

reads, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” But we have not always lived up to the values on that inscription. When World War II displaced millions of Jews, many of them sought asylum in the United States. Thousands were turned away and sent back to their deaths in their home countries. The most infamous incident was a ship called the *St. Louis* that carried almost 1,000 Jewish refugees to a port in Miami. After being denied entry and forced to return to Europe, more than a quarter of those passengers perished in the Holocaust.

It is important to acknowledge and learn from dark chapters in our history like this one, so that we can do a better job of respecting and protecting human life moving forwards. This is why I have been so troubled by President Trump’s anti-refugee policies. Whether by making the lowest Presidential determination on refugee admissions in the program’s history or by locking up asylum-seekers at our southern border, the Trump administration has turned our Nation’s back on those fleeing violence and oppression and stained the U.S. reputation as a champion of human rights.

We cannot allow these policies to continue. First and foremost, they are wrong. This sort of behavior violates the most basic tenets of our democracy: equality, freedom, and justice. But beyond that, it actively hurts our country to ignore the plight of refugees. When we shirk our responsibility as a global leader in humanitarian assistance, we exacerbate worldwide instability that will affect us, too. Moreover, by closing our doors to refugees, we miss out on the valuable contributions that they make to our society. Think of the contributions to science, art, and politics that refugees like Albert Einstein, Gloria Estefan, and Madeline Albright have made to the United States and to humanity. As I speak, think of all the displaced people around the world who are working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic to help keep their adopted communities, including ours, safe.

To improve our country’s treatment of refugees, I worked with Senators LEAHY, BOOKER, and HARRIS and Representative ZOE LOFGREN to introduce the Refugee Protection Act of 2019. This bill is a comprehensive blueprint for reinvigorating U.S. refugee and asylum systems. It bolsters the U.S. Refugee Admission Program and expands protections for refugees, and restores due process and dignity for asylum seekers. Broadly, it seeks to repair the U.S. role as a refuge for the persecuted. I urge all of my colleagues to support this crucial, lifesaving measure.

The most important thing to remember is that refugees are our fellow human beings who have found themselves in the most difficult of circumstances. They are brothers, daughters, fathers, grandmothers, and friends. They have ideas, hopes, and as-

pirations and deserve the same respect, security, dignity, and opportunity we wish for ourselves and our families and friends. This World Refugee Day, let us recommit to providing safe harbor to the vulnerable, no matter where they are from. I always like to say that our values are our strength, so let us live by our values and help build a brighter future for all the world’s peoples.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL PATRICK “PAT” A. PIERCEY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a great leader and an exceptional officer, Rear Admiral Patrick “Pat” A. Piercey who will soon retire from the U.S. Navy after over 35 years of dedicated service to the Nation. Rear Admiral Piercey is a native of Clinton, OK, and graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985. He is a true professional and a dedicated leader. Throughout his career, he commanded our great sailors at many levels, deployed numerous times in defense of the Nation and served in some of the most critical positions in our Navy. Rear Admiral Piercey has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Navy, Congress, and the Nation.

Rear Admiral Piercey commanded USS *Howard*—DDG 83—USS *Bunker Hill*—CG 52—Carrier Strike Group 9, and Naval Surface Forces Atlantic. Due to his sound judgment and intellect, Rear Admiral Piercey served in many critical assignments, including special assistant to the Deputy Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, executive assistant to the Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Director for Operations—J3—U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

For the past 2 years, Rear Admiral Piercey has served as the Chief of Staff of U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. During this period of extraordinary change and challenge in Europe’s security environment, Rear Admiral Piercey has improved relationships with NATO allies and European partners. Through his strategic vision, he has successfully positioned U.S. European Command to meet every mission requirement in Europe.

On behalf of my colleagues and the entire U.S. Congress, I want to thank Rear Admiral Piercey for his decades of dedicated service to the Navy and our Nation. I am sure that many officers and sailors will continue to emulate him as a role model for service, sacrifice and leadership. I also want to thank his wife, Katherine, and their children, Rebecca and Andrew, for their sacrifices and tremendous support. I join my colleagues in wishing him and his family fair winds and following seas and future success in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOSH JORGENSEN

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Josh Jorgensen, a legislative aide in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, his colleagues, and the State of South Dakota.

Josh is a native of Sioux Falls, SD. He is a graduate of Bishop O’Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD, and the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD. During his undergraduate career, Josh majored in journalism and political science and served as president of the College Republicans.

Josh first joined my office as an intern in the spring of 2016. During this time, he proved himself to be a diligent and dedicated worker and became a true asset to my office.

He later returned as a senior legislative correspondent, and through hard work and dedication, he worked his way up to legislative aide, handling Tribal relations, healthcare, and education issues for my office. Josh has played an instrumental role in my office by providing insight and guidance into these issues.

Josh has been a dedicated and faithful public servant during his time working in the Senate. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to him for his fine work. As he continues on with his career, he bears the esteem of a grateful State and my utmost gratitude for a job well done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN ASHCRAFT

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Carolyn Ashcraft on her retirement as State librarian and director of the Arkansas State Library after 15 years of transformative leadership.

Carolyn has a dedication to the State of Arkansas and a passion for books, and her departure from a career that blended the two will leave a significant void in Arkansas’ library community. Her enthusiasm for libraries has been evident since childhood, leading to an invitation to serve as a student library aide in sixth grade. She went on to serve in a similar position at the university level while earning her degree in English at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She continued her education at the University of Alabama, where she earned a master’s degree in library science. In 1981, Carolyn launched her professional career at the Grant County Library and next served as director at the Saline County Library. She held this position until she started with the Arkansas State Library in 1993, where she served in various positions, including deputy director in the library development unit before being selected as State librarian in 2005.

Carolyn’s career and the accomplishments of the Arkansas library system