

children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie, and the entire Hagan family. Our prayers are with Kay, as we mourn this dedicated public servant.

#### REMEMBERING JOHN CONYERS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember John James Conyers, Jr., of Detroit, MI, the longest serving Black Congressman in history and a champion for civil rights and social justice. Sadly, Mr. Conyers passed away last week at the age of 90. Mr. Conyers was passionate about serving his country and his constituents, always fighting for those without a voice.

Mr. Conyers was born in Detroit, MI on May 16, 1929, to John and Lucille Conyers. After graduating from Northwestern High School, Mr. Conyers worked as a welder for Lincoln automotive while attending Wayne State University. He served in the Michigan National Guard before enlisting in the U.S. Army during the Korean war, where he served as a second lieutenant. After 4 years of service, he was honorably discharged and returned to Wayne State University to obtain his bachelor's degree in 1957 and his law degree in 1958.

In 1958, Mr. Conyers continued his life of service as a legal aide to Representative John Dingell, Jr., of Detroit. He then ran for Congress in 1964 and for the next 53 years, represented metro Detroit in a career full of many historic firsts for civil rights and the Black community.

Mr. Conyers was on the frontlines of the civil rights movement. He was a co-sponsor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and worked with Martin Luther King, Jr., in Selma, AL to advocate for equal rights. In 1967, during the civil unrest in Detroit, Mr. Conyers was in the streets, encouraging peace and an end to the rioting. After the tragic assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, Mr. Conyers introduced legislation to forever remember Dr. King's legacy with a Federal holiday. He re-introduced his bill every session until it was signed into law in 1983. He also hired civil rights legend Rosa Parks to work in his Detroit office, where she stayed for over 20 years.

In Congress, Mr. Conyers was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He also served on and was chairman of the House Oversight Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. By the end of his service, he was the longest serving African-American Congressman in history, as well as the dean of the House of Representatives.

As an activist, trailblazer, and leader, Mr. Conyers will be greatly missed across Michigan, as he touched the lives of many people throughout Michigan. Mr. Conyers is survived by his wife of 29 years, Monica, and his two sons, John and Carl.

Mr. President, I cannot express enough the impact Mr. John Conyers,

Jr., had on the city of Detroit and the State of Michigan. He was a pillar of our community and a model of humble leadership. His passion and tenacity will be missed. However, I am confident his legacy will continue to inspire others to serve and fight for justice and equality for all.

#### VETERANS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I honor the service and sacrifices of our veterans and their families every day. As we approach the 101st Veterans Day on Monday, I want to take a moment to pay special tribute to the men and women who have worn a uniform in defense of our great Nation, its people, and our values.

Progress usually is a good thing, but sometimes it comes with frightful consequences. The industrial revolution brought the development of weapons and tactics that enabled humankind to wage war and carnage upon itself at a level never before seen. By the end of World War I, there were approximately 40 million military and civilian casualties. H.G. Wells predicted it would be "the war to end war." Tragically, that was not the case.

The United States played an instrumental role in ending World War I, then known as the Great War. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, Germany signed an armistice with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiegne, France. One hundred years ago, on November 11, 1919—exactly 1 year after the signing of the armistice with Germany—President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first "Armistice Day" to commemorate the day. On that occasion, he stated: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory."

Maryland played a critical role in ending that conflict with victory. Prominent military installations such as Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Grounds rapidly trained and deployed troops to Europe, and about 2,000 Maryland servicemembers made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and ideals.

Congress passed legislation to establish Armistice Day as a legal holiday in 1938, "dedicated to the cause of world peace."

The advent of World War II brought new challenges to America. Just as before, countless brave men and women stepped forward to do their part in service of their country. And just as before, Marylanders stepped forward arm-in-arm with their fellow citizens. The mighty Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard in Baltimore produced hundreds of ships at dizzying speed to fight a war across a great ocean. Just a few miles from there, Glenn L. Martin Company's Aircraft produced A-22 Maryland bombers among other critically important aircraft in the battle for air superiority.

Marylanders heroically fought on battlefields across the European and Pacific theatres. In all, 6,454 Marylanders lost their lives in World War II. Their names are memorialized in the granite of the Maryland World War II Monument in Annapolis.

In 1954, after the Korean war, veterans service organizations urged Congress to amend the 1931 act by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to thank and honor all American veterans who have served in wartime and peacetime.

Successive conflicts and a rapidly modernizing world have brought their own unique national security challenges, but Americans' bravery and willingness to serve has never wavered. Our Nation's security has always depended on the men and women of our military, and for their service, we are eternally indebted.

Maryland continues to play a strategic role in our Nation's security infrastructure. The Old Line State is home to 11 military installations. Among the facilities are Joint Base Andrews, which is home to the President's two Boeing VC-25 airplanes, which have the call sign "Air Force One" while the Commander-in-Chief is on board, and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, which has been training midshipmen since 1845.

We honor all those men and women who have endeavored to protect our country and preserve our democracy so that Americans may live free from tyranny. Maryland is fortunate to be home to about 371,000 military veterans. These servant-leaders live amongst us as schoolteachers, small business owners, homemakers, public servants and most every other profession and they continue to give back to our communities.

Let us all honor our veterans on this solemn day and every day by holding the values they fought so gallantly to defend and by providing them with the benefits they earned through blood, sweat, courage, and perseverance.

On this Veterans Day, I join all Americans in thanking our veterans for their service, their sacrifice, and for being role models for future generations of Americans who will pick up the mantle of defending our great country.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, on this Veterans Day 2019, I wish to pay tribute to all veterans and thank them for their service. The freedoms we enjoy in America today are because of them.

For more than 200 years, our veterans have fought across the globe defending our freedoms, while their families waited and worried at home. Thanks to them, the forces of tyranny and oppression have been turned back and defeated time and again.

As Americans across the Nation come together on Veterans Day, I will be participating in a program in Fargo,

one of many being held in communities across North Dakota. Next Wednesday in Williston, several military organizations and Williston State College will sponsor a presentation by Medal of Honor recipient SSG Clinton Romesha.

As one of only 3,507 recipients in American history to receive this honor, Staff Sergeant Romesha was the fourth living Medal of Honor recipient for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. It was presented in 2013 for his heroism during the Battle of Kamdesh in October 2009, a 12-hour battle that was significant in the Global War on Terrorism.

During this intense attack by some 300 Taliban fighters, despite his own shrapnel wounds, Romesha continued to fight. His actions helped mount a successful counterattack that eliminated Taliban machine guns and allowed for wounded soldiers to be taken to an aid station.

In his bestselling memoir, “Red Platoon: A True Story of American Valor,” published in 2013, Romesha shares the account of the Battle of Kamdesh and how one person can make a difference against seemingly impossible odds.

Now a resident of Minot, ND, he travels extensively as a motivational speaker, sharing the message about how the capacity for leadership and bravery resides within everyone.

I commend Williston State College and its Foundation, the Williston Basin Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute, Williston Post 37 of the American Legion, Military Affairs Committee, VFW-Post 12169, and Williston Chapter 9 of the Disabled American Veterans for bringing this inspirational message by a true hero to their community.

Mr. President, on this Veterans Day, may we be reminded to be thankful every day for all who serve our country. May God bless all veterans and their families. They are all heroes.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO TODD PORTUNE

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. Todd Portune, a dedicated public servant, who has spent his career serving the people of Cincinnati with dedication and enthusiasm. Commissioner Portune is retiring from politics following this term after more than a quarter century of service, and I know how much he will be missed by the people of Southwest Ohio.

Commissioner Portune was born in Cincinnati and from an early age was known for his work ethic. Throughout his education, Commissioner Portune remained in Ohio, graduating from Colerain High School, Oberlin College, and serving as the president of the Student Bar Association at the University of Cincinnati Law School.

Commissioner Portune’s leadership embodies good government in action.

He helped lead the way in improving public health, from working to reduce infant mortality to expanding oral and dental care. Through projects to increase housing and job opportunities and secure funding for local first responders, he consistently focused on what he believed to be the fundamental goal of public service: to improve people’s lives.

His service, from four terms in Cincinnati City Council to six terms as Hamilton County commissioner, inspired many to stand up for what they believe in. Commissioner Portune’s fight for human rights will be a lasting part of his legacy. He advocated for LGBTQ rights before it was popular, and he always supported disability inclusion, those battling with addiction, and people without a voice in government.

His political triumphs can only be matched by his incredible personal tenacity throughout every obstacle thrown his way. But no matter what, he focused on serving the people in his beloved county.

Commissioner Portune will be remembered for his good humor, passion for public service, and strength to endure battles of all kinds. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service to our community and our State.●

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. W. MARK DONALD

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Dr. W. Mark Donald, who has been elected as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association, where he will serve a 3-year term. Dr. Donald has long been a leader in the dental community in Mississippi, and I look forward to seeing his success in this position with the American Dental Association, ADA.

A native of Louisville, MS, Dr. Donald graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry in 1988. Following graduation, he completed his general practice residency program with the VA Medic Center and the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry in Jackson, MS. In 1990, Dr. Donald opened his general dentistry practice in Louisville, MS. For three decades, Dr. Donald has been very active in the dental community in Mississippi. He has served as speaker, president, and as an ADA delegate for the Mississippi Dental Association. In addition, he served as speaker and president of the Academy of General Dentistry and as president of the Academy of General Dentistry Foundation. His other experience includes serving as a member of the ADA Council on Dental Practice in 2018; as chair, vice chair, secretary/treasurer, and parliamentarian of the ADA 5th District; and as Mississippi Mission of Mercy Project chair in 2011, 2013, and 2019. Since 2015, Dr. Donald has taught the next generation of Mississippi dentists as an ad-

junct faculty member at the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. In 2017, Governor Phil Bryant appointed Dr. Donald to serve on the Mississippi Board of Dental Examiners, where he still currently serves.

Dr. Donald’s contributions, dedicated service, and commitment to excellence have made a difference for dentists and dental patients across my State. In his new role serving as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association, I believe he will continue to commit himself to bettering the dental profession and improving the lives of patients across the nation.

Mr. President, Mississippi is extremely proud to have Dr. Mark Donald serving as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association. He has my appreciation and gratitude for all he has done for the great state of Mississippi. I wish Dr. Donald, and his family, all the best in their future endeavors.●

##### RECOGNIZING EAGLE ROCK GALLERY

• 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 U.S. Senator from the great State of Idaho, it is my pleasure to recognize Eagle Rock Gallery in Idaho Falls as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 7, 2019.

Eagle Rock Gallery opened 6 months ago in Idaho Falls. It is owned and operated by U.S. Army veterans Gary Jensen and his wife, Kathi Cheyenne Jensen. The Jensens opened the gallery to host a collection of nationally and internationally recognized fine artists. The gallery includes a portrait studio, where clients can schedule portrait sessions for their families, friends, and even pets. In addition, the gallery features a variety of art available for purchase.

Kathi Cheyenne Jensen is an award-winning photographer known for her patriotic images, specifically those that feature bald eagles. The Jensens