

grateful for all that you do. We know that the weight of what you do every day is heavy, we thank you for your dedication, and we honor your service. May God bless you and your families.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today, during National Police Week, I wish to recognize and honor the men and women who serve as New Jersey's police officers and law enforcement officials. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the professionals working in law enforcement who risk their lives each and every day for the safety of all New Jerseyans. These American heroes answer the call when we need them the most, and we stand together as a grateful nation in saying thank you.

Established by a joint resolution of Congress, National Police Week devotes special appreciation to those members of law enforcement who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of the people they serve. In a proclamation issued 56 years ago, President John F. Kennedy recognized the national importance of honoring our law enforcement professionals by designating the 15th of May as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as National Police Week.

Today I want to pay special homage to New Jersey's fallen police officers. These heroes made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our State. Though they are no longer with us, we stand proud and united knowing that they continue to be commemorated by their fellow New Jerseyans and by their fellow brothers and sisters in blue. Their courage, spirit of service, and commitment has allowed the people of New Jersey to be safe and secure. For their service and their sacrifice, we are eternally grateful.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, as we observe National Police Week, I rise today to recognize Sean Matthew Suiter and Sander Benjamin Cohen, two Maryland law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2017. It is important that we give thanks to all the men and women who put themselves at risk every day to protect our communities.

Sean Suiter was an 18-year veteran who was shot in west Baltimore while investigating a triple homicide. Relatives describe him as an anchor in his family, devoted to his wife and three children who ". . . was focused on trying to [ . . . ] raise them to be strong and good citizens."

Sander Cohen, who served as deputy chief in the Maryland Office of the State Fire Marshal was killed in December while assisting a disabled motorist. His friends and family describe him as funny with an infectious smile and as "an example of the good in people."

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I will continue to support programs that provide our law enforcement officers with the funding and training they need to protect themselves and our communities.

Police officers bear a unique burden. While we can never fully repay them for their sacrifices, we should all take the time to thank police officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect our safety. We must honor their sacrifice and support the families of those we have lost in the line of duty.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. AROL AUGSBURGER

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Arol Augsburger who will be retiring from his position as the president of the Illinois College of Optometry, ICO, on June 30, 2018. During his 16-year tenure at the ICO, which is located on the near southside of Chicago, the performance of the student body exceeded national averages. This achievement showcases Dr. Augsburger's positive impact on the college. In addition, ICO doubled its investable assets, and its on-campus clinic was able to grow to accommodate over 110,000 visits annually. This on-campus clinic, the Illinois Eye Institute, is the largest safety net provider of eye and vision care in Illinois, and it offers ICO students a unique opportunity for robust clinical training—something that is not available at other institutions.

Prior to Dr. Augsburger's appointment at ICO in 2002, he served for 30 years in a variety of leadership positions in higher education. He served as the interim provost of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, UAB, dean and professor of the UAB School of Optometry, and professor of clinical optometry at the Ohio State University College of Optometry. Dr. Augsburger has also served as president of Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and the Rotary Club of Chicago, Rotary 1, the world's first Rotary Club and as the immediate-past chairman of the ROTARY/One Foundation. Additionally, Dr. Augsburger served as the 2014-2015 chairman of the board of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities, on the Near South Planning Board of Chicago, and the Jackson Park Hospital Foundation Board. He was also on the Special Medical Advisory Group of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition to being named Optometrist of the Year in three States, Dr. Augsburger was named National Doctor of Optometry of the Year and a Distinguished Service Award recipient by the American Optometric Association. In June of 2014, he was inducted into the National Optometry Hall of Fame.

I applaud Dr. Augsburger's commendable work as the president of ICO and in the field of optometry. Students, patients, and Illinois constituents have greatly benefited from his lifetime of commitment to education and optometry.●

##### REMEMBERING CHRISTOPHER P. STADELMAN

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish today to honor the life of a West Virginia son and selfless public servant, Christopher P. Stadelman.

After the news that Chris lost his hard-fought, 4-year battle with colon cancer on Friday, May 11, 2018, loved ones and friends from across West Virginia joined in a chorus of sadness for the loss of such a remarkable person, but also thankfulness for the inspiring life he lived.

Chris dedicated his life to serving the people of West Virginia as a journalist and editor at the Charleston Daily Mail, as the co-owner and operator of the Parsons Advocate with his incredible wife, Kelly, and as communications director and chief of staff for Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. Chris said these were his "dream jobs", and he certainly made an enduring impact through each one of them.

Chris and Kelly called two places home: Charleston and Thomas, WV. He is a member of the Marshall University Journalism Hall of Fame and was named a Distinguished West Virginian by Governor Tomblin and an Honorary Mountaineer Brigadier by MG James Hoyer of the West Virginia National Guard.

He loved the news and seemed to always know the latest news well before it broke. He loved debating politics and policy. He loved baseball, especially the Pittsburgh Pirates. He loved his dogs. Above all, he loved Kelly.

When they ran the Parsons Advocate together, Chris would often go to the scene of news and report back to Kelly in the newsroom. For 18 years, they were partners in every sense, and she was his rock as he fought colon cancer with fearless resolve.

During his 4-year battle, on most days, you wouldn't have known Chris was sick. In the Governor's office, he was often the first to arrive in the mornings and the last to leave. After the tragic flooding that took 23 lives in West Virginia in 2016, Chris was tireless in finding ways to help West Virginians recover, even leading the charge to establish a program that has helped people rebuild their homes.

It is because of all of this and so much more that Chris has been surrounded with a family of friends and supporters who proudly proclaim the name Team Stadelman.

I have always been moved by Chris's inspiring life, and my abiding thoughts and prayers are with Kelly; his mom, Nancy; his stepmom, Helen; his siblings, Matt, Jonathan, Philip, and Rachel; and all of Team Stadelman.

Last year, Chris's father, Paul, lost his own battle with cancer. When reflecting on his son's illness, Paul wrote, "So much has been shared. So much has been given. So much has been accomplished."

And for that, West Virginia is so much better.●