fourth family to own the business, renaming it LeRette Funeral Chapel. Under their leadership, the chapel has continued to provide personalized and affordable services, including burial and cremation options, meaningful memorial keepsakes, and dedicated support for veterans and their families. For many in southwest Iowa, LeRette Funeral Chapel is not simply a service provider, but a trusted partner during times of loss, known for treating every family with kindness, patience, dignity, and respect. Though tested by hardship in 2023, when a fire destroyed the chapel's facility, the LeRette family remained steadfast in their mission to serve. With resilience and determination, they rebuilt and reopened a new location in 2025, ensuring Montgomery County families continued to have access to compassionate, professional care.

Beyond their professional service, Brian and Dawn LeRette are deeply invested in the civic life of southwest Iowa and are involved in local organizations, including the Montgomery County Fair, Red Oak Chamber of Commerce, school booster programs, and faith-based initiatives. Brian has served in leadership roles with the Montgomery County Fair Board, City of Red Oak Low Rent Housing, and the Heritage Foundation, while also supporting local arts, youth athletics, and healthcare initiatives. Dawn has spent decades supporting youth and community development through her leadership with 4-H, the Montgomery County Fair, and local service organizations, earning recognition for her long-standing commitment to mentoring the next generation. Together, the LeRettes are known for their generosity and hands-on support of community and school projects across southwest Iowa, reflecting their belief that small businesses succeed best when communities are strong.

It is my honor to recognize Brian and Dawn LeRette and the entire LeRette Funeral Chapel team for their dedication to Montgomery County. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

#### RECOGNIZING Z'S PIZZA & DINER

● 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 Z's Pizza & Diner of Bremer County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in early 1972, Z's Pizza & Diner of Waverly, IA, which was formerly named Z's Restaurant & Lounge, is a family-owned and family-style restaurant built on hard work and commitment to quality. For more than five decades, Z's Pizza has served as a gathering place for families, friends, and neighbors, earning a reputation for outstanding hospitality and made-from-scratch food. Z's is especially known for its handcrafted pizzas, featuring dough and sauce recipes passed down through generations, including an Iowa staple: taco pizza. With a dedicated team of 23 employees, the restaurant continues to play an important role in Waverly's local economy.

Christopher and Joy Carney, the current owners of Z's Pizza & Diner, purchased the restaurant from Christopher's uncle Dean Carney in 2018. Since then, they have worked diligently to preserve the restaurant's long-standing traditions while thoughtfully guiding it through new challenges and opportunities. During the pandemic, the Carneys made the difficult decision to relocate from its longtime Waterloo location to its current home in downtown Waverly. After 47 years in Waterloo, Z's proudly reopened in Waverly in 2022, marking a new chapter in its history. Their leadership, resilience, and commitment to customer service ensured that Z's remains a trusted and cherished cornerstone of the community.

Since opening at its current location, Z's has continued to grow. In 2025, the business was awarded Main Street Iowa's Open 4 Business Grant, which supports small businesses investing in new equipment, technology, and expanded services to better meet customers' needs. In addition to its restaurant operations, Z's also offers catering services for family gatherings, corporate events, and community celebrations, further extending its impact throughout Bremer County.

Z's Pizza is a proud member of the Waverly Chamber of Commerce and the Main Street Iowa Program and remains deeply committed to giving back. In addition to launching a charitable initiative offering free meal coupons for individuals experiencing food insecurity, the restaurant regularly hosts and supports community events and gatherings to bring neighbors together. Through accessible online ordering and catering services, Z's Pizza continues to serve local families and organizations, reflecting the Carney family's belief that small businesses have a responsibility to care for their neighbors and strengthen the community they call home.

It is my honor to recognize Christopher and Joy Carney and the entire Z's Pizza & Diner team for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

#### PRIVILEGED NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to Committee on Foreign Relation: Laken Rapier, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 27, 2027.

On request by Senator CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to Committee on Foreign Relation: Kenneth Jackson, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2028.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2519. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Business Conduct and Swap Documentation Requirements for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants" (RIN3038-AF38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2520. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyriofenone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13069-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2521. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Permethrin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13107-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2522. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Source Performance Standards Review for Stationary Combustion Turbines and Stationary Gas Turbines" (FRL No. 11542-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2523. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2026;