

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

being bullied herself for standing up for friends. She recalled one of her middle school friends, who was bullied so badly that he would ride his broken bicycle to school in the depths of the New Hampshire winter rather than take the bus. Hannah helped get him a new bicycle, but she was also inspired to do something more to stop the bullying that impacted him and others in her school.

The summer before her 8th grade year, Hannah came up with the IGYB program that includes a wristband, a parent hand-out, and video that explains IGYB and how participating students are pledging to stand up against bullying and spread kindness in their schools. Now, Hannah travels across New Hampshire giving talks to school assemblies and recruiting “ambassadors,” both student and adults, in school communities to help spread the message of IGYB. She is currently working with New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu and other New Hampshire officials to implement her program in all New Hampshire schools.

Hannah says that she wants to be a voice both for those who need one now and for those who needed one but are no longer here. She hopes that her IGYB movement will let students know that people support them and have their backs. For her dedication to making her community a better place and the work she has done to prevent bullying and spread kindness in New Hampshire schools, I am proud to recognize Hannah as our October Granite Stater of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO GARRY J. AUGUSTINE

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I am proud to recognize in the RECORD, Disabled American Veterans, DAV, executive director Garry J. Augustine, who has a long record of service to our Nation’s veterans.

Mr. Augustine has not only dedicated his life to serving veterans, he is a veteran himself. He served in the U.S. Army, enlisting after high school graduation in 1969. Mr. Augustine served as a member of the 198th Infantry Brigade in South Vietnam, where he was seriously injured by a land mine explosion. After spending 18 months at Walter Reed Army Medical Center recovering from his injuries, Mr. Augustine was medically discharged from the U.S. Army in 1972.

Mr. Augustine has been a member of DAV for 46 years, and he has worked for DAV for the past 30 years. His first job with DAV was in 1988 as a hospital service coordinator for the Department of Ohio at the Cleveland Wade Park U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, Hospital. Mr. Augustine has held numerous positions working on behalf of veterans during his three decades with DAV. He has served as executive director since 2013.

Under Mr. Augustine’s leadership, DAV has been a partner with Congress, including with the committee I have

the honor of chairing, the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, in accomplishing significant reforms for veterans. This includes overhauling VA’s system of providing decisions to veterans on their disability claims appeals and improving VA’s ability to provide community care. The John S. McCain III, Daniel K Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018, enacted in June 2018, strengthened healthcare for veterans and expanded VA’s Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to include veterans of all eras. DAV’s initiatives, led by Mr. Augustine, have raised awareness for important issues such as caregiver support, care and benefits specifically related to women veterans, and advance appropriations for VA accounts.

Today, I pay tribute to Mr. Augustine for his service to our country and his steadfast commitment to veterans throughout his career. Congratulations to Mr. Augustine on his retirement and a career in which he has left a lasting legacy of advocacy for veterans.●

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service and career of veteran and dedicated advocate Garry Augustine.

As the executive director of the Disabled American Veterans, DAV, since 2010 and a 46-year life member, Garry has helped shaped the legislative landscape for disabled veterans and their families by advocating before Congress, the White House, and the VA. Back home, Garry has led DAV’s efforts to make sure disabled veterans can access the healthcare and benefits they need and earned.

A native of Cleveland, OH, Garry enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1969. As a member of the 198th Infantry Brigade in South Vietnam, he served on the Batangan Peninsula. During a combat patrol operation on April 9, 1970, he was severely wounded by a land mine explosion.

After 18 months and multiple surgeries at Walter Reed Medical Army Hospital, Garry returned home to Cleveland, where he continued physical rehabilitation and underwent additional surgeries at the Cleveland VA hospital. In December 1972, he was medically discharged from the U.S. Army.

Following his service, Garry went on to earn a bachelor’s degree with honors from Ohio University in 1978. In 1983, he completed a master’s degree in sociology from Cleveland State University, the same year he became a life member of DAV Chapter 42 in Mentor, OH.

In Mentor, he served in various positions, including chapter commander and adjutant, and on statewide committees, as well as director of service for the DAV Department of Ohio. In 1989, he was selected as one of the Outstanding Young Men of America.

Along the way, Garry met and married Kellie Lambing and raised two children, Chelsea and Kyle.

Garry began his tenure with DAV as a hospital service coordinator in 1988 at the Cleveland Wade Park VA Hospital. That same year, he joined DAV’s professional staff as a national service officer apprentice. He remained at the Cleveland national service office where he was promoted to assistant supervisor in 1997 and supervisor in 2000.

He served as supervisor at the Cleveland DAV National Service Office until being appointed assistant national service director at DAV’s Washington Headquarters in 2002. In January 2004, he was appointed deputy national service director and was named national service director in 2010.

As executive director of DAV, Garry has helped lead an organization that has always been at the forefront of advocating for veterans and securing the resources, healthcare, and benefits veterans have earned. Garry has been a fierce advocate for VA healthcare reform, expanding caregiver benefits, securing critical resources for veterans initiatives, modernizing the disability appeals system, and improving VA services and resources for women veterans.

As ranking member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, it has been a joy to work with Garry and DAV on important pieces of legislation like the Deborah Sampson Act, the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, the Rural Veterans Transportation Enhancement Act, and the VA MISSION Act.

These bipartisan bills, several of which were signed into law, serve as a testament to Garry’s dedication and leadership on behalf of veterans. While future generations of veterans will be able to look at these bipartisan reforms as examples of Garry’s dedication, they will also feel the reach of Garry’s mission to serve veterans in their communities.

Under his leadership, DAV continues to be a cornerstone for communities across our Nation. At the local level, DAV helps injured and ill veterans get to and from their doctor appointments, transition back to civilian life through its mobile service offices, and navigate the VA healthcare and benefits systems.

It is my honor to recognize Garry’s lifetime of service as a soldier, veteran, and leader of DAV. As Garry begins a new adventure into retirement, I have no doubt that he will continue to serve those in need. To Garry, on behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I extend my greatest appreciation to you for your enduring bravery, service, sacrifice, and advocacy.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY GIOVANIELLO

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I am proud and honored to place in the RECORD well-deserved recognition and heartfelt congratulations to Jerry Giovaniello on his retirement from