

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SALAMONE

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and service of New Jerseyan John Salamone. John is a World War II veteran, a beloved member of the Lyndhurst community, and an inspiration to many.

A native of Hoboken, John Salamone began his service upon enlistment in the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the age of 17. After basic training, he was assigned to the medical corps and deployed to the Pacific Theater on the hospital ship the U.S.S. Haven. John's service in the Pacific took him to the Battle of Okinawa, to the liberation of POWs in the Philippines, and to the destroyed city of Nagasaki.

John's experiences during the war changed him. For several years following his return, he used his training to assist others as a volunteer emergency medical technician in his community. After seeing the devastation of the atomic bomb released over Nagasaki, John became passionate about sharing his war experiences with others in the hopes that the United States might never again deem atomic war necessary. To this day, he still prays for peace.

John is treasured by all who have been fortunate enough to meet him, and thanks to his outgoing and affable nature, almost everyone in the township of Lyndhurst knows him. John is a fixture there: he was a Little League coach, a member of the Elks Lodge and the Knights of Columbus, and a member of St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church, where he still attends mass every Sunday, just as he has for more than 50 years. For 68 years, until her death, John was the loving husband of Mary Salamone, and he is the proud father of Robert Salamone, Maureen Hirsch, and Mary Ann Osgoodby. In his retirement, after a 40-year career in sales with Chemical Bank, John spends his time doting on his seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, advocating for the veterans community, and sharing his unique story as a U.S. Navy corpsman during World War II.

John's remarkable commitment to his community and our Nation is an example for all who seek to serve. It is an honor to formally recognize him for his tremendous contributions to his fellow citizens and thank him for his faithful service.●

REMEMBERING JOE BILL DEARING

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Joe Bill Dearing, an Arkansan with a big heart who loved to tell a good story and was a legend in Hereford cattle breeding. He passed away on Monday, January 30, 2017, at the age of 88.

Joe was born in Harrison, AR. He married his high school sweetheart, Dennie, in 1947, and the couple pursued

a career in farming at their Red Robin Farm.

Joe came from a family of farmers so his passion for the industry and dedication to his craft came as no surprise. He established a nationally recognized herd of Polled Hereford cattle and became an internationally recognized Hereford cattle breeder.

This success also earned them the recognition of "Boone County Family Farm of the Year" in 1973.

He took his expertise to Montana in 1978 to work in the cattle industry and was active on the national cattle show circuit, winning the award for national champion bull in 1994 and 1995.

After his decades of raising cattle, he could still remember in detail his prized animals. He was more than happy to share pictures and stories of his cattle.

Joe was a longtime member of the Union Baptist Church where he served as a deacon, church secretary, and treasurer.

The Dearing's were so kind to my daughters when they were showing cows through 4-H. We spent countless hours with Joe and Dennie traveling all over the country, and we witnessed the great examples of integrity and character that defined their lives.

Joe Dearing left a lasting legacy. He was a beloved husband, friend, community member, and cattle rancher. I was proud to call him my friend, and in fact, he and Dennie always seemed more like family. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones during this difficult time.●

TRIBUTE TO ALLY MARTIN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Ms. Ally Martin of Wheatland County, a tough ranch hand with a very bright future. This young lady has flat out excelled in her community. The superintendent of Harlowton Public Schools said of Ally, "I have known Ally for her whole life and she has yet to disappoint me."

Ally is the oldest of four siblings on a working sheep and cattle ranch not too far from the Musselshell River in central Montana. Anyone who knows the amount dedication and perseverance it takes to keep this type of family business running knows that Ally's achievements in sports, school, and 4-H are remarkable. Ally gets her grit from her family. Her parents would drive 25 miles to take Ally to her part-time job washing dishes and waiting tables at the Crazy Mountain Inn in Martinsdale.

From 2013-2015, Ally was recognized as the Wheatland County 4-H "Grand Champion" for her sheep project. Ally meticulously cross-bred Suffolk sheep into her family's Targhee flock, making noticeable gains to weaning weight. Some of her 4-H peers even started using her lambs in 4-H as well. Ally has been able to shoulder the demands of

the ranch while ranking first in her class academically, earning all-State athletic honors in basketball and track, and participating in student government. Ally commits to whatever she sets her mind to, from ranching to school to sports.

Ally broke new ground as the first person from Harlowton High School appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The number of cadets at West Point will be nearly double the population of Wheatland County. Ally won't flinch at this. She is not one to seek out comfort, make excuses, or look for shortcuts. She will do what she has always done—wake up when almost everyone else is still sleeping, focus on the tasks at hand, and simply get the job done. Her exemplary hardwork and leadership will serve our Nation well in the military. Good luck, and Godspeed, Ally; the people of Montana support you.●

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MATTATUCK DRUM BAND

• Mr. MURPHY. I would like to congratulate the Mattatuck Drum Band, the oldest continually operating marching band in the Nation, on its 250th anniversary. The Mattatuck Drum Band's performances have captivated audiences in Connecticut since before the founding of our Nation and deserve recognition for continuing this important musical tradition over so many years.

During the marching band's formative years in the early 1770's, it was known as the Farmingbury Drum Band. The group performed at Farmingbury church events, where churchgoers were called into services by drumbeat—a common practice for churches without a bell. During the American Revolution, many members of the band served as wartime fifers and drummers, providing military field music for soldiers fighting for American independence. Shortly after returning home from the war, the band grew in popularity and changed their name to the Wolcott Drum Band.

In the 19th century, many band members continued their service to the military during the War of 1812 and in the Civil War, participating in rallies and recruiting events to "drum up" support for the militia. Following the Civil War, however, many band members relocated, and interest in the group waned. The group was revived in 1881, when the remaining active members of the band moved the group to Waterbury and renamed it the Mattatuck Drum Band. The uniform first donned by this group in 1884 is still worn by the Mattatuck Drum Band today.

As the band continued into the 20th century, their main purpose shifted from rallying support for the militia to bolstering the morale and feelings of patriotism amongst the public. Although many Mattatuck Drum Band members enlisted to serve their country during World War I and World War