

championship rodeo event in the United States, I, along with my fellow Nevadans, am proud that it has called the Silver State home for so many years.

The National Finals Rodeo was established in 1958 by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association in order to determine the world champions in various events from bull riding to tie-down roping. First held in Dallas in 1959, the National Finals Rodeo was held in many different cities until 1984, when Las Vegas became its permanent home. An integral part of the Las Vegas community for 30 years, the National Finals Rodeo has brought more than 170,000 fans annually to see some of our Nation's toughest cowboys and cowgirls compete in 10 days of competition. This event has become a yearly tradition not only for Nevadans, but for people across the nation and the world. As rodeo lovers and horse enthusiasts, my wife Lynne and I were thrilled to attend this year's event.

The National Finals Rodeo offers Nevadans and rodeo goers nationwide a place to truly experience the gritty, energetic entertainment the Wild West is best known for. In one of the hardest hit regions during the recession, this event plays an integral role in Nevada's tourism economy. Tourism continues to be a prominent economic driver within the Silver State, and I am thrilled to learn this event will be a part of the Las Vegas community through 2024.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in recognizing the National Finals Rodeo, a special event that has proudly called Las Vegas home for the past 30 years, and I would like to offer the best of luck to all who are participating in this year's events.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN KROLICKI

● Mr. HELLER: Madam President, I wish to congratulate Lieutenant Governor Brian Krolicki, of Stateline, for his decades of service to the State of Nevada. After most recently serving as Nevada's lieutenant governor for 8 years, he will be retiring on January 5, 2015. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate my friend and colleague on his 24 years of hard work and dedication to the Silver State.

While serving as Nevada's Secretary of State, I came to know Lieutenant Governor Krolicki not only as a trusted colleague, but also as a dear friend. While attending Stanford University, Lieutenant Governor Krolicki fell in love with Lake Tahoe, NV. After earning a bachelor's degree in political science, he moved to Nevada. While maintaining his Silver State residence, he went on to become an investment banker in New York City and San Francisco. Lieutenant Governor Krolicki's public service career began in 1990 when he was tapped to serve as chief deputy treasurer to then-State treasurer Bob Seale. His many years of financial experience made him an ideal

candidate for State treasurer after the retirement of Treasurer Seale. Upon being sworn in as treasurer in 1999, he began to tirelessly devote his efforts to the people of Nevada. He created the Nevada college savings plans, and was responsible for the successful rollout and administration of the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship. Under his leadership, Nevada saw its first upgrade in credit ratings in nearly 30 years.

After serving 8 years as treasurer, he sought the lieutenant governorship in 2006 and won by a sizeable margin. During Lieutenant Governor Krolicki's two terms of service, he has ably focused on advancing the Silver State's tourism industry all over the Nation and around the globe. Lieutenant Governor Krolicki has served as chairman of the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition since 2006, and is actively fighting for northern Nevada to host the 2026 Olympic Games. This year, my wife Lynne and I were honored to participate in Nevada's 150th anniversary celebrations. As chairman of the Nevada Sesquicentennial Commission that successfully carried out over 500 events, Lieutenant Governor Krolicki has once more shown his dedication to the State of Nevada.

As a devoted husband and proud father to three girls, Lieutenant Governor Krolicki stands as a shining example of someone who has dedicated his life to serving his community. I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of the State of Nevada. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and community service and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in thanking Lieutenant Governor Krolicki for his service to the Silver State and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada an even better place. I offer my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS WELCH

● Mr. KING: Madam President, I wish to honor the career of a dear friend and former colleague, Mr. Thomas Welch, who is set to retire this year as Chairman of the Maine Public Utilities Commission. Tom's tremendous 35-year career bridged both the public and private sectors and has always been defined by a steadfast dedication to service and, of course, an unwavering love for the State of Maine.

As Governor, I had the privilege of calling on Tom to lead the Maine Public Utilities Commission, also known as the MPUC, and that is the same position that he was again nominated for and currently holds under Governor Paul LePage.

Serving as Chairman of the MPUC is, at times, a thankless job, but it is also one of monumental importance. Tom's job is central to keeping the lights on, the water flowing, the heat coming,

and the people of Maine connected through reliable phone and Internet services. In my administration—just as he does today—Tom performed those tasks and so much more with outstanding acumen, keen judgment, and, I might add, with one eye always towards the future. In fact, it is no exaggeration to say that Tom, perhaps more than anyone else across the State, played a pivotal role in ushering Maine's public utilities into the 21st century.

A generation of Maine's young minds can thank Tom for laying the groundwork that hastened their journey into the digital age. Tom recognized early on that the Internet was quickly evolving into a more dynamic and powerful tool that, when placed in the hands of our students and our communities, could become a catalyst for digital learning, a driver of economic growth, and an architect of intra-personal connections that were no longer limited by geographic constraints. With that immense potential in mind, he worked tirelessly to implement the Federal E-Rate program, which delivered Internet access to schools and libraries across the State—and with that newfound Internet access, he delivered new and unprecedented opportunities to people all across Maine, an achievement so fundamental and so critical to our daily lives that it simply cannot be understated.

As high energy prices across Maine continued to weigh heavily on the pockets and minds of people across the State, Tom endeavored mightily to de-regulate Maine's electric industry to lower energy prices, and most recently, he led the charge to expand natural gas capacity throughout the region.

In conclusion, I should point out that I often to refer to Tom as "SMIM"—the Smartest Maine in Maine. He possesses a vast knowledge of law and public policy that is matched by very few and that has helped inform and shape Maine's telecommunications and energy framework for nearly a decade. Indeed, one would be hard-pressed to find an individual with a deeper understanding of our State's public utilities infrastructure. But perhaps more important is his genuine ability to teach and share that knowledge with others. These characteristics not only make Tom a remarkable public servant, but a valued role model as well.

I, of course, am saddened to see Tom enter retirement because his departure will be a loss for Maine—but, I, along with the people of Maine, am forever grateful for his many years of service on behalf of our state.

Tom, congratulations and thank you. I hope your retirement is as restful and relaxing as it is well-deserved.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE GRANT-DAVIS

● Mr. MENENDEZ: Madam President, I am honored to recognize Ms. Katherine Grant-Davis on the occasion of her retirement from the New Jersey Primary

Care Association, NJPCA, after many years of remarkable service to the Garden State.

Kathy has admirably acted as the President and CEO of NJPCA, a non-profit organization that represents New Jersey's Federally-Qualified Health Centers, FQHC. Under her leadership, New Jersey's FQHC's have grown in both size and capability while modeling high standards of care for all ages and income levels. She represents the best of what NJPCA has accomplished in addressing the primary care needs of our friends and neighbors, and we owe her a debt of gratitude.

While New Jersey is home to 20 community health centers operating 121 sites throughout the State, this robust network would not be possible without Kathy's tremendous contributions. Under her leadership, FQHCs in New Jersey have come to represent quality, comprehensive, and most importantly, accessible care for more than 495,000 patients.

In addition to these and many more accomplishments during her tenure at the NJPCA, Kathy has also honorably served under two New Jersey Governors within the State's Department of Health and Senior Services. Throughout her career, Kathy has demonstrated an innate ability to get the job done without losing sight of the need to ensure the well-being of all. Whether working to develop new pharmaceutical funding initiatives, directing the New Jersey WIC Program, or helping to implement Title XX funding, her dedication and commitment has earned her the respect and admiration of her peers and colleagues.

In 2012, I was honored to recognize Kathy's efforts with the Evangelina Menendez Trailblazer Award, an honor bestowed upon the strong women of New Jersey who distinguish themselves in our communities each and every day. I am not alone in recognizing and honoring Kathy for the work she had done, as she has received commendations from the National Association of Community Health Centers, the NJ Biz Power 50 in Health Care, and NJ Citizen Action, among others.

While the Affordable Care Act brought the importance of access to high quality, accessible and affordable care to the forefront of the national conversation, it was an issue Kathy had already been working on for years. Her insight and counsel during the debate on health reform, as well as her constant vigilance on the law's implementation, has proven invaluable to me and of immeasurable benefit to FQHCs and their patients, not only in New Jersey but throughout the country. With our health care system evolving to focus on wellness, prevention and access to primary care, Kathy's work building New Jersey's network of community health centers into a nationally-recognized model ensures communities in New Jersey will flourish well into the future.

I congratulate Kathy on her retirement and would like to once again rec-

ognize, commend and applaud her legacy of extraordinary dedication to the New Jersey Primary Care Association and her unwavering service to the people of New Jersey.●

RECOGNIZING LA PLAZA

● Mr. RISC. Madam President, millions of American businesses have found their start in the living rooms, backyards, and garages of aspiring entrepreneurs. Harnessing individual creativity and work ethic, a talent can grow into a lasting enterprise. I wish to honor La Plaza, a restaurant from my home State of Idaho, whose hard work and dedication to quality has seen growth and prosperity while enhancing the local community.

Founded in 2003, La Plaza offers unique and traditional Mexican fare, including an assortment of moles made with chocolate and dried peppers, to diners and visitors in southern Idaho. Guadalupe "Lupe" Loza and her husband, Chon, originally from Aguascalientes, Mexico, never planned to own a restaurant until their infant son required long-term hospitalization and they needed to fund his medical bills. As a self-taught chef, Lupe Loza started making tamales and empanadas in her kitchen and selling the food directly to local dairy workers and observers on local soccer fields. As her fans multiplied, and driven by the philosophy that "farmers can dig the dirt and plant the seeds, but they can't make the plants grow," Lupe Loza took a leap of faith and opened the restaurant in a converted two-car garage, where customers sat at folding tables and ate off paper plates.

Today, La Plaza operates out of a 1,992 square foot space on Buhl's Main Street, located on the old Oregon Trail in the western half of Twin Falls County. The Lozas are dedicated to creating and serving authentic Mexican cuisine and making customers feel like they are eating at home with family. It is not surprising that after 11 years, La Plaza has received overwhelming praise from its diners and the larger community. The from-scratch food and "grandmother's house" feel have made La Plaza a local staple and traveler's destination. The small, yet diverse menu is updated frequently, accommodating customer feedback, requests, and favorites. From carne asada tacos to bacon-wrapped cheesy jalapeno bites, customers drive many miles out of their way to sample La Plaza's authentic Mexican cuisine. The restaurant has also expanded to cater at local venues, including the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration for the Latinos Unidos at the College of Southern Idaho. The Lozas dedication to excellence has earned La Plaza a five-star rating on Yelp, the second-highest rated restaurant in Buhl on Trip Advisor, and a 90 percent customer satisfaction rate on Urban Spoon.

Over the past 11 years, La Plaza has doubled in size, and the homemade ran-

chero fajitas are now served on china plates instead of paper plates. I hope La Plaza's story will inspire others around the country to chase the American Dream. I congratulate the Loza family and the entire La Plaza team on their success, continued growth, and exemplary reputation for quality. La Plaza represents the best aspects of American entrepreneurship and is a credit to both Idaho and the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO CARTER ADAMS

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Carter Adams, a 2014 summer intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Carter is a junior at the University of Central Florida, currently majoring in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Carter for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MADELINE AHERN

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Madeline Ahern, a 2014 spring intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Madeline is currently a rising senior at the Madeira School in McLean, VA. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Madeline for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE BARRERO

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Natalie Barrero, a 2013 fall intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Natalie is a graduate of the Catholic University of America, having majored in international business. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Natalie for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MOISES BENHABIB

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Moises Benhabib, a 2014 spring intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.