

Nation's patent eligibility laws, Erica has been an innovator and go-getter. There were countless times throughout this Congress when the subcommittee's work would get tough and it appeared we were at an insurmountable impasse. Each time, Erica found a way forward and kept us moving towards our shared goals: a stronger intellectual property system.

While I am sad that the Senate and the subcommittee will be losing a staffer as valuable as Erica, I am grateful for her public service these past 4 years. Erica has shown that she will excel at whatever she commits to, whether graduating from Harvard Law School or making partner at one of the largest law firms in the world or serving as the chief counsel to my good friend CHRIS COONS—and I am excited for her as she steps into a new role and begins a new adventure.●

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 182, on the nomination of Franklin Ulyses Valderrama, of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 183, on the nomination of Iain D. Johnston, of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 184, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Edward Meyers to be a Judge for the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Disabled American Veterans—DAV—organization for its commitment to serving wartime-disabled veterans since its formation 100 years ago. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am grateful for the positive impact of the DAV on disabled veterans in South Dakota and across the Nation.

Founded on September 25, 1920, the DAV has grown to become the largest wartime veterans service organization in the United States, with more than 1 million members in 1,344 chapters around the country.

The DAV helps disabled veterans and their families work through the bureaucracy of the Federal and local governments to make sure they receive the benefits they deserve. Additionally, the organization operates a nationwide transportation network, providing free transportation for disabled veterans to Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and clinics.

We are truly blessed to have the DAV organization in South Dakota and in

the United States. They give their time, talent, knowledge, and friendship to disabled veterans who need it most. We are thankful for their 100 years of service to the veteran community.

May God continue to bless the DAV and everyone they serve.

Thank you.

REMEMBERING DR. ROLF H. EPPINGER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary constituent, Dr. Rolf H. Eppinger, who passed away on August 14, 2020. Dr. Eppinger's outstanding work has saved the lives of many Americans and will save many more in the years to come.

Dr. Eppinger had a distinguished 34-year career with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA. There, he performed and led fundamental biomechanics research that resulted in the development of crash test dummies, the interpretation of their measurements, the advancement of the prevention of crash injuries, and the reduction of the severity of crash injuries.

His work has helped save hundreds of thousands of lives and many more injuries worldwide. NHTSA has estimated that in the United States, as of 2017, more than 50,000 lives have been saved by airbags, 374,000 by safety belts, and 11,000 by child restraints. Many times more serious injuries were prevented or ameliorated.

The work of Dr. Eppinger and his team formed the basis for the New Car Assessment Programs now in use worldwide.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Eppinger published more than 120 technical papers dealing with automotive safety and was the holder of two U.S. patents. In addition, he enjoyed sailboat racing and was an accomplished watercolorist, pen and ink artist, woodworker, boat builder, and general handyman.

Dr. Eppinger is remembered for his rigorous scientific medical and engineering research, integrity, decency, and humility.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our gratitude for Dr. Eppinger's outstanding contributions and our deepest condolences to his wife Karen, his children Justin and Dwight, his daughter-in-law Kelly, and his grandchildren Alice and Hugo.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LILIANE COUCKE SMITH

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Mrs. Liliane Coucke Smith, a remarkable woman who served as a nurse during World War II and turns 100 on October 3.

Born in Belgium, Mrs. Smith joined the Belgian Resistance at age 20. As a wartime nurse, she entered Germany alongside the advancing Allied Forces.

Her outstanding commitment to serving others continued afterward, when she worked as part of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and the International Refugee Organization to help resettle over 10 million people displaced by the Second World War, including former slave laborers and concentration camp survivors. Mrs. Smith also oversaw the establishment of six refugee camps in the American occupation zone.

While working as a French-English translator in Naples, she met her beloved husband, Dudley C. Smith, a U.S. Naval officer. The two split their time between Europe and the United States, before settling permanently in Groton Long Point, CT.

Her tireless dedication to helping others in even the most arduous times is a credit to her generous spirit. A deeply considerate and unfailingly driven person, Mrs. Smith sets an inspiring model for all of us through her readiness to embrace new challenges and serve those in need. Her incredible legacy will be enduring.

I applaud her many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mrs. Liliane Coucke Smith on this milestone of her 100th birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO KRISTINA FOLCIK

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Kristina Folcik of Tamworth as September's Granite Stater of the Month. As a survivor of domestic violence, Kristina transformed her own healing process into a way to support other survivors by hiking 100 miles nonstop across some of New Hampshire's steepest peaks. She was the first person to ever finish that portion of the Appalachian Trail in one single trek.

Kristina is an endurance athlete who has held multiple Fastest Known Times, which is a title given to individuals who have clocked the fastest time on a particular route, including hiking trails. She even raced professionally for a while, but stopped when her now-former husband started becoming abusive after she would win a race.

For the last 2 years, Kristina worked with Starting Point, a nonprofit organization in New Hampshire that helps survivors of domestic and sexual violence, to successfully separate from her abusive husband. In an effort to heal from this harrowing and traumatic experience, Kristina decided to attempt a 100-mile, nonstop hike.

In the lead-up to announcing her decision to attempt this extraordinary feat, Kristina revealed publicly on social media that she had recently divorced from her abusive husband and that she was going to complete this 100-mile trek and dedicate it to women who have been in abusive relationships.

Much to her surprise, following her announcement, many women began to share their stories of abuse with Kristina, and some even publicly shared their experiences.