

It is with sincere admiration that I stand today to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Hydraulic Institute and to wish this exceptional organization continued success in developing policies and advancing standards that improve the lives of every American.●

#### RECOGNIZING GLASGOW, MONTANA

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing the community of Glasgow for leading the way with their generosity during the holiday season. Earlier this month, members of the community successfully conducted their annual Block of Bucks program to help raise funds for local families to have warm clothing during the winter months.

This charitable effort brought together a broad collection of the community, including the Glasgow Soroptimists, student council leaders from Glasgow High School, members of the National Guard, the local Elks Club, a host of local businesses, and dozens of other volunteers. Through their focused actions, the community of Glasgow raised over \$30,000 to provide more than 300 hundred children with winter clothing. If you have ever experienced winter along the Hi-Line in northeast Montana, you will know how important it is to have the proper gear. The generosity of neighbors in towns like Glasgow is something that we can all appreciate.

It is a Montana hallmark for neighbors to identify a need and then gather the people and resources to meet that need at a local level. Going into Christmas, I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the folks in Glasgow for giving their time and talents to help others by adding warmth to the holiday season.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SUELLYN WRIGHT NOVAK

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Suellen Wright Novak of Eagle River, AK, retired from the Air Force with the rank of colonel in 2003 after a distinguished 32-year career in the biomedical field. She was commander of three different medical squadrons, a clinical laboratory officer, and leader of the Air Force Blood Program worldwide. She returned home to begin a second career as a professional volunteer. At one time, she held 26 different volunteer positions.

Suellen's work with the Eagle River Presbyterian Church, the Chugiak/Eagle River Chamber of Commerce, and the American Heart Association cannot go unmentioned, nor can we ignore her work as a service officer for VFW Post 9785 or the Alaska State Veterans Advisory Council, but Suellen is best known for her work as the president and executive director of the Alaska Veterans Museum.

Suellen officially retired from this second career in October, handing the

reins over to Mike Waller. In early 2018, the Alaska Veterans Museum will host an event to commemorate her service in January. I want to take a few moments to express my appreciation to Suellen for her service to our Nation and to those who have served it.

Alaska takes great pride in its standing as the State which hosts more veterans per capita than any other. About 70,000 veterans call Alaska home. It is fitting that Alaska host a museum honoring the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Suellen is best known for taking the Alaska Veterans Museum from idea to reality. In 2005 she began collecting oral histories of veterans from all conflicts. She took on additional roles as researcher, display designer, fundraiser, grant writer, and membership chair. The museum was virtual at that point. It organized exhibits for the Anchorage Museum, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and the Anchorage libraries, but didn't have a space of its own. It was Suellen's vision to move the museum from a virtual space to a physical space in downtown Anchorage. She raised funds and worked with realtors to secure a prime affordable location. And once that location was secured, Suellen recruited a handpicked team to get the museum open in just 11 days. The Alaska Veterans Museum opened on April 17, 2011.

Suellen staffed the museum during nearly all the hours it was open—except when she might be in an elementary school classroom presenting as a Continental soldier during the American Revolution or speaking about how those who fought for America's independence survived the battle or when she was coordinating "Fan Mail" to the troops. The Alaska Veterans Museum, I am told, sends more fan mail to troops than any other small organization in the United States. Suellen's impact in recognizing and supporting our veterans and Active-Duty servicemembers is remarkable.

One of the most remarkable examples of Suellen's determination involves her efforts to place a memorial in the village of Attu in memory of those who lost their lives during the Forgotten Battle of World War II. Suellen and the museum raised the necessary funds to create the replacement memorial but had no way of transporting it all the way out to Attu. Attu is the furthest of the U.S. Aleutian Islands, nearly 1,500 air miles from Anchorage.

Fortunately, the U.S. Coast Guard offered a flight for me to tour their Loran Station on Attu. I recognized the opportunity to offer assistance to Suellen and the museum. I can proudly claim that the new memorial was erected at the site where the former residents of Attu lived. Our mission was a success with the collaborative efforts of Suellen, the museum, and the Coast Guard.

I could go on and on about all that Suellen does, but the list would undoubtedly be incomplete. I think my

colleagues have by now gotten the idea that Suellen is our "Energizer Bunny" extraordinaire. So on behalf of a very grateful Senate, I express appreciation to Suellen for both of her careers: an exceptional Air Force career followed by a career of outstanding volunteer service to our community.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH DARNELL

● Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about someone in Alaska who has been very important in my State. Joseph Darnell, who we know as Joe, is the Alaska Regional Solicitor for the Department of the Interior, in Anchorage, AL. He has been in that office since 1992, was made acting regional solicitor in 2010, and was appointed to his current position in 2013. He will be retiring from his job at the end of this year.

The Department of the Interior is Alaska's largest landlord, managing 61 percent of Alaska's lands. The way the Department of the Interior manages its lands and resources is critical for Alaska's economy and for the well-being of our citizens.

I know that I often talk about Federal overreach, and while it is true that, under certain administrations, Alaska has bared the brunt of much of that overreach, but it was people like Joe who made sure that rules and regulations were followed, that the people had a voice, and worked to see that good policy prevailed. A former staff member for the late great Senator Ted Stevens, Joe learned from the best.

During his tenure, Joe worked on numerous land management and land conveyance issues for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Refuge System, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. Among the more notable was the land exchange between the United States and the Aleut Corporation, which resulted in the Aleut Corporation acquiring ownership of the closed Adak Naval Air Facility on Adak Island in the Aleutian Islands.

Joe was born in Seward and raised in Juneau, Kenai, and Fairbanks. According to his wife, Joan, they enjoy cross-country skiing, riding bicycles together, and spending time in their cabin outside of McCarthy. One of his great passions is small airplanes. After the first of the year, they will both be spending a lot of time in their Cessna 175, flying across the great State of Alaska, and watching their daughter Anna ski for the ski for the Nanooks at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Through his decades of dedication, Joe acquired and maintained a peerless understanding of how both national and Alaska-specific laws operate on our Federal public lands in Alaska. He has advised on and navigated a great many challenges for our State during his time in public service, and his knowledge and contribution will be dearly missed.