

immediate release of human rights defenders around the world, imprisoned for exercising fundamental human rights. We must also end the Global Gag Rule once and for all, and we must finally grant women equality under the law. By doing so, we will truly recommit ourselves to breaking down the barriers that remain for women's empowerment, so that we can pave the path towards prosperity for generations to come.

CENTENNIAL OF THE
THERMOPOLIS CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the centennial of the Thermopolis, WY, Chamber of Commerce.

On March 23, the Thermopolis Chamber of Commerce celebrates their 100th anniversary at an annual banquet. What was once called the old Thermopolis Commercial Club incorporated in Hot Springs County as the Thermopolis Chamber of Commerce on February 4, 1919.

The future of the chamber was entrusted to elected directors: President Guy J. Gay, Vice President C.C. Beaver, and Directors Peter Sill, I.W. Wright, Harris Woods, A.W. Harrigan, and C.E. Stewart. Their guidance laid the foundation for a chamber that continues to foster the growth of business and sense of community in Thermopolis.

In an article dated February 7, 1919, the Thermopolis Independent Record wrote of the intended mission of the new chamber of commerce. "We wish to create better business, better homes, better government, a better community and, in general, create a better brotherhood of man. We ask only what is fair. All who live here are the owners of our community and our community is our biggest asset."

This spirit has driven Wyoming's people, businesses, and communities since its inception and will continue for generations to come. To further expand the chamber's embrace of community, on November 13, 1987, the Thermopolis Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution to change its name to the Thermopolis Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. This combined all of Hot Springs County's corner of the Big Horn Basin into the chamber's mission.

The citizens of Thermopolis and Hot Springs County are blessed to live in a beautiful environment. Located in northern Wyoming and nestled on the world's largest mineral hot spring, Thermopolis is bordered by the Hot Springs State Park and the Wind River Canyon. The Owl Creek Mountains lie to the South while the Absaroka Range is to the West. The hot springs have been free to the public since purchase of the land from Native Americans in 1896.

The construction of the railroad had a major impact on the development of Hot Springs County. In 1910, the Bur-

lington Railroad reached Thermopolis from the north. In 1911, the Burlington completed its line through Wind River Canyon to the south. This gave the entire Bighorn Basin much better connections with the rest of Wyoming. On February 9, 1911, the legislature approved establishment of Hot Springs County with Thermopolis as county seat. County government was organized in January 1913. The Thermopolis Chamber of Commerce was organized just a few years later in an office on South 5th Street.

For 100 years, the hard-working people at the chamber welcomed visitors to the area. One of today's main attractions is the rich prehistoric areas of Hot Springs County. The Wyoming Dinosaur Center offers a professional paleontological experience for the whole family. The center is an impressive 16,000-square-foot complex. It includes a world-class museum, working dig sites, and a modern preparation laboratory. Interpretive dig site tours allow visitors to walk the same ground as ancient dinosaurs and watch as scientists recover fossils from burial sites.

Hot Springs County as we know it today is vastly different from 100 years ago. It is this shared history between today's residents and those of the past that creates a special bond. Under direction and guidance from the chamber board of directors, executive director Meri Ann Rush and two office assistants, Kailey Dvorak and Kymberlee Oliver, continue the traditions of promoting Wyoming's people, businesses, and communities, started by the chamber 100 years ago. Chamber board members are president Deb Tudor, vice president Pastor Sam Needham, treasurer Vivian Butchart, secretary Susan Linko, past president Greg Willson, Phillip Scheel, Barb Heinze, Robin Griffin, Kerri Manig, Amanda Kraushaar, Lana Nicodemus, Shelly Burrows, and middle school representative Jackson Reed.

In honor of the centennial of the Thermopolis Hot Springs County Chamber of Commerce, I invite my colleagues to see this wonderful place in person. Thermopolis is the hometown of my wife Bobbi and her brother Mike. Her parents, Bob and Jerry Brown, continue to live there today. Bob served Thermopolis as the longtime postmaster, as well as in World War 2 and the Korean war. Jerry owned a store downtown.

It is a great privilege to recognize this remarkable organization advancing Wyoming business and tourism. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations and gratitude to the Thermopolis Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce on their centennial celebration.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GERALD KOTKOWSKI

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, when Gerald Kotkowski of Hampton, NH,

was preparing for retirement, he knew he would have more time on his hands and wanted to find a way to give back to his community. Inspired by his own life experiences, Gerald chose to serve as a volunteer driver to help people undergoing cancer treatment, as well as those who experience visual impairments. Since he started working with both Future in Sight and the American Cancer Society, Gerald has provided more than 400 rides to his fellow Granite Staters in need. For his incredible volunteerism, I am proud to recognize him as March 2019's Granite Stater of the Month.

Gerald began driving people undergoing cancer treatment after he heard about the program from a coworker. The cause, he said, touched him because of his own experiences; he and his wife both have had cancer scares, and their daughter was diagnosed with leukemia as a child. While his daughter has thankfully been cancer-free for over two decades, he still remembers the impact that the diagnosis had on his family. Gerald also provides rides to Granite Staters who experience visual impairments through Future in Sight, inspired by a friend with low vision. Many of the people Gerald drives are from rural parts of our State or don't have the support networks they need while undergoing treatment and are profoundly grateful for the simple act.

In addition to providing rides, Gerald is also active in supporting adult Granite Staters who experience disabilities. Inspired in part by raising his own daughter who experiences Down syndrome, every Monday, Gerald plays basketball with adults who experience disabilities through Friends in Action NH, an organization dedicated to providing social and recreational activities to those who experience disabilities. Gerald also serves on the board of the organization.

For his selfless work to support those who need care in his community and to ensure that those who experience disabilities are fully included, I am proud to recognize Gerald as the March 2019 Granite Stater of the Month. ●

TRIBUTE TO FRANK MORONEY

• Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today I recognize Frank Moroney, executive director of AFSCME Council 93 and the AFSCME International vice president for the northern New England region. For his entire life, Frank has been a committed and fearless advocate for working people. Now, after four decades of service, he is entering a well-deserved retirement.

Frank began his career with AFSCME in 1967, when he joined Local 1358 as a worker in the Brookline Water Department. He quickly rose through the union ranks, and in 1971, he was elected president of the local. Frank scored two huge victories for his members early in his career. In 1973, he successfully took his local on strike

and received important longevity benefits for its members. He then fought for survivor health insurance benefits for all Brookline's municipal employees, taking the fight to the voters and winning on a ballot initiative.

Frank would build on these achievements as his career progressed, improving the lives of thousands of public employees throughout New England. He secured numerous wage increases, obtained more paid sick leave time, and successfully negotiated the Agency Fee in Maine. In 2012, Frank was appointed as the executive director of Council 93 and as vice president to the AFSCME International Executive Board, where he has served since. It is a leadership position befitting his service and dedication.

On April 1, 2019, Frank will retire as AFSCME Council 93 executive director. Throughout my and Frank's years of service, I have had the privilege of working closely with him and am lucky enough to call him my friend. Frank is irreplaceable, but his successes have left the council strong and one of the most effective AFSCME affiliates in the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO BRANDY BUNKLEY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Brandy Bunkley, the Union County Teacher of the Year from Union County High School in Lake Butler, FL.

Brandy has taught for 21 years and is the career specialist at Union County High School. Her dedication and support for students has been credited for the increasing graduation rate at the school.

Brandy believes that every voice has value and that every student matters. As a teacher, she works to ensure her students are developing clear and positive career paths for themselves and provides a caring and enthusiastic support system.

Throughout her time at Union County High School, she has put a high importance on the value of students' voices and as individuals by forming strong teaching relationships with her students. She has continuously proven that being an educator is deeply rooted in her core.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Brandy for her dedication to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KAMILLE CHAPMAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to honor Kamille Chapman, the Lake County Teacher of the Year from Mount Dora Middle School in Mount Dora, FL.

After receiving this award, Kamille credited the relationships she builds with her students as one of the reasons for her success. She works with her students to improve their lives and considers improved academic results a

byproduct. When some students have behavioral issues, she invites them to have lunch with her instead of writing a referral, believing this to be an investment in their well-being.

Kamille's eighth grade geometry students score 21 percent higher than any other school in her district and they outperform their ninth and 10th grade peers. Ninety-three percent of her algebra students pass their end of course exam, an increase from the previous 50 percent passage rate 2 years ago. She originally returned to Mount Dora Middle School with the intention to retire in 2016 after first leaving in 1996. Instead, her students inspired her to continue teaching after being surrounded by positive influences that reminded her why she became a teacher.

Kamille earned her bachelor's degree in health education from the State University of New York Cortland and her master's degree in education from Florida State University. She has taught over a 32-year span in Houston, TX, and several schools throughout Lake County. She also worked as a curriculum specialist for math and science for middle and high schools in the county.

I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kamille for all the fine work she has done throughout her career for her students and offer my best wishes on her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO JUSTEN EARLY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Justen Early, the Hernando County Teacher of the Year from Nature Coast Technical High School in Brooksville, FL.

Justen's desire to become a teacher began when he first volunteered as a football coach at Central High School. He became invested in the success of his players, both on the football field and in the classroom. From this experience, he decided his next step would be to enter the classroom.

As a teacher, Justen seeks to build a camaraderie to make students feel they are a part of a community. He focuses on his students learning differences and encourages them to make teaching suggestions.

Justen attended Florida A&M University and currently teaches technology support classes. He serves as the co-offensive coordinator of the high school's football team. He has been with the school since 2014 and is grateful for his school's administration for providing him the opportunity to teach. Justen credits his success to his mother, grandmother, aunt, Mrs. Rosemarie Poluchowicz of the language arts department, and Coach Rudolph Story for their mentorship.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Justen for his dedication in helping his students succeed in life and offer my best wishes for his continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO DONELLE EVENSEN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Donelle Evensen, the Flagler County Teacher of the Year from Rymfire Elementary School in Palm Coast, FL.

After receiving this award, Donelle said, "It makes me feel like I may have accomplished what I've set out to do and that's increase student achievement and increase support for our teachers and make them feel like they're valued and are appreciated for what they do every day." She tries each day to plan different ways to inspire and excite students and teachers at her school.

Donelle previously spent 10 weeks backpacking through nine European countries with her husband. This experience served as a reminder of life back home and how we treat those around us and the true value of all lives. She has brought this reflection to her classroom to share with her students.

Donelle has been an educator for 13 years and currently is the literacy coach for kindergarten through sixth grade at her school. She earned her master's degree in elementary reading and literacy from Walden University in 2008 and her master's certification in educational leadership from Stetson University in 2017.

I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Donelle for her devotion to her students and look forward to hearing of her continued success in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO ELISA HALL

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Elisa Hall, the Suwannee County Teacher of the Year from Suwannee County High School in Live Oak, FL.

Elisa is a Florida High Impact Teacher and was honored to receive this important recognition. In her classroom, she implemented the House System, which encourages friendly competitions, school spirit, and a comradery built by students who strive to help each other succeed. She collaborated with her fellow teachers, Emily Blackmon and Vanessa Menhennett, to create this system.

The House System consists of four houses named Diligence, Optimism, Generosity, and Sincerity, to spell out DOGS, in honor of the school's mascot, the Suwannee Bulldogs. The houses are mixed with students from ninth through twelfth grade and compete with one another to win the House Championship. Elisa's work with the House System is credited with increasing students' motivation to earn prizes through improved attendance, completion of assignments, positive behaviors, and teamwork.

A ninth grade English teacher at Suwannee County High School, Elisa has taught at the school since 2015. Through her positive experiences within the school district, she is dedicated