MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING NELSON W. MILNER, SR., AND CLARENCE R. MILNER, SR.

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Nelson W. Milner, Sr., and Clarence R. Milner, Sr. Both men were beloved relatives of former Hartford, CT, mayor Thirman L. Milner, the first elected African-American mayor in New England. They passed away earlier this year and leave extraordinary legacies of thoughtful, compassionate work.

Nelson was born in Hartford, CT, and was the brother of former Mayor Milner. Upon graduating from high school, he joined the Air Force, serving for 3 years. Stationed in Riverside, CA, Nelson remained in the State with his late wife, Arthurrine, following his service. In the 1980s, Nelson returned to Hartford in support of his brother's mayoral campaign.

Passionate about serving others, Nelson became an ordained deacon and taught Sunday school. He also played the keyboard with the East Hartford senior center band. Nelson focused his final years on strengthening his relationship with his family, including his 10 children, 5 stepchildren, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He passed away on February 15, 2022, at the age of 90.

Nelson and Arthurrine's son, Clarence, was born in California. He would go on to have 10 children of his own, as well as 4 stepchildren, 41 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. Clarence dedicated his life to his Christian faith and volunteered as a firefighter. Just like his father, he moved back to Hartford to work on his uncle's mayoral campaign. In addition to supporting his uncle's successful bid to become the city's first African- American mayor, Clarence also committed himself to running several businesses.

Family was at the heart of everything Clarence did. He was inseparable from his identical twin, Carl, for many years. Clarence met his wife in Hartford and spent as much time as possible with all of his children and grandchildren. He passed away on January 11, 2022, at the age of 64.

My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to former Mayor Milner and all of Nelson and Clarence's loved ones. May their many wonderful memories of both men provide them solace and comfort in the days ahead. I hope my colleagues will join me in remembering Nelson W. Milner, Sr., and Clarence R. Milner, Sr.•

RECOGNIZING THE STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the grand opening of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. Three miles south of Carson City, the Stewart Indian School opened in 1890 with the official purpose of addressing Indigenous education. In reality, students were made to forget their Native languages and were allowed little to no contact with family members for decades, thereby destroying important cultural and social connections. Today, Stewart Indian School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and remains open as an important educational and historic landmark in Nevada.

After its closing in 1982, the State of Nevada assumed the property and began taking steps to reconcile its painful history with our community. Most notably, it returned 130 acres of land to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Since then, the Nevada Indian Commission has worked hard to preserve the history and stories of its alumni. In 2008, it helped establish a self-guided walking tour of the campus, and in 2015, it worked with the Nevada State Legislature to secure funding for a museum director and curator for the location. With the help of volunteers and staff, members of this museum have worked hard to record and display only some of the 30,000 Stewart Indian School alumni stories, with many members being alumni or descendants themselves.

On May 11 of this year, the U.S. Interior Department released the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report that summarized the treatment of Indigenous children in over 400 boarding schools across the country. The report unveils heartbreaking findings. Many of these children were taken from their communities and were forced to attend these schools. While there, they often faced rampant emotional, sexual, and physical abuse. The report also makes it clear that, from the beginning, these schools were designed to strip children of their Indigenous identities. The resulting trauma impacted families for generations, and some parents went as far as refusing to teach their children their Native language or ways of life for fear that they too would be severely punished in school for expressing themselves. Stewart Indian School stands here today as one of these former 408 boarding schools.

I would like to commend the efforts of the Nevada Indian Commission, of museum directors and staff, and of alumni and their descendants who have made the official grand opening of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum possible. It is important that we recognize the history of our community and acknowledge the testimonies of all those who continue to endure the pain and loss that resulted from decades of separation and cultural erasure. Finally, thank you to all of those who bravely shared and publicized their stories so that we may learn a bit more and work to never forget.•

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE JOHNSON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Carole Johnson of Mineral County for her dedication to the Forest Service and her 50-plus years of public service to the people of Montana.

Raised in Superior, MT, Carole graduated from Montana State University—''Go Cats!''—and joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1971. Carole started as a seasonal recreational employee on the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest and has since worked in nearly every facet of the Forest Service including firefighting, logistics, silviculture, surveying, mining, and conservation education. In 2015, Carole was named Superior District ranger, the post she held until retiring earlier this spring. According to most accounts, at the time of her retirement, Carole was the longest tenured federal employee in the State of Montana.

Anyone who knows Carole will tell you that she exemplifies the definition of a public servant. For more than 50 years, she served her community with unmatched institutional knowledge and professionalism. She has been a voice of reason in debates over public lands management emphasizing that forest management and conservation go hand in hand. As district ranger, Carole worked tirelessly to increase the timber output on the Superior District to help benefit the local economy and support wildfire mitigation in the community.

Outside of her role with the Forest Service, Carole is active in her community. She serves on many boards including the Mineral Community Hospital Board, Mineral Fair Board and the Glacier Country Tourism Board. Through her commitment to public service, it is clear that Carole has long been a well-respected and beloved member of the Mineral County community.

It is my honor to recognize Carole for her dedication to the Forest Service and her 50-plus years of public service to the great State of Montana. Carole, thank you for your many years of public service and commitment to improving our public lands and forests. I wish you all the best in your retirement. You make Montana proud.•

TRIBUTE TO KAREN GOODE

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute today to Ms. Karen Goode, who has retired after 47 years of dedicated public service with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Jackson, MS. Since becoming a U.S. Senator in 2018, I have come to appreciate Ms. Goode who has earned consistent high praise from my State office staff responsible for assisting veterans with their VA claims. Karen's knowledge, responsiveness, reliability, and trustworthiness have enabled me to serve Mississippi's