

Throughout her accomplished career, Chief Master Sergeant Parrott has exemplified the professionalism, leadership, and commitment to excellence that define the very best of the U.S. Air Force. She currently serves as the strategic communications advisor to the Chief of the Air Force Reserve, where she oversees the development and coordination of strategic communications that advance the Reserve's priorities and strengthen engagement with Congress, community partners, and other key stakeholders.

Chief Parrott began her military service in 1999 as an aircraft maintenance guidance and control technician on the KC-10A Extender. Following her transition to the Air Force Reserve, she held numerous leadership roles within the maintenance community before being selected to serve as the operations noncommissioned officer in charge for the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Her exceptional performance, sound judgment, and steadfast dedication earned her some of the Air Force Reserve's most significant leadership opportunities.

I had the privilege of getting to know Megan when she served in my office as my Defense fellow in 2018. As the first enlisted legislative fellow selected from the Air Force Reserve, she brought invaluable insight and expertise to my staff, advising on defense, national security, and veterans' affairs policy. Those who had the opportunity to work with her appreciated the professionalism, integrity, and dedication to public service she demonstrated to benefit Arkansans and the military and veteran community across our Nation.

Chief Parrott's career reflects an unwavering devotion to duty and a steadfast commitment to serving both the Air Force Reserve and our country. We are tremendously proud of her selfless service, exemplary leadership, and commitment to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, the Senate Air Force Caucus, and a grateful nation, I extend my sincere appreciation to Chief Parrott and her family for their many years of sacrifice and dedication. I congratulate her on an extraordinary career and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO CADE EDWARDS

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Cade Edwards, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work he has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Mr. Edwards is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. He is currently attending the University of Iowa, where he studies political science and economics. Mr. Edwards is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience. He has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr.

Edwards for all of the work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BAILEY FEISTNER

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Bailey Feistner, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Feistner is a graduate of Woonsocket High School in Woonsocket, SD. She recently graduated from the University of South Dakota, where she studied legal studies and political science. Ms. Feistner is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Feistner for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BAYLIE SOMSEN

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Baylie Somsen, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Somsen is a graduate of Webster High School in Webster, SD. She is currently attending South Dakota State University, where she studies business economics. Ms. Somsen is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Somsen for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO OLIVIA WENDLAND

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Olivia Wendland, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of my office and the State of South Dakota. Ms. Wendland is a graduate of Milbank High School in Milbank, SD. She is currently attending Clemson University, where she studies economics. Ms. Wendland is a dedicated and diligent individual who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience. She has been a true asset to my office. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Wendland for all of the work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Appalachian Mountain Club and recognize its 150 years of dedicated service in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of our country. As the Nation's oldest

continuously operating outdoor recreation and conservation organization, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) has encouraged generations of Americans to venture outside and protect the region's most beautiful and prized mountain landscapes.

AMC began with a call from Professor Edward Charles Pickering for "those interested in mountain exploration" to attend a meeting in early January 1876 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. According to news reports at the time, the meeting drew interest from 30 to 40 people. They gathered in an era when more Americans were beginning to appreciate mountains for their unparalleled beauty, their open space for recreation, and their considerable value for scientific study of the natural world. In the early years of the organization, members set their sights on New Hampshire's White Mountains to visit, create accurate maps, build accessible trails, and collect data in a variety of fields from botany to geology to meteorology. They published the first edition of *Appalachia* in 1876, which grew into the Nation's leading and longest running journal on outdoor exploration and conservation. In 1888, AMC opened its first backcountry hut in the Presidential Range and dramatically reshaped the culture of hiking in the region. The Madison Spring Hut has not only offered overnight shelter to exhausted hikers, but also contributed to scientific research, supported trail stewardship and visitor safety, and helped protect a fragile alpine environment. AMC still operates a network of eight huts in New Hampshire's White Mountains, and they epitomize the organization's founding philosophy of making mountain experiences more accessible while also promoting stewardship of the landscape.

AMC's advocacy for the passage of the Weeks Act in 1911 is another example of its work at the intersection of conservation and recreation. Known as one of the most important conservation laws in American history, the Weeks Act authorized the Federal Government to purchase private land for the purpose of restoring and protecting forests and watersheds. It led directly to the establishment of the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and later dozens of other national forests in the eastern United States. Today, nearly 20 million acres of forestland have been permanently protected through the Weeks Act. Thanks in large part to the public support AMC generated for its passage, Americans will enjoy the many environmental, economic and recreational benefits of these lands for generations to come.

The Weeks Act was a defining public policy achievement for AMC, but it was far from its last. Throughout the next century, its members and volunteers would continue to advocate for smart,

forward-thinking legislation and programs that balance recreation, scientific research, conservation, and public access to this valuable mountain environment. AMC launched the Maine Woods Initiative in 2003 to conserve land, support sustainable forestry, create new trails, and enhance climate resilience across Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness. It also championed the Highlands Conservation Act in 2004 that protected thousands of acres of forestlands and watersheds in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Most recently, AMC promoted the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act and the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This legislation is helping to tackle a substantial backlog of maintenance projects on Federal public lands.

While promoting and raising public awareness for conservation, AMC never lost sight of one of its earliest objectives: to build and maintain public trails. It remains one of the Northeast's largest trail stewards. AMC crews care for more than 1,800 miles of trails across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, including many of New Hampshire's most popular routes. In 2021, I was proud to secure Federal funding used by AMC to restore and realign the Franconia Ridge Loop Trail, one of the Northeast's premier hikes. I was also pleased to see AMC open the Cardigan Mountain All-Persons Trail in 2023, a half-mile trail in Alexandria, NH, that allows people with wheelchairs and other mobility devices to take in a tranquil mountain setting.

The 150th anniversary of the Appalachian Mountain Club is worthy of celebration. It is an opportunity to reflect on a century-and-a-half of advocacy and hard work that has strengthened our connection with each other and the natural world. It is also a chance to look forward and recommit to the longstanding mission of this worthy organization: to foster the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the outdoors. I ask all Americans to join me in recognizing these enduring contributions and saluting the next generation of AMC staff, volunteers, explorers, and stewards who will carry forth this legacy in the next 150 years and beyond.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JORY THOMAS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize Jory Thomas as Montanan of the Month.

Earlier this year, Jory was camping with his family when he heard cries for help coming from the water. The 14-year-old acted swiftly when he saw a man floating down the river, battling the strong currents.

Jory didn't hesitate and sprinted down the riverbank to catch up with the man. He had grown up on a ranch and brought his lariat on the camping

trip and was able to rope the man on his first throw. He pulled the man through chest-deep, swift-moving water, all the way to shore and safety.

Jory demonstrated quick thinking and coolness under pressure, with bravery far beyond his years. His friends and family say that he has always been kind and helpful, and he is a true example of the Montana spirit.

I am thrilled to commend Jory Thomas for his heroic actions. It is my distinct honor to recognize Jory Thomas as Montanan of the Month. •

RECOGNIZING TAYLOR'S MAID-RITE

• 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 Taylor's Maid-Rite of Marshalltown, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1926, Fred Angell created the Maid-Rite sandwich in Muscatine, IA, out of the need for a convenient, affordable meal that could be assembled quickly, customized with a variety of toppings, and still deliver great taste. Following its immediate success, Angell began franchising the concept, expanding first to Newton in 1927 and then to Marshalltown in 1928. Soon after, Cliff and Emma Taylor purchased the Marshalltown franchise, establishing what would become Taylor's Maid-Rite. Alongside the signature sandwiches, the couple introduced homemade pies and cinnamon rolls while sourcing ingredients such as pickles and buns from other local businesses.

Nearly a century later, Taylor's Maid-Rite remains in the Taylor family, now entering its fourth generation. In 1944, Cliff and Emma's son Don Taylor and his wife Polly assumed ownership and continued expanding the business. They built a cooler beneath their home to keep ingredients fresh. In 1958, they opened a new building across the street from the original location, outfitted with modern stainless-steel equipment and two cash registers. After Don's passing in 1973, Polly continued operating the restaurant until her grandson Don Short became the owner in 1985. When Don Short later pursued a different career, his mother Sandy Taylor Short assumed leadership of the family business, where she continues to serve today alongside her children—Don, David, and Sarah—who are all part owners.

Today, Taylor's Maid-Rite continues to grind 100 percent choice beef daily to ensure freshness and quality and serves homemade ice cream made from its original recipe. Nearly a century later, the restaurant remains a family-owned Iowa tradition supported by dedicated employees and loyal customers throughout Marshall County.

Sandy Taylor Short and Taylor's Maid-Rite are active members of the

Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of her commitment to the community, Sandy received the Chamber's Women in Business Award in 2023. Taylor's Maid-Rite has also earned numerous accolades, including MSN.com's 2017 "Best Sandwich in Iowa," Midwest Living magazine's 1997 recognition as the "King of Loose Meat Burgers," Business Insider's 2026 designation as Iowa's "Most Iconic Sandwich Shop," and the 2023 Marshalltown Small Business of the Year Award. The restaurant was also featured in Travel + Leisure magazine in 2006, and its signature sandwiches were served at George Motz's Hamburger America during April and May 2025.

Beyond these honors, Taylor's Maid-Rite remains deeply committed to its community. The restaurant famously celebrates Marshalltown High School football victories by providing free malts after every home win. If the team captures a State championship, players are rewarded with free Maid-Rite sandwiches and malts. Taylor's Maid-Rite's continued investment in Marshalltown reflects the same entrepreneurial spirit that inspired Cliff and Emma Taylor nearly 100 years ago.

I am pleased to recognize the Taylor family and the employees of Taylor's Maid-Rite for their dedication to Marshalltown and Marshall County. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1493. An act to reauthorize and make improvements to Federal programs relating to the prevention, detection, and treatment of traumatic brain injuries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1703. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify payment rules for manual wheelchairs under part B of the Medicare program.

H.R. 2001. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a grant