

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor MSG Matthew Williams who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by the President of the United States of America on October 30, 2019.

Throughout his life, MSG Matthew Williams displayed tremendous confidence, competence, and determination. He graduated from Angelo State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and completed the hardest training the U.S. Army has to offer: Special Forces Assessment and Selection, the Special Forces Qualification Course, and SERE training.

Master Sergeant Williams is a master and expert in his chosen profession—18 Bravo, U.S. Army Special Forces weapons sergeant—and has proven himself to be a consummate professional with service in numerous positions: weapons Sergeant operational Detachment Alpha 3336, senior weapons sergeant Operational Detachment Alpha 332, senior instructor/writer, Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group, and operations sergeant, Alpha Company 2nd Battalion, 3rd SFG (A).

Master Sergeant Williams has a proven commitment to service and to this Nation by repeatedly answering the call to action with a deployment in support of Operation JUNIPER SHIELD and multiple deployments in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. He displayed conspicuous gallantry on April 6, 2008, as a member of Operational Detachment Alpha 3336, during Operation Commando Wrath, a mission to capture or kill high-value targets of the Hezbe Islami al Gulbadin in the Shok Valley of Afghanistan. With numerous U.S. soldiers and Afghan commandos pinned down by intense enemy fire, Master Sergeant Williams continuously disregarded his own safety and concern, braved rocket-propelled-grenade and heavy machinegun fire in order to lead a group of Afghan commandos on a counterattack across ice-covered boulders and a fast-moving, ice-cold, waist-deep river to help reinforce and evacuate four wounded teammates and set-up a critical firing position to allow his other teammates and Afghan commandos to escape safely.

For his actions that day, Master Sergeant Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest medal, on 30 October 2019, by the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma, proclaimed November 6, as Master Sergeant Matthew Williams Day, and I encourage all citizens to recognize the achievements and contributions by Master Sergeant Williams to the U.S. of America and to the United States Army Special Forces.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EDNA BOYCE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Edna Boyce of Dawson County for her impact on the Glendive community.

When young schoolchildren begin their day in Glendive, Edna is the first face they see because, for 41 years, Edna has been driving the school bus for the Glendive School District!

In April of 1978, Edna decided she wanted a change in her career from working at the Glendive Bakery. That April, she marched into the school district supervisor's office for an interview. When the district supervisor asked if she had any experience, Edna said she had experience driving sugar-beet trucks. The supervisor gave her the job as bus driver, and Edna has been happily serving the Glendive School District ever since.

It is my honor to recognize Edna Boyce for her commitment to the Glendive community. She has been a committed bus driver, and her bright smile and cheerful attitude has brightened the morning for so many young Montanans. She has made a tremendous impact on Glendive and the State of Montana, and I thank her for all of her years of hard work. •

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW VENTURES MAINE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 40th anniversary of New Ventures Maine, NVM. NVM is a nonprofit that provides adults with the tools they need to succeed in a changing economy. Through free classes and individualized coaching, NVM has helped thousands of Maine people find jobs, start their own businesses, and manage their finances.

In 1978, Merle Nelson, a representative from Portland, ME, and Barbara Trafton, a senator from Lewiston, ME, spearheaded a bill that established what was then called the "Displaced Homemakers Project." The program was designed to support Maine women transitioning into the workforce after focusing on raising their families. Since its inception, Gilda Nardone has served as executive director and she, along with her skillful team, have steadfastly executed the vision of its founders while seamlessly addressing the changing needs of the community around them for the last four decades.

Fueled by the successes and tenacity of the people they serve, the organization has expanded its mission, adding courses on business management, financial literacy, and leadership. Other initiatives have been introduced as well, including innovative mini-grant programs, loan funding, and matched savings accounts. In 2015, the project officially became New Ventures Maine and rededicated itself to serving all Maine adults, men and women alike.

Throughout its history, NVM has committed to providing access to the

organization's services, regardless of wealth or status, and has always prioritized serving the historically disadvantaged and those with limited resources. There are NVM offices and opportunities in all 16 counties in Maine, and they continued to expand access to their resources with the adoption of online courses.

I am not the first to stand up and applaud NVM's contributions to the State. In 1993, Ms. Nardone was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame for her work with the organization. In 2004, Representative Nelson was given the first annual Women Making a Difference Award, named in her honor, for her pioneering role in creating New Ventures Maine. These are some of the public accolades but there are countless Maine people who quietly praise the work of NVM because of the difference this remarkable organization has made in their lives. A tribute to their advocacy that has lifted so many out of uncertainty and into the light of strength and courage.

I am proud to recognize the great work of New Ventures Maine over the last 40 years. Their team of professionals, and the paths they have cleared, truly exemplify Maine's motto of "Dirigo," I Lead. •

RECOGNIZING POPULAR PATCH

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. However, in honor of Veterans Day on November 11 this month, I will honor a veteran-owned small business for each of the 10 days the Senate is in legislative session. The personal sacrifices made by America's veterans have protected the very freedoms and values that give each of us and our children the ability to achieve the American dream. The skills veterans learn as members of the military are invaluable and undoubtedly contribute to Idaho's flourishing veteran business community. I am proud of the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our country and that they are choosing Idaho to call home when they complete their service in the military.

As your Senator from the great State of Idaho, it is my pleasure to recognize Popular Patch in Hayden as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 6, 2019. Don McGrogan joined the U.S. Navy at age 18 and served for the next 26 years, bearing witness to the Cuban missile crisis, the Dominican Republic occupation, and the Vietnam war. Over the course of his Navy career, McGrogan collected more than 1,000 military patches as a hobby. Upon reentering civilian life, he drew inspiration from his experiences in the Navy and opened McGrogan's Patch Designs, a small

business dedicated to preserving America's history. Recently, McGrogan merged his business with his grandson's company, Popular Patch, where he works as a business partner with his son and grandson.

Popular Patch's goal is to become the world's foremost military patch business by replicating designs for each U.S. military patch ever made. The company has an inventory of more than 8,000 military patches, and its selection of Navy patches is one of the largest in the world. The company also creates custom patches using original designs, including patches for hunters, fishermen, bikers, and zombie fans. Its designs are popular among veterans, collectors, and actors, such as Hollywood actors in "Saving Private Ryan" and "Clear and Present Danger."

Congratulations to Dan McGrogan and all of the employees at Popular Patch for being selected as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 6, 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING ARTURO COBO

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today, I honor the life and legacy of Cuban-American, Arturo Cobo, who died on Sunday, October 27, 2019, at the Lower Keys Medical Center in Key West, FL.

Arturo, a beloved south Florida resident, founded the Transit Home in Key West, a sanctuary for Cuban refugees fleeing the country's tyrannical regime by boat and raft. Arturo fled Cuba in 1960 to escape Fidel Castro's communist revolution but returned to Cuba in 1961 to fight in Brigade 2506 during the Bay of Pigs. After being imprisoned, Arturo returned to the United States in 1962 and dedicated the rest of his life to supporting Cuban refugees and fighting for a democratic Cuba. The Transit Home not only provided a safe haven for Cuban refugees, but also provided hope for a new life for them in a free society. All who came to the Transit Home received food, clothing, and assistance to help rebuild their lives in America.

I pay tribute to Arturo's life with immense gratitude for his invaluable work during such difficult circumstances and for his dedication to the South Florida community.●

RECOGNIZING GLOBAL FREIGHT & COMMERCE LLC

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my privilege to honor small businesses that embody the entrepreneurial spirit of our American economy. I am proud to recognize Global Freight & Commerce of Jacksonville, FL—a veteran-owned small business—as we celebrate this National Veterans Small Business Week.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Army in 2014, founder Jesus Garay

started Global Freight & Commerce using the precision and skill gained from more than 20 years of military experience. During his years of Active Duty, Jesus specialized in strategic operations and completed six combat tours in Iraq and Bosnia. The Armed Forces of the United States provides individuals, such as Jesus, with leadership skills that are practically applicable to entrepreneurial pursuits. Because of Jesus's leadership experience, Global Freight & Commerce has become a successful, 100 percent owner-operated trucking, logistics, and transportation company. This business not only provides quality service but also makes a dedicated effort to extend dignified employment opportunities to our nation's veterans.

Through its website, Global Freight & Commerce assists semi-truck owner-operators with the buying and selling process of their vehicles, a feature that enables owner-operators to gain independence and grow a potential fleet of vehicles. Additionally, Global Freight & Commerce makes the safety of its drivers and those around them a priority. It follows national safety protocols in all operations to provide the best, and safest, service possible for its customers.

A member of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Global Freight & Commerce is also involved in the community through events such as job fairs and conferences. These community events provide leadership training to assist and develop the local workforce. Such efforts are valuable to the Jacksonville economy as they help to provide skilled and reliable employees.

Even after leaving the service, our Nation's veterans continue to serve our country. Making up nearly 10 percent of all businesses in the United States, veteran-owned small businesses ensure that our unique economy remains robust. Veteran-owned businesses like Global Freight & Commerce are examples of the talent and dedication of our Nation's veterans. This National Veterans Small Business Week, I would like to thank Jesus Garay for his service and congratulate him on the creation of a successful small business. I look forward to watching Global Freight & Commerce's continued growth and success.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4842. An act to authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3103. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3104. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, Department of Treasury received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3105. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Information Reporting for Certain Life Insurance Contract Transactions and Modifications to the Transfer for Valuable Consideration Rules" (RIN1545-BO49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 30, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3106. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System" (RIN0938-AT70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3107. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2020 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update; Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model; Home Health Quality Reporting Requirements; and Home Infusion Therapy Requirements" (RIN0938-AT68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3108. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Changes to Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs" (RIN0938-AT74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3109. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; CY 2020 Revisions to Payment Politics under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment Policies" (RIN0938-AT72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3110. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2019-0104 - 2019-0107); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3111. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of