

Pandemic-era rules had scattered our staff across the country, and the Senate was still limping its way through a once in a lifetime crisis. Thankfully, Sean stepped up. He approached the job with grace and persistence and, even during the toughest fights kept his eye on the ball and the team's focus on serving the people of Tennessee.

We will miss him tremendously, but I have no doubt that his beautiful wife Kasey will be happy to see him spending more time at home and less time in the halls of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. I would like to leave Sean with my thanks for his years of service to the Volunteer State and my best wishes as he moves forward in this next exciting season of his career.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS VICKSBURG DISTRICT

• **Mr. BOOZMAN.** Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District. The history of this vital entity can be traced back to 1873 when Captain William Henry Harrison Benyuard opened the Monroe-based branch to address surveys and conduct wreck removals on the Yazoo and Ouachita Rivers. Today, the Vicksburg District encompasses areas across Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana containing nine major river basins and incorporating approximately 460 miles of mainline Mississippi River levees.

As U.S. Senator for Arkansas, I have worked closely with the Vicksburg District Corps leaders on many projects to benefit The Natural State. I have always appreciated our collaboration to strengthen navigation, conservation, recreation and water supply on the Ouachita River. To better serve the communities adjacent to tributaries and reservoirs in its jurisdiction, I have worked alongside the Corps to fund studies in the Ouachita River Basin and support its flood risk management mission on the Red and Ouachita Rivers. The District has also been instrumental in securing additional water supply for the city of Hot Springs and Central Arkansas Water via Lake Ouachita and Lake DeGray.

The Corps plays an important role in managing safety and environmental issues for our waterways and related structures. As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I proudly support these efforts and am committed to always working to ensure it has the funding and resources necessary to carry out its mission.

I look forward to continuing our partnership and delivering the resources to improve Corps infrastructure and facilities, and I congratulate the Vicksburg District on 150 years of managing water resources and responding to emergencies for the benefit of the entire region it serves and supports.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SQUIRE DRENDEL

• **Ms. CORTEZ MASTO.** Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of my dear friend John Squire Drendel. John dedicated his life to advocating on behalf of his clients and serving the people of Nevada. For 70 years, John shaped Nevada's legal community, and I am proud to join his family and friends in celebrating this significant milestone.

On August 4, 1923, John was born in Carson Valley, NV, a beautiful rural community just south of Carson City. In the midst of the Great Depression, John left home to work on a nearby ranch and complete his studies at Douglas County High School.

During his first semester at the University of Notre Dame in the fall of 1941, the bombing of Pearl Harbor altered the trajectory of his life. John served in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant and as a commander of a landing craft tank in the Pacific Islands of Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

Following the end of World War II, John took advantage of the education benefits provided in the G.I. Bill to complete his undergraduate education and attend law school at the University of Colorado. After obtaining his law degree, John returned home to Nevada with his wife Marilyn to raise their four children and work as a Nevada highway patrolman.

In 1950, John passed the Nevada Bar Exam and later partnered with William O. Bradley to form Bradley & Drendel, a premier personal injury firm in northern Nevada. In 1957, in order to make their services more accessible to their clients, the two selected a converted garage in Reno, NV, to serve as their firm's office. By 1970, John had solidified his reputation by representing a diesel mechanic from Ely, NV, who suffered from a debilitating injury while at work. John won the highest verdict awarded to a single plaintiff in the U.S. at that point in time, providing financial security for the mechanic and his family. This firm continues to serve the community with a third generation of attorneys. Currently, John's son Thomas is of counsel to the firm.

John is deeply respected by his peers and remains active in Nevada's legal community as a founding member and former president of the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association and the Washoe County Bar Association. John has been honored with countless accolades throughout the duration of his career, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association in 2001.

The list of John's contributions to the legal community and Nevada are never-ending. John strived for excellence throughout his career and has proven himself a great Nevadan. His professional accomplishments are surpassed only by the wonderful family and community he has built in the Silver State. I know John is happy to be

spending his retirement with his children Mary, John, Ann, and Thomas; their grandchildren Sarah, Andrew, Anne, Clara, Nathaniel, Mary, and Matthew; and their four great-grandchildren. I am incredibly pleased to honor this momentous event in his life and wish him joy in the years to come.●

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• **Ms. HASSAN.** Mr. President, today it is my privilege to recognize the 400th anniversary of the city of Portsmouth, NH. For four centuries, Portsmouth has endured as one of our country's oldest and most vital cities, continuing to serve as a pillar for New Hampshire's economy and culture—and for our country's national security.

From its founding in 1623, Portsmouth has served as one of New England's most important trade ports, helping develop and sustain the region's economy and, at one time, even served as New Hampshire's capital. Portsmouth first started as Strawberry Banke, an early settlement that evolved into a maritime hub and led Portsmouth to become the iconic city that it is today. In the 400 years since 1623, Portsmouth continues to be a wonderful place to live—and it is a premier destination for trade and tourism, boasting some of the finest breweries and seafood in the country. Portsmouth is in part why New Hampshire attracts millions of tourists each year.

Portsmouth has also been instrumental in building and maintaining the U.S. Navy, through the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, as well as providing a key installation for the U.S. Air Force with the Pease Air Force Base, which is now home to the finest Air National Guard in the country. In New Hampshire, our motto is "Live Free or Die," and Granite Staters in Portsmouth have embodied that spirit since our country's beginning. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard built and launched John Paul Jones and the USS Ranger in the American Revolutionary War—one of the founding vessels of the U.S. Navy—and was a one-time home to the famed USS Constitution. The shipbuilders and dockworkers in Portsmouth have built and maintained vessels that served in conflicts from the Revolutionary War through today, including playing a decisive role in building our submarine fleet in World War II. Across distant seas and faraway tides, ships built in Portsmouth—powered by everything from winds to atoms—have helped ensure that Granite Staters and all Americans can continue to live free.

The people of Portsmouth also know that inclusiveness is a virtue and a key to our State and our country's strength. As we mark the 400th anniversary of the city of Portsmouth, we also recognize that the Wabanaki people have long called this region their home, thousands of years before the establishment of Portsmouth. Over the

years, a diverse group of people and communities have all made Portsmouth's culture richer and more vibrant. I am grateful for those who are shining a light on all parts of Portsmouth's history, especially the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. The organization has helped make more Granite Staters aware of the long and rich history of New Hampshire's Black community, including in Portsmouth, and deepened our appreciation of the diversity that has made Portsmouth—and New Hampshire—stronger year after year.

While much of Portsmouth has changed over the last four centuries, it still never fails to capture the hearts and imaginations of those who visit. Anyone who has visited Portsmouth even once knows that it is not an easy place to forget. Everyone who has walked Portsmouth's streets, toured the Strawberry Banke Museum to explore our history, taken in a live performance in Prescott Park or the Music Hall, tasted our fresh seafood, or even simply looked out at the Piscataqua River and breathed in the salty ocean air, knows that Portsmouth is a special place.

Portsmouth has endured for four centuries because, across generations, people have believed in the city's promise, worked hard to keep the community strong, and remained dedicated to the notion that Portsmouth's best days are always ahead.

On behalf of Congress and all Granite Staters, I offer my congratulations to the city of Portsmouth on this incredible milestone, and encourage people from across our country to visit this great American city.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN HOLMES

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Lt. Stephen Holmes of Candia as July's Granite Stater of the Month. Stephen, a Marine Corps veteran and a firefighter, is working to destigmatize mental health among first responders by visiting New Hampshire fire departments and sharing his own experience dealing with PTSD.

At age 17, Stephen enlisted in the Marine Corps infantry and went on to serve three tours of duty in Iraq. On his return home 4 years later, he wanted to continue helping others through public service and decided to join the Exeter Fire Department. However, it soon became clear that he was struggling with serious symptoms of anxiety, depression, and anger, and he was diagnosed with PTSD at the Manchester VA.

Stephen took a leave of absence from the Exeter Fire Department due to his mental health, and during this time, Stephen's wife gave him a book on meditation, which turned out to be his saving grace. After trying many other therapeutic techniques recommended by his doctors, Stephen found that meditation worked best for him to help him feel at peace.

Stephen did not stop there. After returning to the Exeter Fire Department, he wanted to use the lessons he had learned to shed more light on the issue of first responders' mental health. With the help of other Fire and EMS professionals, Stephen began visiting one fire station after another to share his mental health struggles and the importance of seeking care. Already, many of his peers have started receiving mental health treatment, Stephen's story having provided the push that they needed and the validation that it is okay to need help.

Many first responders might believe that they cannot seek help, since they are the ones that the rest of us rely on in a crisis. However, first responders often need mental health care precisely because of how high-pressure their jobs are and the suffering that they see, which is why Stephen's work is all the more important—he is sharing his firsthand experiences, breaking down stigma, and letting first responders know that it is okay to seek the care that they need.

Stephen exemplifies the Granite State spirit of commitment to community and person-to-person advocacy to bring about positive change. I am deeply grateful, as I know his fellow first responders are, for his bravery and compassion in sharing his personal experiences, and I look forward to seeing how he continues to change people's lives.●

REMEMBERING BOB PENNEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, my dear friend, Robert Clark Penney, passed away on March 14, 2023. As we prepare to say our final goodbyes at a memorial ceremony this coming weekend, I am among many Alaskans who are reflecting on the legacy Bob created across our state and especially along his beloved Kenai River.

Named Alaska's Ambassador for Sport Fishing by our State legislature in 2017, Bob was known for his success in business and his tireless advocacy of the iconic Kenai River watershed. But, like many Alaskans, he started with humble roots in the lower 48. Bob was born in Portland in 1932, where he showed his business acumen early. At the age of 10, he and his sister Patsy were gifted a pony. While his sister was gathering her friends for a free ride, Bob was on the next block with the pony, selling rides for a dime apiece.

As he grew up, Bob played on the high school tennis team and worked part-time after school hours. He also loved the outdoors, hunting birds and fishing for salmon in the local rivers near Gresham, OR.

Bob answered the call to head north to Alaska in 1951, when the lumber company he worked for expanded into what was then still a U.S. Territory. When Bob was just 19, the company offered him the job of managing their new Alaska prospect. Bob excelled there, but it was a job he took at Wade

Trailer sales in 1956 that inspired him to enter real estate, where he would really make his mark.

After learning the ropes at Wade's, Bob opened Penney Trailer Sales in 1959, selling mobile homes. Bob soon grew the business to include RVs and housing for construction camps. In just a few short years, he was the largest mobile home dealer in our new State. During that time, Bob also began to invest in real estate and building development. He built everything from single-family homes to massive commercial real estate ventures spanning the west coast and Mexico. Through it all, Bob always gave back, seemingly more by the year. His philosophy in both life and business was to "wear the other guy's shoes" and "always leave a little bit for the next person." Bob served on the boards of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, and the Alaska Regional Hospital Board of Trustees. He was a philanthropist, starting the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball, which has now raised more than \$4 million for charitable organizations in our State's largest city.

When the oil industry started to boom in Alaska, Bob felt the State needed greater community involvement to bring attention to this opportunity and others like it. He formed the Organization for the Management of Alaska's Resources—OMAR—later renamed the Resource Development Council—RDC—and included many State leaders in the effort. RDC is now Alaska's largest resource trade association—encompassing the fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas, and tourism industries—and its advocacy remains critical to growing our economy and reaching our potential as a state.

Bob also had a distinguished tenure as a member of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The federally chartered council is critical to the sustainable management of Alaska's commercial fisheries, one of the largest employers and economic drivers in our State. Bob's service on the board contributed to the health and well-being of the largest fishery in America, but his true passion was the conservation of the fishery of the Kenai River in southcentral Alaska.

Bob was always delighted by Kenai Chinooks, or "Kings," the largest salmon in the world. He loved to take friends and visitors out on the river and the pictures of happy anglers and their catch of the day adorned the walls of his riverfront home. Bob realized these fish are an amazing resource for the State and for Alaskans, as more than half our population can access the river by road in a matter of hours. Bob knew that Alaskans could feed their families and fill their freezers from this river in perpetuity if it was managed correctly.

So, in 1986, Bob founded the Kenai River Sportfishing Association. Under his direction, the association grew into Alaska's premier sportfish and fish