

in the first half of 2017, and reports indicate the regime issued deportation orders to eight Bahrainis just last month after stripping them of citizenship.

A number of organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, have echoed these observations.

Regrettably, the Trump administration has done almost nothing to push Bahrain's leaders to fulfill their commitments and do better by their own citizens.

Why would they when the Embassy of Bahrain is throwing lavish parties at the Trump Hotel right here in DC?

As I try to make clear every year, these observations, which have become a sad tradition of mine, are not an attempt to undermine Bahrain's government.

Bahrain has been a longtime U.S. ally and a partner in a region where partnership can be difficult to come by, but precisely because of our close ties, I feel compelled to speak out when I see such blatant repression of basic human rights.

Oregonians—indeed, Americans—expect their elected officials to hold our international partners to a higher standard. And that is what I am doing here today.

I renew my call on the Bahrain's monarchy to halt its deliberate campaign of silencing peaceful opposition, to stop the indefensible revocation of citizenships, and to release political prisoners like Nabeel Rajab and Abdulhadi al-Khawaja.

I fear that only then will Bahrain be able to move forward together in peace and prosperity, and I look forward to that day.

TRIBUTE TO JANET YELLEN

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to say a few words about Janet Yellen, an outstanding public servant, who recently completed her term as Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and stepped down from the Board. At different times, over 42 years, she served the Fed as staff economist, member of the Board, president of the San Francisco Fed, Vice Chair, and then Chair. Under her leadership, the Fed began the process of normalizing monetary policy by winding down its balance sheet and raising interest rates after years at the zero lower bound.

Twice yearly, Ms. Yellen reported to the Banking Committee on monetary policy, conscientiously answering questions from members and was helpful in enlisting Federal Reserve staff to respond to inquiries from committee members and staff. I have appreciated her willingness to engage constructively with me and members of the committee as we have worked on legislation to tailor regulations and promote a healthy economy.

Over the years, I found Ms. Yellen to be serious, engaging, and generous with

her time, a sentiment that is widely shared in this body. I thank her for her service.

2018 WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT HONORING PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I wish to ask the Senate to join me today in recognizing, celebrating, and highlighting the upcoming presentation of the 2018 White House Historical Association Ornament that honors Missouri native and 33rd U.S. President, Harry S. Truman.

The 2018 White House Historical Association Christmas Ornament will be presented this President's Day in President Truman's hometown, Independence, MO, at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum. The ornament is designed to highlight the positive changes President Truman made to the White House while in office.

The front side of the ornament features the Truman balcony added in 1947–48 to the south portico that allowed his family outdoor access from their upstairs living area and is still a popular location for First Families and their guests. The back side features the renovated Blue Room, home to the official White House Christmas Tree. President Truman's White House alterations and restorations were the most work done since President George Washington built the Executive mansion and Presidents James Madison and James Monroe restored it after it was damaged by fire in the War of 1812.

The Presidential Seal, located at the top of the ornament, was implemented by President Truman in 1945. Originally, the American eagle looked left towards its talons that held a cluster of spears, representing weapons of war. President Truman redesigned the seal so the American eagle faced towards its right talons, which hold the olive branches of peace.

I am so proud to hold the seat that Senator Truman held for 10 years.

President Truman lived in Missouri his entire life, with exception to his years in government service. His strong work ethic and taste for politics developed early, working as a clerk for his father who was an election judge and participating in farming, bank clerking, and timekeeping. His strong sense of patriotism led him to join the Missouri Army National Guard in 1905 and later return to Active Duty when World War I began in 1917, where he served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army field artillery. After the war, he married Bess and was elected county judge of the eastern district of Jackson County. In 1934, he was elected to the U.S. Senate and reelected by large margins in 1940.

In 1944, then-Senator Truman was chosen to be the Vice Presidential candidate to President Franklin Roosevelt after a successful career in Congress re-

vealing fraud in government wartime spending. Few Presidents after President Truman have faced the hardships he had awaiting him following the death of President Roosevelt and his succession to the Presidency in the spring of 1945.

President Truman ended the largest and most devastating war in world history and began to rebuild the defeated Axis Powers shortly after. Rebuilding war-torn countries of former enemies had never been completed; however, President Truman did so successfully through the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan. He was a strong negotiator in international affairs and oversaw the founding of the United Nations.

President Truman left behind a highly respected legacy, and because of leaders like him, who fought hard and made difficult decisions, our country and world is a better place.

I ask that the Senate join me in celebrating the 2018 White House Historical Association Christmas Ornament honoring President Harry S. Truman.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY R. MAZZA

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Nancy R. Mazza and congratulate her on her dedicated service to the people of North Carolina.

Nancy previously worked for esteemed Congressman Howard Coble, a dear friend who served North Carolina for three decades and passed away in 2015. After Congressman Coble's retirement in 2014, I was fortunate enough to hire Nancy in my High Point office.

Nancy's addition to my team was instrumental in getting our constituent service operation off the ground and running. Nancy has been an absolutely indispensable mentor and leader on our team. She has trained many of our staff members, generously sharing her wealth of casework experience and expertise.

Over the course of her distinguished career, Nancy has helped expedite thousands of passports, assisted countless veterans who were struggling to get answers and service from the VA, and inquired on behalf of many other North Carolinians when they needed assistance and had nowhere else to turn.

Anyone who has ever interacted with Nancy can immediately tell that she has a heart of gold and a dedicated passion for public service that is driven by kindness and compassion.

While Nancy Mazza will be sorely missed by our office, I am eternally grateful for the work that she did on behalf of North Carolinians. I wish her the very best in retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. REED L. MOSHER

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I wish to commend Dr. Reed L. Mosher for over 38 years of service to the Nation.

Dr. Mosher will soon retire as the director of the Information Technology Laboratory, ITL, of the Corps Engineer Research and Development Center, ERDC, headquartered in Vicksburg, MS. His astonishing list of accomplishments range from leading research and development for the Corps, the Army, the Department of Defense, and multiple Federal agencies, to leading the transformation of DOD's research and acquisition communities through the strategic application of high-performance computing, high-speed networks, computational expertise, system engineering, large-scale data analytics, and technology transfer. He instilled a culture of innovation, adaptability, and shared knowledge. Dr. Mosher created a visionary atmosphere where team members are empowered to expand the breadth and depth of data analytics capabilities and explore the future of information management and information technology.

During his more than 38-year service to the Nation, Dr. Reed L. Mosher exuded extraordinary leadership with unparalleled vision, compassion, competence, and determination, culminating with his tenure as the director of the ITL, the premier defense laboratory for information technology. His initiative and selfless service in the successful execution of a broad range of decisive research, development, studies, and operational programs in support of military engineering and Army civil works have resulted in lasting contributions to the Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, and the Nation.

I am pleased to commend Dr. Mosher for his many years of service and to wish him well in the years ahead.●

REMEMBERING SHEILA ANN OLSEN

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring the extraordinary life of Sheila Ann Olsen, of Idaho Falls, ID, a dear friend and leader.

Sheila cared deeply for others as was clear from her community involvement. She devoted countless hours to assisting fellow Idahoans and bettering our communities. Some of the organizations and efforts she led and served to include the Idaho Commission on Human Rights, the Development Workshop Foundation, the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations, the Mayor's Cultural Awareness and Human Relations Committee, the Idaho Falls ADA Accessibility Commission, the "Unity in the Community" Prayer-a-Thon, the Governor's Workforce Development Council, Brigham Young University Alumni Board member, Idaho Department of Labor Employment Security Advisory Council, and the Electoral College. She was a dedicated member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a leader in the local and State Republican Party. Sheila is

broadly admired for her giving spirit, and many credit Sheila with her help in advancing them on their career paths.

While she was deeply principled and committed to her religious faith, she worked extensively with and greatly valued working with others of differing faiths and backgrounds. She sought common ground and held high regard for bridging faiths, races, and backgrounds. We echo the descriptions of Sheila esteemed by her family and many friends: joyful, positive, engaged, compassionate, kind, fair, good, patriotic, and well-respected. Her attributes and hard work have received many recognitions including "National MS Mother of the Year" by President George H.W. Bush, Brigham Young University's "Service to Family Award," "Exemplary Citizen" by the Rotary Club, and many more.

Sheila Olsen will be remembered as someone who set an enduring example of service to others. She was a mother of 10 children and a wife to the late Dennis Olsen. She was a grandmother to 39 grandchildren and great-grandmother to 23 great-grandchildren. She overcame the complications of multiple sclerosis to give extensively. Her legacy of devotion to her family, her religion, and serving will carry on in the many lives positively influenced by this great leader. We express our deep condolences to her family and friends and thank Sheila for her friendship and lasting service.●

RECOGNIZING BLACKFEET COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Blackfeet Community College, BCC. By 2020, BCC hopes to produce 40 certified teachers for Montana, and these teachers will be able to integrate Blackfeet culture into their classrooms.

BCC is operated exclusively for non-profit purposes, ensuring that postsecondary and higher educational services are provided to the community. BCC students, staff and board of trustees have adopted core values that recognize the way our interactions with others effect our value and thought systems. The first core value is the Blackfeet Way of Knowing, which means Blackfeet culture/spirituality in philosophy, thought, and action.

BCC is raising up leaders of tomorrow who are rooted in the Blackfeet culture and heritage, a heritage that is known for traditional singing, drumming, and dancing, as well as stick games and rodeos.

Thank you, BCC, for your continued dedication to creating the thoughtful and values-driven Montana teachers and leaders of tomorrow.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BADAL

● Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate President Robert Badal of the University of Jamestown,

formerly known as Jamestown College, in Jamestown, ND, on his outstanding tenure. Since 2002, Dr. Badal's leadership has brought strengthened academic programs, increased enrollment, greater financial strength, and significant expansion and renovation of the campus. These efforts and new offerings of graduate programs led to the change of status from college to university under Dr. Badal, who will be retiring on February 28, 2018.

In addition to jumpstarting graduate programs, Dr. Badal has also more than doubled the endowment of the university and expanded academic offerings and extracurricular offering, and it currently celebrates a multi-year high enrollment of 1,136 students. Additionally, the university has reached to other parts of North Dakota by establishing a campus in Fargo with three graduate programs. To quote Dr. Badal, he has taken "a small, but historic institution to a higher level."

The University of Jamestown was truly fortunate to have a president whose unwavering passion and dedication to student success led to extraordinary growth and advancement. While his departure marks a new era for the university, he has left it in a very strong position for the future and for his successor. I thank Dr. Badal for his time and leadership at the University of Jamestown and wish him a very enjoyable retirement.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF THE ELKS

● Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, February 16, 2018, marks the 150th anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. The Elks is an American fraternal society dedicated to serving and caring for our citizens, communities, and country. The order continues to grow and thrive with a membership of nearly 1 million members and 2,000 lodges nationwide.

The Elks is dedicated to the ideals of charity, justice, and patriotism and has invested millions of hours annually in building stronger communities, assisting homeless veterans, and supporting youth substance abuse prevention initiatives.

Patriotism is central to the order's principles and is demonstrated in some of the organization's charitable endeavors. In 1907, the Elks first adopted June 14 as Flag Day out of reverence for the American flag and the sacrifices made in honor of it. Almost 40 years later, Congress officially recognized June 14 as the national holiday honoring the American flag. Elks members donated over 1 million for the renovation of the Statue of Liberty, which helped to restore this important symbol of freedom. Elks members also contributed nearly 2 million for the building of the National World War II Memorial in honor of the more than 16,000,000 people who served in the Second World War.