

Upon graduation from law school, Mr. Nelson served as a law clerk to Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and to Judges Charles Brower and Richard Mosk of the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal at The Hague. Mr. Nelson earned his B.A. from Brigham Young University, BYU, and his J.D., with honors, from BYU Law School, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif and served as a lead articles editor of the BYU Law Review.

Ryan has been widely recognized by his colleagues for his judgement and legal expertise and will respect and be a servant of the law. He understands that a judge is responsible for interpreting and applying the Constitution and laws of the land as they are written and not to be a maker of laws from the bench.

Congratulations, Ryan, on your confirmation, and thank you for bringing your valuable perspective to the court.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN VETERANS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today, on the week we celebrated Veterans Day, I wish to pay particular tribute to our Nation's women veterans. Maryland women served our Nation long before they were permitted to serve in the military, from Mary Digges Lee, who collected money and supplies to support the Revolutionary Army, to Harriet Tubman who spied for the Union in the Civil War. Today Maryland is home to over 50,000 women veterans. Our Maryland National Guard is led by the extraordinary Adjutant General Linda L. Singh and, for the first time this year, an all-woman command staff.

As we honor our veterans, we must also keep the promises we made, as a nation, to them. That requires understanding and addressing the unique and complex needs of our women veterans. We know that they suffer higher rates of PTSD and suicide than their civilian counterparts and have medical issues that are too often overlooked or ignored. Later this week, I will be meeting with some truly heroic Maryland women who have served their Nation and continue to serve each other. I look forward to their insight on the programs and services they use and the ways we can expand the networks that might deliver the support our women veterans deserve.

This Congress has worked on a bipartisan basis to support our Nation's veterans, and we must continue those efforts. There is still much to do, from ensuring that the VA system delivers the care and programming that Congress has authorized, to assessing the feasibility of peer-to-peer assistance for women veterans, with emphasis placed on women who suffered service-related sexual trauma or who are at risk of becoming homeless.

We live in freedom because of those brave Americans who have chosen to take up the mantle of service in uni-

form; they deserve our full support in making the transition to civilian life, on an equal footing, regardless of gender, after that service is finished. Women veterans should not face unequal treatment; we need to broaden the discussion and strive to make things better for America's daughters who have served. Every veteran must know that they have our respect and gratitude and that we will support them as thanks for their sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY J. GOODE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Timothy J. Goode on the occasion of his retirement as Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia. Chief Deputy Goode is stepping down after a long career of accomplishment and service to his country and to West Virginia.

Since he came to West Virginia, my staff and I have had the pleasure of working with Chief Deputy Goode and his colleagues in the Southern District office. He has been a consistent advocate for the U.S. Marshals Service and served as a valuable liaison between the Service and my office. Before he came to West Virginia, he had already accrued a number of accomplishments in a storied career.

Chief Deputy Goode received his bachelor's degree from Indiana State University in 1983, entering the U.S. Marshals Service as a deputy in 1986. Over the next three decades, he served as a mentor to numerous deputies, coordinated and led operations that resulted in the arrest of dangerous criminals, and served in various administrative and informational capacities, including two stints as Acting U.S. Marshal. Among his many approbations was a special recognition by the Indiana General Assembly in 1990 for his role in the arrest and extradition of General Manuel Noriega.

In addition to his long record of service, Chief Deputy Goode serves as a Sunday school teacher and holds a master's degree in Christian Ministry. An outdoorsman, he is also an avid hunter and fisher. Finally, and most importantly, he is a devoted husband to his wife, Kyle.

Exemplary public service should be praised, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to Chief Deputy Goode for his service. I wish him well in retirement and in his future endeavors. It is an honor to call him a friend and fellow West Virginian.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. DOTTY MERRILL

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a leader who has devoted more than three decades to Nevada's kids, its schools, and its educators: Dr. Dotty Merrill. For more than 35 years, Dr. Merrill has been an educator, an advocate, and a leader in

fighting for the best possible opportunities for our students and teachers. She continues to be a leader as the executive director of the Nevada Association of School Boards, a role she has held since October of 2006.

Dr. Merrill graduated with a bachelor of arts from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, a master of arts in English from the University of Nevada, Reno, and finally with a doctorate in educational leadership, also from the University of Nevada, Reno. Nevada is truly blessed that Dr. Merrill has taken her education, experience, and passion and devoted it to our State's education system. Her work in the Washoe County School District was instrumental in developing a set of education standards that aligned with Federal standards and strengthened the 21st century education our kids need for a brighter future. She has continued the fight for our kids on behalf of the Washoe County School District at the Nevada Legislature where she has been a key voice for local educators as the Silver State has debated how best to improve our school system, train our teachers, and ensure that every child in Nevada has the tools, resources, and support they need to succeed in the classroom.

I would like to thank Dr. Merrill for all she has done for our kids, our schools, and our teachers in the Silver State, especially in her commitment to improving classroom instruction, developing initiatives that ensure accountability, and fostering collaborative relationships among stakeholders that achieve the best results for our kids.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Dotty Merrill's lifelong commitment to education and service to the Washoe County School District, the city of Reno, and the State of Nevada. Thank you to Dr. Merrill for all that you have done and for your life's work fighting for a quality education for Nevada's children and standing up for the necessary support and resources for the Silver State's teachers. ●

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH GUILLEMETTE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, for the October Granite Stater of the Month, I would like to recognize an extremely thoughtful and motivated young woman who has made it her mission to address bullying in our school communities, Hannah Guillemette. Hannah, a high school freshman from Bedford, NH, started her anti-bullying and kindness campaign "I've Got Your Back," also known as IGYB, when she was in middle school just over a year ago. She began by distributing 600 IGYB wristbands with a mission tag prompting her peers to include, be kind, and respect each other in her community, and the effort quickly grew and has touched almost 30,000 people across New Hampshire and 14 other States.

Hannah was inspired to act after witnessing bullying in her own school and