

new sales every 7.5 minutes, and raise \$100,000 in capital every 11 minutes. Job growth for SBDC clients is nearly 10 times greater than job growth for the average business.

Under the leadership of Dr. Richard Grogan, the New Hampshire SBDC State director, New Hampshire SBDCs have helped thousands of small business owners and entrepreneurs realize their dreams, start new businesses, and create jobs. Last year alone, New Hampshire SBDC counseled and trained more than 2,500 businesses and assisted in the formation of more than \$39 million in capital for New Hampshire's small businesses.

For example, NH SBDC has been instrumental for Julie Lapham, the founder and chief sales officer of a startup in Dover, NH, called Popzup. Popzup is a family-owned business that provides a new popcorn product for health-conscious consumers. As Julie explained it, her local SBDC helped to prepare her for a Shark Tank-style pitch competition in which she took home a first-prize award of \$10,000. They have helped her understand her financing options and continue to stay involved and support her company's growth.

I hope my colleagues will join me and Chairman RISCH in celebrating SBDC Day and acknowledging their local SBDCs for their accomplishments and the role that they play in helping small businesses create jobs.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING PABLITA TA-NEZ-BAH ABEYTA

• Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, Ta-Nez-Bah means in Navajo "one who completes a circle." Ta-Nez-Bah was an apt middle name for Pablita Abeyta whose life encircled art, advocacy, and dedication to Native peoples.

Pablita Ta-Nez-Bah Abeyta was born in Gallup, NM, in 1953, to Narciso Ha-So-De Abeyta and Sylvia Ann (Shipley) Abeyta. Her father was Navajo and an internationally recognized painter and silversmith. Her mother was Anglo and a Quaker and an accomplished ceramist and weaver in her own right.

Pablita and her six siblings were raised in and around the arts and the traditions of the Navajo people. Each had an artistic talent. Her sister Elizabeth was a masterful sculptor and ceramic artist; her brother Tony is a highly acclaimed painter and jeweler; and her sister Alice Seely is a nationally recognized sculptor, painter, and jeweler.

Pablita attended the Institute for American Indian Arts in Santa Fe and received a masters in public affairs from the University of New Mexico in 1983.

She then headed off to Washington, DC, where she would combine advocacy and art the rest of her life and where she would play a key role in founding

the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, NMAI.

Pablita had a full career on Capitol Hill for many years until her retirement, always advocating for Native causes. She lobbied for the Navajo Nation; worked as a legislative aide to U.S. Representative Ben Nighthorse Campbell from Colorado; staffed the U.S. House Interior Committee's Office of Indian Affairs under my uncle, U.S. Representative Mo Udall; held a legislative liaison position at the Smithsonian Institute; and served as special assistant with the NMAI.

Pablita attended the first congressional hearing on NMAI in 1987, worked for its establishment through congressional legislation, and worked on its highly successful private fundraising drive. Her work was instrumental to starting and building the museum.

Pablita was also an accomplished sculptor. Inspired by the strength, beauty, and serenity of Native women, her sculptures have been described as "smooth, round and sensuous." Her artwork won many awards at the Santa Fe Indian Market, was included in a Smithsonian National Museum of American History exhibition, and is held in the permanent collection of the NMAI. Pablita commented of her sculptures that ". . . the female figurines sing, talk, and reflect the seasons and Navajo spiritual ceremony. I am making a statement with my art about the importance of family, community and my heritage."

Pablita passed away January 31, 2017, at age 63. She completed many circles in her life, and I honor all that she accomplished.●

REMEMBERING WILSON M. HALONA

• Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Wilson Miles Halona, an outstanding member of the Navajo Nation, a loving husband and father, and a courageous American veteran. Sadly, at age 95, he passed away February 28, 2017.

Mr. Halona was born January 1, 1922, in the Chuska Mountains near Tohatchi, NM. His maternal clan was the Ashiihi, Salt People Clan, and his paternal clan was To'hani, Near the Water People Clan. He was the son of sheep herders, Barney and Annie Halona. One of his sons tells the story of Mr. Halona's mother going into labor with him as she was herding sheep in the middle of winter. She stopped to give birth, outside in the cold, and then went back to herding. He came from strong stock.

This is the second time I have had the privilege to honor Mr. Halona. The first was on November 20, 2012, at the Pueblo Indian Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mr. Wilson was a World War II hero, but had not received the recognition he deserved. Almost 60 years after the war, his family worked to make sure he received the acknowl-

edgment and medals he earned for his bravery and service.

Mr. Halona was part of the D-Day invasion. Serving in the Army, he and his fellow soldiers landed in Normandy, on Utah Beach, in July 1944. They were part of the third wave of American soldiers to land, and there were already many casualties scattered on the beach.

Mr. Halona was a gunner. As he and his battalion started moving inland, they encountered heavy gunfire from Germans who were dug into mountaintops along the beach in cement bunkers. The American troops returned the gunfire and fought for over 3 hours before they destroyed two German bunkers. Mr. Halona's battalion stopped further casualties and took control of the beachfront.

They headed to Brussels and then on to Bonn and Luxembourg, where the U.S. had established a military base. Winter came upon them, and they were snowed in for 4 months. After the snow cleared, the battalion moved to take over Munich, where they saw firsthand the death and destruction of the Holocaust. In Stuttgart, they drove out the Germans, captured Hitler's top generals, transferred them to jail in Nuremberg, and kept guard. Mr. Halona himself guarded Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering for several hours. Mr. Halona credited his Navajo traditions and prayers for helping him during and after the war.

When Mr. Halona was finally given the honors owed in 2012, he received the Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star, World War II Victory Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, and the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar Presentation. I was deeply honored that he asked me to present his medals.

Mr. Halona served the Navajo Nation with distinction as well. He was a member of the Navajo Nation Council for four terms and president of the Tohatchi chapter for eight terms. He was first appointed to the advisory board for the Navajo Housing Authority and then served as its first chair. He was instrumental in developing the housing authority—The Navajo Housing Authority was one of the first tribal housing authorities to be funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—and making sure that Navajo people had better living conditions. He worked to develop the Indian Health Service within the Navajo Nation and to build schools on the reservation. He even helped create the Navajo rodeo association. Mr. Halona's service to his tribe stretched far and deep.

Mr. Halona was married to his wife, Ruby Arviso, from 1942 until her passing in 2013. He had 7 children, and is survived by 5, along with 16 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

Wilson Miles Halona lived a life of service to family, tribe, and Nation. I honor his life and his work.●