

As a founder and cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I would like to turn the spotlight on Becky's good works.

She was driven to find a forever family for every child. She was a problem solver brimming with energy. Her advocacy led to important reforms. She believed in miracles. She made every effort to work miracles for children and families.

Becky mentored foster youth and paved the way for kids to dream big. She gave them reason to hope that their dreams can come true.

I extend my condolences to Becky's family, friends, and loved ones.

At age 36, Becky lost a brave battle to cancer.

Her legacy will live on and bring joy to countless children and moms and dads where it matters the most: in a forever family united through the blessing of adoption.

On Saturday, December 15, a celebration of life will take place at the First Church of God in Becky's hometown of St. Joseph, MI.

On this day, her loved ones will celebrate the light, joy, and hope she brought to this world.

May the blessings of God's Heavenly embrace welcome Becky into her new forever home for life everlasting.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN E. BOLDEN

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, along with my colleague, the ranking member on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator MURRAY, I wish to pay tribute to Carolyn Bolden, a nondesignated employee on the HELP Committee staff. Ms. Bolden is retiring at the end of this month after more than 23 years of distinguished service to the Congress, including more than 12 years serving on the HELP Committee.

Ms. Bolden has served on the HELP Committee as an assistant editor on detail from the Government Publishing Office since September 2006, providing support in all aspects of editing and printing the committee's many documents.

Ms. Bolden is well-regarded on both sides of the aisle, having proven her professionalism, courtesy, and substantial expertise across four chairs and both parties. Without the support of Ms. Bolden and the rest of the nondesignated staff, the committee could not accomplish the important work the American people expect us to get done on their behalf. I, along with the ranking member and the rest of the committee's members, want to recognize Ms. Bolden for that tremendous contribution to the Committee as she exits her time in the Senate.

I would like to yield now to my colleague, the ranking member, Senator MURRAY, for her remarks.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank Chairman ALEXANDER and join him in commending Ms. Bolden for her many years of dedicated and out-

standing service to the Government Publishing Office, the Congress, and the American people. I greatly appreciate the sacrifice that Ms. Bolden has made over the past 13 years in assisting the HELP Committee by applying her expertise in editing, printing, and memorializing our important work. We wish her and her family all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

We hope our colleagues will join us in thanking Ms. Bolden for her service.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD B. PROVENCHER

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, today I recognize and congratulate Mr. Richard B. Provencher on his upcoming retirement after more than 32 years of distinguished Federal service consisting of Active-Duty military service, service with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NRC, and more than 29 years of service with the U.S. Department of Energy, DOE.

Mr. Provencher began his Federal career in 1986 as a health physicist for the NRC Headquarters Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. Rick transferred to NRC Region 1 in King of Prussia, PA, where he was a materials inspector. In 1990, he joined the DOE as a health physicist and began his Senior Executive Service career as deputy director at West Valley Demonstration Project in New York. In 1998, he served as the director of the Miamisburg Closure Project in Ohio.

In 2003, he transferred to the Idaho Operations Office in Idaho as the deputy manager for environmental management, where he had a profound impact on DOE's mission to address Idaho's environmental cleanup efforts. Mr. Provencher provided strong leadership to the Federal and contractor workforce, making Idaho's cleanup performance one of the most successful in the Nation.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Provencher was instrumental in negotiating and executing an agreement between the DOE and the State of Idaho to implement a cleanup plan for buried waste in the subsurface disposal area at the Idaho National Laboratory, INL, significantly reducing the scope of work from the original plan and saving taxpayers \$5 billion.

Most recently, Mr. Provencher served as the Office of Nuclear Energy Manager for Idaho Operations Office and Contractor Assurance, responsible for overseeing the INL—our Nation's flagship nuclear energy laboratory. This responsibility includes managing over 200 Federal technical personnel and oversight of over 6,000 contractor employees with an annual budget in excess of \$1 billion. Under his leadership, the INL completed major infrastructure improvements and significantly improved research and development capabilities with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities that will ensure a bright future for the laboratory.

Mr. Provencher's remarkable ability to foster collaboration has strengthened partnerships internal and external to DOE. He repeatedly demonstrated his ability to build coalitions through his interactions with the State of Idaho and other elected officials regarding the operation of the INL. With multiple Departmental organizations present on the site, as well as many strategic partners across the government, it is a testament to Rick's leadership that all the various business functions are seamlessly integrated to support the INL's missions.

Mr. Provencher's performance has improved public trust and confidence in the DOE's mission work. He has partnered with environmental cleanup and laboratory participants in carrying the message of cleanup success, laboratory growth, and contributions to the region which have improved public perception of the INL and overall DOE mission work.

Through his years of dedicated service, Mr. Provencher exemplifies the best qualities of Idaho. Senator CRAPO, Representative SIMPSON, and I thank Rick for his service and wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN OSCAR "JOHNNY" JONES

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Mr. John Oscar "Johnny" Jones, who is retiring from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development after 37 consecutive years of service to the Nation.

Raised in Coffeerville, MS, Johnny joined USDA in 1980 as a student trainee in the Coffeerville Farmers Home Administration Office. In pursuing a career with USDA, Johnny followed in the footsteps of his father, William Woodrow Jones, and brother, William Woodrow "Woody" Jones, Jr., who both made significant contributions to American agriculture and rural economies throughout Mississippi as lifelong USDA employees.

Following his graduation from Mississippi State University in 1982, Johnny was promoted to the position of assistant county supervisor, ACS, for Webster County in Eupora, MS, with responsibility for Webster and Choctaw Counties. In 1985, he was promoted to county supervisor for Attala County. In 1990, Johnny was selected to serve as a rural housing specialist in the State Farmers Home Administration Office in Jackson. Seven years later, Johnny became the State program director for Single Family Housing for Rural Development in Mississippi, a position he has ably held for 21 years.

Working his way up from the Farmers Home Administration Office in his hometown to the State office in Jackson, Johnny not only gained exceptional knowledge and expertise, but he also contributed unique perspective to his work. Johnny understood the needs