

Hosch Woman of Valor award for her decades of commitment to civil rights and community service. Samford University named her Alumna of the Year in 2014.

In addition, Judge Lee was often called on to speak about her experiences in the civil rights movement and the role her family played in moving the country to a better place. I was fortunate to share the stage with her many times and always marveled at how she would share her story with grace, compassion, and a sense of justice, not hatred or bitterness.

My wife, Louise, and I extend our sincere and deep condolences to Judge Lee's family. The city of Birmingham and the State of Alabama are better for her having lived and served there and so am I.●

REMEMBERING JOHN M. RICHARDS

● Mr. RICH. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a great Idahoan, John M. Richards. John recently passed away, leaving a tremendous legacy for the timber industry and as a strong supporter of economic development and a champion for those in need.

John and his identical twin brother, Tom, were co-owners of Idaho Forest Industries, IFI, which had its headquarters in Coeur d'Alene and provided more than 450 jobs. It is said to be one of the largest forest products industries to make northern Idaho their home throughout the second half of the last century. The brothers were committed to forest stewardship, but in the early 1990s, timber industries faced falling prices, public challenges against timber harvesting, and less availability of local and Federal timber. IFI survived because of the ingenuity of the two brothers. They began testing the ability to long-haul timber from other regions of the country and Canada, as far away as Quebec.

Even in the hard times, IFI kept all of its employees on the payroll. Some have called IFI the "best employer in the area."

When John and his brother decided to retire about the year 2000, IFI was sold to Stimson Lumber Co. of Oregon. John and Tom thought Stimson would run their company in much the same way they had run it and would keep most of their workers.

John was raised in Kootenai County, ID, and cut his teeth working in his dad's lumber mill.

Even though he was the co-owner of IFI, John worked for 29 years at Potlatch Corp., another lumber company in northern Idaho. He became chairman and CEO and then retired from there in 1999. John, who went to Stanford University, where he earned a degree in economics and an MBA from Harvard Business School, was committed to the welfare of others. He was known to give jobs to anyone who wanted to work and to let the employees work in teams to consider how to best accomplish the work in their

areas. When some say people are our best asset, John believed it. He was a caring employer, and his workers respected him for it.

In 2014, John and Tom were inducted into the Idaho Hall of Fame in a family-only ceremony. The brothers were not known for wanting any kind of publicity or public recognition for their commitment to good business practices or for how they supported the community. John just did what he thought was the right thing to do: build an honest and beneficial business, make jobs available, give back to the community, and assist others—and so no boasting about it.

John was also a family man. He was married to Joy Elaine (Hanson) for 34 years. As a father, John's children say he was always there for them.

John was a great Idahoan, an exemplary businessman, a caring, charitable member of the community, and a timber man of excellence. He will be sorely missed by his family, his friends, "co-workers," and by many throughout northern Idaho.●

TRIBUTE TO DOLORES "DEE" NELSON

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the bold and groundbreaking service of Dolores "Dee" Nelson.

When Dee was only 20 years old, she longed to serve her country in World War II, just like her brothers. She joined the Women's Army Air Corps but, to her disappointment, was placed in an office job. That wasn't what Dee had in mind, and she told her superiors that that was not what she signed up for.

Because of Dee's boldness, she began to get special assignments and, before long, was promoted to special operator. She passionately tackled every challenge and task brought before her. Her service took her to the newly opened Pentagon in Washington, DC, where she helped with preparations for the Allied landing at Normandy. For this mission, she was personally sworn to secrecy by President Roosevelt. Decades later, Dee still feels the sacrifice of the Allied lives that were lost on the beaches of Normandy.

At every step of her career in the Women's Army Air Corps, Dee faced discrimination and disapproval from the men she worked alongside. Men would stand in front of her in line-ups when their superiors would walk by. Her superiors refused to put any of her special assignments or accomplishments into her record. After helping plan some of the most pivotal moments of the war, her military record unfairly downplayed her contributions to our Nation.

After her military service, she used her GI Bill benefits to get a college education. At school, she met her husband, Donald, a fellow veteran of the U.S. Navy. She continued to buck tradition by traveling and working along-

side her husband. As Donald continued his career in the military, Dee continued to serve her country in civil service.

Dee's passion and intelligence has taken her far in life. From working in a shipyard in Long Beach, to teaching children on the windy Aleutian Islands, Dee found joy and fulfillment in serving other people.

Dee is a miraculous woman who has not received enough recognition and appreciation for her service to our Nation in World War II. She didn't let anyone get in the way of her desire to serve, and our Nation is better off today because of her strength and determination. Women like Dee paved the way for generations of Montana and American women to take up the call to arms and serve our Nation.

I stand here today to say thank you to Dolores Nelson for her service, strength, and sacrifice, on behalf of myself, Montana, and a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN ALBERT

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the hard work of my Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee intern Kathryn Albert. Kathryn hails from Ellicott City, MD. She is an economics major and a cadet in the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Maryland, College Park.

While interning for the Commerce Committee, Kathryn assisted the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security. She is a dedicated worker who was always willing to take on new projects. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kathryn and wish her continued success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK BINDER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the hard work of my Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee intern Patrick Binder. Patrick hails from Yankton, SD. He is a rising senior history major at Yale University.

While interning for the Commerce Committee, Patrick assisted the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security. He is a dedicated worker who was always willing to tackle new projects. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Patrick and wish him continued success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS SIMMONS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the hard work of my Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee intern Francis Simmons. Francis hails from Charleston, SC. He is an international relations and economics major and rising sophomore at Tufts University.