

Brown; brothers, Tim, Ben, and John, as well as her newspaper family at the Gillette News Record.

On August 14, 2020, Gillette News Record publisher and editor Ann Turner published a moving tribute to Kathy on behalf of the entire News Record staff who knew Kathy best. Ann's sentiments are shared by so many in Gillette and Wyoming's journalism community. I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Gillette News Record, August 14, 2020]

LONGTIME NR REPORTER KATHY BROWN DIES
(By Ann Turner)

Few people in a community have the privilege of intersecting with so many lives as a reporter.

No one in Gillette has done it recently as long and as well as Kathy Brown, who was a reporter for the News Record for 37 years.

"KB," as we called her, died Wednesday night in Casper at the Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions of complications from cancer, a disease she had valiantly fought for the past 13 months. She was 64.

She had retired from the News Record in March after working as a journalist for 41 years.

In a perfect world, there would have been a proper send-off, a party or an open house to properly acknowledge the decades that she devoted to this community. Instead, we faced a national shutdown aimed at protecting everyone from the COVID-19 pandemic, but particularly those like KB whose health was compromised by cancer and the chemotherapy she undertook to try to beat it.

She restarted the chemo after a much-too-short remission and was bound and determined to beat it.

In a perfect world, she would have beat it. In a perfect world, there would have been more stories that she could have written about all of you, her favorite people. In a perfect world, she would have enjoyed her retirement.

But the world is not perfect.

Today, we honor her with a front-page obituary, not because she would have wanted it—indeed she would have been appalled at the attention.

We do so because she deserves it.

In Gillette, she spent more than 20 years as a sports reporter, and in those years covered thousands of young athletes in the school system as well as younger and older ones in different athletic pursuits.

Kathy was the sole sports reporter at the News Record—and the only female sports reporter in the state—for most of that time. No one worked longer and harder than she did because she was committed not just to her job, but to the kids.

She made an effort to talk to every single athlete on a team—not just the stars, but every single one. She tried to make sure that they appeared in a story over the course of a season because she believed that each one of them deserved attention as part of the team. Each athlete, competing alone or on a team, had a story that deserved to be told.

A criticism that haunted her most would be those that came from some disgruntled parent who thought she was giving one player too much attention. In sports coverage, it's hard to ignore the stars. But her admiration often was focused on those whose efforts were just as noteworthy, if not as splashy.

"Always talk to those involved in events, not just a coach or teacher," she wrote in notes she handed out to younger journalists who wanted to listen to her advice. "You can use the coach or teacher's comments to build on what you're writing, but the athletes or the students are the ones who are involved in it. They have a lot to say, too, and shouldn't be ignored."

In 2012, she moved from the sports beat to education and the community section. The move was made for health reasons, but she ended up working just as hard covering those beats as she did sports.

She was a prolific writer and still holds the byline record at the News Record. There was never a topic too small, but there were some that she could write reams about, usually involving her love of history, particularly local or Western history.

She once decided to write about the Pumpkin Buttes, a story that originally was supposed to anchor the front page.

She wrote so much that it ended up being a special section.

That was true of the Recreation Center when it opened 10 years ago. The story was supposed to be a comprehensive look at what the new facility was like.

It ended up being a 28-page special section with multiple stories, all written in a very short amount of time by KB.

In both of those cases, just like with most stories she wrote, she approached them with an enthusiasm that is rare.

"I'm sucking the life out of this interview in three different ways," she once said about an interview with one of the National High School Finals Rodeo contestants.

She loved journalism because no two days are alike. "Every day is a new adventure," she said in 2017.

She also loved it because it put her smack-dab in the middle of people and their stories, which is where she liked to be.

"I really feel it's a privilege to cover the stories of the people in Campbell County and to be able to tell about their lives," she said.

She has been honored many times for her reporting and her leadership. Three years ago, she was chosen as Veteran Journalist of the Year by the Wyoming Press Association, an occasion that made her reflect on her career, as well as to find humor in the "veteran" part of the name.

"Heck," she said. "It's just one for old farts."

"I want to tell the stories we all want to read—the important ones that teach us about life, ourselves and our community at the same time," she said at the time. "No one else can tell the story of a community as well as a newspaper, so it's a service to a community and a calling to those of us on the job."

It was her humility that made her sum up the award by saying, "I guess it means I'm doing OK at the job."

That prompted a reply from frequent letter writer Brad Schofield.

"In my opinion, the ability to 'write and relate' is not only a gift she has shared and worked so hard to achieve, it is a dedication to a life of serving a people and a community she obviously loves and respects," he wrote.

A newspaper contest judge once called KB "a consummate pro." And she was. People in Gillette were lucky to have her on their side for 37 years.

We were even luckier to be able to call her a colleague. Even more so a friend.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MORGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Morgan Community

College in celebration of its 50th anniversary. Since the first day of class in 1970, Morgan Community College has prepared students from all walks of life for future success with dedication and compassion. The institution plays a critical role on the Eastern Plains of Colorado with programs that provide a strong knowledge base and serve as a springboard to future economic prosperity.

As part of its commitment to providing high-quality, affordable higher education opportunities, Morgan Community College offers an expansive assortment of over 80 courses and a variety of curriculum tracks to ensure that students are able to find an educational path that best supports their goals. Furthermore, Morgan Community College is nationally recognized for its high graduation and transfer rates into 4-year institutions, indicating its ability to serve students' unique objectives.

Morgan Community College continues to innovate and develop groundbreaking new programs to support the needs of the local communities. On August 17, 2020, the college celebrated the opening of Poplar Hall, an educational building to be utilized for the college's precision agriculture program. The development of Poplar Hall demonstrates the college's investment in and dedication towards the next generation of Colorado farmers and ranchers.

The indispensable services Morgan Community College provides to its students have been recognized on multiple occasions, earning the college a top 10 ranking in SmartAsset's 2020 Best Community Colleges in America. In addition, Morgan Community College has been continuously named a "great college to work for" by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Morgan Community College offers immeasurable value to communities in Eastern Colorado, and the institution has a bright future. Sincerest congratulations on this 50th anniversary milestone.●

TRIBUTE TO KENDRA SMITH

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Kendra Smith of Nashua as August's Granite Stater of the Month. At a time when so many are facing financial uncertainty, Kendra is selflessly working to provide substantial and popular hot meals to community members in need amid this public health and economic crisis.

Kendra has lived in Nashua for 29 years and knows her community well. As a food service assistant in New Hampshire's school system and an entrepreneur who founded a soul food cuisine catering business early last year, Kendra is exceedingly familiar with how food insecurity affects children and teenagers in Nashua.

When schools began to shut down due to COVID-19, Kendra knew that many students in her community were at

risk of going hungry without school-provided meals. Kendra, whose background in catering and food service has given her plenty of practice serving a lot of food on a tight budget, started a program to help get hot meals to those in need.

Feed the Children is a nonprofit organization that Kendra started through her catering company, Soel (Simply Offering Edible Love) Sistas, LLC. Her organization is fueled by the generosity of people in her community, who support the effort by, among other things, making small donations and holding food drives.

Twice a week, Kendra and her team drive to neighborhoods around Nashua and distribute hot meals to families in need, while following social distancing guidance. Menu items include burgers, chicken and rice bowls, chips, granola bars, and fruit.

Food insecurity affects communities across our State and our country, and in times like these, it is especially important that we come together to support those in need. I am proud to recognize Kendra's initiative, generosity, and pragmatism in naming her August 2020's Granite Stater of the Month. She exemplifies the best of New Hampshire and shows what can be done when we come together as a community during challenging times.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID ABNEY

● Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, one of America's founding principles is the belief that anyone of any background can achieve anything with hard work, perseverance, and a positive attitude. This belief is the very foundation of the American dream.

Mr. David Abney, who is retiring after over 40 years at Georgia's own UPS, is the epitome of the American dream.

David grew up in the Mississippi Delta, which is one of the most economically challenged areas in the country. Yet David didn't let his circumstances determine his fate. From an early age, David worked odd jobs to help support his family while making sure he kept his grades up at school. This dedication paid off when he got into Delta State University on scholarship, where he met his future wife, Sherry.

At the age of 19, while working as a package loader at UPS to pay for his education, a manager recognized David's talent and work ethic and encouraged him to join the company full time. Although he didn't realize it at the time, this encouragement transformed David's life. It was then that David became, as they say, "brown-blooded," devoting his career to UPS.

Although he had found his professional home, the road ahead wasn't always easy. The work could be grueling. He moved around a lot. He often put in difficult hours. However, just as he had diligently worked his way into college, David worked his way up the ladder.

What has always made David an exceptional leader is his devotion to the people who work for him. Having done the work himself, David understood the needs and challenges of his employees, and he always put their needs over his own. In one case, when the center he managed experienced difficult times, David laid himself off so that his employees could keep their jobs.

This selfless, employee-oriented leadership style eventually propelled David to the highest levels of leadership at UPS. He became COO in 2007, CEO in 2014, chairman of the board in 2016.

Under David's leadership, UPS has grown into one of the most exceptional logistics companies in the world. He guided UPS through major changes, adapting to the new needs of the digital world. He focused on strengthening the company's diversity and inclusion practices, so that anyone, of any background, would always find a home at UPS just as he had.

Today, UPS supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and helps our economy grow and thrive every day.

The values of hard work, optimism, and service to others that have guided David's life are infused into the company that he has led. For example, during the COVID-19 crisis, UPS helped manage logistics to deliver critical aid to those who needed it. UPS workers put their own health and safety at risk to serve their communities.

David's devotion to serving others extends beyond UPS. He has helped support local businesses as the chairman of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. He served on the board of Catalyst, which works to bring women, particularly women of color, into senior leadership positions. He frequently supports his alma mater, so that the next generation of bright young students can find success no matter where they come from.

As David Abney prepares to retire from UPS this year, he will be leaving an incredible legacy of excellence, growth, and selfless service. He has made UPS, the State of Georgia, and the entire country a better place.

It is my pleasure to wish David, his wife Sherry, and their entire family the very best.●

REMEMBERING RONNIE LOPEZ

● Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Ronnie Lopez, a beloved man, and community leader in Arizona. Lopez is intimately known around the Valley by many for his efforts championing public policies and civic engagement for Phoenix's Latino community.

Born in the small mining town of Miami, AZ, Ronnie was raised alongside his two older brothers by his hard-working mother, who cleaned houses and worked in the area mines to provide for their family. Ronnie's professional career in Phoenix began in the mid 1960s as a field representative for the Arizona State Civil Rights Commis-

sion, where he investigated discrimination allegations. Shortly after, Ronnie extended his expertise to Chicanos Por La Causa, an organization dedicated to supporting underserved Latinos in Phoenix, and was elected justice of the peace in West Phoenix. In 1978, Ronnie accepted a position to serve on the staff of Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, where he championed better housing and education for the Latino community. In the many years that followed, Ronnie ran his own consulting firm—working with government leaders, businesses, and public campaigns to facilitate change for Arizonans in need. In what free time he had left, Ronnie endeavored to mentor many of Arizona's young public servants, some of whom serve as elected officials today. Above all else, those who had the pleasure of working with Ronnie will remember him for his selflessness.

Please join me in honoring life of Ronnie Lopez, a devoted leader, mentor, and personal friend whose impact will not be forgotten.●

REMEMBERING DR. GABRIEL LÓPEZ-PLASCENCIA

● Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Dr. Gabriel López-Plascencia—Dr. López—a well-known physician from metro-Phoenix who practiced medicine for over six decades. Dr. López was the primary physician for many low-income families living in Phoenix's underserved communities.

Born in Jalisco, Mexico, Dr. López attended the University of Guadalajara before eventually moving to the United States and enlisting in the Arizona National Guard as a medical officer. He served the Arizona Guard for 20 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Even then he continued to support and collaborate with the Guard through additional activations until the mid 1990s. In addition to his military service, Dr. López made a point to make his services available to indigent populations in South Phoenix, where poverty has affected predominantly Latino communities for decades. As an active Mexican American, he was also one of the founding members of the Mexican American Chamber of Commerce in Phoenix. Dr. López's community-oriented spirit, expertise, and dedication to service contributed to the health of many Arizona working families and allowed them to seek the American dream just as he did many years ago.

Please join me in honoring the life of Dr. Gabriel López-Plascencia, a passionate doctor, surgeon, and servant to Arizonans, who will be dearly missed. The impact Dr. López has left in our hearts, his community, and our State will be felt eternally.●

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN NICHOLAS

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Allen Nicholas who is retiring as forest supervisor for