

plow and help out. Helping people and trying to make Naperville better was his nature.

I used to kid him that he was my favorite Republican. I invited him as my guest to a State of the Union address in Washington awhile back, and he was a joy to be around.

George always had time for people. His door was open to anyone. A Chicago columnist wrote a sarcastic piece about Naperville, and George invited him to tour the town and changed his opinion. His state of the city addresses had a flare to them, as he sported a tuxedo and silk top hat to present them.

George loved Naperville and thought the best of it. When he stepped down from being mayor to spend more time with his wife in 2015, his successor invented the title mayor emeritus so George could still stay involved with the community and represent the mayor on occasion.

In addition to Safety Town, a park, a street, and an Officer Friendly statue all bear George's name in Naperville. He even has a bobblehead in his likeness, which I own, too. Because George loved chicken wings and the lunch buffet, Braconi's Restaurant and Pizzeria has a room named after George. At Schmaltz's Deli, George is the only person to have a sandwich named after him. Why did all these places name things after him? Because they loved him the way he loved Naperville. Naperville will miss him, and so will I.

George is survived by his children Carol, Gary, and George.

REMEMBERING KEN SMIKLE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, Chicago lost a giant in media when Ken Smikle passed away at the too young age of 66. For over 40 years, Ken redefined coverage of the Black American experience and brought to light the economic potential of Black communities in the United States.

It is hard to believe that an audience with \$1.2 trillion in buying power in 2017 did not have a publication geared toward understanding the African-American market 30 years ago, but that was the reality before Ken founded Target Media News in 1987. Ken saw the potential there throughout his career.

Hailing from Harlem, NY,—in 1974, Ken, his brother, Dawoud Bey, and friend, Gerald Gladney started a business that published two magazines. They did this with no financial backing besides savings from various jobs.

Ken wrote for several publications, including *Essence Magazine* and the *National Leader Magazine*. He went on to serve as the arts editor for *Harlem's Amsterdam News*, the Black music editor at *Record World Magazine*, and the editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

In 1983, Ken's life had a revolution. He became the senior editor at *Black Enterprise* magazine. Ken also met the love of his life, Renee Ferguson, who

was among the first female African-American women to work at CBS Network News in New York. Both of them were dedicated to telling the untold story of African Americans. It was at *Black Enterprise* that Ken got the idea that no one was tracking what businesses were doing to market to Black consumers.

In 1987, Ken and Renee moved to Chicago. Ken founded *Target Market News*, while Renee worked as an investigative reporter for *NBC5 News*. *Target Market News* became the leading publication showing the research into marketing to African Americans. His work was pivotal in changing the way corporations viewed African Americans as an economic force. He published an annual "Black Buying Power" report for many years. For many years, Ken was the only one doing it, until *Forbes* and the University of Georgia Selig Center joined the bandwagon.

Ken was the expert quoted on marketing to African Americans in numerous publications. He cofounded the African American Marketing and Media Association, hosted annual conferences, and was a proud member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

In Chicago's Hyde Park's Kenwood community, Ken and Renee were staples for 30 years. They were neighbors to a young couple named Barack and Michelle Obama. Before Barack Obama was President Obama, he was Ken's friend at the Hyde Park co-op.

While trailblazing the marketing industry, Ken was a Little League basketball coach at the YMCA. He was a loving father to his son, Jason, going to his son's baseball, basketball, and swimming competition.

Ken loved his jazz and the music of life. His leadership and vision will be missed.

Ken leaves behind his wife, Renee, son, Jason, brother, Dawoud Bey, and sisters, Sandra Bernard and Georgianna Machicote.

(At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I want the record to reflect my concerns about the nominations of Jackie Wolcott to be the U.S. Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, and the U.S. Representative to the Vienna office of the United Nations. For family health reasons, I was unable to cast a vote in relation to her nomination. However, while Ambassador Wolcott is well-regarded for her recent work at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.S. Representative to the IAEA must bring impartiality and a focus on the technical aspects of the job. In the past, Ambassador Wolcott has spoken publicly and forcefully on IAEA compliance issues, and I have concerns that reconciling those past statements with

the current demands of the IAEA will be difficult. For that reason, had I been able to cast a vote, I would have voted against the nominations.●

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am placing a hold on the nomination of Michael Faulkender to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy, which was reported favorably from the Finance Committee on September 18, 2018. I will maintain that hold until the Treasury Department provides the Senate Finance Committee sufficient information and documents related to Russia and its financial dealings with President Trump and his associates, as well as outside organizations Russia used to help elect him. I originally asked for these documents on May 10, 2017, and, to date, have still not received satisfactory responses to these important matters.

I have stated repeatedly that we must follow the money if we are going to get to the bottom of how Russia has attacked our democracy. That means thoroughly reviewing any information that relates to financial connections between Russia and President Trump and his associates, whether direct or laundered through hidden or illicit transactions.

The Treasury Department for which Mr. Faulkender is nominated to serve is responsible for much of this information. The Treasury Department authorities include intelligence and enforcement functions to combat financial crimes and threats, including money laundering.

For these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent request concerning the nomination of Mr. Faulkender until these issues are resolved.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize National POW/MIA Day and honor the servicemembers who have not yet made it home. We can never give up in bringing them home and getting answers for their loved ones who await their return.

I commend those who work during this national recognition each September and throughout the year to raise awareness about the continued need to return our missing servicemembers. This includes members of the POW/MIA Awareness Rally Corp. of Pocatello, ID, who hold rallies and other events to keep a spotlight on the immense service of our Nation's veterans.

Also, thank you to those who are working hard to bring all of our servicemembers home. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, which is the organization primarily responsible for coordinating and conducting research and recovery efforts for POW and MIA soldiers, reports that more

than 82,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Cold War, the Gulf wars, and other conflicts. This includes 355 remaining POW and MIA veterans from Idaho. So far this month, the agency has reported accounting for 18 missing servicemembers, most of whom were lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor. This work of identifying and returning our servicemembers is no doubt painstaking, but imperative. Until we account for all our missing and bring each of these Americans home, wounds remain unhealed.

I pray that all of the families and friends of missing servicemembers experience the long-awaited return of their loved ones. May all those who serve our Nation feel how grateful we are for their security of the blessings of our liberty. Let's bring them all home.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION OF GREEN RIVER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this weekend we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the day that Green River, WY, became an incorporated municipality.

Green River's history is rich and full of national significance. The founding of Green River predates Wyoming's statehood by 22 years. Green River was founded when the area was still a part of the Dakota Territory in 1868.

Like many other towns across Southern Wyoming, Green River was founded during the race to unite the world's first transcontinental railroad. The railroad had the power to create a town along the route; 2,000 people resided in Green River when it was incorporated in 1868. Today, 2,000 people is still a good-sized town by Wyoming standards.

The railroad also had the power to destroy a town. There were many ghost towns left in Wyoming as the railroad moved on. Green River shrank to just 101 residents when the railroad moved its junction 12 miles west forming Bryan, WY, on the banks of the Blacks Fork River. Green River was on the verge of becoming a ghost town when a drought caused the Blacks Fork to run dry. Dependent on a water source, the railroad moved the junction back to Green River. Bryan became the ghost town while Green River became the Sweetwater County seat.

The junction turned out to be a major stopover point for passenger traffic on the railroad. Movie stars would stop in Green River to change trains on their way from Hollywood to Sun Valley, ID. Even today, every few minutes, a train rumbles through Green River, connecting one side of the United States to the other.

The ideal of Manifest Destiny is one we hold dear as Americans. That ideal and the spirit of exploration is rooted in the history of Green River. Major John Wesley Powell came to Green River in May of 1869 to launch an exploration trip. The goal was to map the

entire Green and Colorado River basin for the first time. This voyage would end up being one of the most significant in American history. Major Powell lost his right arm serving his country as an Army officer during the Civil War. That did not stop him from leading nine men and four boats down the river in 1869 and again in 1871.

Previous to Powell's voyage, the area he would map was regarded as the last area of land in the continental United States that was unexplored. This all started in the town of Green River, which was less than a year old when the major departed on this first trip.

Major John Wesley Powell spoke passionately before he embarked. He spoke directly about the massive voyage he was about to undertake into the unknown. "We have an unknown distance yet to run, an unknown river to explore. What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset the channel, we know not, what walls ride over the river, we know not. Ah, Well! We may conjecture many things." His words live on today, not only to describe the voyage he was on, but to describe the voyage that the town of Green River was just beginning.

After the railroad helped establish Green River, other industries flourished. Sweetwater County became a major producer of coal and oil. A few years later, a mineral named trona would be discovered just outside Green River. The process and technology to refine trona into soda ash would drastically change the economy of Green River. The Green River Basin is now known as the Trona Capital of the World. It is a fact that the natural resources we have in Wyoming are a blessing.

Like Major John Wesley Powell said, "We have an unknown river to explore and an unknown distance to cover." Over the past 150 years, the city of Green River has covered an impressive amount of distance down that unknown river.

As Green River marks 150 years of incorporation, I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating Green River's rich heritage and history that provides a truly wonderful experience to those who call it home.

TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you may know, I strongly supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that passed the Senate and was signed into law last year. Over the 6 months since its passage, the law's positive impact on our country's economy has become more apparent. Companies, both large and small, have directly experienced the benefits of the law and as a result are distributing bonuses, raising wages, and making new investments in their businesses. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I enthusiastically supported the tax law because I believed it would reduce the tax rate for small

businesses, encourage investment in small businesses, and increase the overall health of our economy. Over the last few months, I have been making this series of speeches to illustrate the benefits this law provides for small businesses.

While much attention has been given in the past 6 months to the ways in which the law is leading to a positive business outlook and is lowering tax rates for individuals and corporations, the benefits that small businesses receive are not always noticed. Today I wish to draw attention to how tax reform is benefitting Li-Lac Chocolates, a small business in Brooklyn, NY. Li-Lac Chocolates makes a variety of chocolate treats the old-fashioned way. Li-Lac was founded by George Demetrious in 1923, with a single location in Manhattan's Greenwich Village neighborhood, and today the company has four retail locations across New York City and a 9,000-square-foot plant in Brooklyn. After many years of steady success in Greenwich Village, Anthony Cirone and his partners purchased the company in 2011 with plans to expand the company's sales and make the brand better known. To ensure that the taste and craftsmanship the company was known for was not lost, Cirone enlisted the expertise of master chocolatier Anwar Khoder, who has worked at Li-Lac since the late 1980s and is now a part owner. Though the new owners have made changes to the packaging design and have focused on increasing online sales, Khoder still follows Demetrious's original recipes and even uses manufacturing equipment from the company's earliest days.

Because of last year's tax law, this small chocolate manufacturing business has been able to immediately deduct improvements made to new storefronts. This enables the company to increase its cash flow, hire more workers, and open new locations at a more rapid pace. Before the implementation of the new tax law small businesses had to deal with a complex expensing formula that took many years to make use of and made improvements much less attractive to small business owners. The immediate deduction of property improvements for small businesses is one of the reasons that I supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Overall, the new tax law has been good for small businesses, and it has pushed many small businesses to increase their capital investments, hire additional workers, increase wages, and will lower small businesses' annual tax payments. I am pleased that small businesses like Li-Lac Chocolates will be able to reduce their tax burden by making use of this modified provision and look forward to watching the company's continued success.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL NEUENFELDT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Phil Neuenfeldt, president of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO,