

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