

death. Working to improve outcomes for those who have suffered a traumatic injury, ENA offers courses for emergency nurses that provide them with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on training needed to deliver high-quality trauma care. ENA's trauma nursing core course is one such course. Since its inception in 1986, this course has been taken by more than 1 million emergency nurses and is now considered the gold standard for the education of nurses in lifesaving trauma care techniques.

ENA was also at the forefront of supporting the MISSION ZERO Act, or the Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths Act. When this legislation was signed into law last year, it created an innovative program allowing military trauma teams and professionals to work in civilian trauma centers to ensure the highest quality trauma care in both peace and war.

Finally, ENA has been the leader in raising awareness regarding the issue of workplace violence directed towards emergency nurses and other emergency department personnel. At the State level, it advocated for stronger criminal laws to hold those who assault healthcare workers in hospitals accountable for their actions. At the Federal level, ENA has fought for tougher workplace standards to ensure that hospitals provide a safe working environment for their employees.

On the occasion of the Emergency Nurses Association's 50th anniversary, Senator WICKER and I ask our colleagues to join us in extending our deepest gratitude to the ENA and all its members for their commitment to improving the quality of emergency care that has and will continue to save the lives of millions of Americans across our country.

#### USHER SYNDROME

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to talk about a genetic condition called Usher syndrome. Usher syndrome is a rare genetic disease that affects at least 25,000 people in the United States. Usher syndrome causes deafness or hearing loss, as well as a retinal disease that progressively leads to blindness. Some children may be diagnosed at birth, while others are diagnosed at later stages of adolescence, affecting education, employment, and quality of life.

Usher type 1 individuals are born deaf and then learn, often before adolescence, that they are also losing their vision. Usher type 2 individuals are born with moderate to severe hearing loss and then in the prime of their adolescent lives are told that they are losing their vision. Usher type 3 are usually diagnosed during adolescence, leading to the slow loss of both hearing and vision.

At present, there are no treatments or cure for Usher syndrome, but that

could change with awareness and support. Finding a cure has never been more urgent or more achievable. Promising research and positive clinical trials are occurring right now at universities, medical centers, and private laboratories across the country.

Even though there is currently no cure for Usher syndrome, I am proud that Oregonian researchers are leading the way searching for treatments and therapies. The Casey Eye Institute at Oregon Health & Science University—OHSU—is conducting the first human study of gene therapy for Usher syndrome, and researchers at the University of Oregon are generating animal models that represent the genotypes of the major Usher patient groups—both necessary steps towards the development of effective treatments. It is a privilege to serve a State that is home to such cutting-edge research into Usher syndrome.

To accelerate this research, the Usher Syndrome Coalition, including Emily Creasy from Oregon, is raising public awareness. Last month, on September 19, they helped recognize the 6th annual Usher Syndrome Awareness Day. The day fell near the autumnal equinox, which marks the start of days that contain more darkness than light, a powerful metaphor for the threat of Usher syndrome. I am proud to support the Usher syndrome community and am committed to doing what I can as Oregon's senior Senator to support researchers hard at work finding treatments and, hopefully, a cure. I am committed to working with my colleagues to raise awareness regarding this disease, and I applaud the hard work of the Usher Syndrome Coalition in making Usher syndrome research a priority at the National Institutes of Health.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO VIC BIRD

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize Mr. Vic Bird on the occasion of his retirement. Vic has been a champion for the Oklahoma aviation community for nearly two decades. He most recently served as the director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission for 18 years, the longest serving director in Oklahoma history.

You would never know it, but back in 2002, Vic Bird was a newcomer to aviation. Nevertheless, there is no one in State government who worked harder to make Oklahoma the aviation capital of America. Vic Bird led the charge on numerous State legislative initiatives that brought aviation employers to Oklahoma, and the proof is in one number. Today, aviation and aerospace is Oklahoma's second largest industry, with an annual economic impact of \$44 billion.

Throughout his tenure at the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, Vic has been a true friend to general aviation, supporting pilots and airports. Vic Bird

was instrumental in making sure Oklahoma State law protected pilots at public-use and military airports by keeping dangerous structures from being built too close to airport infrastructure. Vic Bird promoted airports as anchor institutions supporting economic development and job growth in communities across Oklahoma and joined me in an aerial tour of general aviation airports across Oklahoma back in June 2017.

Before I conclude, I want to highlight two of the awards and recognitions Vic Bird has received that speak volumes of his commitment to aviation. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association awards the Joseph B. "Doc" Hartranft Jr. Award to an individual in government service who has made significant contributions to the advancement of general aviation. Vic Bird was the first and only nonelected official to receive this award. Vic Bird is also the first and only Oklahoman elected to serve as chair of the National Association of State Aviation Officials.

Vic Bird has remained an unwavering passionate advocate for aviation and aerospace in Oklahoma. I know I join his family and all that know him, in thanking him for his years of service and contributions to Oklahoma and our entire aviation community.

Congratulations on your retirement. ●

##### TRIBUTE TO DEAN A. COLLETT

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, today I offer my recognition of the great service of Dean A. Collett to countless Utah students. His service has spanned over six decades, starting in the fall of 1956 when he first walked through the doors of Highland High School. Today, at the age of 92, even through the difficulties of COVID-19, Dean sits at his desk making personal phone calls to each of his students, ensuring nothing less than their academic success. He is a true servant of the people of Utah and one who deserves the highest of honors.

Dean Ashton Collett was born on September 30, 1928, to Richard G. Collett and Amy Ashton Collett in Salt Lake City, UT. Richard Collett was a successful banker, but due to the economic turmoil of the Great Depression, the Collett family, with all five of their children, would move frequently around Salt Lake City looking for work, a hardship that would follow Richard and Amy for much of their lives. From those moments as a child, Dean would dedicate his entire life helping to support his family, working to keep food on the table and later taking care of his mother until her passing. Dean spent his youth working as a paper boy, doing yard work for hire, and later working as a grocery store cashier at Table Supply in the avenues of Salt Lake City.

As the family kept relocating in search of work, Dean attended Emerson Elementary School, Ensign Elementary School, and Washington Elementary School. He progressed through