

bipartisan work the Senate does each day on behalf of the American people is possible in no small part because of our staff. Staff are always the first in line advocating for constituents and making American lives better, dedicating themselves to public service. As I wrap up my time in this Chamber and as the chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, I would like to thank my staff director Matthew Gallivan, my deputy staff director Danielle Janowski, and all of the staff that have served under their leadership: Margie Almanza, Ben Arquit, Will Arthur, Caroline Benson, Elizabeth Bielic, Bryce Billiot, Ty Bofferding, Garrett Buttrey, Daniel Chasen, Matthew Chingos, Sophie Connors, Claire Dunn, Cameron Durham, Jake Easter, Alaura Ervin, Keith Fernandez, Kyle Fortson, Patrick Fox, Romney Gripado, Kathryn Handler, Jackson Hern, Megan Kinner, Sinclair Kouns, Jeffrey Last, Stephen Lewernez, Alycia Maloney, Chad Miller, Anna Rose Moore, Clare Paoletta, Daniel Parker, Matthew Penner, Gigi Powers, TJ Prame, Joe Ramallo, Kristen Shatynski, Chung Shek, Michael Sinacore, Ryan Sweeney, Joanne Thomas, Matthew Thomas, Brianna Tibbetts, Dominic Travis, Todd Tuten, Luce Tysor, Jack Uhl, Micah Wortham, and Frank Zhang.

TRIBUTE TO REBECCA R. BRILES

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Rebecca Redding Briles on over 30 remarkable years of dedicated service to the people of North Carolina.

Rebecca began her public service career with Congressman Bill Cobey before joining Congressman Howard Coble's office in 1995 as a caseworker and community outreach representative. Working in a one-person district office, she managed all constituent requests for the region while serving as a trusted liaison between North Carolinians and the Federal Government. She provided expert assistance on a wide range of issues involving Federal agencies, represented the Congressman at community events throughout North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District, and built lasting relationships with constituents, local leaders, and public officials through her unwavering commitment to public service.

Rebecca continued her dedication to serving North Carolinians in Congresswoman Renee Ellmers' office from 2013 to 2015 as director of constituent services. In this leadership role, she managed operations across two district offices, mentored a team of constituent liaisons, and ensured that constituents received responsive, compassionate, and effective assistance.

In 2015, Rebecca brought that same leadership and steadfast dedication to my office as regional director of constituent advocacy. She has been a trusted resource, providing expert assistance on immigration and U.S. De-

partment of State matters. Her work has helped employers secure critical workforce talent through successful visa coordination, including support for businesses expanding operations in North Carolina. She has also been a tireless advocate for veterans and Social Security beneficiaries.

When a North Carolina family faced severe financial hardship, Rebecca worked tirelessly to expedite the processing of their Social Security benefits. With the family's home on the brink of foreclosure, her persistent advocacy secured the timely release of those benefits, allowing them to remain in their home during a time of great need. This example reflects the compassion, persistence, and effectiveness that have defined Rebecca's work throughout her distinguished career.

Rebecca Redding Briles' lifetime of service to North Carolina stands as a testament to the extraordinary impact one dedicated public servant can make in the lives of others. I congratulate Rebecca on this well-deserved recognition and thank her for her unwavering commitment and compassionate service to the people of the great State of North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN RENE COLLINS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Susan Rene Collins on her remarkable 23 years of dedicated service to the people of North Carolina.

Rene began her public service career with then-Congressman Richard Burr as a constituent advocate and continued serving alongside him after his election to the U.S. Senate as a senior constituent advocate from 2003 to 2022. Throughout her tenure, she demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the people of North Carolina, assisting thousands of constituents in navigating complex Federal agencies. She also led critical efforts during times of crisis, coordinating the rescue and evacuation of Americans from Lebanon, Peru, and Afghanistan. In addition, she helped North Carolina communities recover from devastating hurricanes by working closely with Federal, State, and local partners to ensure that countless families and individuals received the assistance they needed most.

Continuing her dedication to serving North Carolinians, Rene joined my office as a senior constituent advocate in 2022. She quickly became a trusted resource, providing expert assistance on immigration and U.S. Department of State matters. Her work has helped employers secure critical workforce talent through successful visa coordination, including support for businesses expanding operations in North Carolina and healthcare providers working to address physician shortages. She also continued her commitment to humanitarian service by assisting Afghan Special Immigrant Visa

recipients in navigating the relocation process safely, reflecting her steadfast dedication to serving others with professionalism and compassion.

Rene's commitment to public service extends far beyond the ordinary. In one extraordinary case, she worked tirelessly to secure visas for a father and his young son, who had been diagnosed with brain cancer and required life-saving treatment at Texas Children's Hospital. Not only did she obtain the visas, but she did so in record time, helping ensure the child received the medical care that ultimately saved his life. Her efforts forever changed the lives of that family.

Susan Rene Collins's lifetime of service to North Carolina stands as a testament to the extraordinary impact one dedicated public servant can make in the lives of others. I congratulate Rene on this well-deserved recognition and thank her for her unwavering commitment and compassionate service to the people of the great State of North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO JANINE M. OSBORNE

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Janine M. Osborne on her remarkable 41 years of dedicated service to the people of North Carolina.

Janine began her public service career as a district representative for Congressman Howard Coble. From 1985 to 2015, she managed constituent requests and served as a trusted liaison between constituents and all levels of government. She provided expert assistance on a broad range of Federal matters, represented the Congressman at public events, and built lasting relationships with constituents and public officials throughout North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District.

Janine continued her commitment to serving North Carolinians in Congressman MARK WALKER's office from 2015 to 2021 as director of constituent services. In this role, she demonstrated exceptional leadership by supervising and mentoring a team of constituent liaisons while personally managing nearly half of all constituent cases received by the district office.

In 2021, Janine brought that same leadership and dedication to my office as deputy director of constituent services. She oversaw complex constituent casework, mentored staff, and served as a trusted resource. While carrying these responsibilities, she continued to maintain an active caseload, further strengthening the reputation my State offices have earned for delivering exceptional constituent service.

Janine's commitment to helping North Carolinians extends far beyond the ordinary. One of the most powerful examples of her dedication is her effort to secure the Medal of Honor for U.S. Army Captain Hugh R. Nelson, Jr. Spanning 7 years, this effort began in Congressman WALKER's office and culminated in my office, where then-

President Joe Biden posthumously presented Captain Nelson with the Medal of Honor. Her perseverance throughout this yearlong endeavor exemplifies her ability to carry an important mission across congressional offices and Presidential administrations while never losing sight of the individual she was determined to honor.

Janine Osborne's lifetime of service to North Carolina stands as a testament to the extraordinary impact one dedicated public servant can make in the lives of others. I congratulate Janine on this well-deserved recognition and thank her for her unwavering commitment and compassionate service to the people of the great State of North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO BECKY PRINGLE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the accomplishments and service of Becky Pringle as she concludes her final term as the president of the Nation's largest labor union, the National Education Association, NEA. Throughout her tenure, Becky's passion and purpose has united 3 million educators and their allies across the country to use their collective power to fight for the respect and dignity our educators deserve and to protect the promise of public education for all students.

Becky has worked with the national union for more than 30 years. She first joined the NEA in 1981 as an eighth grade science teacher from Philadelphia and began her leadership journey as a local union president. She then served on the board of directors for NEA and the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

During her tenure as NEA president, she helped focus the Nation's attention on how the pandemic impacted our students, schools, teachers, education support professionals, and school leaders. Becky's determination also strengthened the labor movement and expanded worker power, fighting to grow NEA membership at a time when workers and public sector unions are under attack. She has been recognized for her leadership by the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, National Action Network, American Association of University Women, and President Barack Obama's Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans.

Becky understands that public education is the backbone of American democracy, where all people come together to learn and grow. Thank you, President Pringle, for your tireless dedication to our Nation's teachers, students, and school leaders across the country.

TRIBUTE TO WILDLAND AND AERIAL FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, as our nation reaches the height of another fire season, it is my honor to pay trib-

ute to our wildland and aerial firefighters.

As we gather in the Senate today, wildland fire crews are working long days in difficult conditions across the country to protect resources, property, and their fellow Americans. As first responders, they don't get to choose when and where they are needed. One phone call can send them hundreds of miles from home for days or even weeks. Operating on the ground and by air, this profession demands endurance, quick thinking, and extraordinary precision to get the job done.

More often than not, success in getting the job done is measured by what never happens: a neighborhood that doesn't burn, a family that doesn't lose everything, a highway that remains open, a town that gets another chance. Those victories rarely make the evening news, but they matter just the same.

With catastrophic wildfires burning in our Nation today, it's worth taking a moment to honor the brave men and women leading our Nation's wildland fire response. They are neighbors, parents, sons, daughters, veterans, and friends. They are ordinary people doing extraordinary work under extraordinary circumstances, and they deserve our recognition and thanks.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD CALVIN MONTGOMERY

• Ms. ALSOBROOKS. Mr. President, I would like to honor the life and legacy of Richard Calvin Montgomery, an accomplished filmmaker, music industry executive, storyteller, and devoted community servant whose creativity, generosity, and commitment to uplifting others left an enduring mark on Prince George's County and beyond.

Born in Cleveland, OH, Richard pursued his education at Hampton Institute and Howard University. A proud initiate of the Beta Chi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., he remained deeply committed to his fraternity and the lifelong brotherhood it represented. He went on to build a distinguished career in broadcasting, music, and entertainment. From his early work at WHOV-FM and WHUR-FM to leadership roles with A&M Records, Venture Records, Alchemy Entertainment, and his own company, Mediaview Communications, Richard became a respected creative force whose work elevated artists, businesses, and communities throughout the Washington metropolitan region.

Richard believed every person and every community had a story worth telling. Whether producing films, documenting community events, or promoting the achievements of others, he used his remarkable gifts to preserve history, celebrate excellence, and inspire future generations. Just as impressive as his professional accomplish-

ments was his generosity. He freely shared his time, talent, and encouragement, making others feel seen, valued, and supported.

I had the privilege of witnessing Richard's dedication to public service firsthand. During my tenure as Prince George's County executive, he served as our videographer, helping tell the stories of the programs and initiatives that strengthened our communities. During the global pandemic, his thoughtful storytelling helped us combat vaccine hesitancy, share trusted public health information, and reach residents with lifesaving messages. His contributions to our county were invaluable, and I will always be grateful for his friendship and unwavering commitment to serving others.

Richard's warmth, humility, and compassion touched everyone who knew him. His legacy lives on in the artists he championed, the stories he preserved, the communities he strengthened, and the countless lives he enriched through his friendship and generosity.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Richard Calvin Montgomery—a gifted storyteller, visionary creative, faithful servant, and proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., whose legacy of service and love for community will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.●

REMEMBERING SHERIFF SAM COCHRAN

• Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize the life, legacy, and extraordinary service of Mobile native Sheriff Sam Cochran. After nearly five decades of service to our great State, Sheriff Cochran will be remembered for his extraordinary integrity, courage, and unwavering commitment to protecting others.

Sheriff Cochran was born and raised in Mobile, a community he spent a lifetime serving. After graduating from McGill-Toolen High School and earning both a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Alabama, he began a lifelong career in law enforcement. He was nominated to and graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy, a testament to his character, leadership, and heart for public service.

For over 31 years, Sheriff Cochran served with the Mobile Police Department, beginning as a police cadet and eventually rising through the ranks to become chief of police. During his decade as chief of MPD, he earned the trust and respect of both his fellow officers and the citizens he served through his principled leadership, dedication to bettering his community, and steadfast commitment to public safety.

In 2006, the Mobile County community elected him to serve as sheriff. During his four terms, Sheriff Cochran created an effective and respected law