

that they are flying the fair and friendly skies. Otherwise, these billions of dollars, year after year, will come out of the pockets of consumers who have no choice.

Senator WICKER and I worked together to build it into the Senate bill. We should not have receded to the position of the House. That was a mistake. This history is going to continue because the anger of the flying public is only going to build as each and every month and year goes by. The day is going to come, I vow to you, where we are going to have this in a bill that passes this Chamber and the House of Representatives.

This is an issue whose time has come. If it has been blocked, it is only temporarily. We are going to return to this issue. Everyone in the Congress will be made accountable to the flying public so that they are not given this offer they can't refuse every time they are at the counter: Pay or don't fly. It is absolutely wrong.

At this point, I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on Executive Calendar No. 941 be considered expired at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JIM PAXTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, at the end of this month, my friend Jim Paxton will end his 32-year tenure with the Paducah Sun newspaper in western Kentucky. Through his service as the paper's editor and publisher, Jim has shown a dedication to his community and his organization, and he deserves our sincere gratitude. Looking back at

his experience with the paper, Jim called it, "the best job a person could ask for." It is my privilege to congratulate him on his remarkable career in journalism.

Founded more than 120 years ago as the Paducah Evening Sun, Jim's newspaper has always been a family business. Before joining the paper, Jim worked with other news organizations in Nashville and Lexington and went to law school. However, after a tragic aviation accident that claimed the life of the Sun's previous editor, Jack Paxton, Jim left his legal career behind and agreed to lead the local institution.

Jim began at the Sun in 1986 and soon after earned the title of editor. With his brothers David and Richard, who later joined the company, the family expanded their media offering to better serve their community. The story of Paducah is intertwined with the region's river system, and the Sun has the news that its readers need for their day. There is a great deal of local news to cover. Paducah is the heart of our Nation's inland waterways network, and it is home to both the National Quilt Museum and the U.S. Department of Energy's Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Further, in 2013, the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, designated Paducah as the world's seventh City of Crafts and Folk Art. The Paducah Sun, under Jim's leadership, has kept a close eye on each of these aspects of the city's life and heritage.

In recent years, Jim has taken a leading role in crafting the Sun's editorial page, a page of his paper I rarely miss. I have especially enjoyed each of my opportunities to meet with the paper's editorial board to discuss the issues most vital to Paducah's future. By presenting a fair and even-handed opinion to his audience, Jim and the Sun's staff have made themselves a central feature of the day for many western Kentuckians.

When Jim leaves his post at the end of this month, he does so after a career filled with distinction and one he can be proud of. Whatever the future may hold for Jim and his family, I send them my sincere best wishes. Families throughout Paducah and across the Commonwealth have benefited from Jim's diligence and thoughtfulness, and I would like to express my profound gratitude to him. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Jim Paxton, the gold standard for a professional newsman, on a successful career and wishing him a happy retirement.

CAIRO HOUSING CRISIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I would like to bring attention to the southernmost city in my State, Cairo, IL.

Sitting at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, Cairo was once a booming port town and was home to

Fort Defiance during the Civil War. In the 1960s, Civil Rights icon Representative JOHN LEWIS even spent a summer there to help integrate a number of businesses and public spaces.

However, in recent years, this southern city has faced a new challenge, as uninhabitable living conditions have forced hundreds of public housing residents to relocate from their homes—and in many cases from their beloved community. Public housing in the city suffered years of neglect at the hands of local officials who are now accused of misusing Federal funds to bankroll lavish personal expenses, including multiple trips to Las Vegas and steak dinners.

And how was life for residents? By the time residents were forced to relocate, 185 families—including roughly 200 children—were living in housing overrun with rodents, bedbugs, roaches, crime, mold, asbestos, and lead. I am talking about rats in the couch, maggots in the freeze, and plumbing and heating that simply refused to work.

It was local officials who failed to provide its residents with safe and healthy housing; yet these families were the ones whose lives were uprooted as a result. Today, all 185 families have relocated, and the vacant housing complexes are set to be demolished. While the strength and resilience of these residents and their community in the face of this situation is inspiring, there is no question they deserved far more from their government.

It has been more than 2 years since the HUD Inspector General's Office began investigating alleged misuse of Federal funds by local officials, and it is beyond time for that investigation to be finalized and for the results to be made public.

Today I am calling—once again—for the HUD inspector general to do just that, but more remains to be done to restore the faith and confidence of public housing residents in our government. Transparent accountability must be had at all levels of government where mismanagement played a role in creating this crisis.

This is why, in May of last year, Senator DUCKWORTH and I called for the HUD inspector general to also look into HUD's oversight of Alexander County Housing Authority. This July, the IG released its report that found that despite having early knowledge of bad conditions at Alexander County, HUD hesitated to intervene, while residents suffered.

This is unacceptable, and it cannot be repeated. HUD is responsible for ensuring public housing authorities meet their responsibility to provide safe and affordable housing, and it must be capable of performing this vital oversight. Senator DUCKWORTH and I have urged HUD to quickly implement the recommendations included in the report to more effectively oversee public housing authorities, to which HUD has agreed.

I look forward to continuing to work with HUD to improve its oversight of public housing authorities. We cannot allow the local and Federal mismanagement that jeopardized living conditions in Cairo to be repeated in any other community.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY DESHARNAIS

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to recognize a Federal employee I have had the privilege of working with for the past 5 and a half years, Judy DesHarnais, deputy for programs and project management with the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Quite simply put, she is one of the finest and most dedicated public servants I have had the opportunity to work with in my time in the Senate.

Judy joined the district in 1985 as one of the first female engineers. In 2001, she was promoted to be the district's and the Corps' first female deputy district engineer for programs and project management. Throughout her time with the St. Paul District, Judy has stood out as an individual who could tackle complex, sensitive water resource issues. With top leadership in the district changing every 3 years, Judy has been the one steady hand that has remained constant, guiding the district through preparation and response to historic floods to helping communities secure permanent flood protection.

To community leaders in North Dakota, Judy is a trusted public servant and an important partner. She has been on the frontlines with us on so many flood fights, helping to coordinate emergency response measures to protect families and businesses. She has also led efforts to help communities get critical flood protection projects that have saved lives and prevented more than a billion dollars in property damage. No matter what the challenge, Judy has always been able to meet or exceed it, and the positive impact of her work can be seen across the State in Grand Forks, Wahpeton, Devils Lake, Minot, and so many other communities.

Judy's contributions to the Corps of Engineers are numerous, but one that will always be recognized is her efforts to make the agency truly responsive to the needs of the communities it serves. After a distinguished career in public service that has spanned more than 30 years, I want to thank Judy for her service to the Corps of Engineers and the State of North Dakota. She will be greatly missed, remembered for her professionalism, and honored for the positive change she brought to the Corps, and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JACK SALZMAN

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I would like to honor a constituent of mine who was recently awarded one of the highest honors in his industry.

Jack Salzman, owner of Lake Norman Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-RAM in Cornelius, NC, was named 2018 TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year, a national award that recognizes new-car dealers who exhibit exceptional performance in their dealerships and perform distinguished community service.

The TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award is held in partnership with Ally Financial and the National Automobile Dealers Association, NADA. Representatives from TIME and Ally Financial presented the award at the 2018 NADA Show in Las Vegas, NV. He dedicated his award to his wife, Robin Smith-Salzman.

Mr. Salzman was recognized for his exceptional commitment to giving back to his community focusing his philanthropic time and attention in three areas: animals in need, children in need, and women in need.

To this end, he is a contributor to the Humane Society of Charlotte, NC, as well as a founding board member of Lake Norman Humane Society. He also supports Lake Norman Lucky Cats, which provides trap-neuter-return services, as well as Holly's Hope, an organization that helps unchain dogs by building fences for homeowners in need.

To assist women and children in need, Mr. Salzman is a longtime supporter of the Dove House Children's Advocacy Center in Statesville, NC, Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center in Charlotte, NC, Amy's House in Lincolnton, NC, and the Shelter of Gaston County in Gastonia, NC. Mr. Salzman has stated, "We believe these organizations serve a critical need in our community."

Other national groups Mr. Salzman contributes to include Make-A-Wish, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, Susan G. Komen, and the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Salzman is also an accomplished swimmer in the 200-meter backstroke and competed in the U.S. Olympic trials for the summer games in Moscow.

He was nominated for the TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award by Robert Glaser, president of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association.

On behalf of all the constituents of North Carolina, please join me in congratulating Mr. Salzman on being named the 2018 TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year. I wish him and his family continued success and a prosperous future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Connecticut Chiropractic Association, Inc., CTChiro, as it celebrates 100 years of extraordinary and exemplary advocacy

on behalf of chiropractic doctors in Connecticut.

Since its formation in 1918, CTChiro has demonstrated tireless dedication to the advancement of the chiropractic profession. The association seeks to support these doctors and their practices throughout Connecticut in order to improve public health policies and provide their patients with the best treatment possible.

Endeavoring to raise awareness of the profession and make chiropractic care more accessible to the people of Connecticut, CTChiro diligently monitors healthcare legislation to ensure chiropractic services are a viable health option for residents. To meet the need for such medical care throughout the State, CTChiro strives to improve patient awareness of chiropractic services, while advocating for greater insurance coverage.

Continuously seeking to raise the standard for doctors in the field and the treatment they provide to their patients, CTChiro also offers opportunities for its member doctors to access resources and continue with higher education. Thanks to the association's longstanding, consistent efforts, institutions, representatives, agencies, and Connecticut residents are able to see the importance and availability of chiropractic medicine. Additionally, they can feel secure in the services offered to them as a result of CTChiro's dedication to developing a more comprehensive and knowledgeable set of doctors.

Since its establishment, CTChiro routinely prioritizes the creation of thorough, economical, and beneficial chiropractic care, supported by experienced, well-rounded professional doctors. I applaud their numerous achievements and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Connecticut Chiropractic Association, Inc., on 100 years of service and commitment to Connecticut chiropractic doctors and patients.●

TRIBUTE TO LENNIS "RED" ARNDT

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Red Arndt for his many years of service to the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, as well as his lifetime commitment to bringing safe and reliable water to the rural corners of this country.

Born Lennis Arndt, but nicknamed "Red," he started working in 1989 as the public utilities director in Luverne, MN. Shortly after beginning his new position, Red heard about a proposal to bring water from the Missouri River in South Dakota to the surrounding States. Although it was a major undertaking with more people doubting the idea than supporting it, Red saw the potential and recommended to the mayor and city council that Luverne join the project as one of the first members of the corporation that would later become the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System.