

force and Navy. He served as an admissions officer at the U.S. Naval Academy; the technical assistant to the director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion; the nuclear officer program manager and submarine officer community manager on the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education; the prospective commanding officer instructor for the Pacific submarine force; and the chief of the program and budget branch on the Joint Staff, Program and Budget Analysis Division. His current assignment as director of the Navy's Appropriations Matters Office, FMBE, exposed him to the widest possible view of the Department of the Navy's budgetary requirements within the broader context of the national defense arena, preparing him well for future leadership at the highest levels of our Navy.

As Admiral Dollaga departs the Pentagon for his next assignment, I want to take this opportunity to urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him on his promotion; to thank him, his wife, Lani, and his family for their years of service; and to wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he continues to lead our Navy in the years ahead.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SOPHIA VELLA

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sophia for her hard work as an intern in the Committee on Environment and Public Works. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sophia is a native of Virginia. She is a student at Virginia Polytechnic and State University, where she is studying political science and foreign affairs. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sophia for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF ALTOONA, IOWA

• Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the city of Altoona, IA, which was founded 150 years ago.

Originally named because of its location as the highest point—or altitude—on the Des Moines Valley Railroad, Altoona has continued to reach for new heights since its plot was recorded in 1868. Altoona has come a long way from its turn of the century, coal-mining identity.

Today Altoona is home to Iowa's premier entertainment destinations, with seemingly unlimited potential ahead. While Altoona's numerous regional attractions may define the landscape of the city, there is no doubt it is the people of Altoona who define its fabric. Over the years, Altoona's leadership has never forgotten its roots, and despite world-class amenities and contiguous proximity to Iowa's capital and largest city, Altoona continues to maintain that small town feeling that Iowans know and love.

There is no better place in America to raise a family than Iowa, and Altoona is a shining example of why. I invite my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating the city of Altoona on their sesquicentennial, and I wish them another 150 prosperous years.●

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA

• Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, today marks a special day. It is the 10th anniversary of the designation of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area. This 120-acre site in Palm Beach County, FL, contains invaluable historic and cultural resources, including an archaeological record showing continuous Native American settlement dating back 5,000 years.

Every year, tens of thousands of visitors enjoy tours of the restored 1860 Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and historical grounds, which include the 1892 George Washington Tindall House.

The Federal designation also protects the area's rich natural environment along the Indian River Lagoon, which provides habitat for over two dozen State or federally listed species, from the West Indian manatee to the Florida scrub jay.

A decade ago, I filed legislation to protect this special area, and on May 8, 2008, President George W. Bush signed it into law, Public Law 110-229. To this day, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area remains the only unit of the 34-million-acre National Landscape Conservation System east of the Mississippi River.

I would like to commend the many partners who help the Department of the Interior take care of this heritage landmark, including the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Palm Beach County, the town of Jupiter, the village of Tequesta, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Together, we have ensured this area will be preserved for future generations.●

TRIBUTE TO KELLIE MORFORD

• Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Kellie Morford, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done on behalf of myself, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kellie is a graduate of Spearfish High School in Spearfish, SD. Recently, she

graduated from Chadron State College in Chadron, NE, where she studied criminal justice and legal studies. Kellie is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kellie for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NATALEE DEAETTE

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a remarkable Vermonter, Natalee Deaette, who was recently selected as a 2018 Truman scholar. Natalee is one of just 59 outstanding college students from across the country who was honored this year by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation with this prestigious graduate fellowship for young people who are pursuing careers as public service leaders.

Natalee is a member of Boston College's class of 2019, where she studies applied psychology and human development, with a focus on community advocacy and social policy and a minor in managing for social impact. She is involved in BC's Undergraduate Government and Emerging Leader Program, the McGillicuddy Logue Fellows Program, the Montserrat Coalition, Appalachia Volunteers, and the Global Medical Brigades. These are all very notable activities and achievements that demonstrate the depth of Natalee's commitment to her community.

What makes Natalee's story all the more impressive is that she broke through significant barriers to get to this place in her life. Natalee is a native of the most rural and economically challenged area of Vermont, where college graduation rates are well below the State and national averages. She is herself a first-generation college student and understands just how difficult it can be to navigate the world of higher education.

While in high school, Natalee greatly benefited from participating in Johnson State College's acclaimed Upward Bound program, which helps motivated first-generation high school students prepare for college success. The experience so influenced Natalee that she has worked for the program for the past 3 years. She also credits Upward Bound for inspiring her to pursue a career in public service and addressing educational inequity among disadvantaged youth, particularly those from rural areas.

I, like many Vermonters, am enormously proud of all that Natalee has already accomplished, and we look forward to what she will achieve in the future. I join with Natalee's friends and family in congratulating her for being named a Truman scholar and wishing her the best of luck in her future endeavors.●