

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