

like that, he wouldn't let go. His outrage over what was happening to defenseless people gave him an energy and a commitment to see it through.

As chairman, Senator Heinz took on the powerful in defense of the powerless.

Senator Heinz was an honorable public servant for our Commonwealth and our Nation. He focused intensively on the challenges facing our seniors and worked tirelessly to find solutions to their problems. We continue to be inspired by his distinguished service on behalf of the older citizens of Pennsylvania.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO DR. SHEILA CROWLEY

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I do not often recognize non-Vermonters on the floor of the Senate, but I rise today to applaud the numerous and significant achievements of Dr. Sheila Crowley. Dr. Crowley recently retired as president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, after decades of advocacy to make sure people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes. It has truly been an honor to work closely with Sheila on issues related to affordable housing.

I am particularly proud of our efforts to create the national housing trust fund, the only Federal program designed to build new affordable rental housing specifically for extremely low-income individuals. In the early 2000s, Sheila provided invaluable assistance to my office as we drafted the first House version of the trust fund and shepherded the legislation through its first votes in the House Financial Services Committee.

For the next 15 years, Sheila built grassroots support across the country for the trust fund, to keep the pressure on Federal lawmakers. Despite numerous setbacks—and one serious housing market collapse—she tirelessly advocated for addressing the significant housing needs of people with limited economic resources. It is a fitting testament to her tenacity that just as she prepared to retire, the Federal Housing Finance Agency began capitalizing the trust fund for the first time. Later this year, States will receive the first new Federal affordable housing production funds in decades, and for that, Sheila Crowley deserves an enormous amount of credit.

Not surprisingly, Sheila received the 2009 John W. Macy award from the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Housing Leadership Award from the National Low Income Housing Coalition for her work on the National Housing Trust Fund campaign. But I am guessing the award Sheila will cherish most will be when, in the not-too-distant future, tenants move into the first trust fund financed affordable housing.

I cannot overstate the importance of Sheila's work and her accomplishments. We are experiencing nothing less than an affordable housing crisis on the national level. In order to afford the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 102 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

Throughout her tenure at the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Sheila was not just a resolute advocate; she was also a vital resource on housing policy to many members of Congress. She also worked closely with organizations focused on homeless services, family housing, AIDS housing, housing for people with disabilities, senior housing, and services for battered women and victims of rape.

And while her focus was national, Sheila often travelled to States to support local housing efforts, including in my State of Vermont. She was a frequent keynote speaker at Vermont conferences and a valued partner in developing local responses to our housing challenges. I know a great many Vermonters who worked closely with Sheila and hold her in the highest esteem.

I wish Dr. Sheila Crowley all the best in her well-deserved retirement, and I am confident her affordable housing efforts will continue to bear fruit for decades to come.●

NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize seersucker manufacturers and enthusiasts across the United States. I wish everyone a Happy National Seersucker Day. This uniquely American fashion has a storied history dating back to 1909. Louisiana is proud to have played an important part in introducing the country to seersucker apparel. The first seersucker suit was designed by Joseph Haspel at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans, LA.

This lightweight cotton fabric, known for its signature pucker, has been worn and enjoyed by Americans across the country during the hot summer months. Mr. Haspel said it best, "hot is hot, no matter what you do for a living." In the 1990s, Seersucker Day was established by Members of this chamber to honor this unique American fashion. I proudly resumed this tradition in 2014 in the U.S. House of Representatives by designating Wednesday, June 11, as National Seersucker Day. I have continued this tradition in the U.S. Senate and wish to designate Thursday, June 9, as the third annual National Seersucker Day. I encourage everyone to wear seersucker on this day to commemorate this iconic American clothing.

TRIBUTE TO PETER HENRY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a distinguished member of my staff, my legislative di-

rector, Peter Henry. I am sad to say that Peter will be leaving my office, as well as Washington, DC, for a new chapter in his life. His last day is April 29, 2016. He and his beautiful wife Libby, his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter Winnie, and his daughter-to-be will soon move back to his hometown of Kansas City. Peter has taken a job working in the private sector, where I know he will excel and succeed as he has during his time with my office.

Peter was one of the first staff members I hired after I became Senator, but Peter's time in Washington began back in 2005 when he came to our Nation's capital straight out of college. Prior to joining my team, Peter made a name for himself as a sharp and capable Hill staffer, rising quickly through the ranks in three different Senators' offices before moving to the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, where he had a lead role in surface transportation issues.

Given his breadth of experience and the deep respect he fostered with his colleagues, Peter no doubt had his choice of offices to work for, but he chose to work for me. For that, I am immensely grateful. Being a freshman Senator is not easy, and being staff to a freshman senator is certainly a challenge. Peter rose to the challenge. He put together the best legislative team I could have imagined. He handled stress under fire, taught us about complex Senate procedures, and adeptly helped me navigate the minefields that can be Washington politics. His intelligence, integrity, strong work ethic, sense of fair play, and his good nature will be sorely missed in my office.

Peter is also a patriot and made sure to set us on the right track to serve the great people of Alaska and the rest of the country. I can't thank Peter enough for all the work he has done for me and for the rest of my staff. He leaves a hole, but I am comforted to know that his future is bright and that he will continue to contribute to our great country by working hard at his new endeavor and, most importantly, raising a wonderful family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN CANTU

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Evelyn Cantu for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Evelyn is a native of Texas. She currently attends Casper College, where she is studying political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Evelyn for the dedication she has shown while working for

me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID JOST

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to David Jost for his hard work as an intern in my Riverton office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

David is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where he received a B.A. in psychology, B.S. in sociology, and M.S. in neurophysiology. David has also received a master of natural resources from Virginia Tech. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank David for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO THE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CJI

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the elementary students of Chester-Joplin-Inverness, CJI. These students took part in Chester's annual Harvest 4 Hunger Campaign. All together, they gathered 2136.5 pounds of nonperishable food.

CJI is a combination of three towns up on what we call the Highline in Montana. The towns are Chester, Joplin, and Inverness. These three towns have come together to make one great school to serve the students of the area.

There are 108 elementary students at CJI, and they did such a wonderful thing for families in the area. Harvest 4 Hunger is a campaign operated by CHS to gather nonperishable food items and money donations to give to local charities to feed families in need.

Now I hear the students had a little motivation for bringing food in. The winning classes at the end of each week were rewarded with a pizza party. There is no better motivation than a pizza party. I read a lot quotes from the kids, and it sounds like they had a great time collecting the food, and they were happy to get the chance to help people in need. One student told their teacher Miss Manion, That is what Hawks do.

It makes me so proud to see young Montanans helping out their communities. These students did such a wonderful thing. Great job, and God bless.●

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Veterans Guest

House for its unwavering commitment and loyalty to providing our servicemembers, veterans, and their families lodging while they address their own health care needs at medical facilities throughout northern Nevada. The Veterans Guest House is one of a kind for our great State and is an invaluable resource to our military community.

The Veterans Guest House was founded over two decades ago when a mother and her children were found sleeping in their car while their veteran father was in the intensive care unit at the local VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. In the early 1990s, founders of the Veterans Guest House—Chuck Fulkerson, Dick Rhyno, Thomas Purkey, Minor Kelso, Robert Crowell, Esq., Wally Willson, Lois Crocker, David Parsons, Joseph Rooney, Charles Grundy, Jes Barbera, Don Anderson, Lew Carnahan, Ben Duncan, Jeani Hunt, Jim Martin, Manuel Muniz, Rick Sorenson, Ensio Tosolini, Joe Scamihorn, William Wood, Len Crocker, Kit McGrath, Richard Shuster, Elaine McNeill, Rand Tanner, Chester Henry, and Ted Buchwald—realized that many veterans and their families lacked a place to stay while family members received medical treatment, and in 1994, they created the Spouse House. By 1998, the facility grew to offer five beds for veterans and their families.

In 2002, the facility was officially named the Veterans Guest House, and on Veterans Day in 2004, with only private donations, the organization purchased and renovated a 3-story home across the street from the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. This facility now accommodates up to 17 guests. The Veterans Guest House provides both long-term and short-term lodging to veterans and their families for various situations, including veterans receiving outpatient care, families of veterans who are hospitalized, and veterans' immediate family members who are receiving medical treatment as an inpatient or outpatient. In the 22 years since its inception, the Veterans Guest House has served over 55,000 nights to veterans, veteran spouses, and veteran families.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but those at the Veterans Guest House have gone above and beyond to show their appreciation. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to chief executive officer Noreen Leary, the incredible staff, and the many dedicated individuals who volunteer at the Veterans Guest House, in addition to president Terry Tholl, vice President Monk Maim, secretary Lucy Miller, treasurer Carol Langford, and past and present members serving on the board of directors. These individuals helping our active military members, veterans, and their families at the Veterans Guest House stand as shining examples of the

manner in which we should respect our men and women in uniform. The unwavering dedication of the Veterans Guest House to providing our brave men and women with a place to stay is commendable, and I am proud to honor it today.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. Equally as important, it is crucial that these servicemembers and their families have a place to stay while receiving quality care. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service organizations like the Veterans Guest House are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing the Veterans Guest House, an organization whose mission is noble and charitable. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge this organization and its work to provide active military members, veterans, and their families a safe place to stay, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING THOMAS C. SWEENEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the people of Kodiak, AK, will gather on Saturday, May 7, to celebrate the life of Thomas "Tom" Cornelius Sweeney. Tom passed away on March 29 at the age of 84.

Tom was born on February 9, 1932, in Helena, MT. He first came to Kodiak as a member of the U.S. Navy, then returned to work construction and married Nancy Ann Norman. Nancy's family owned the gift and photo shop, Norman's.

Tom first pursued a career in law enforcement, serving as a territorial policeman, detective, State trooper, and private investigator. That took Tom and Nancy to various cities in Alaska. Following the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and tsunami, they returned to Kodiak for good. Tom and Nancy helped Nancy's family restore Norman's following the disaster. Tom pursued his entrepreneurial interests in oil sales, automobile sales and service, and finally insurance brokerage before retiring in 1996—a well-rounded career.

He was equally committed to the Kodiak community, serving as president of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce, the Kodiak Rotary Club, and Pioneers of Alaska Igloo #18, which Tom helped reactivate in 1983. His statewide leadership roles included service as state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and chairman of the Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.