

helping the U.S. achieve an important strategic victory in the Pacific.

Finally, in March of 1945, Tom arrived in Okinawa as a hardened soldier and expert marksman.

Here, Tom aided in the capture of pivotal Japanese territory, before contracting a mosquito-borne illness.

Tom was transferred to Fort Lewis, Washington, in September of 1945, spending a total of seven months in the hospital.

Tom was honorably discharged from the Army on February 18, 1946.

He eventually settled in Lewistown, Montana, where he joined the police force and spent the last seven years of his 22-year career as Chief of Police.

After retiring from the force at the age of 55, Tom went on to become a jeweler—in both Lewistown and then Billings—for the next 14 years.

He married his wife, Georgia, just a few years ago at the age of 90. And he is the proud father of five children and a multitude of grandchildren.

I now have the profound honor of presenting Tom with his own set of military honors.

For his bravery in line of duty, Thomas Huff received the Marksman Badge with Carbine Bar, Expert Badge with Rifle Badge, Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Arrowhead, Good Conduct Medal, and Bronze Star Medal.

Tom, these medals serve as a small token of our country's appreciation for your incredible service and profound sacrifice.

You are a true American hero. Thank you so much for your service.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL E. KUNZ

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to honor Mr. Michael E. Kunz for his 54 years of extraordinary service as Clerk of Court for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In 1962, Mr. Kunz was appointed as a deputy clerk following his graduation from Father Judge High School in Philadelphia and went on to receive both his bachelor of science degree and his master of business administration degree from St. Joseph's University. Throughout his career, Mr. Kunz showed an unparalleled enthusiasm for innovation and a profound dedication to ensuring the accessibility of our justice system for all Americans. I would like to take this time to reflect on his service and on the example he set for those who seek to serve their country.

As one of the longest serving Federal court clerks in history, Mr. Kunz represents the growth of the court administrative infrastructure and the importance of the clerk's office in the operations of the court. Mr. Kunz spent much of his career overseeing the expansion of the Eastern District's facilities in Allentown, Easton, Philadelphia, and Reading to accommodate a larger Federal caseload and increased numbers of article III judges, magistrate judges, and court employees. He introduced innovations that allowed the court to do its work more efficiently and transparently than ever before. He helped to pioneer 17 out of the 26 nationally supported automation

systems in the Federal judiciary, as well as advances in electronic case filing, docketing of cases, and fiscal management. Mr. Kunz supervised the introduction of the electronic courtroom; at present, 22 courtrooms in the Eastern District have full electronic capabilities. To ensure accuracy of court records, he implemented digital audio recording systems in all courtrooms in the Eastern District. Such systems allow litigants and members of the public who may not be able to order an expensive transcript or travel to a courthouse to access judicial information in an affordable, timely manner.

Mr. Kunz demonstrated his commitment to improving the courts and preserving their memories by serving on a number of national committees and advisory boards. In 1989, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist appointed him to the Advisory Committee to the Board of the Federal Judicial Center concerning the development of programs relating to the history of the judicial branch. Mr. Kunz served on committees overseeing court statistics, the development of automatic case management systems, changes to the decentralization of the budget and to the Judicial Salary Plan, and is a founding member of the Historical Society for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In 1994, he received the Director's Award from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, just one of many commendations he received throughout his career.

For over 50 years Mr. Kunz has stood for equality and efficiency in the justice system and embodied the selfless character of a true public servant. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I want to thank Mr. Michael E. Kunz for his decades of service and wish him the best for his retirement in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JANICE MITCHELL

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service of my staff member Janice Rankin Mitchell of Madison, MS, on the occasion of her retirement following a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Senate as a constituent service representative.

Janice joined the staff of U.S. Senator John C. Stennis on January 15, 1978. She joined my staff in January 1985 following Senator Stennis's retirement.

Janice's tenure as a Senate employee has been historic. Janice Mitchell is one of the longest serving staff members in Senate history and the only African-American woman to have worked for two Senators from Mississippi.

Janice has been a steady and effective presence in my Jackson, MS, field office, where she has directly served Mississippians in need of help with Medicare, Medicaid, and the Social Security Administration.

Janice is compassionate, caring, and proficient. She has exceeded her duty

to help Mississippians navigate Federal programs and receive the benefits to which they are entitled. During her tenure in the Senate, Janice has managed nearly 5,000 constituent cases, more than 3,000 of which have been resolved favorably.

One constituent, Mr. Buddy Cooper of Florence, MS, wrote to me about Janice's work on his behalf. He described her as "the person who reached out her hand and led us from darkness to light . . . who went from being a friend to part of the family."

Beyond her service to the Senate, Janice's involvement in her community and church reflect her commitment to serve others. Janice is a faithful and devoted member of Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. She has served in many ministries there, including the choir and the Sunday school, where she is currently in charge of all classes for teenagers.

Janice and her husband of 37 years, Johnny Mitchell, have two children, Jonathan and Jasmine, and a granddaughter, Ja'Lena, by Jonathan, and his wife, Santana. Janice's parents, the late Reverend and Mrs. Nelvis Rankin, Sr., would be proud of their "baby daughter."

Retirement will be the end of Janice's 38-year career with the Senate but will mark the beginning of many new opportunities for her and her family. Janice looks forward to travelling and spending time with her family in her favorite role as "Granny."

From myself and all of those who have worked with Janice, we say thank you for your years of service to Mississippi and the United States.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL AUGUSTUS L. COLLINS

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute today to MG Augustus L. Collins, the adjutant general of the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard. General Collins is retiring after a remarkable legacy of nearly 40 years of military service.

Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant appointed General Collins as adjutant general in 2012, and the readiness of Mississippi's 12,275 citizen soldiers and airmen has thrived under General Collins's strong leadership. The excellent organizational and command skills exercised by General Collins have ensured that Mississippi's National Guard forces are equipped and trained to accomplish any mission, whether responding to natural disasters at home or deployed to combat zones overseas.

General Collins enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard in March 1977. Following his enlistment, he completed State officer candidate school and was commissioned in July of 1980. As a commissioned officer, General Collins advanced quickly up the ranks

and continuously trusted with new levels of responsibility. General Collins's leadership skills led to assignments in command and staff positions at every level, including company, battalion, regiment, brigade, and the adjutant general's primary staff in both a traditional and Active Guard Reserve status.

General Collins's record of military service also includes being called to Active Duty in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and commanding the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team during combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004 to 2006.

The commitment, courage and sacrifice demonstrated by General Collins is reflected in the many awards and decorations earned over his distinguished career. These honors include, but are not limited to, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Mississippi Magnolia Cross.

General Collins is a true patriot and one of the most respected leaders in Mississippi. His care and commitment for our citizen soldiers and their families is unwavering. On a personal level, I am grateful for the opportunity to work closely with General Collins. His strength of character, gracious presence, and warm personality always make him a pleasure to be around.

It is an honor to commend General Collins and to express appreciation to him for a job well done. The State of Mississippi and United States of America are better because of you.●

TRIBUTE TO MEN AND WOMEN IN RADIO

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to commend the men and women who work in radio broadcasting and to thank the National Broadcasting Professionals Coalition of Radio and Music for ensuring all those working in this profession are properly recognized for their contributions to society. The legislature in my home State of Georgia passed a resolution during the 2016 legislative session recognizing an entire week of April as "Men and Women in Radio Broadcasting Week" in our State, proposed by Atlanta radio host Dee Hill.

Today I particularly recognize the "Fabulous Five" women who were recently honored for their contributions at the Women in Radio reception in Atlanta, GA, hosted by Dee Hill Presentations and Annabella's Foundation, Inc. I congratulate these women—Carol Blackmon, Regina Allen Slaughter, Michele Williams, Sylvia James, and Myrna Taylor-Ransom—who have marked outstanding professional achievements in their industry.

These women and all those who work in radio broadcasting are the producers of radio shows, station managers, disc jockeys, radio hosts, and traffic report-

ers. They are the pioneers of internet radio, blog talk radio, and podcasts. They are in front of the microphone and working behind the scenes to produce radio shows and keep radio stations on the air. We thank them all for their fine work to keep our Nation informed, to encourage debate, and to entertain us.●

RECOGNIZING THE SALT LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, my home State of Utah has long been one of the best kept secrets in America. But this is beginning to change. Utah is increasingly recognized as one of the best places in the world to live, study, work, raise a family, start a business, and build communities. In fact, many call Utah the next Silicon Valley, as the Beehive State is fast becoming one of the most popular destinations in America for venture-capital funding and pioneering businesses.

Central to the success of our State's business community is the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, Utah's largest business association, with members in each of the State's 29 counties, representing more than 8,000 businesses and nearly half the State's workforce.

For generations, the Salt Lake Chamber has played a pivotal role in building a strong and dynamic economy across Utah, by supporting its members, forging collaborative and productive partnerships, and investing in local communities in every corner of the State.

On June 8, 2016, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce recognized the Salt Lake Chamber's record of success by awarding it a five-star accreditation—a highly esteemed designation carried by only 204 of the approximately 7,000 chambers of commerce across the country. Receiving a five-star accreditation proves what many Utahns already knew to be true: the Salt Lake Chamber embodies the enterprising and cooperative spirit of our State and our people.

On behalf of the people of Utah, I congratulate the Salt Lake Chamber—and the thousands of Utah businesses and workers they support—for this well-deserved and impressive distinction, and I thank the chamber's staff, board, and volunteers for the outstanding work that the five-star accreditation represents.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT WITT

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure and the highest regards that I speak on the accomplishments of my valued constituent and friend, Dr. Robert Witt. On August 31, 2016, Dr. Witt retired after 4 years as chancellor of the University of Alabama System and 13 total years of service with the system.

Dr. Witt served as the 26th president of the University of Alabama from 2003–2012, which were some of the most

successful years in the history of the university. Indeed, I believe it will be difficult for any other president of the university to match his success. When Dr. Witt first arrived in Tuscaloosa, he pursued a strategy called for increasing enrollment, stimulating growth in research, supporting economic expansion in Alabama, raising faculty salaries, boosting financial aid, and expanding university facilities. And he accomplished it all.

Dr. Witt's record of groundbreaking enrollment is unparalleled. In 2003, there were less than 20,000 students on campus. His plan called for increasing student enrollment to 28,000 by 2013. This goal was achieved much sooner, as the university enrolled 28,807 students in 2009. Throughout Dr. Witt's tenure, the University of Alabama experienced explosive growth with phenomenal increases in enrollment of both instate and out-of-State students.

The university had a record-breaking year in 2012, when 33,602 students registered for classes. Each subsequent year brought another record student enrollment, and today the student population exceeds 37,000. The Washington Post recently named the university as the fastest growing flagship university in the Nation after finding it has experienced a stunning 92 percent rate of growth. The Post's analysis acknowledged that the growth at the University of Alabama has surpassed that of all the other growing Southeastern Conference universities.

Even with this unprecedented and dramatic growth, academic quality and scholarship opportunities increased. This increase in student population was accompanied by new construction and renovations to campus buildings, such as new residence halls and dining facilities. Dr. Witt's vision positioned the University of Alabama as one of the fastest growing public research institutions in the Nation.

Dr. Witt brilliantly created the university's honors college in 2003. It has grown today to more than 6,500 students. The honors college is rooted in four pillars of the educational experience: innovative scholarship, advanced research, civic engagement, and cultural interaction. It has been instrumental in attracting the very top tier of academic talent from all over the Nation and the world to the school.

The growth of the student population was complemented by the athletic success. After several trying years on the football field, Dr. Witt and his administration selected Nick Saban as the head football coach in 2007. Nine years and four national championships later, Coach Saban proved to be the best of his profession. Dr. Witt has stated that hiring Coach Saban was the best financial investment that the university has ever made. Sports success increased enthusiasm among the alumni, students, and prospective students. Dr. Witt used this excitement to further his goals. The university's capital improvement campaign goal was exceeded by several