

Decisions by the previous management team had negatively impacted employee morale and hurt the airport authority's reputation in the community. With her steady leadership, Krys focused on achievable goals to deliver results for airport passengers and improve the airport authority's reputation. Krys helped direct more than \$500 million in infrastructure upgrades at the airport, including upgrading runways, taxiways, safety systems, and noise mitigation programs. I worked with Krys to secure more than \$250 million in Federal funding for Reno-Tahoe, including a new \$27 million air traffic control tower. These infrastructure upgrades not only created jobs in Northern Nevada, but they also improved the passenger experience for flyers. In fact, the Reno-Tahoe Airport was recognized as one of the top five most efficient airports in North America three times under Krys' leadership.

Krys' reputation as an innovative Nevada leader has been recognized on a national scale by major industry groups and associations. She was selected by her peers to serve as the chair of the board of the American Association of Airport Executives, the largest airport association in the world. Krys is a frequent lecturer at international aviation conferences, sharing the best management practices from her time as an airport executive. In 2011, Krys received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Airport Executives. In 2008, she was chair of the American Association of Airport Executives, and the Airport Revenue News named her the 2006 Airport Manager of the Year. These are just a few of the many awards and accomplishments that have followed Krys throughout her career, and it is a testament to the respect she has earned as one of the Nation's great airport managers.

Later this year, Krys will step down as the president of the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority after a long and distinguished career in the aviation industry. While Krys' departure is a loss for the greater Reno community, her work to improve the airport and the greater community will benefit Nevadans for decades to come. I am pleased to recognize Krys' accomplishments before the Senate today and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I was absent for the vote on an amendment to S. 954 on Monday, June 3, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of amendment No. 987. Alfalfa growers face unique risk management challenges and the amendment would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop improved crop insurance policies for this crop.

I have been closely monitoring reports of widespread loss of alfalfa in Minnesota this spring. Following last year's drought, this loss of alfalfa is

particularly troubling for cattle and dairy producers. I am working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Minnesota farmers to remove barriers for planting forages and also to expand opportunities for grazing livestock on conservation program acres. I will continue to push for immediate relief for Minnesota agriculture producers.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JAMES T. LOEBLEIN

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor a superb leader, liaison, and warrior. After more than 3 years of service as Director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office, CAPT James T. Loeblein is very deservedly moving on and moving up to assume the responsibilities of a rear admiral, lower half. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Captain Loeblein's distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Navy and this Chamber.

The captain is a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. In addition to serving as the executive officer of the USS John S. McCain DDG 56, he has held both command-at-sea and major command. Captain Loeblein has also served as executive assistant to commander, U.S. Third Fleet, and as chief of staff and Maritime Operations Center (MOC) director, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. Fifth Fleet in Manama, Bahrain. Captain Loeblein reported as director, Navy Senate Liaison, in May 2010.

Over the course of the last 3 years, Captain Loeblein has led 37 congressional delegations to 47 different countries. He has escorted 44 Members of Congress, 48 personal and professional staff members, and I have had the pleasure of traveling with Captain Loeblein on many of these trips. He has distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each and every trip, despite any number of weather, aircraft, and diplomatic complications.

This Chamber will feel Captain Loeblein's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Captain Loeblein for his outstanding leadership and his unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Navy, the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and others. I wish him and his wife CAPT Carol Loeblein "fair winds and following seas."

OBSERVING PRIDE MONTH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, when Governor Christine Gregoire signed the Washington State marriage equality bill into law last year, it was a day of joy for all of the loving, committed LGBT couples of Washington—and for all who love, respect, and support

them. And when voters approved the law in a referendum last November, we showed the Nation once again that we can change the course of history and give true voice and meaning to the idea that all are created equal. This law takes us one important step closer towards true equality for LGBT families across Washington State. It is proof of the incredible power a community can have when we come together to fight for equality. Washington is now 1 of 12 States to have affirmed the right for LGBT couples to marry—an amazing sign of progress in our Nation.

I am proud to work with my colleagues in the Senate to achieve equal rights for LGBT Americans in Washington State and across the country. Earlier this year, I joined 172 Members of the House of Representatives and 39 Senators in filing an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in United States v. Windsor, arguing the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional and should be struck down. And, as a senior member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I led a letter to Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki calling for an expedited waiver process to grant every same-sex spouse of a veteran burial rights in our national cemeteries.

There is much to celebrate today, but still so much more to be done to ensure equal rights for LGBT Americans. As we look back upon our recent victories, we must also recommit to our efforts and harness the energy we used to achieve marriage equality last year to continue this fight. From our immigration and employment laws to our policies for veterans and military families, there is still plenty of work to be done to ensure all Americans, including members of our LGBT community, are treated equally.

Equal protection under the law is a fundamental right in our country. No one should suffer discrimination because of their race, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Whether applying for a job, finding a home, eating in a restaurant, seeking credit, serving in our military, or attending school, we must ensure all citizens are treated fairly and equally. To me, the fight for equality for the LGBT community is a fight for what it means to be American. That is why Pride Month is so important.

Each June, Pride Month brings our community together to honor diversity, equality, and love. And this year, we can celebrate some truly historic gains as LGBT couples are finally able to express their commitment to each other in the same way so many other Washingtonians have throughout our State's history—by joining in marriage and saying "I do."

Pride Month is a time to commemorate our accomplishments and recharge for the fight ahead. We have many more opportunities to advance our efforts in the coming months and years, and we will not give up until we have

achieved full equality under the law for all Washingtonians and all Americans. I wish to thank the countless organizations that have led us to the victories and accomplishments we celebrate in June. When we gather together in moments such as this, we speak with one unified voice for the cause of equality and give true meaning to our Founders' belief that all are created equal. I am proud to fight for the LGBT community in Washington and across the country, and I will continue to ensure the voices of LGBT Americans and their allies are heard in the United States Senate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING COLORADO EXPORTERS

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate four outstanding businesses that have won the President's "E" Award for their role in advancing Colorado's export industry. The "E" Award was created by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 to recognize companies that have made significant contributions to increasing American exports. It is one of the highest honors an export company can receive.

Many of these companies are small- and medium-sized firms—the lifeblood of our economy—and we can proudly say that of the 57 businesses honored, 4 were from our home State of Colorado: Frederick Exports, World Trade Center Denver, Geotech Environmental Equipment, and Lightning Eliminators. These innovative companies are strengthening our State's economy, creating jobs, and paving the way for other businesses in the State interested in exporting their products and services overseas.

In 2012, American exports hit an all-time record high of \$2.2 trillion and Colorado exports increased by more than 10 percent growing to \$8.1 billion. These businesses are a perfect example of how companies across the State can take advantage of this trend by tapping the growing international market. These achievements not only benefit these individual businesses, but they increase economic development for our State.

The World Trade Center Denver and Frederick Export, both based in Denver, were honored for assisting and facilitating export activities. The World Trade Center Denver educates businesses throughout the Rocky Mountain region about international trade and connects these businesses to the more than 300 World Trade Centers located in 100 countries. With over 250 members locally, the World Trade Center Denver has helped countless local businesses expand their markets and build strategic partnerships.

Frederick Export is an export management company that has successfully helped more businesses in Colorado export their products and services

abroad and grow their customer base. Companies represented by Frederick Export have seen growth of 20 percent or more each year.

Denver-based Geotech Environmental Equipment and Boulder-based Lightning Eliminators were recognized for showing sustained export growth. Lightning Eliminators, a leading supplier of lightning protection and prevention products and services, has grown its exports by nearly 200 percent over the past 4 years. Lightning Eliminators exports its innovative, patented lightning protection technology to such faraway places as Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Taiwan.

Geotech Environment Equipment provides quality environmental equipment to more than 20,000 companies worldwide and employs almost 100 people. Its exports have grown 40 percent over the past 4 years.

The pioneering spirit and innovative nature of Coloradans like these are spurring new job growth, driving our economy, and moving our State forward. I join the White House in honoring the contributions these companies have made to both Colorado and the country. I look forward to seeing their future progress and thank them for the vital part they have played in helping our State thrive.●

RECOGNIZING EXCEPTIONAL NEVADA STUDENTS

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize three of Nevada's brightest students—Caolinn Mejza, Sharon Fang, and Justin Joseph—for earning the prestigious title of Presidential Scholar from the U.S. Department of Education. Presidential scholars are chosen for outstanding test scores, essays, grades, and community service commitments.

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars named only 141 scholars throughout the United States this year. Caolinn Mejza, who attends the Las Vegas Academy of International Studies, Performing & Visual Arts, Sharon Fang of Clark High School, and Justin Joseph of Valley High School will represent Nevada as our State's winners. Each Presidential scholar will receive a medallion at a ceremony on June 16 in Washington, DC.

While honoring these students' academic achievements, it is also important to recognize the value and importance of education in our State. We must continue to support teachers and to improve our education system for students at all stages. I am dedicated to increasing the quality of education and ensuring that every student graduates prepared to enter college or the workforce.

On behalf of the residents of the Silver State, I am proud to recognize Caolinn, Sharon, and Justin for their accomplishments and their contributions to our State. They are undoubtedly some of the finest and most tal-

ented students in Nevada. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these exceptional young Nevadans.●

CONGRATULATING CEASAR SALICCHI

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Ceasar Salicchi for being named a Distinguished Nevadan by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents during the commencement ceremony at the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR. Mr. Salicchi is a military veteran and advocate for people with disabilities. He is truly deserving of this prestigious honor, which is awarded to current and former Nevadans who have made significant contributions to the cultural, economic, and scientific or social advancement of Nevada and its people.

Mr. Salicchi served in the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1947. After he contracted polio at the age of 25 in 1952, he became an advocate for others with disabilities. He is a founding member of the Elko Association for Retarded Children, established in 1969, and served as the office manager for Elko General Hospital from 1962 to 1970. Mr. Salicchi went on to serve four different Nevada Governors as a committee member for the Developmental Disabilities Act as well as the Employ the Handicapped Act. His lifetime dedication to serving those with disabilities is inspiring.

Not only is Mr. Salicchi a strong advocate and proponent for those with disabilities, but he is also a dedicated public servant. He has served the people and community of Elko County with dignity and honor as the county treasurer from 1971 to 2006.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ceasar Salicchi for his accomplishments and contributions to Nevada. I hope Mr. Salicchi's example of public service and advocacy will be an example to all of us of the power that one individual can have on the positive progression of the Silver State and its people. He is a truly a distinguished Nevadan and has earned our admiration and gratitude.●

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR H. WILSON

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise to ask that this body pay high tribute to an outstanding leader and trusted advocate for our nation's injured and ill veterans, their families, and survivors. I am referring to Arthur H. Wilson, the chief executive officer and national adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans. Mr. Wilson, after dedicating 47 years of service to our nation's veterans, is retiring as leader of that august group of 1.2 million veterans. His steadfast devotion and dedication in leading DAV has made the organization the Nation's premier veterans service organization offering assistance, compassion, and support to our injured heroes.

DAV is a service organization representing the brave men and women