

of them and their hard work and sacrifice, our grandchildren may know a world with less pain, less strife, less conflict. And yet they have come under attack, simply for serving their country.

This week, three State Department witnesses are testifying during the House of Representatives' impeachment hearings on the Trump-Ukraine scandal. These individuals have, in many cases, spent their entire careers serving our Nation with distinction, on behalf of both Republican and Democratic administrations. Some have even worn the uniform of the U.S. Armed Forces.

These men and women are not partisans. They are patriots, patriots who put our country first. And for putting country first, for being willing to tell the truth, they have come under attack—not by a foreign regime bristling at their efforts to promote democracy, not by oligarchs and criminals who fear their effectiveness—though that has happened as well.

No. They have come under attack in our own country, by our own President, by the head of our government that they so bravely and selflessly serve. It pains me, and so I am standing before you today to speak up on their behalf, on behalf of each voice that has come forward in this time of need and tumult for our country. This is a time when we need truth—truth above party, truth above political loyalties and expediency, truth above self-interest. These diplomats, these professionals, these proud public servants are putting the country before themselves—if only this President could do the same, if only he—just once—could put the interests of others ahead of his own.

But frankly, I am not the one who should be standing up on behalf of our diplomatic corps, nor should it be only the Democrats on the Foreign Relations Committee. There is a job post that actually entails standing up for the men and women of our State Department each and every day. The job is called Secretary of State. It is a job held by Secretary Mike Pompeo. Yet under Secretary Pompeo's watch, the dedicated Americans who serve in the State Department have been thrown to the wolves.

Our Secretary of State should be the No. 1 defender of our diplomatic corps. He should come forward and tell the American people what he saw, what he heard, and what he did about it. He should defend the officials who serve in his own Department. And he could start by uttering just one word of support for Ambassador Taylor, Deputy Assistant Secretary Kent, and Ambassador Yovanovitch. But he has had plenty of time for that. We have seen very clearly where he stands.

So instead, I, along with my Democratic colleagues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, are calling on other senior officials at the State Department to step up and do the right

thing. This week, we sent a letter to the Deputy Secretary of State, John Sullivan, and the Undersecretary for Management, Brian Bulatao, calling on them to do what Pompeo has not: to publicly support the brave officials who are putting their careers, their reputations, and terribly, even their personal finances on the line—all to serve their country. I hope that they do, even in the face of vicious and unfounded attacks unleashed by the President, his allies, and those who refuse to stand up for the truth.

Some have been called “disloyal,” “unpatriotic,” and “Never Trumpers.” In fact, yesterday morning, as State officials were about to begin testifying, the President tweeted, in all caps, “NEVER TRUMPERS!” These false attacks misunderstand the entire premise of public service. To be a career public servant means to work every day on behalf of the public, our government, our country, our Constitution, to check politics at the door. To argue otherwise demonstrates this President's warped view of how our government works. Our career Federal employees do not serve him. They serve our country. They serve the American people.

The only “loyalty” they pledge is loyalty to the oath they take to uphold our Constitution. In coming forward, in speaking the truth, in raising concerns about events that trouble them as guardians of our national security, they are carrying out an act of selfless patriotism and love of country that that this President is incapable of understanding, let alone doing himself.

I hope that some of our other senior officials will step forward and show just a sliver of the backbone that these individuals have shown. I hope they will do the right thing. I hope they will issue statements of public support for officials courageously coming before Congress and commit to protecting them from retribution or reprisal.

Our State Department employees deserve commendation, not retaliation. They deserve our thanks, not our scorn. Above all else, they deserve leaders who will defend them, not desert them when it matters most.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAST GREEN VALLEY

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor as it celebrates 25 years of protection and preservation of this environmentally sensitive, pristine area.

Originally designated as the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, the valley was officially designated as a critical natural resource by President Clinton on November 2, 1994. Twenty years later, it was officially renamed The Last Green Valley.

For a quarter of a century, The Last Green Valley advocates have worked to care for the corridor through nonprofit stewardship. Overall, the valley comprises a 1,100-square-mile area, which ranges from eastern Connecticut to south-central Massachusetts. One of the most notable aspects of the valley is its rural characteristics despite its proximity to three of New England's largest urban areas. Among its 707,000 acres, 77 percent of this range is farmland and forest.

The Last Green Valley's designation as a national heritage corridor by Congress acknowledges its status as a unique national resource. Included in this designation are 26 towns in Connecticut and 9 in Massachusetts. The underdeveloped, green area so close to many large urban spaces makes it a point of special ecological interest and a great environmental asset to Connecticut and the nation.

Dedicated to preserving the natural beauty and resources of New England from development and despoilment, The Last Green Valley sets a positive example of environmental conservation and protection. I applaud its accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating The Last Green Valley on 25 years of excellence.●

RECOGNIZING K. NEAL TRUCK AND BUS CENTER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I name K. Neal Truck and Bus Center the United States Senate Small Business of the Week.

K. Neal Truck and Bus Center is a family-owned business based in Hyattsville, MD. Following a decades-long career in the grocery business, Stephen Neal purchased a trucking business and renamed it after his son, Korey Neal.

Together, the father-son team has turned K. Neal into the second largest minority-owned truck and bus supplier in the country, with more than \$100 million in annual revenue and just under 100 employees.

On the Senate Small Business Committee, we often speak of small businesses as drivers of economic growth and innovation, but they are often also pillars in their communities, and K. Neal is no exception.

I had the privilege of meeting with Stephen, Korey, and several K. Neal executives last month, and I was impressed by the company's commitment to empowering all its employees and investing in its community.

Half of the executives at K. Neal are women, and for the past 5 years, the company has partnered with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation to train workers from underserved communities to become diesel technicians. I am proud to share that 14 individuals have completed the program, and 8 of them are currently employed by the company. The company also voluntarily banned

the box for returning citizens convicted of nonviolent crimes.

Thanks to K. Neal's history of business success and commitment to investing in their community and their neighbors, the U.S. Black Chambers of Commerce presented its 2019 Emerging Leaders & Influencers Award to the company.

I applaud Stephen and Korey for building a successful company and using their company to make a positive difference in the lives of so many. They have truly made Prince George's proud.●

TRIBUTE TO TONY HARBAUGH

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Sherriff Tony Harbaugh of Custer County for his tremendous impact on the State of Montana.

In early October, Sheriff Harbaugh was awarded the Montana Board of Crime Control Lifetime Achievement Award at the 12th Annual Montana Crime Prevention Conference in Billings.

Harbaugh began his career at the Custer County Sheriff's Office in 1978 as the only jailer. He was then officially sworn in as a deputy with the sheriff's office in May of 1979. Harbough quickly climbed the ranks and was officially elected as Custer County Sherriff in 1986, holding that title until today.

Throughout his long career in law enforcement, Harbaugh has served in a number of leadership positions in law enforcement. Currently, Harbaugh is the Montana law enforcement representative on the Western States Sheriff's Board, chairman of the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council, chairman of the Eastern Montana Drug Task Force, and is the National Sheriffs liaison for Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.

It is my honor to recognize Sherriff Harbaugh for his extraordinary dedication to public service and public safety. His role as leader in the law enforcement community has made Montana a better place to live, and I am grateful for his selfless service to the Custer community and Montanans statewide.●

RECOGNIZING CRITICAL POWER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

● 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 United States Senator from the great State of Idaho, it is my pleasure to recognize Critical Power Products and Services in Post Falls as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 14, 2019. Critical Power is owned and operated by U.S. Army veteran Will Alt. The company is a proven leader in backup power and cooling system recycling and redistribution. The company serves customers who want to dispose of and purchase backup diesel and natural gas generators, air-handling equipment, uninterrupted power supply systems, power distribution units, chillers, cooling towers, and raised access floors. The company provides its services to small regional firms as well as international Fortune 500 companies across all sectors.

Alt opened Critical Power Products and Services in Post Falls in 2018. Alt served in the U.S. Army for 5 years, which included multiple overseas tours attached to a multinational special operation team. Critical Power attributes much of its success to Alt's time serving our Nation, stating "it ingrained professionalism, discipline, and dedication into his work ethic that is second to none." The company employs several veterans and even has a Fallen Soldiers Memorial in front of their 18,000 square foot Post Falls facility.

Congratulations to Will Alt and all of the employees at Critical Power Products and Services for being selected as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 14, 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

REMEMBERING DR. WILLIAM "ED" KOIS

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of the New Hampshire congressional delegation—Senator MAGGIE HASSAN, Congresswoman ANN McLANE KUSTER, and Congressman CHRIS PAPPAS—to pay tribute to Dr. William "Ed" Kojs, a passionate and caring provider at the Manchester Veterans Affairs Medical Center, whose life was tragically cut short in July of this year. Dr. Kojs was relentless in making sure that each patient coming through the hospital doors received the best medical care possible. He was often described, especially by the many veterans he served, as the quintessential "patient's doctor."

Dr. Kojs began his work at the Manchester VAMC in 2012 after two-and-a-half decades of private practice in Nashua, NH. He specialized in physiatry, a branch of medicine de-

voted to the treatment of medical conditions affecting the brain, spinal cord, nerves, and joints. His expertise made him a natural fit for the Manchester VAMC's Spinal Cord Clinic, and he began to treat many veterans whose mobility and well-being were impacted by spinal cord injury or dysfunction. Dr. Kojs sought to provide a standard of care consistent with the core values of the Veteran's Administration—integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence—and his own strong moral compass.

This fierce devotion to his principles compelled Dr. Kojs to lead a team of 11 whistleblowers alleging inadequate care at the Manchester VAMC. Although soft-spoken among friends and colleagues, he became a powerful voice and a public face in the effort to expose substandard treatment and demand better care for America's veterans. The advocacy of Dr. Kojs and his colleagues caught the attention of the Boston Globe Spotlight investigative team, which published a story in July 2017 that directed public attention to the shortcomings at the Manchester VAMC. It prompted a top-to-bottom review that delivered needed changes and improvements at the site.

As with any whistleblower complaint, Dr. Kojs undertook significant risk in bringing these subjects to light. Yet, with an uncompromising spirit that many attribute to his amateur boxer father, he was willing to sacrifice his livelihood if it meant that veterans would receive the care they need and deserve. And he was eager to sit down with hospital administration and work with them to develop policies that fulfill that promise. His efforts benefited countless men and women in the Granite State and across the country.

Dr. Kojs is survived by his wife of 29 years, Pamela Greenley, as well as many loving family members, treasured colleagues, and cherished friends. Ms. Greenley will be on hand next week to accept the First Amendment Award on her husband's behalf from the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications. This distinction honors Granite Staters who go above-and-beyond in their use of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We join the Loeb School, as well as the Boston Globe Spotlight team, in saluting the work and the life of a deserving recipient, Dr. William "Ed" Kojs.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:27 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 499. An act to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the treatment of certain surviving spouses under the definition of small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

H.R. 1615. An act to transfer the responsibility of verifying small business concerns