

TRIBUTE TO RUSS COWLEY

• Mr. ROMNEY. Madam President, I wish to congratulate Mr. Russ Cowley, a man of remarkable achievement and character, on a career dedicated to public service for the great State of Utah. After three decades with the Six County Association of Governments, including 22 years of service as its executive director, Russ is passing the torch of leadership. He leaves behind a distinguished legacy and big boots to fill.

The Six County Association of Governments is instrumental in facilitating economic and community development in Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties. Six County AOG brings local voices to the table to oversee State and Federal programs as well as a wide range of services in an efficient and impactful manner for rural Utah.

As executive director, Russ has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to bring together the right people and resources to achieve results for the Six County region. His commitment to fostering development is evident in his hiring of staff who are dedicated to accessing resources for local governments.

Russ has advocated on behalf of rural Utahns by bringing together important stakeholders and decisionmakers. He pioneered an annual leadership summit, which focuses on rural Utah's economic growth, and the Natural Resource Summer Meeting, which highlights critical public lands and natural resource issues for the region. Additionally, the congressional briefing highlights specific pressing topics for Members of Congress and their staffs, and the Six County Legislative Day connects local elected officials and State legislators to set legislative goals on these critical issues.

The legacy of Russ Cowley will shape rural Utah for generations to come. Our great State owes him a debt of gratitude for three decades of selfless public service. We wish the cowboy from Venice the best in his next chapter.

Thank you, Russ, for your service to our State.●

REMEMBERING FRANKLYN G. VERLEY III

• Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, today I would like to honor the life and legacy of Franklyn G. Verley III, a radio host and community leader who passed away in Las Vegas, NV, in late September at the age of 59. Franklyn Verley will be remembered as the host of the "Like it is Radio" show on Las Vegas' Power 88.1 for the past 16 years, where he made the most of his role to highlight social, race, and economic issues that impact the Las Vegas community every day.

Franklyn was born and raised in New York, NY, where his parents immersed him in Black culture and the value of

his roots and cultural history. While living in New York, he was a lead sales representative for the School and College Department for the New York Times. Once he relocated to Las Vegas in the mid-2000s, Franklyn began his radio career, joining the team at KCEP Power 88.1, where he hosted the "Like it is Radio Show." As a host and executive producer, he brought on a wide range of guests, such as Senator Harry Reid, Armstrong Williams, and Angela Bassett. His show covered topics that ranged from political, judicial, and social issues that affected the Black community he advocated for on a daily basis. He also became a recipient of many awards, being inducted into the Nevada Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame in 2019 and receiving the Fountain of Hope Community Activism Award and the NAACP Legacy Builder Award.

Franklyn will be dearly missed by family members, friends, and the hundreds of people whose lives he touched every day through his advocacy and knowledge. I extend our sincerest condolences to Franklyn's wife and the entire extended community where he made a positive impact. His legacy lives on in each of us.●

RECOGNIZING MOTHER KOMBUCHA

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my privilege to recognize a unique Florida small business for its valuable contributions to the local economy and its dedicated efforts towards sustainability and dignified work. Today, it is my distinct pleasure to name Mother Kombucha of St. Petersburg, FL as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2014, Tonya Donati, a former occupational therapist, became Florida's first licensed kombucha brewer after noticing there were not many locally sourced options. Tonya and her business partner, Joshua Rumschlag, began brewing kombucha, a beverage of fermented, sweetened tea, in Tonya's small test kitchen to sell at local farmers markets. Eventually, Tonya and her husband, Victor Donati, secured a Small Business Administration 7(a) loan to move into a larger space, which enabled them to manufacture kombucha full time. Through hard work and a strategic vision, Mother Kombucha has grown from a 2-person operation into a full-scale business that now employs nearly 20 people and packages around 7,500 bottles a day. Over the last 5 years, Mother Kombucha has opened more than 600 accounts across Florida, and their products can be found in Publix, Whole Foods, and Winn-Dixie. Though the kombucha industry has expanded in recent years, Mother Kombucha's niche position provides a competitive edge in the expanding market.

Mother Kombucha sets itself apart in this industry as a brand committed to making a positive social and environ-

mental impact. As a woman-owned and operated company, Tonya's business is an inspiration for other women entrepreneurs. It has been certified by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council, one of the leading advocates for women business owners in the United States. Several of Mother Kombucha's flavors are based on a single-source green tea from a company that helps to raise women out of poverty in Bangladesh. Mother Kombucha makes community involvement a priority. In addition to providing competitive salaries to its employees, the company hosts an annual Mother's Day fundraiser to benefit women and children affected by domestic violence. Mother Kombucha has incorporated solar panels into each of their facilities, operates a robust recycling program, and is working to achieve B-Corp status. This certification is awarded to companies who uphold the highest environmental and labor standards, while also giving back to their respective communities.

Tonya has worked hard to expand her business throughout Florida, and her efforts have not gone unnoticed. Notably, Mother Kombucha was honored by GrowFlorida as one of Florida's 50 Companies to Watch in 2019. Tonya's love of kombucha, her hard work, and commitment to her community make this business an integral part of Florida's economic framework. This National Women's Small Business Month, it is my honor to congratulate the entire Mother Kombucha team for being named Senate Small Business of the Week. I look forward to watching their continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO PERRY HAND

• Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the retirement of Perry Hand, an Alabama native, from Volkert, Inc. Perry is a recognized leader in the engineering field with nearly 50 years of experience in the industry. He has provided decades of service to improve the quality of life in his community and across the State of Alabama.

Mr. Perry Hand previously served as senior vice president and chief marketing officer at Volkert in Mobile, AL. He was appointed president, chief executive officer, and chairman of the board in 2011. In 2018, Mr. Hand appointed a new president and CEO to the company, and he retained the role of chairman. Prior to his work with Volkert, Perry served as Alabama's highway director, Alabama's secretary of state, and a two-term State senator. He also founded Perry Hand & Associates, Inc.

Perry has earned many recognitions throughout his career, among them are his induction into the Alabama Construction Hall of Fame, the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame, earning the Chairman's Award at Volkert, multiple Auburn University awards, and many more. He earned his bachelor's degree