

prestigious Rhode Island Criminal Justice Hall of Fame.

As Chief Tamburini told the Johnston Sunrise last year, trust between a police department and the community it serves is the key to effective law enforcement. He said at the time:

I really want to focus on that [trust], because as chief of police it's important to me that no matter what we do with the community, [we need] a strong relationship and a level of trust. I think that carries through to the rest of the department, so they can be assured of that.

Today, we pay tribute to a great Rhode Islander, my friend, Chief Richard Tamburini. I am grateful for his contributions to Rhode Island and wish him many years of well-deserved rest and relaxation with his family and friends. Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT R. HOOD

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator REED, as the chair and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, it is our honor to pay tribute to a great leader and senior executive of the Department of Defense, Mr. Robert R. Hood.

Mr. Hood has served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs from August 2017 to July 2020. As he prepares to leave this position to enter into the private sector, we commend him for his sound leadership, advice, and professional judgement on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Department of Defense, Congress, and this Nation.

Mr. Hood has served our Nation for more than 18 years in various capacities within the Federal Government. His service to our Nation includes roles as a professional staff member for the House Committee on Science, as well as senior legislative assistant, senior policy advisor, and assistant to the Speaker of the House of Representatives for policy. Mr. Hood also served 5 years as the Director of Congressional Affairs for the National Nuclear Security Administration, a semi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy.

Mr. Hood previously served in the White House as special assistant to President George W. Bush in the Office of Legislative Affairs, overseeing coordination with the Senate, including the Armed Services, Homeland Security, Foreign Relations and Intelligence Committees. Before working on the White House staff, Mr. Hood served at the Pentagon as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, where he was responsible for promoting the policies, strategies, and budget of the Department of Defense to the U.S. Congress. Mr. Hood also served as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, for Budget and Appropriations Affairs, working closely with the Appropriations Committees of the Congress.

For the past 3 years as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Mr. Hood deftly managed and guided the Department's congressional relations, ensuring the preparation of key senior leaders for Senate confirmations, congressional hearings, and briefings, while simultaneously developing and leading a skilled and focused legislative affairs team. His leadership, knowledge, and personal efforts greatly contributed to one of the most successful legislative years in Department history, culminating with the establishment of the U.S. Space Force, which was signed into law on December 20, 2019 as part of the fiscal year 2020 NDAA.

Mr. Hood provided significant contributions and leadership during the development and execution of the Secretary of Defense's Congressional Engagement Strategy, ensuring an integrated legislative program directly aligned with the National Defense Strategy. This comprehensive plan supported the Department's priorities, aligned legislative objectives to the congressional calendar, and guided the execution of over 4,000 congressional engagements within the Office of the Secretary of Defense and oversight and alignment of over 10,000 congressional engagements across the Department during his 3-year tenure. The strategic execution of these engagements directly led to the attainment of Department of Defense legislative priorities and resourcing at historic levels in the fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 National Defense Authorization Acts, NDAAs, appropriations bills.

On behalf of the Senate, we thank Robert, his wife Jennifer, and his children: Evan, Caroline, Megan, and Emma, for their continued commitment, sacrifice and contribution to this great Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him future success as he transitions into the private sector.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE CHARLES D. SUSANO, JR

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I honor one of my constituents, Judge Charles D. Susano Jr., who retired in April after 25 years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee. Judge Susano is the state's longest serving state appellate judge and has led a remarkable life of public service and thoughtful jurisprudence.

Judge Susano is a native and lifelong Knoxvilleian. Born in 1936, he attended Knoxville Catholic High School before going to the University of Notre Dame where he graduated magna cum laude. Following an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, Judge Susano returned to his Tennessee roots to attend the University of Tennessee Law School, where he was a member of the Tennessee Law Review and the Order of the Coif.

Judge Susano began his legal career clerking for Chief Justice Hamilton Burnett in the inaugural class of clerks to the Tennessee Supreme Court. He practiced law in Knoxville for 30 years, while also giving back to the community as a member of the advisory commission to the Tennessee Supreme Court on Civil Rules, as well as board member of several local nonprofits.

In 1994, Governor Ned Ray McWherter appointed Judge Susano to serve as a judge for the Tennessee Court of Appeals, and he won the seat later that same year. Judge Susano would go on to win statewide reelection in 1998, 2006, and 2014, and he served as the presiding judge of the Court of Appeals from 2012–2014. During his time on the court, he has authored over 1,000 legal opinions and received numerous awards including: the Justice Frank F. Drowota III Outstanding Judicial Service Award in 2017; Appellate Judge of the Year from the American Board of Trial Advocates, Tennessee Chapter in 2003; and the Courage in the Face of Adversity Award from the Knoxville Bar Association in 2004.

I want to thank Judge Susano for his many years of service to Tennessee. The end of his long tenure in the Tennessee judiciary will certainly be felt by many in the State. I wish him, his wife, and their children all the best as they begin this new chapter in their lives.●

TRIBUTE TO KEITH SALTHER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Roundup Fire Chief Keith Salthe of Musselshell County for his bravery and decisive action that stopped the spread of a fire in downtown Roundup.

On the morning of May 20, 2020, Fire Chief Salthe and his team of 20 volunteer firefighters, as well as firefighters from Hawk Creek, Dean Creek, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, responded to a fire that broke out at the Vintage Café in Roundup.

Five hours after the fire ignited, Salthe and his team were forced to knock down the building to ensure that the fire didn't spread to the remaining businesses on the block.

For his decisive action, Musselshell County sheriff called Chief Salthe the real hero of the day and said that if it weren't for Chief Salthe and his team, the entire block would have been lost.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Fire Chief Salthe today. His leadership during this fire emergency stopped the spread of the fire towards other businesses, saving lives and preventing what could have been a tragedy for the community of Roundup. Roundup is fortunate to have brave men like Keith Salthe and his team of volunteer firefighters who were ready to jump into harm's way at a moment's notice for the safety of their fellow Montanans.●