

Moreover, it seems President Trump is drunk on this hubris. We have now seen Stephen Miller saying that the United States has the right to take Greenland. Secretary Rubio threatened Colombia and Cuba. It appears that President Trump thinks that reverting back to an era of imperialism or “spheres of influence” is the best way to demonstrate power, that just because a military operation was skillfully executed by our brave military personnel without Americans killed, that there are no costs, that a world where “might makes right” benefits American interests.

He is simply wrong. We live in a global world—if anything, an increasingly shrinking world. Borders and oceans no longer protect us against many of the threats we face today, including cyber threats and the changing nature of warfare. The idea that protecting our immediate surroundings will keep the American people safe is a dated, 19th century idea that long ago became irrelevant.

This approach also risks taking our eye off the ball on other critical challenges—like the one posed by China—while opening further feuds with critical allies and partners.

Just look at the letter signed the other day by leaders from Denmark, France, the UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Poland reminding President Trump that Denmark is a treaty ally of the United States and, in doing so, effectively issuing a “hands off” on Greenland.

I have told you I worked in Afghanistan. I worked on a NATO military base alongside military servicemembers from Denmark who were there to be able to protect and defend us with the work we do. I was there as part of that NATO mission that was part of the article 5 response that was about protecting the United States and supporting us after September 11 in our time of need. Denmark lost many in that fight, and the idea that we are now threatening that nation is shameful.

By staking claim to anything and everything within our so-called sphere, we are risking alienating ourselves from allies and partners, which is, arguably, our greatest strength. Furthermore, this approach of “spheres of influence” and “might makes right” is one that our leading competitors and adversaries—China and Russia—have been asserting themselves. We are using their language. President Trump’s adoption of this approach endorses and advances their world view, a move that could have dangerous global consequences.

How will this administration tell Putin that he does not have the right to assert the same control over its proclaimed sphere of influence or that Xi cannot exercise his will unchecked in the Indo-Pacific, including with respect to Taiwan? The United States should be countering this vision of a world based on spheres of influence

with our own alternative of a stronger global order, not participating in the destruction of the existing one by endorsing Moscow and Beijing’s alternative.

These moves also have costs at home. At his press conference over the weekend, President Trump demonstrated a deep lack of understanding that there is always a cost to our actions. There is the cost for our servicemembers—more than 15,000, at last reports—currently positioned in the Caribbean and focused on the operations in and around Venezuela. Their lives are on the line. They have been taken away from their families.

And there is the cost to the American people. Millions of Americans are about to see their healthcare costs rise exponentially. Why are we conducting military operations in a country that has no direct security threat to the United States when people are about to lose their healthcare?

Even if this administration had a sound foreign policy, it would be essential that Congress assert its authority to speak for the American people. But this administration does not have a sound foreign policy; it has one that is rooted in bluster, built on extortion and extraction, for the President’s own benefit and without the best interests of the American people at heart.

It is for them that we must reassert our authority. It is for them—the American people—that we must be a strong check on this reckless and feckless foreign policy.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JO ELLEN DEUTSCH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career and service of Jo Ellen Deutsch, who recently retired after a nearly 40-year career focused on ensuring and expanding rights for all Americans.

Jo graduated from Smith College in 1982 with a B.A. in American studies and later received her M.A. from the George Washington University, focused on women’s studies, specializing in public policy and women’s history. Although her activism began long before her college years, Jo jumped immediately into advocacy and public service as she began her professional career.

On Capitol Hill, Jo spent a year as a fellow in Representative Barbara Boxer’s Washington, DC, office. She then joined the Association of Flight Attendants, as their director of government affairs, focusing on passing a ban on smoking in-flight to protect work-

ers and passengers from secondhand smoke. Later, with roles at both the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and the Commercial Workers International Union, Jo continued her work to support and defend the rights of working men and women across our Nation.

In 2011, Jo joined Freedom to Marry as their Federal director, with the goal of overturning the so-called Defense of Marriage Act which defined marriage as between one man and one woman. Jo, as she did with all her efforts, threw herself wholeheartedly into this fight for equality. She built coalitions—including Mayors for the Freedom to Marry, Young Conservatives for the Freedom to Marry, and the Respect for Marriage Coalition—signaling that there was sustained momentum and progress across our Nation in support of the freedom to marry. She used her deep knowledge of the inner workings of Capitol Hill to build support with a bipartisan coalition of Members in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. Jo’s sustained efforts paved the way for change across the Nation.

After 2015’s landmark Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, establishing the freedom to marry across the country, Jo turned her advocacy into sustained mentorship. She established the Deutsch Initiatives Group, sharing her experiences and expertise in lobbying, management, training, and messaging. She later joined the Campaign Legal Center to advocate for critical reforms goals to the laws undergirding our democracy, particularly with regard to campaign finance, ethics, and voting rights laws.

Jo’s landmark work at Freedom to Marry paved the way for legislation I was proud to help author and usher into law in 2022, the Respect for Marriage Act. This act repealed the Defense of Marriage Act and ensured that under Federal law, you were free to marry the person that you love.

And love has always been at the center of Jo’s world. Together with her wife Teresa, they have centered their family in their adopted home of Maryland. After 29 years together, in 2013, they were married with their three children serving as their wedding attendants, an event I was honored to attend.

I am delighted to congratulate my friend Jo on a wonderful and deeply impactful career. The ripples of her determination and advocacy will be felt for generations to come, and I am thrilled to see what the next chapter holds for her, Teresa, and their family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING NATHAN CLARK

● Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last month Tennessee lost a great man, community leader, and champion of our State’s military community: Mr. Nathan Clark.

For more than 20 years, Mr. Clark served as a store manager for Lowe's in Clarksville, TN, always looking for ways to give back to the community, including to the brave men and women who serve at Fort Campbell. Over the years, he spearheaded several major improvement projects on the base, including the complete restoration of the Night Stalker Remembrance Trail, which honors the fallen warriors of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; the revitalization of Gabriel Field, the sacred ground honoring the fallen of the 5th Special Forces Group; and the transformation of the Survivor Outreach Services building, a place of solace and support for families who have lost loved ones in service to our Nation.

For his dedicated support for our servicemembers, Mr. Clark was honored with the titles of Tennessee Colonel Aide de Camp, Kentucky Colonel, and Champion of Fort Campbell.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mr. Clark's family, including his wife Marcia and their children Madison, Montgomery, and Callie. While our State has lost a great leader, Mr. Clark's legacy will endure in Clarksville and at Fort Campbell for generations to come.●

RECOGNIZING KINETIC TECHNOLOGIES

● 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 Kinetic Technologies of Kossuth County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2021 by Mark and Betsy Barglof, Kinetic Technologies began as a small custom manufacturing and fabrication shop in Algona, IA. Initially focused on machining, custom tooling, and prototype development, the company quickly earned a reputation for practical, reliable solutions to everyday production challenges. Their early commitment to craftsmanship and problem solving laid the foundation for its evolution into a trusted manufacturing partner.

Under the leadership of founder and president Mark Barglof, an experienced engineer and Small Business Administration-certified veteran business owner, Kinetic accelerated its growth and sharpened its focus. Mark's technical expertise, hands-on industry experience, and the discipline and integrity shaped by his military background helped define the company's culture. His vision guided Kinetic's transition from a traditional fabrication shop to an advanced automation firm built for modern manufacturing needs, supporting greater efficiency. Working alongside him, business manager Betsy Barglof strengthened the company's

operational backbone with a people-centered approach that positioned Kinetic for sustainable growth. Her leadership in business operations, customer relationships, and internal processes has ensured that the company's drive for innovation is matched by stability, reliability, and exemplary service.

Today, Kinetic Technologies is recognized for innovative robotic welding systems and custom automation solutions and is proud to serve as a FANUC Authorized System Integrator. Backed by a dedicated team of 15 employees, the company provides end-to-end services, including design consultation, simulation, custom fixtures and tooling, system installation, and on-site employee training. Whether manufacturers need complete robotic work cells, automated welding solutions, or specialized equipment integration, Kinetic delivers systems engineered to address real production challenges and bring measurable improvement.

Kinetic Technologies also remains deeply committed to its community as a member of the Algona Chamber of Commerce, by supporting a robotics class at the local high school, and through providing job shadowing and internship opportunities for students interested in engineering. The company also partners with the local Future Farmers of America chapter, helping inspire the next generation of skilled professionals.

From its origins as a small fabrication shop to its role as a modern automation integrator, Kinetic Technologies demonstrates how innovation, adaptability, and strong leadership can propel a small business into a nationally respected industry player, shaping a lasting impact on the manufacturing landscape.

It is my honor to recognize Mark and Betsy Barglof and the entire Kinetic Technologies 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.●

RECOGNIZING THE KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT NARCOTICS UNIT AND TASK FORCE OFFICERS

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Kansas City, KS, Police Department Narcotics Unit and Task Force officers for their exemplary service in protecting others from dangerous, illicit substances.

On December 30, 2025, the KCKPD conducted one of the largest drug busts in the city's history, seizing 120 pounds of methamphetamine, 8 firearms, and arresting 4 individuals.

This marked the culmination of a successful year for the Kansas City, KS Police Department, during which officers seized 1,305 pounds of methamphetamine, 3,540 pounds of marijuana, 673 pounds of cocaine, 1.5 pounds of heroin, 30 pounds of powder fentanyl, 12,761 fentanyl pills, 375 firearms, and \$1,224,507.

Under the leadership of Chief Karl Oakman, the KCKPD has adopted an effective approach to responding to the rampant fentanyl epidemic. By responding to every overdose incident, whether fatal or nonfatal, the police department is able to identify and dismantle drug trafficking networks at their source.

As part of the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas—HIDTA—program, the KCKPD coordinates with Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement partners to combat drug trafficking in critical regions of the United States.

Fentanyl alone has killed tens of thousands of Americans, and it is the leading cause of death for young adults. By seizing these lethal substances, the KCKPD Narcotics Unit and Task Force officers have prevented the deaths of countless individuals. Keeping these drugs off the streets is crucial to public safety, and I commend the police department's commitment to protecting the health of its community.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the KCKPD Narcotics Unit and Task Force officers for their outstanding service and tireless efforts in combating the flow of deadly drugs into our Nation.●

RECOGNIZING DR. RICK WAITLEY

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO, Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, and Congressman RUSS FULCHER to honor Dr. Rick Waitley for his 32 years of dedicated service as the executive director of Leadership Idaho Agriculture, LIA, and more than half a century of advocating for the State's farmers and ranchers.

Founded in 1985, LIA has provided countless Idahoans with hands-on learning and experience to help keep the Gem State's agricultural communities strong. Since taking the reins in 1993, Rick has led the organization to resounding success, overseeing 37 classes and facilitating the graduation of over 1,093 individuals. Many current and former members of the LIA Board of Trustees and other industry leaders credit Rick with influencing their personal and professional journeys. Under Rick's stewardship and vision, LIA has sparked tremendous growth in the number of leaders developed within Idaho's agriculture industry, creating a lasting impact felt throughout the State.

Outside of LIA, Rick's commitment to public service is evident in his creation and involvement with organizations that advance Idaho agriculture, including Food Producers of Idaho, the Idaho Coop Council, Idaho Ag in the Classroom, and the Idaho Ag Summit. As a member of the Food Producers of Idaho, Rick plays an integral role in facilitating meetings during the State's annual legislative session and connecting local farmers and ranchers