

the women and families of the San Francisco Bay area as an outstanding OB/GYN and the medical community as a teacher and administrator. During his residency studies at UC San Francisco, he worked closely with Dr. Herbert F. Traut, who had helped to develop the Pap smear. Along with Traut, Kerner was instrumental in ensuring that women in the community had access to these critical screenings, which drastically reduced the instances of cervical cancer. To honor Dr. Kerner and his groundbreaking work, UC San Francisco established the John A. Kerner Distinguished Professorship in Gynecologic Oncology focusing on cancer research and patient care for women.

Dr. Kerner later became the founding director of the OB/GYN Department at Mt. Zion Hospital, where he taught the next generation of physicians and served as chief of staff before establishing his own private practice. My children are among the more than 2,000 babies that he delivered over the course of his career.

Dr. John Kerner has enriched the lives of so many, from the wounded of World War II who made it home thanks to his exceptional care and courage, to the women whose health he protected and whose babies he brought into the world, to the many doctors who now do the same because he taught them how. I am honored to salute him today in the Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO ANN WAYT

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, when we think of those who provide treatment to our loved ones, we think of registered nurses like Ann Wayt—a long-time staff member of Affinity Medical Center in Massillon, OH. Ms. Wayt has earned both the Affinity Medical Center Nurse Excellence Award and the esteemed Cameos of Caring award from the University of Akron's College of Nursing. Patients and fellow nurses in the hospital's orthopedic unit, were touched daily by Ms. Wayt's professionalism and care. Several of Ms. Wayt's coworkers have referred to her as a role model.

It does not come as a surprise that a nurse who cares so much about her patients also cares about her fellow workers and their working conditions. Collective bargaining in health care isn't just about a paycheck. It is about staffing levels, patient safety, and ensuring health care quality. For years, joining a union was a ticket to the middle class and ensured that those who work hard and take responsibility can still get ahead.

However, on September 26, 2012, Ann was fired by Community Health Systems, the hospital's parent company, shortly after she rallied with co-workers to organize a collective voice for better, safer workplace conditions and patient care. In fact, Ms. Wayt was fired by the hospital the day before the nurses voted to form a collective bar-

gaining unit. Though other grounds were given, both the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB, and the Federal Court ruled Ms. Wayt was fired because she was a lead organizer for her fellow nurses.

We have seen too many attacks on workers' rights in recent years. We have seen too many efforts to hamstring the NLRB and its ability to protect the rights of workers, and we have seen too many people fired for engaging in collective activity.

Fortunately, the NLRB stepped in and held a hearing last year, and the findings speak for themselves: Community Health Systems was ordered to reinstate Ms. Wayt and to recognize the nurses' union. Community Health Systems refused to comply.

In January 2014, Federal Judge John Adams ordered Ann's reinstatement, the recognition of the nurses' collective bargaining unit and for the hospital to stop harassing the nurses because they want a voice at work.

Nurses are on the front lines of patient care and deserve to have their voices heard on important, common sense issues such as:

- Minimum staffing levels based on patient acuity;
- the right to refuse unsafe assignments;
- the right to advocate for patients; and
- lift equipment safety protections for RNs and patients.

A 2013 study by the American Nurses Association shows that when workplaces collaborate and listen to worker input, nurses are able to provide care more effectively, and hospitals gain better overall patient outcomes.

Welcome back, Ann, and congratulations.●

TRIBUTE TO COREY TAYLOR

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor an exceptional Nevadan, Corey Taylor.

Corey is a sophomore at Las Vegas' Northwest Career and Technical Academy and the host of her own radio show, which focuses on bullying issues in high schools. She is on a mission to end the senselessness that is bullying. Championing a safe environment through activism of acceptance, even at a young age, Corey has embraced diversity by defending individual expression.

Overcoming her own situation of adversity is just one example of character Corey stands upon as a leader in her community. The hard-earned money she saves goes to her radio show, where she reaches an audience through her words in addition to her actions. She encourages people of all ages to surround themselves with positive influences and to embrace their unique qualities.

Through her community outreach, Corey encourages her peers to be true to themselves despite any type of social pressure. She refuses to let her

spirits be diminished by bullying, and her work has inspired others to do the same.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Corey for her service and contributions to Nevada.●

KCAM RADIO

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to honor Alaska radio station KCAM on its 50th anniversary on the air.

KCAM, is a radio station located in Glennallen, AK and it literally had an earth-shattering start. That is because KCAM signed onto the air under emergency orders late on the day of the Great Alaskan earthquake, on March 27, 1964. While the station had been planned and in preparation for going on air, its broadcast air date was advanced under emergency orders by the Federal Communications Commission so it could provide lifesaving information and aid in disaster relief communications following the largest earthquake ever recorded in North America.

At 5:36 p.m. Alaska Standard Time on Good Friday, nearly 50 years ago, an earthquake struck deep beneath Miners Lake in northern Prince William Sound, just 90 miles southwest of Glennallen. The quake, which then measured 8.6 on the Richter Scale but which has since been revised upwards to 9.2, sent shockwaves up to 700 miles away. The earthquake and resulting tsunami killed 131 people, 115 in Alaska and others in California and on the west coast. Amazingly only 12 people were killed by collapsing buildings and the quake itself, 119 in the tsunami that followed.

The earthquake, which lasted more than 4 minutes, released 10 million times more energy than the atomic bomb that devastated Hiroshima, Japan, according to a story in *The Alaska Almanac*. The quake devastated Southcentral Alaska, inundating Valdez and other coastal villages, destroying whole blocks in downtown Anchorage, the State's now largest city, but causing significant damage even north of the Chugach Mountain Range, where Glennallen is nestled.

KCAM, found at 790 on the AM radio dial, signed on in a part of east central Alaska, in the Center of the Copper River Valley, that then and even now is underserved by broadcast communication outlets. Then as now the station provides vital weather information, travel reports—valued by motorists on the Alaska Highway, the only surface route between Interior Alaska and the Lower 48 States—plus news, sports and music. The relative isolation of the region is highlighted by the fact that Caribou Clatters, the station's on air community bulletin board, is a valued way for area residents to get personal news to friends who live off the highway, in remote cabins not served by the array of telecommunication devices that many

Americans today take for granted. It is a real “News from Lake Wobegon” feature, far different than radio in urban America today.

It was no small feat for KCAM to sign onto the air—having electricity and a broadcast antenna still standing—in the hours just after the great earthquake, broadcasting a signal to warn drivers on the highway heading toward the Anchorage area of the damage ahead and dangers they were to face and to give vital information to Interior Alaskans to help them survive the late winter when normal supply deliveries were largely impossible.

The station today, while operating in less challenging times, serves as a ministry of the 40-year-old Alaska Bible College. It is staffed by broadcast professionals “who love the Lord and are committed to bringing excellence in radio” to the community of about 600 residents plus visitors. It also now offers an all-music station, 88.7 FM, which is staffed by Alaska Bible College students who are involved as board operators, broadcasters, office workers, and reporters—many receiving training in broadcasting through an introductory course offered each fall semester by station manager Scott Yahr.

The station, as I know firsthand from my appearances on it, provides residents of the Copper River Valley State political news that allows them to make informed ballot choices and to know how to dress for the day ahead through its weather updates. It is a great pleasure to congratulate Scott, program director Michelle Eastty, and special projects director Roger Bovee on the station’s 50th anniversary. I know the station will be formally celebrating its golden anniversary during a celebration banquet to be held on Saturday, April 12, but I wanted in advance to wish everyone connected to the station and all of its committed listeners a happy anniversary and a wish that the station continue to broadcast vital weather bulletins, important State and community news, and music and entertainment features for many decades to come.●

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the milestone 125th anniversary of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the national association representing our Nation’s State utility economic regulators.

The work of our Nation’s public utility regulators often goes unnoticed and unheralded until the lights go out or our utility rates increase. But, rest assured, the work these officials do on a daily basis impacts every single one of us in the country.

State utility regulators ensure the rates we pay for utility services are fair, just, and reasonable. They help make sure the utilities deliver these

services—electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications—in a safe and reliable manner.

NARUC offers its members countless opportunities for education, sharing of best practices, advocacy, and much more. Since March of 1889, the Association has provided countless resources aimed at improving regulatory practices. Since just about all of us pay utility bills in some way or another, we have all benefited from NARUC’s work over the last century and a quarter.

Think about it: in 1889, the electricity industry was in its infancy. Alexander Graham Bell was still perfecting his groundbreaking invention called the telephone. We were still learning how best to transport water and natural gas.

What a difference 125 years makes. We can now electrify our homes from solar rooftops. We can carry our personal computers in our pockets on our smartphones. We are using new technologies to find abundant resources of natural gas.

The one constant has been NARUC and the quality utility regulation it promotes. I thank NARUC and congratulate it on this 125th year anniversary.

Congratulations NARUC!●

CENTRAL LOUISIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce.

The Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce was originally founded as the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce by 250 men from all walks of life on March 30, 1914, in the Italian Room of the Hotel Bentley. Their intent was to promote the city and the region in order to attract business and facilitate growth, and they have been continuing this work for 100 years.

Over the next few decades, the Alexandria chamber would see many accomplishments toward this goal, with railroad companies like Missouri Pacific and Texas and Pacific opening terminal and repair facilities. Likewise, in 1923 Roy O Martin would open a forestry and wood products manufacturing facility. The U.S. military established a presence with Camp Beauregard, and the Alexandria VA Hospital opened to train and care for our men during World Wars I and II. Fort Polk was opened in 1941 to support our engagement in World War II, and the Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center continues to train men and women defending the United States today.

In 1956, the Alexandria chamber would merge with its neighboring chamber in Pineville, LA, to establish the Greater Alexandria-Pineville Chamber of Commerce to expand economic development initiatives across the region. During the next 30 years, LSU opened a campus in Alexandria; commercial airlines offered flights

from Esler Field; and companies such as Proctor & Gamble and Manning, Maxwell & Moore opened manufacturing plants, all in part due to the efforts of Greater Alexandria-Pineville Chamber.

In 1986, the chamber would adopt its current name, with a mission and vision to advocate for pro-business policies and provide programs that foster an environment for economic growth across the 11 parish region that it now represents, leveraging partnerships with many other organizations in the area to promote the region. The Central Louisiana chamber has also prioritized helping young people in the community. The Chamber’s Young Professionals Group is one such example of efforts to engage, retain, and involve Louisiana’s future leaders. Also, its Work Ready Network is a partnership with the Rapides Foundation, the Orchard Foundation, and the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance to link education, workforce development efforts, and the region’s economic needs.

Since its founding the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce has gone on to become the largest chamber in the region with more than 1,100 member businesses representing more than 28,000 employees. The chamber been an economic, social, and political leader for central Louisiana, and I am pleased to congratulate them on a century of success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 23. An act to designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2197. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the York River and associated tributaries for study for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

H.R. 2259. An act to withdraw certain Federal land and interests in that land from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws and to preserve existing uses.

H.R. 3370. An act to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4076. An act to address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill: