

HONORING CHIEF EDWARD
SWITALSKI

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, today, I wish to honor the 38-year public service career of Comstock, MI, fire chief Edward Switalski. Known for his bravery and devotion to his family and community, Chief Switalski was killed in the line of duty on June 14, 2017, having been struck and killed by a motorist on Interstate 94 in Kalamazoo County, as he was responding to a previous car crash at that site. He is survived by his wife, Holly, and two daughters, Alison and Emily.

Chief Switalski's dream of becoming a firefighter arrived early. As a child, he volunteered to clean equipment and perform other tasks for his local fire department. His career began as a part-time paramedic at Pleasantview Fire District in Illinois in 1982; while there, he rose to become battalion chief before retiring after 32 years of service and moving to Michigan to be closer to his daughters.

While in Illinois, Chief Switalski won numerous awards and citations, including one for running into the basement of a burning building in an attempt to rescue one of his colleagues. The chief was also a compassionate volunteer who traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild the community in the wake of the devastating Hurricane Katrina.

After his relocation to Michigan, Switalski became the chief of the Comstock, MI, fire department in 2013. Chief Switalski quickly became known as a visionary leader who would often pick up open firefighting shifts in his small department. Active in the community, the chief was involved in numerous organizations and was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo.

Colleagues have paid numerous tributes to Chief Switalski. A former chief of his remarked he "did not know anyone who enjoyed being a firefighter more than he did." The public safety chaplain of a neighboring fire department said that, on June 14, "we lost a great man on Earth that day, but we gained one in heaven." The leader of a local ambulance service called Chief Switalski "an extraordinary man who had a deep compassion for his family and the communities that he served. He was a man of integrity, who believed in doing the right thing."

It was entirely appropriate that United States and State of Michigan flags flew at half-staff on all State buildings on the day of the chief's funeral.

Chief Switalski was a brave and selfless public servant who was taken from our world much too soon. The tremendous outpouring of support demonstrated at his funeral service is a reminder of the risks undertaken every day by our first responders and the gratitude the public has for their vital work.

TRIBUTE TO LOU D'ALLESANDRO

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Senator Lou D'Allesandro and congratulate him on his 20 years of service in the New Hampshire Senate and to honor his extraordinary career of public service to the State of New Hampshire.

Senator D'Allesandro is serving his 10th term in the New Hampshire Senate representing Manchester and previously served three terms on the New Hampshire Executive Council and two terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. Serving with distinction, he has always sought to best represent his constituents and is well known in New Hampshire for his leadership, his willingness to work constructively to better the Granite State, and for the responsiveness and care he has shown throughout his years in public service.

In addition to his many legislative achievements, Senator D'Allesandro served our country honorably in uniform in the U.S. Marine Corps and is an accomplished educator. Senator D'Allesandro was instrumental in getting NCAA status for SNHU and has remained extremely involved in New Hampshire education, having served as chairman of the New England Board of Higher Education. Appointed the first basketball coach in Southern New Hampshire University history in 1963, Senator D'Allesandro led the SNHU Penmen to three straight titles and compiled a record of 114-40 in 7 years of coaching collegiate athletics. He holds honorary doctorates from Franklin Pierce University, Daniel Webster College, and the New Hampshire Institute of Art, as well as degrees from the University of New Hampshire, Rivier University, New England College, and the New Hampshire Institute of Art. He is a member of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Inc., and is a director of the New Hampshire Hockey Hall of Fame.

As one may gather, Senator D'Allesandro is passionate about bettering the lives of New Hampshire's young people through education, and I sincerely thank him for his years supporting, in so many ways, our colleges and universities. I also thank his wonderful wife, Pat, who has stood by Lou's side and, in doing so, has also served the people of New Hampshire. I am honored to call Lou D'Allesandro a friend, and as Senator for New Hampshire, I join my voice with the voices of so many other Granite Staters to express gratitude to Senator D'Allesandro for his extraordinary commitment to public service, his selfless contributions to higher education, and the positive impact he has made on the State of New Hampshire. Of course, I join all Granite Staters in wishing Lou a great American day.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MICHELIS

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, Team Wyden will shortly lose one of its

stalwarts, but before John Michels of my Portland office takes his well-deserved retirement after two decades of service to the people of Oregon, I want to take just a few minutes to recognize his many, many contributions.

John joined my office in the late 1990s through a work-study program run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. He had previously worked in construction, and he served as a jet engine mechanic in the U.S. Navy before coming to my office, so suffice it to say that he was no stranger to long hours and tough assignments.

As a member of Team Wyden, John put his shoulder to the wheel to help other veterans when backlogs, bureaucracy, or red tape held up the care or the recognition they had earned. In his years of service, John has managed thousands of cases for Oregon constituents struggling with one Federal agency or another.

John has also always been a practical soul and has a passion for tinkering and fixing things. He brought these skills to bear as our resident IT expert and computer whisperer in Oregon.

Anybody who has worked in the government can tell you it can be tough. The pace can be grueling, the cynicism can be frustrating, and the bureaucracy can be maddening, but as John will attest, there are few more rewarding experiences than helping a veteran receive overdue recognition or bringing a new VA facility to a rural community or ensuring seniors and people with disabilities receive the Social Security benefits they so richly deserve.

John is not the type of person to trumpet his service from the rooftops, but he has an enormous heart and a passion for public service. The bottom line is that John has found ways to help me help countless people across Oregon.

Now, as John knows, we never really let anybody leave Team Wyden, so I am sure we will still call upon his wealth of knowledge and experience. In the meantime, I want to thank him for all the help he has provided over these past two decades. I have been fortunate to have him on my team, and we will all miss him greatly.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF CHEYENNE, WYOMING

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I want to take a moment to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the city of Cheyenne, WY.

The city of Cheyenne is an irreplaceable catalyst in Wyoming's birth and development. Christened on July 4, 1867, Cheyenne was named after the Cheyenne Tribe found in the Dakota territory. As the population jumped from 400 to 3,000 and beyond, Cheyenne earned nickname "The Magic City of the Plains" in reference to how it seemingly sprouted overnight and kept

on growing. This unfettered momentum showed enough potential that in 1886, 4 years before Wyoming became the 44th State, the construction of a State capitol was approved in Cheyenne. Among these barren plains, a wellspring of prosperity and opportunity was found for the independent, brave folks who were willing to work hard to build it. In that, Cheyenne's legacy perfectly captures Wyoming's spirit.

Cheyenne, WY, is a railroad town through and through. General Grenville Dodge, chief engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad, selected this dusty spot as a connecting point in the Nation's first transcontinental railroad. Thousands of men and their families came here to lay track up the Gangplank, the unique geography that allows a gradual grading from the plains to the Laramie Mountains. Supply stores, banks, and dentists all sprang up in their wake to accommodate the booming town. Now, Interstate 80 runs alongside the Gangplank from Cheyenne to Laramie, where the climb from the plains to the mountains continues today. On March 3, 2006, the Cheyenne Train Depot became a national historic landmark, solidifying the railroads irremovable stitching in the fabric of Cheyenne, WY, and the rest of the Nation.

During Cheyenne's first fragile years, soldiers were stationed at Fort D.A. Russell to protect the railroad. The base was established on the same day as the city, and construction began in October 1867. It later became the F.E. Warren Air Force base that continues to be crucial to Cheyenne today. The base was expected to last 6 months, then to dry up along with the town itself as folks followed the train tracks to find more work. However, Cheyenne endured—and the base along with it. It became a permanent Army installation in 1884, and soon ramshackle wood housings were replaced with brick buildings. In 1930, it was renamed F.E. Warren Base by President Herbert Hoover to honor Wyoming's first Governor, Francis Emroy Warren. It was officially renamed F.E. Warren Air Force Base in 1949, making it the oldest continually active base in the Air Force system. The base is currently responsible for 15 missile alert facilities and 150 Minute Man III missiles and is known throughout Wyoming as a fixture in the Cheyenne community. The F.E. Warren Base and some 4,000 personnel on site continue to be a massively positive presence in the Cheyenne neighborhood, especially at Cheyenne Frontier Days.

As with the F.E. Warren Air Force Base, there would be no Cheyenne without Cheyenne Frontier Days. The first frontier day took place on September 13, 1897, kicked off with a parade led by Buffalo Bill Cody. This event started as the brainchild of passenger agent Frank Angier, hired by railroad officials to increase the number of passengers. This was following

the devastation of the prosperous cattle trade by the blizzards of 1886 to 1887, which killed thousands of cattle and the businesses of their barons. Cheyenne needed a boost, and the Cheyenne Frontier Days became the perfect solution. The first rodeo was attended by 400 folks, and more and more have been coming back ever since. Today Frontier Days is the world's largest outdoor rodeo, while also boasting world famous musical acts. In 2016, 259,193 people attended the event to watch professional cowboys compete for over \$1 million while enjoying the festive celebration of cowboy culture. This event symbolizes the western spirit that beats from within Cheyenne throughout the rest of Wyoming.

In honor of the 150th anniversary of Cheyenne, WY, I urge my esteemed colleagues to visit this "Magic City" themselves. I congratulate all the folks who work to preserve Cheyenne's rich history and continue its valuable legacy. I stand proudly with them in celebrating this historical achievement.●

TRIBUTE TO ELLEN SCHLECHTER

● Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, today I recognize the distinguished accomplishment of a young South Dakotan, Ellen Schlechter, a 2017 recipient of the National Federation of Independent Businesses NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award. Ellen is a recent high school graduate from Orient, SD, and the founder and owner of The Calving Book App, a convenient and simple way to keep calf records on a user's smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Growing up raising cattle, Ellen recognized a need in the agricultural sector for an application that would allow producers to document all of their cattle records in one place. Two years after the launch of The Calving Book App, Ellen has introduced an advanced version of the app and been featured in numerous ag publications and on local media in our State.

I extend my congratulations to Ellen for being recognized by the NFIB for her accomplishments and entrepreneurial spirit, and I thank her for the work she has done to help our producers become more efficient. I wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL KOSIAK

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize the hard work of my Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee intern Abigail Kosiak. Abigail hails from Sioux Falls, SD, and is a rising junior at Utah State University.

While interning on the Commerce Committee, Abigail worked in the committee's front office, assisted the Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet Subcommittee and gave tours of the Capitol. She is a dedicated worker who was committed to getting the most out of her internship.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Abigail for all of the fine work she did for the Commerce Committee and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:06 a.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. 2182. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to Congress on the alternatives for the final disposition of Plum Island, including preservation of the island for conservation, education, and research, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3178. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the delivery of home infusion therapy and dialysis and the application of the Stark rule under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3364. An act to provide congressional review and to counter aggression by the Governments of Iran, the Russian Federation, and North Korea, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 4003(e) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114-255), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee: Ms. Cynthia A. Fisher of Newton, Massachusetts.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3178. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the delivery of home infusion therapy and dialysis and the application of the Stark rule under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 1632. A bill to establish an additional fund in the Treasury to meet existing statutory obligations to reimburse costs reasonably incurred as a result of the reorganization of broadcast television spectrum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1633. A bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to open up opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):