

the president of the national union, director of government affairs, and senior vice president. Then-Governor Parrior Glendening tapped Ken to serve as assistant secretary and commissioner of labor and industry at the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. After that, he cochaired Senator John Kerry's 2004 Presidential campaign in Maryland with Heather Mizeur, who went on to serve as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 2007 to 2015, representing the 20th District in Montgomery County.

Given Ken's extensive knowledge of the issues, politics, and people of Montgomery County and beyond, my campaign contacted him and convinced him to serve as my metropolitan Washington-area representative when I first ran for the Senate in 2006. Ken has been with me ever since, and I am so grateful. He has met with countless constituents, businessowners, and elected officials; joined or represented me at field events; served as my liaison to organized labor; and handled special assignments. He has done it all with grace and insight and a quiet competence.

Ken married Sandra Lee Wiley on February 23, 1964, in Rockville, MD. Ken, now widowed, has three children: Cassie, Eric, and Paula; seven grandchildren: Lindsay, Caitlyn, Sampson, Tyler, Amanda, Sydney, and Drew; and two great-granddaughters: Maya and Stella. Ken was a member of Crusader Lutheran Church for a number of years and held several positions on the church counsel. Over the years, Ken has enjoyed volunteering for political campaigns and serving on several boards within Montgomery County, traveling in his motorhome, camping, building and fixing anything for the home, tending to an orchard of fruit trees, and appreciating classic cars.

There are few Marylanders—and even fewer Montgomery County residents—who have not benefited in one way or another from Ken's lifelong service to others. Ken has lived up to Douglas Adams's—author of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"—maxim, "To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." I want to thank Ken's family for "sharing" him with the people of Montgomery County and all Marylanders. Above all, I want to thank Ken himself for his wise counsel and friendship over the years. While he no longer works for me in an official capacity, I will continue to rely on him unofficially in the weeks and months ahead while hoping that he spends more time with his family and friends and recreational pursuits.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LACONIA MOTORCYCLE WEEK

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to recognize the 100th anniversary of Laconia, New Hampshire's Motorcycle Week. Over the last century, riders from New Hampshire and across the country have gathered in Laconia—the heart of New Hampshire's beautiful Lakes Region—to gather with friends, celebrate their shared passion for motorcycles, and ride together.

Many consider Laconia's Bike Week to be the oldest national motorcycle rally in the country. For decades, it was the largest motorcycle rally in the United States, and it still draws more than 300,000 people a year, which helps support the economy of the Lakes Region and the rest of New Hampshire as Bike Week participants patronize our small businesses. Laconia Bike Week is a well-known and beloved tradition for countless Granite Staters and bikers near and far. For many, just the name Bike Week evokes fond memories of Laconia rallies from past years, from cruising New Hampshire's highways and scenic byways, to spending time with friends, old and new.

Bike Week, of course, does not happen without effort; it takes time and dedication from the event organizers, who each summer come together to make this week possible. Nor is it by chance that this event takes place in New Hampshire; Bike Week is a part of the very fabric of the Granite State. Bike Week shows off our State's natural beauty; a ride through Laconia, with an open road ahead and a breeze from Lake Winnepesaukee blowing by, reminds us of why Granite Staters are always proud to call New Hampshire home. For bikers and nonbikers alike, the roar and thunder of engines, the thrill of zooming down a highway, the dazzling tricks and stunts performed at rallies—summon up our State's spirit.

One of the many pieces that makes Bike Week special is that riders have also regularly used the event as a means to raise awareness and support for critical issues facing New Hampshire and our country. In 1957, riders raised money to help fund polio research and support families who were grappling with that disease. This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the Meredith POW/MIA Awareness Vigil and the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Ride to honor American POW/MIA servicemembers, spearheaded by the Northeast POW/MIA Network. Over the past few years, more than 2,000 motorcyclists have joined the Freedom Ride to commemorate the sacrifice of POW/MIA servicemembers and raise awareness for the missing servicemembers who have not been found. The Freedom Ride reminds servicemembers, their families, and all Americans that POW/MIA servicemembers—both those who have returned and those who remain missing—will never be forgotten.

These acts of recognition and service have helped make Bike Week into a New Hampshire and American institution. For 100 years in Laconia, Americans from all backgrounds and walks of life have come together—united by their shared enthusiasm and their deep love for our beautiful country—and worked to make our community and our country a better place. One does not have to be a biker to appreciate that this spirit of enthusiasm, service, and love of country embodies New Hampshire—and America—at our best.

On behalf of Congress and all Granite Staters, I offer my congratulations to the event organizers for 100 years of Laconia Motorcycle Week. I have no doubt that Granite Staters and Americans across the country can look forward to it for generations to come.●

RECOGNIZING LOVE AT FIRST BITE MERCANTILE

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, Idaho small businesses are the backbone of our economy and our communities. These small businesses not only employ friends and neighbors, but they showcase Idaho's creativity and values. Idaho small businesses provide invaluable goods and services and are an intrinsic element of the Gem State. These small businesses deserve to be celebrated for the integral role they play in our communities. I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems, a statewide initiative, on June 9, to encourage Idahoans to support the small businesses that make the Gem State special. As a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am pleased to honor Love at First Bite Mercantile as one of Idaho's Small Businesses of the Month for June 2023.

Love at First Bite opened its doors in Idaho Falls in 2009. Despite the recession, Juli and Mike Richards took the opportunity to make their dream a reality. By 2012, they had doubled in size and, in 2019, were able to expand again. Love at First Bite began when Juli and her daughter combined their chocolate and cupcake businesses but has since grown to offer a wide variety of products. In addition to gourmet food items, Love at First Bite is known for their line of specialty oils and vinegars, specialty drinks, home decor, beauty products, and jewelry.

The Richards are active members of the community and regularly contribute their sweet treats to community fundraisers and school events. Each summer, Love at First Bite donates products to local libraries as a tasty incentive for youth reading programs.

Congratulations to Juli and Mike Richards and all of the employees at Love at First Bite Mercantile for being selected as an Idaho Small Business of the Month for June 2023. You are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho's Local Gems. You make our great State proud, and I look