

On July 24, 2011, Sergeant Patterson and three members of his squad were conducting security at the Charkh Bazaar when an improvised explosive device detonated, collapsing the building in which they were positioned. As his platoon sergeant radioed for medical assistance, Sergeant Patterson conducted a search for the remaining members of the squad and administered first aid. He and two other members of his squad were medevac'd to Forward Operating Base Shank to receive treatment for traumatic brain injuries.

On August 5, 2011, on Sergeant Patterson's second day back after 2 weeks of treatment and observation for his injuries, he and his squad were again conducting security in the bazaar when a grenade was tossed into his position, landing on his shoulder and coming to rest near his back. The grenade detonated, resulting in significant injuries to Sergeant Patterson and three other members of his squad. Sergeant Patterson ignored the heavy bleeding from his own back and administered first aid to his platoon leader and provided assistance to medics treating the other wounded soldiers.

Sergeant Patterson was admitted to Frostburg State University in western Maryland in 2016. He is on course to graduate next May with a bachelor's degree in materials engineering with a minor in math and physics. He continues to have significant pain from shrapnel in his back, arms, neck, and shoulder, but he refuses to take pain medication so he can remain focused like a laser beam on his studies. For his capstone course in engineering, Sergeant Patterson is the project leader on converting organic material—nanocellulose—from trees and turning it into a compound that is lighter and stronger than Kevlar for use in flak jackets and vests for law enforcement officers and military personnel. This project has been accepted for presentation at the 2018 Materials Science and Technology Conference in Columbus, OH.

This past Sunday was Veterans Day, and it was the 100th anniversary of the armistice which ended World War I. We owe so much to our servicemen and servicewomen, to our veterans, to those who gave "the last full measure of devotion," and to their families. Repaying that debt begins with gratitude. I encourage my colleagues to join me in expressing the Senate's sincere appreciation to Sergeant Brent Patterson for his distinguished service to our Nation, our congratulations on his academic achievement, and our best wishes for his continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S VETERANS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to the nearly 600,000 Michigan residents who have proudly served in our Nation's Armed Forces.

Today's veterans have served on many fronts, from the beaches of Nor-

mandy and Iwo Jima, to the rice fields of Korea, to the jungles of Vietnam, to the Cold War, to the deserts of the Persian Gulf, to the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq, and right here at home.

This spirit of service lives on in so many different ways across our State. Whether they are supporting military families, providing help for fellow veterans, giving back through religious organizations and community nonprofits, or inspiring the next generation while coaching Little League or the local softball team, these patriots show us that service is more than something you do once. Instead, it is a way of life all of us should strive for.

Our veterans have done so much for us. It is our solemn duty to keep the promises we have made to them.

We must also ensure that our veterans receive each and every military honor they have earned while defending our country. I have been so fortunate to get to know Jim McCloughan of South Haven, who was awarded the Medal of Honor earlier this year for saving the lives of 10 of his fellow soldiers during the Vietnam war. Like so many of our veterans, Jim has spent the decades since then continuing to serve his community.

I know the sacrifices our veterans made because I have seen it firsthand. My own father served in the Navy during World War II, and he always said that veterans shouldn't stand in the back of any line, not for healthcare, education, housing, the chance at a good job, or the military honors, they have earned. He was absolutely right, and I have made it my mission to ensure that every promise made to our veterans is a promise kept.

Michigan's veterans are the best of us. On this Veterans Day—and every day—we salute them, we honor them, and we thank them for their service.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NANCY L. SPRULL

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I wish to honor my constituent, Dr. Nancy L. Spruill, who will be retiring this year after more than 47 years of service to our country.

Since 1999, Dr. Spruill has served as Director of Acquisition, Resources and Analysis for the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment. In this capacity, she is responsible for all aspects of A&S's participation in the Planning, Programming, and Budgeting and Execution System, the congressional process, and the Defense Acquisition System.

Dr. Spruill serves as the Executive Secretary to the Defense Acquisition Board and is responsible for the timely submission to Congress of reports for Major Defense Acquisition Programs. She performs systematic analysis to improve acquisition policy and education and leads the Department in developing plans to manage property,

plant and equipment, inventory, operating material, supplies/deferred maintenance, and environmental liabilities. She also manages a broad portfolio of information technology applications and infrastructure supporting the mission of the organization. Dr. Spruill has played a key role in improving the way the Department acquires major automated information systems. A strong advocate of improving the acquisition workforce, she works closely with the Defense Acquisition University and the rest of the Department in leading and training the thousands of personnel performing cost analysis and financial management for acquisition programs to improve acquisition outcomes.

Dr. Spruill graduated with a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland in 1971. She joined the Center for Naval Analyses from 1971–83. In 1975, she earned a master of arts in mathematical statistics from George Washington University, followed by a doctorate in 1980. Dr. Spruill served on the staff of the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 1983, first as senior planning, programming, and budget analyst in the Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics Secretariat, and then as Director of Support and Liaison for the Assistant Secretary for Force Management and Personnel and Senior Operations Research Analyst for the Assistant Secretary for Program Analysis and Evaluation.

In 1993, Dr. Spruill served as Chief of the Programs and Analysis Division for the Comptroller of the Defense Mapping Agency. She also served as Acting Deputy Comptroller and was a member of the Reinvention Task Force for the Vice President's National Performance Review.

Dr. Spruill has received many prestigious awards, including the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service, the Hammer Award, the Acker Skill in Communications Award, and numerous awards of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service, and the Presidential Rank Award. A member of the Senior Executive Service since 1995, she has published many papers on her work for the statistical community and the public. Her expertise on these important issues has been invaluable.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Spruill for her distinguished service to our country and in wishing her a fulfilling and enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE "KAY" BJORKLUND

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of Kay Bjorklund, Wyoming AARP's 2018 Andrus Award honoree.

Since 2001, the Wyoming chapter of AARP continues to make a positive difference in the lives of senior citizens

and their communities, serving out their vision of "a society in which all people live with dignity and purpose, and fulfill their goals and dreams." The Andrus Award, named after AARP founder Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, is awarded each year to one person or couple in every State. This award recognizes outstanding individuals who share their experience, talents, and skills to enrich the lives of others.

On November 8, 2018, the AARP of Wyoming hosted its Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet in Casper, honoring Kay Bjorklund of Thermopolis. Kay is an ideal choice for this award. She dedicates her life to serving her family, friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens of Thermopolis and Hot Springs County.

Kay grew up in Newcastle, WY, where she met her husband, Guy Bjorklund. Before they could marry, Guy left to serve our country in WWII as a U.S. marine. Kay eagerly waited for Guy's return. Once Guy was home, the two moved to Billings, MT, to marry and start a family. Guy began a career at JC Penney, and in 1955, a company transfer took the family to Thermopolis. Kay had the demanding job of full-time mother to their three children. Gary and Kay were active members of the Community Church where Kay continues to serve on the visitation committee.

Once her children started school, Kay worked in banking and became more involved in service to others. Kay raised her family with the strong principal of giving back to the community. Through her own example, she taught her family to put others first, to ask what they might do to help their friends and neighbors.

Guy continued to work for JC Penney until he was presented with the opportunity to open the Thermopolis Hardware store. Guy and Kay successfully ran the store until retirement in 1986. They sold Thermopolis Hardware to their daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Dennis Sinclair, who continue to run the business today. Retirement in 1986 allowed Guy and Kay to do what they enjoyed doing together: serving others.

Kay will tell you how important it is to stay active if you want to be healthy and happy. Taking her own advice to heart, Kay is an active member of the Kiwanis club and chamber of commerce. Every Wednesday, she volunteers at the hospital gift shop. Kay turns 95 next month and drives for Meals on Wheels, delivering dozens of meals and hugs to community seniors. Kay volunteers at the Pioneer Home, an assisted living facility and also plays bridge. She is the highest selling fundraiser for the PEO chapter in Thermopolis.

Kay Bjorklund truly represents the Wyoming values of generosity and selflessness. She is a devoted volunteer, loving mother, and generous friend to all. Kay and her late husband, Guy, have three children, Gary and his wife

Dorothy Bjorklund, Karen and her husband Dennis Sinclair, and Eric and his wife Terrie Bjorklund, along with eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Thermopolis is blessed to have this amazing woman and her family call Hot Springs County home.

It is with great honor that I recognize this exceptional Wyoming lady. My wife, Bobbi, joins me in extending our congratulations to Kay Bjorklund for receiving this special award from the AARP of Wyoming.

300TH ANNIVERSARY OF FALMOUTH, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the town of Falmouth, ME. As one of the oldest communities in Maine, Falmouth holds a very special place in our State's history and one that exemplifies the determination and resiliency of our people.

While this landmark anniversary marks Falmouth's incorporation, the year 1718 was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. It is a journey that began thousands of years earlier with Native American villages on the shores of Casco Bay. In 1623, just 3 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, Christopher Levett established a settlement on an island in the Bay and became friends with the Presumpscot Tribe. During the decades that followed, a robust settlement of farms, fishing boats, and sawmills developed and thrived. Due to the abundance of tall white pine trees, Falmouth became a leading manufacturer of ship masts for the British navy.

Falmouth is a town defined by hard work and a love of freedom. In 1775, the townspeople rose up in protest of colonial rule, and British forces retaliated by burning Falmouth to the ground. Undaunted, Falmouth rebuilt and sent a company of patriots to join the fight for American independence. During the Civil War, more than 100 of Falmouth's young men fought, and many died, so that all might live in freedom. The new Falmouth Veterans Memorial, made possible by widespread community support, honors all who have served our country.

Today, Falmouth is a place of thriving commerce, quiet neighborhoods, and beautiful scenery. Its schools are among the best in our State, providing opportunity to its young people. At the same time, Falmouth is home to an active and engaged senior community.

This anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years. It is a celebration of people who for more than three centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community that is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families. Thanks to those who came before, Falmouth has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are here today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUDUBON GREENWICH

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Audubon Greenwich as it celebrates 75 years of dedication to the protection and preservation of local bird species and their habitats.

Founded in 1943, the organization began as the Greenwich Main Sanctuary, thanks to the property gifted by Eleanor and Hall Clovis. This sanctuary is recognized as the National Audubon Society's first educational nature center. Two years later, Audubon Greenwich expanded thanks to the donation of the Fairchild Wildflower Sanctuary by Mrs. Elon Huntington Hooker and garden clubs in the area.

For three-quarters of a century, Audubon Greenwich has continued to expand its impact on protecting local wildlife. Today, 686 acres of protected habitat, including seven sanctuaries, provide protection for many species of birds. Though the organization's underlying focus is to support Important Bird Areas and protect bird species of concern, Audubon Greenwich has an even wider ranging set of goals. As part of the National Audubon Society, they advocate for far-reaching innovative steps to reduce the impact of global climate change, prevent air and water pollution, and reduce pesticide use, among other missions.

One of the most notable aspects of Audubon Greenwich is how accessible it is to the public. For 75 years, the sanctuaries have welcomed people to visit and explore, appreciating the preserved areas and the wildlife that resides there. Audubon Greenwich now sees over 20,000 visitors every year. The sanctuaries, nature center, and trails provide many opportunities for public learning and enjoyment, enhanced by the organization's nature education programs for children and adults.

Audubon Greenwich boasts an array of bodies of water, forests, an apple orchard, and even original New England homestead buildings. Their conservation efforts play a vital role in keeping Greenwich and the surrounding area safe for wildlife and well preserved.

Dedicated to preserving the past and preparing natural ecosystems and people for the future, Audubon Greenwich is a positive model for environmental education and wildlife conservation. I applaud its accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Audubon Greenwich on 75 years of excellence.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CON- NECTICUT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTU- NITIES

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights