

and expertise effectively to advance American energy dominance and enforce energy sanctions, like those against Russia and Iran.

Frank served as energy counsel to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works from 2003 to 2007. While at EPW, his knowledge on energy issues was vital. He drafted key provisions of the bipartisan Energy Policy Act of 2005, legislation that helped to unleash American innovation and set the conditions for today's energy abundance.

I want to congratulate Frank Fannon on this well-deserved confirmation and wish him well in his new role at the State Department.

#### TRIBUTE TO GREGORY SLAVONIC

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize my good friend and fellow Oklahoman, Mr. Gregory Slavonic, for his Senate confirmation as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Manpower and Reserve Affairs at the Department of Defense.

Greg was raised in Oklahoma City, OK. He graduated with a bachelor of science from Oklahoma State University and then enlisted in the Navy. After completing boot camp and signalman "A" school he received orders to the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation* (CVA 64) and completed two western Pacific deployments in support of combat operations in Vietnam. In 1976, he earned a master's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit Medal; Bronze Star Medal, two awards; Meritorious Service Medal, three awards; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two awards; Combat Action Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation; and numerous other campaign and service medals.

Throughout his 34-year career in the Navy and as chief of staff to Senator JAMES LANKFORD, Greg has served his country and his home State of Oklahoma with great honor and distinction. He will bring those experiences of success to this position and continue the excellence that has been the trademark of the U.S. military.

I want to congratulate Greg Slavonic on this well-deserved confirmation and wish him well in his new role at the DOD.

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARIAH SMITH

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend LTC Mariah Smith, U.S. Army, for her more than 18 years of service to the Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith has distinguished herself for the past 2 years as a senior congressional liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller. In this capacity, she has worked successfully to build and uphold the critical relationship between Congress and the U.S. Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith managed the military personnel portfolio, which involves over 1 million soldiers, almost \$60 billion in assets, and more than 40 percent of the Army's total appropriation. She approached this task with the dedication expected of an exceptional Army leader: She acted on opportunities to take care of soldiers. She has been notably proficient in resolving innumerable inquiries into individual soldier issues. In the same manner, she enabled Members of Congress to remain devoted to the care of their constituents, while also supporting congressional efforts to shape personnel policy.

Lieutenant Colonel Smith is recognized as a mentor and leader among her peers, with an outstanding depth of service in the legislative affairs area, having previously served as a congressional fellow, military legislative assistant for a Member of the House of Representatives, and a legislative liaison for the NATO training mission in Kabul, Afghanistan. Her tenure in the Army includes almost 5 years of leading soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and the Horn of Africa. Her significant contributions to the Army's budget liaison office are a credit to herself, the Army, and the Nation she serves.

I am pleased to commend Lieutenant Colonel Smith for her many years of distinguished service as a congressional liaison and to wish her well in her continued service.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING WILLIAM T. KERR

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mr. William T. Kerr and his contributions to the creation of Flag Day. His passion for the flag spurred a lifetime pursuit to establish a national holiday to honor it.

Mr. Kerr grew up in Pittsburgh and established himself in Yeadon, PA. After hearing the stories of sacrifice and patriotism during the Civil War, Mr. Kerr garnered a unique appreciation for the flag of the United States.

In 1888, Mr. Kerr established the American Flag Day Association, an organization committed to promoting patriotism and respect for the flag on a national scale and establishing Flag Day on June 14. In Mr. Kerr's capacity as the president of the American Flag Day Association, a position he held for five decades, he met with nine Presidents and wrote countless letters to Senators, Members of Congress, Governors, and local officials to petition for Flag Day to be celebrated on June 14.

Mr. Kerr's activism inspired several leaders, including President Woodrow Wilson, who went on to proclaim June 14 as National Flag Day on May 30, 1916, and General Douglas MacArthur, who wrote a letter to Mr. Kerr in 1947, citing reverence and honor in the flag

itself. Though Congress initially failed to submit legislation to President Wilson supporting the proclamation to recognize the holiday, three decades later, Congress passed a bill formally declaring June 14 as National Flag Day. On August 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman, with Mr. Kerr standing next to him, signed the Flag Day bill into law, formally declaring June 14 as National Flag Day.

I commend Mr. Kerr on his commitment to creating a day to honor the flag. Pennsylvanians are renowned for their hard work, dedication, perseverance, and patriotism, and Mr. Kerr is an excellent example of that assessment. Mr. Kerr's legacy has lived on, especially in the small farm town of Yeadon, where the town celebrates Flag Day as an all-day affair.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SCOTT GINGER

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I am honored to recognize one of Nevada's most dedicated and exceptional educators, Mr. Scott Ginger of Green Valley High School, who has served thousands of students with the utmost dedication. Mr. Ginger, as his current and former students continue to call him, has remained committed to his students' success for 29 years. He began his career at William E. Orr Middle School in 1989 and moved to Green Valley High School 2 years later, where administrators, faculty, students, and families have revered him. He has won the Green Valley High School Golden Gator Award 17 times and has been inducted into the Clark County Teachers' Hall of Fame.

Nevadans who know Mr. Ginger are eager to highlight his impressive skills as a speech and debate coach, a role that has given him and his forensics team at Green Valley High School the county championship 24 consecutive times since 1995 and the State championship a record 16 times. In 2018, the National Speech and Debate Association named him Nevada Educator of the Year. Although a very skilled competitor, Mr. Ginger has always emphasized that speech and debate are primarily "a vehicle to build character, to be ethical, to be kind, to think big picture and think about others." Students who were fortunate to learn from Mr. Ginger agree. Those in the professional world claim Mr. Ginger's classroom lessons still help them keep calm and collected when speaking in public. Most importantly, those students also give Mr. Ginger credit for their ability to make lasting connections and friendships.

The sense of community belonging that Mr. Ginger has given his students is perhaps his most important legacy. He has allowed some of his most talented students to teach within the classroom and has provided an opportunity for former students to come back and speak about the multiple benefits they have reaped from forensics. Thus, a community of skilled debaters