

history lesson or a lesson in parliamentary procedure. They want a government that is fair, that is reasonable, and that works.

I hope that all my colleagues—and especially the new Senators—give serious consideration to reform.

We do not need to win every legislative or nomination vote. But we need to have a real debate and an open process to ensure we are actually the greatest deliberative body in the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOHN “DEPENDS ON HIM” SMITH

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and remember my good friend John Smith.

On Saturday, December 31, 2016, we lost one of Wyoming’s best leaders and diplomats on the Wind River Reservation. John Smith was a member of the Northern Arapaho tribe. For 27 years, he served as the director of the department of transportation for the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Reservation. Mr. Smith played a major role passing transportation legislation that will save and improve lives on the Wind River Reservation and across tribal communities.

John was a wonderful friend and a wonderful man. I admired him greatly for his big heart, his warmth, and his larger than life personality. John cared deeply about the lives of people who lived and traveled through the Wind River Reservation. John’s commitment to improving his community’s roads can be seen today all over the Wind River Reservation. He was a hard worker, innovative and creative. He was always doing more with less. His jokes and sense of humor always made that hard work a little easier. Indian country did not have a better advocate or finer person to represent them in Washington, DC.

Since John’s work ethic and personality were so big, he naturally lived up to his nickname “Big John” in every respect. As a former football and basketball player, you could see Big John coming from blocks away.

In 2014, John was in Washington, DC, to receive the White House Champions of Change award from the Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx. Big John was being recognized for bringing tribal, State, and local leaders together to complete construction of the notorious 17 Mile Road. When he received the award, Big John took off his cowboy hat and placed it on the head of Secretary Foxx. The unforgettable smile on Big John lit up the room with laughter. This special man left a lasting impression on all those who had the privilege of working with him.

Last April, John testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He talked about dangerous roads that were costing lives in tribal commu-

nities. His testimony led to important legislation being passed to improve those roads. His efforts not only changed lives, it saved them, and we are all grateful. It has been an honor and privilege to work with Big John on highway bills. It has been a higher honor to be his friend.

John leaves big boots to fill, and I am confident the Wind River community will fill those boots and continue his hard work.

As we lift up our hearts and celebrate Big John’s life, we also thank him for his selfless service on behalf of the people of Wyoming. Big John, thank you, and we will miss you.●

TRIBUTE TO SHELBY GARDNER

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Shelby Gardner, of Warren, AK, as this week’s Arkansan of the Week, for her work with the Arkansas Veterans Hospital posttraumatic stress disorder program in Little Rock.

Shelby is a senior at Warren High School in Bradley County and is proof that you are never too young to give back to your community. Shelby wanted to find a way to honor the men and women who put their lives on the line for our safety: our veterans. Specifically, she wanted to help those veterans who suffer from posttraumatic stress.

After learning about the Arkansas Veterans Hospital posttraumatic stress disorder program, Shelby began to talk with anyone who would listen about the program—friends and family, her church congregation, civic clubs, and other organizations across Warren and Bradley County. She told them about her passion for helping veterans, the good work this program does, and how much it would benefit from additional support.

Her hard work paid off. With the help of a local auctioneer, Shelby organized a community bake sale auction and managed to raise \$8,000 for the Arkansas Veterans Hospital. But Shelby wasn’t finished. She and a group of other volunteers spent hours preparing and selling sandwiches at the Bradley County fair and raised an additional \$2,000, for a grand total of \$10,000 for veterans suffering from posttraumatic stress.

A veteran in Shelby’s community was struck by her commitment to such a noble cause and in his nomination of Shelby wrote: “Her actions are proof that patriotism runs deep in small town America. She is an exceptional representative of many young people in our nation deeply committed to the men and women who serve protecting and defending our nation and our way of life. Shelby is a shining example of the caliber of young person this country requires to ensure the survival of our nation and our values. She is a focused, goal oriented young woman who is a credit to her family, her church, her community, her state and nation.”

I am equally as inspired by Shelby’s hard work and her commitment to our veterans. Patriotism does indeed run deep in a State like Arkansas. Now, because of her efforts, the Veterans Hospital in Little Rock can better serve Arkansans who suffer from PTSD.

It is an honor to recognize Shelby Gardner as Arkansan of the Week, and I am thankful for people like Shelby who, using the resources around them, work to make others’ lives better.●

TRIBUTE TO ARLENE MATHEWS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Arlene Mathews of Helena, MT, for her 63 years of volunteer service at St. Peter’s Hospital.

In a basement in 1953, Arlene began the “Sock Sew,” which makes socks for newborn babies who are born in December at St. Peter’s Hospital to take home.

This year, Arlene and volunteers sitting at 20 sewing machines cut, sewed, and glued 100 large stockings for the newborns and another 100 smaller stockings for patients at St. Peter’s whose Christmas Eve is spent in the hospital. This is a wonderful gesture that made their Christmas in the hospital just a little bit better. Thank you, Arlene, for thinking of those in the hospital, especially during the Christmas season.

I am thrilled to honor our unsung hero, Arlene Mathews, for her 63-year service to her community.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 27. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain a copy of any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the Department in the permanent record of the employee.

H.R. 28. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological