

I am excited to see a local teacher bring recognition to both Nevada and to Ed W. Clark High School by receiving a prestigious national award. Ms. McLee should be proud to call herself a top national magnet teacher. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Nevadans in congratulating Ms. McLee for her steadfast effort and honorable representation of Nevada.●

CONGRATULATING GERMAN RODRIGUEZ

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I congratulate Reno Police Officer German Rodriguez on receiving the Congressional Badge of Bravery, a well-deserved award after his extreme act of courage. On October 16, 2013, an armed robbery took place at a Bank of America in Reno, resulting in the death of a patron. Mr. Rodriguez was off duty and unarmed when he witnessed the occurrence at the bank, but he called 911 and followed the suspect after he had fled the scene. Mr. Rodriguez then apprehended and disarmed the suspect at a nearby bus station to be sure the situation would not escalate or result in the suspect getting away. Responding officers arrived shortly after to take the suspect into custody. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Rodriguez for his unwavering commitment to protecting his community in both this instance and throughout his tenure as an officer.

Mr. Rodriguez began his career as a Reno police officer in 1998 and has remained committed to his job and his community ever since. His dedication to keeping those around him safe is commendable, and his commitment to service above self is a shining example of heroism. The Reno community is safer because of Mr. Rodriguez.

The Congressional Badge of Bravery is awarded to law enforcement officers who have sustained a physical injury or were at great risk of physical injury while protecting their community. Mr. Rodriguez's actions more than warrant this prestigious award and represent only the greatest of Nevada's values, including a sense of community and an obligation to help others. His actions prove that he consistently makes the safety and security of others a top priority and is always ready to respond at a moment's notice. He is a role model to future generations of Reno police officers and officers across the country.

During his tenure, Mr. Rodriguez has demonstrated immeasurable bravery, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the police force. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rodriguez for all of his accomplishments and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the 50th anniversary of the Appalachian Regional Commission, a vital partnership that has created abundant opportunities for families and communities in my State of West Virginia and across the Appalachian region for five decades. Since its establishment in 1965, the Appalachian Regional Commission, known as ARC, has spurred job creation, economic growth and infrastructure improvements, which have helped build a stronger Appalachia. I am proud of all that ARC has done to help improve the region, and I am committed to continue working with the agency to further enhance our communities.

Over the past 50 years, the rural communities of Appalachia have faced unique challenges. After the American industrial revolution, which was driven largely by Appalachian coal and other regional resources, these communities experienced a rapid economic downturn. Since then, ARC has partnered with local and State leaders to make critical investments that have helped rebuild and revitalize the region.

Located in the heart of Appalachia, which is home to more than 25 million Americans, my home State of West Virginia has benefitted considerably from the contributions of ARC. Through its initiatives, ARC has played a critical role in helping lift West Virginians out of economic turmoil and homelessness. Prior to ARC's establishment, 34.6 percent of West Virginians were living in poverty. Today, that number has been cut in half to 17.6 percent. This is telling of ARC's commitment to the strength of our citizens in rural and economically distressed areas.

Also, by investing in our highways, railroads, bridges, as well as water and sewer systems, ARC funding in West Virginia has helped lay the foundation for economic growth in the region. Of West Virginia's 409.6 total eligible miles, 360.4 are open to traffic thanks to help from ARC. Additionally, ARC has made 2,133 strategic nonhighway grants in West Virginia, totaling \$387.6 million. These initiatives are vital to improving the quality of life for our residents and growing tourism and business in the State.

The agency's investments have undoubtedly been a source of economic vitality and an engine for job growth. All of the Mountain State's 55 counties added employment at a 4.2-percent faster pace and per capita income at a 5.5-percent faster pace than similar counties that did not receive ARC investments. Per capita income has increased from 71.6 percent of the national average in 1969 to 79.4 percent today.

Nonetheless, there is still work to be done to bring Appalachia to parity with the rest of the Nation. We must continue to invest in the region's educational programs, because the long-

term economic success of this region truly rests in the hands of a well-informed, educated and skilled workforce. We must also focus on working together to fight rampant drug use and abuse, a national epidemic that proliferates in the pockets of Appalachia. And of equal importance, we need to continue to invest in industrial infrastructure, broadband expansion, business development, health care, and workforce training.

While Governor, I had the honor of serving as the cochair for the State's representative of ARC and now, as a U.S. Senator from Appalachia, I continue to be a strong supporter of the program. ARC has proven over the past 50 years that a partnership between the Federal, State, and local government can work together to help improve the economic success in regions across West Virginia and Appalachia. It is truly an honor to recognize them today for their work to improve and develop this special American region.●

REMEMBERING STEVE PIERCE, II

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that Cindy and I would like to express our sincere condolences to our friend, Arizona State Senator Steve Pierce, his wife, Joan, and their entire family on the loss of their son, Stephen Morris Pierce II. Sadly, Steve leaves behind his wife Amilyn and their unborn child.

I wish there were a way to make sense of such a sudden and tragic loss. It is impossible for Steve's family and friends to understand how someone with such a bright future could be taken from them so quickly.

Raised on one of the last great cattle ranches in Arizona, Steve's imagination thrived. He was an all-American boy who enjoyed fishing, football, and baseball. His love of the ocean took Steve to San Diego State University, where he studied computer information and decision systems. Always adventurous and playful, Steve found a way to turn play into work when he started working in the online-gaming industry. He was able to fulfill his dream of starting his own online-gaming company.

Steve touched the lives of many and will never be forgotten. His generosity of spirit will always be treasured. We can take comfort in the fact that those who loved him will keep his memory alive when they remember his easy laugh and acts of kindness.

Cindy and I express our deepest sympathies for the tragic loss of such a fine son, husband, brother, and friend. Through this difficult time, the Pierce family will remain in our thoughts and prayers.●

DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY SESQUICENTENNIAL

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I recognize the Detroit Public Library's Sesquicentennial. For 150 years, the

Detroit Public Library has been a cornerstone in the cultural and intellectual life of Detroiters. Throughout that time it has remained committed to its mission of enhancing the quality of life of the city's residents, and has worked to safeguard the history of Detroit and Michigan.

When the Detroit Public Library opened on March 25, 1865 its collection consisted of 5,000 books housed in a single room of Michigan's first State Capitol. The Detroit Free Press celebrated the library's inauguration by reporting that all Detroiters were anxious to support the new institution. The free access to information on the fields of science and literature was embraced as a public good worthy of praise. As enthusiasm for the library grew, so did its collection. On March 27, 1873 Michigan Governor John Judson Bagley signed into law a measure calling for the construction of a new library in Detroit.

On January 22, 1877, the new home of the Detroit Public Library was dedicated and its first librarian, Professor Henry Chaney, was appointed. The building, the first to solely house the library, was designed in the Second Empire style by the Detroit architectural firm of Brush & Smith. Much of the detail work was completed by a young George D. Mason, who later went on to design the Detroit Masonic Temple and the Grand Hotel on Michigan's Mackinaw Island. In addition to its grand exterior, the library included a large reading room that featured ornate iron columns rising to a central skylight. The new building cost \$124,000 or approximately \$2.5 million when adjusted for inflation, and housed a collection that had grown to 33,604 items.

Demand for the services of the Detroit Public Library continued to grow along with the city's population. In 1900, the Detroit Public Library opened three additional branches. In 1904 it opened two more. The library continued to expand over the next two decades, with each additional branch designed and constructed to highlight beauty as well as utility. The library also established 80 smaller stations located in schools, fire houses and factories throughout Detroit. Still, as the city boomed with the success of the automotive industry, the Detroit Public Library found itself in need of even more space.

In March 1910, the City of Detroit accepted financial assistance from Andrew Carnegie to encourage the construction of a new, larger public library. In light of Detroit's growth, officials determined the new library should be located north of downtown. The city purchased land along Woodward Avenue for nearly \$500,000—more than \$11.1 million today—and hired Cass Gilbert to design the new building. Mr. Gilbert, an architect from New York, had designed the library in St. Louis and the Woolworth Building in New York City. He would also go on to design the James Scott Memorial

Fountain on Detroit's Belle Isle, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, DC.

The Detroit Public Library's main branch opened at its current location in March, 1921. With a final cost of \$3 million—nearly \$38.45 million today—the Italian Renaissance inspired structure of white marble was immediately deemed the most beautiful building in Detroit. When it opened, the main library's collection included more than 500,000 items. The library continued to grow. On June 23, 1963, the Cass Avenue wings of the main branch opened, doubling the size of the library to accommodate a collection that had reached almost 2 million items and served nearly 2 million residents.

Today, the Detroit Public Library includes 23 locations and a collection of over 4.1 million items. It remains committed to increasing the quality of life in Detroit and addressing the changing needs of its residents. The library provides programs for adults, children, and teens designed to increase literacy and technical skill, encourage lifelong learning, promote multiculturalism, and ensure the equitable access to information. This year it is proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Junior Great Books Program and the 75th anniversary of its Bookmobile. It has also continued to serve the entire State of Michigan through its outstanding special collections, which include the 100-year-old Clarence M. Burton Historical Collection, the E. Azalia Hackley Collection of African Americans in the Performing Arts, the Rare Book Collection, and the Ernie Harwell Sports Collection.

As the Detroit Public Library moves into the future, I am confident it will continue to contribute to the intellectual capital, diversity, creativity and community spirit of a great city. I am pleased to recognize the Detroit Public Library's Sesquicentennial and wish it another 150 years of service to the City of Detroit.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. RUSHING JR.

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I recognize William E. Rushing Jr. for his volunteer leadership to the American Concrete Institute, ACI, headquartered in Farmington Hills, MI, an organization whose work is fundamental to our Nation's critical infrastructure and economic competitiveness. I am honored to acknowledge Mr. Rushing for his career-long commitment to advancing knowledge of concrete in the United States and abroad.

ACI has been a pioneer in all concrete-related fields: research and development, structural design, architectural design, construction, and product manufacture. With 100 professional chapters, 86 student chapters, and nearly 18,000 members spanning over 100 countries, the ACI provides knowledge and information for the best use of concrete. Through a host of activi-

ties including continuing education, certification, seminars, publications, and conventions, ACI plays an active and vital role in the concrete industry. Central to ACI's work is the development of codes and standards, which serve as a reference for building codes that impact many concrete projects in the United States. Further, in some 21 countries worldwide, the ACI 318 Structural Concrete Building Code provisions serve as a base for part or all of these nations' building codes.

Mr. Rushing received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University, LSU, Baton Rouge, in 1981. He is a licensed professional engineer in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Arizona. Mr. Rushing is also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Structural Engineers Institute. He has been honored with election to the LSU Civil and Environmental Engineering Hall of Distinction.

Currently, William E. Rushing Jr. is a vice president with Waldemar S. Nelson & Co., Inc., New Orleans. He has been an active member of ACI for more than 30 years and was named a fellow of ACI in 1998. He previously served on the ACI board of direction, has chaired the ACI strategic plan drafting task group, and has skillfully managed institute finances for several terms as chair of the Financial Advisory Committee. As chair of the ACI Convention Committee, he has worked tirelessly to improve the experience for local chapters at its conventions. He has worked on several ACI technical committees that cover the full range of the institute's areas of knowledge and expertise. Through his work on ACI educational committees, he has been a strong promoter of ACI student activities programs. He also serves on the board of the ACI Foundation.

Mr. Rushing will complete his term as president of ACI on April 16, 2015, at The ACI Concrete Convention and Exposition in Kansas City, MO. His year-long presidency has been marked by implementing and advancing the goals of engagement, outreach, structure, and leadership in the ACI Strategic Plan. The ACI University Program was launched as a new method to deliver online learning modules to bring education information to all concrete professionals. A major development during his presidency was the rollout of the reorganized ACI 318-14 Structural Concrete Building Code, the culmination of a massive technical undertaking which took nearly 7 years to complete. In his outreach capacity, Mr. Rushing engaged concrete industry professionals and their broader network of stakeholders on the benefits of the reorganized code.

Over his decades of work in the concrete industry, Mr. Rushing has been honored with many awards for his outstanding leadership and service. In 2011, he was recognized with the ACI Henry L. Kennedy Award for his work