

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

enforcement department. His efforts resulted in a safer place to live, work, and raise a family. His proudest accomplishment, though, was leading the fight against the methamphetamine epidemic and championing legislation that strengthened controls on pseudoephedrine purchases, which dramatically reduced methamphetamine production across our State. His efforts no doubt saved thousands of lives and protected countless families in Mobile and across the State of Alabama.

Sheriff Cochran was committed to sharing knowledge, wisdom, and inspiration with the next generation of law enforcement officers. His mentorship prepared and encouraged many to lead with the same integrity, devotion, and kindness he exhibited throughout his career. In 2015, he was appointed to serve as a commissioner on the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission. His work helped shape future law enforcement officers, properly set training standards, and influenced officials throughout Alabama.

Sheriff Cochran's service extended far beyond the badge. He devoted decades of his life to organizations that uplifted and protected others, including the Drug Education Council, where he served for 26 years and was honored with the Joseph Treadwell Award in recognition of his leadership in prevention and education. He also generously gave his time to the Child Advocacy Center, Penelope House, the Alabama Safety Institute, the Boy Scouts of America, the Mobile County Communications District, and numerous other civic organizations dedicated to strengthening our communities.

Those who knew Sheriff Cochran understood that, to him, leadership was never about recognition; it was about service, earning trust, leading with character, and leaving every institution stronger than he found it. His life stands as a testament to the enduring values of duty, honor, and selfless service.

Today, I proudly honor Sheriff Sam Cochran, his lifetime of faithful service, and his passion for leadership. He leaves behind an extraordinary legacy that will continue to inspire future generations. May we honor his memory by striving to serve our communities with the same integrity, humility, and dedication that defined his remarkable life.●

REMEMBERING BENJAMIN RUSSELL

● Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, today I rise to remember the exceptional and abundant life of Benjamin Russell. Mr. Russell, or as many called him, "Mr. Ben," was not just an icon in the Alexander City community; he was truly a trailblazer for the entire State of Alabama. As we celebrate his life, we honor his entrepreneurial spirit, boundless curiosity, and remarkable generosity. When you think of a life well-lived, Benjamin Russell's 88 years

here on earth immediately come to mind.

Mr. Russell was a lifelong resident of Alexander City, attending Benjamin Russell High School, named after his grandfather; Baylor School; Indian Springs School; Mercer University; and the University of Alabama. After graduating, he worked for Russell Mills for a decade before being elected president of Russell Lands, a family land and timber business. What started as a 15-person company grew into a four-pronged organization, shaping the Lake Martin region as we know it today—all thanks to the steady leadership, vision, and dedication of Mr. Russell. Russell Lands' employment of over 500 people, operation in several counties across Alabama, and continuous investment in Lake Martin's property value are in large part thanks to Mr. Russell's tireless work and devotion.

Russell Lands has continued to expand, now owning one of Alabama's top golf courses, the Willow Point Golf and Country Club, creating an entire marine division devoted to four full-service marinas on Lake Martin, and starting ECON Company to promote the use of waste wood as an energy alternative to fuel oil. Mr. Russell's leadership has been critical to identifying needs around his community and investing in smart solutions, earning him induction into the University of Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Russell's legacy extends far beyond his exceptional professional success. In 1987, he founded CARE, the world's largest private relief and development agency. As its longtime chair, he helped raise over \$9 million for the humanitarian agency through the campaign, CARE Alabama. Alongside his beloved wife and high school sweetheart Luanne, Mr. Russell cofounded Children's Harbor, a nonprofit devoted to serving the families of seriously and chronically ill children. He was a generous contributor and supporter of the Benjamin Russell Hospital for Children at Children's of Alabama, Alexander City's Russell Medical Center, and the Benjamin Russell Center for Advanced Care. His philanthropy was transformational to the lives of children living with serious illnesses, as well as their families and loved ones.

His zeal and passion for life were evident to all who had the fortune of knowing him. Mr. Russell poured into a constantly evolving list of hobbies, from aviation to scuba diving, to demolition, to water conservation. He was endlessly curious, brave, and rich in experience. He had an insatiable desire to live life to the fullest and wore many hats throughout his 88 years: author, welder, artist, Eagle Scout, skydiver, hot air balloon aeronaut—the list goes on. But his most treasured titles were husband, father, grandfather, and uncle. His loss will leave an irreplaceable hole in his family and community.

It is an honor and a privilege to remember and honor Mr. Russell's con-

sequential life. He was a cornerstone of Lake Martin and a driving force behind Alabama's success, and he leaves an indelible mark on our great State through his entrepreneurial spirit, overflowing generosity, and love of adventure. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, Alabamians and Americans who visit beautiful Lake Martin, and generations to come who will continue to benefit from his vision and leadership. May we all look to his example and be inspired to leave our own communities better than we found them.●

TRIBUTE TO RENEE BLACKEN OF BETHLEHEM

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Renee Blacken of Bethlehem as August's Granite Stater of the Month for her extraordinary resilience, adventurous spirit, and commitment to expanding access to trauma recovery resources in northern New Hampshire.

Earlier this year, Renee became the first American and first solo female to complete the Atlantic Dash, rowing more than 3,200 miles alone across the Atlantic Ocean in a 6-meter wooden boat without a chase boat or resupply. After 65 days at sea, she arrived in Antigua, becoming the oldest American woman to complete a solo Atlantic row.

Renee undertook this extraordinary challenge not only to test her own limits, but also to support a cause deeply personal to her. After overcoming physical and mental health challenges with the help of trauma recovery resources, she founded the New Hampshire nonprofit Outdoor Adventuring for Good to expand access to trauma recovery programs throughout northern New Hampshire. Today, the organization is helping fund programs that support first responders, veterans, survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault, and others on their healing journeys.

Throughout her voyage, Renee remained connected to Granite Staters by sharing updates with supporters and exchanging videos with students in classrooms across New Hampshire. She taught young people to embrace challenges, that extraordinary achievements are possible through courage, preparation, and perseverance, to believe in themselves, and to understand the importance of asking for help when facing difficult times.

Renee's historic achievement, courage, and dedication to ensuring others have access to the support they need are why I am proud to name her August's Granite Stater of the Month.●

RECOGNIZING AMERICA250 PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

● Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize two outstanding young Pennsylvanians, Brady