

Kate Kennedy was born in County Meath, Ireland, in 1827, the second of seven children. After her father's death in 1841, she cared for her five younger sisters, even overseeing their education at home. During Ireland's Great Famine, Kate immigrated to the United States. She worked as a seamstress in New York before moving with the rest of her family to California in 1856.

Shortly after arriving in California, she began teaching in San Francisco's public schools. She rose to become the principal of the North Cosmopolitan Grammar School, but was only paid the salary of a primary school principal because she was a woman. In response to this injustice, she began a campaign for equal pay all school teachers. Her efforts were rewarded in 1874, when the California Legislature passed a law requiring female public school teachers paid the same as male counterparts.

Following her landmark victory, Kate continued to teach while advocating for other social issues like labor and tax reforms. She eventually ran for state superintendent of public instruction, becoming the first woman to run for Statewide office in California.

Although she didn't win, she continued to leave a mark on her adopted State. After being transferred for political reasons to a smaller school with a lower salary, Kate fought the demotion and was ultimately fired in retaliation by the schoolboard. She sued the board, taking her case all the way to the California Supreme Court. The court sided with Kate, delivering an opinion that still serves today as the foundation of teacher tenure in California.

Shortly after the court's ruling, Kate Kennedy passed away in Oakland, CA, and was buried in San Francisco's Laurel Hill Cemetery in 1890.

Kate Kennedy's commitment to justice and willingness to fight for her rights is truly inspirational. As the first woman to represent California in the U.S. Senate, I am proud to honor her legacy and the historic role she played in the ongoing struggle for equality.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES T. JONES

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 100th birthday of Charles T. Jones, or better known to the people who love him as Captain Charlie, a proud West Virginian, military veteran, legendary businessman, servant of the community, and a dear friend. Throughout his century of life, Charlie has often been referred to as a coal miner, farmer, riverboat captain, and a Renaissance man.

While he grew up on the banks of the Kanawha River in West Virginia, Charlie attended school in New Jersey, where he spent many afternoons rowing on Lake Carnegie. This is where he met Albert Einstein, who would observe his rowing each afternoon. He would later earn a degree in business from Babson Institute in Massachusetts.

Charlie served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II with the Navy Seabees in Guadalcanal and on a mine sweeper as an engineering officer off the coasts of Japan and the Philippines. The sense of service and duty he demonstrated while in the military is still something he carries with him to this day.

After the war's end, Charlie went to work for his family's coking coal business, Star Coal and Coke Company, which later became Amherst Coal Company, in 1946. The company was started by his grandfather in 1893. Due to the downturn in production and demand of coking coal, out of necessity, the company ventured into river transportation. In 1951, the family bought the Hatfield-Campbell Creek Coal Company, a business that operated steamboats, barges, and river terminals along the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. He took over the river operations of the company and renamed them "Amherst Barge Co." Along the way, the company became Madison Coal and Supply Co. and is now known as Amherst Madison and still specializes in marine services, like towing, construction, shipping, and equipment repairs. Amherst and its affiliated companies have proudly employed thousands of West Virginians over the past 70 years.

Charlie is one of the most hard-working, humble, and giving people West Virginia has ever known. He is a long-time supporter of many business and charitable and community organizations throughout the Kanawha Valley. Over the years, he has served or currently serves on numerous boards and committees including Yeager Airport Authority Board, board of trustees for the University of Charleston, chairman emeritus of the Inland Waterways User Board, trustee emeritus of the WV Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, director emeritus of the Mariner's Museum, past chairman of the WV Mining and Reclamation Association, former director of the Charleston Area Medical Center Foundation, One Valley Bancorp, and the Western Pocahontas Corporation, Ohio Valley Improvement Association or DINAMO, and so many more.

His lifelong contributions have not been overlooked. Just last year, Charlie was honored as a Distinguished West Virginian by the Governor, entered into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels by the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and inducted into West Virginia University College of Business and Economics' Business Hall of Fame, and recognized as a West Virginia "Who's Who" by the State Journal. Additionally, he has received previous honors such as the Charleston YMCA's Spirit of the Valley Award, induction into the Coal Mining Hall of Fame, Charleston Gazette-Mail's West Virginian of the Year, Seaman's Church Institute Lifetime Achievement Award, and the National Rivers Hall of Fame Achievement Award, to name only a few.

He credits his longevity to good genes, good luck, and a great wife and very supportive family, associates, and friends. Charlie and his wife, Mary Ellen, have been married for more than 45 years. He has four children: Laura Jones Pray, C. Tandy Jones, Jennifer Jones, and the late O. Nelson Jones. He is a member of the Oak Hill Baptist Church and the St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Charleston.

I know I speak for all West Virginians when I wish Charles T. "Captain Charlie" Jones a Happy 100th birthday and wish for many more.●

RECOGNIZING SILVER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate the dedication of Silver Creek Middle School, SCMS, in Kensington, MD as it completes its inaugural year. SCMS opened on September 5, 2017, for 550 students in sixth and seventh grade.

Students from Chevy Chase Elementary, North Chevy Chase Elementary, and Rock Creek Forest Elementary now attend SCMS. In recognition of the combination of students from three different elementary schools, SCMS dedicated its inaugural year to community building and has worked hard to create a strong sense of unity and common purpose.

Before the 2017-18 school year began, SCMS organized three community summer socials at parents' residences. More than 200 parents participated in these events and helped cultivate a supportive network before their students had even arrived at school. In addition, SCMS students and parents have organized two cleanups of nearby Silver Creek, for which the school is named. Students, teachers, and parents collaborated in these efforts to protect our environment.

In addition to community building, SCMS focuses on a global and holistic education. SCMS is an International Baccalaureate, IB, school with a Middle Years Programme. This program allows students to engage across cultures and subject areas to develop their self-understanding and a sense of their relationships to others and our society.

I am proud that Silver Creek Middle School is committed to a quality education and a collaborative educational environment for all of its students. I commend the dedicated faculty and staff at SCMS for all they do to help each of their students achieve his or her full potential. The Silver Creek Middle School community has my best wishes for a productive learning experience for many years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Cuccia, one of his secretaries.