

1993, he went on to be stationed at Camp Courtney in Okinawa, Japan, serving as administrative chief, and in 1996, he transferred to Belton, MO, where he helped marines reenlist and transition back to civilian life.

Most notable were Cota's duties that he assumed in 1999 when he was tasked with ensuring color guards for any fallen marine, past or present, in the entire midwest. In 2002, he transferred to 29 Palms, CA, where he led 200 marines and was promoted to the highest enlisted Marine Corps rank, master gunnery sergeant, having received his pin from his mother. Cota was transferred to his final duty station in 2005 to Marine Forces Pacific near Pearl Harbor, HI, until he eventually retired in 2009.

On and off the battlefield, Cota stood boldly on his convictions, and he proudly proclaims his faith in Jesus and his love for his wife Janice, who always supported him and took care of the homefront in his absence. The words in Psalm 145:18 ring true, "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

It is my distinct honor to recognize U.S. Marine Corps MGySgt Jay Cota for his distinguished 30-year record of putting service to others over himself. Montana is lucky to call you one of its own. Thank you for your service, Jay, from a grateful U.S. Senator. You make Montana proud.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JOSEPH KUZARA

- Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing U.S. Air Force CMSgt Joseph "Kim" Kuzara for 36 years of military service to the United States of America.

Kuzara, who calls Roundup, MT, home, first began his military career when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1966 during the buildup of the Vietnam war. He was promptly stationed to Strategic Air Command's 11th Strategic Aerospace Wing headquarters at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma. Kuzara would spend 4 years of Active-Duty service assessing wing training activities and ensuring readiness for wartime missions. He flew on several airborne alert missions that typically lasted 24 hours and also required him to necessitate aerial refueling of the bombers.

During the Vietnam war, Kuzara's time flying on missions resulted in his vertebrae in his lower back being crushed. Ready to take a step back from the bloodshed he witnessed and even photographed as part of his duties, Kuzara returned home to Roundup after discharging from Active Duty. He then joined the Air National Guard unit stationed at the Great Falls International Airport and quickly moved up the ranks as a technical sergeant and was extended the invitation to join the Montana Adjutant General's staff.

Kuzara's time with the "State Staff," as the Montana Adjutant General's team is generally referred to,

meant overseeing all Army and Air National Guard units throughout the State and any efforts they may be involved with. From fighting wildfires, providing support at State facilities during strikes and shortages, assisting homeland security efforts, organizing and narrating airshows, to providing key assistance with an equipment conversion that earned him the Army Commendation Medal, Kuzara served his State and country every chance he got. He was eventually promoted to master and then chief master sergeant, a fitting tribute to his unrelenting dedication to service.

While Kuzara's storied military career is certainly one of valor that deserves our Nation's thanks, he remains a humble man who feels that his brothers and sisters who did not return home from battle are the ones who deserve America's gratitude. Kim, from a grateful U.S. Senator, I want to offer my sincerest thanks. Thank you for taking the oath to serve, your willingness to bear the weight of constant readiness, and your commitment to paying the ultimate sacrifice if duty required. Your service to the United States helped protect our Nation's peace and resolve, and I pray that God blesses you.

It is my distinct honor to recognize U.S. Air Force CMSgt Joseph "Kim" Kuzara for his selfless service to our country. You make Montana proud.●

#### RECOGNIZING SERGEANT BLUFF EYECARE

- Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. For Veterans Day and National Veterans Small Business Week, it is my privilege to recognize Sergeant Bluff EyeCare of Sergeant Bluff, IA, as the veteran-owned Small Business of the Week.

Dr. Ben Uhl has served our great country for more than 24 years. He joined Iowa State University's Army ROTC Program and went on to serve Active Duty in the U.S. Army as a Patriot Missile officer during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon returning home, Ben pursued a degree in optometry at the University of Houston and graduated in 2008. Ben continued his service in the U.S. Army Reserves and deployed to Afghanistan from 2010 to 2011. Following his deployment, Ben returned home to Sioux City and joined the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing in 2013. He received a promotion to full colonel in February 2024 and is currently serving at Joint Forces Headquarters at Camp Dodge.

Sergeant Bluff EyeCare first opened its doors in 2007, and Dr. Uhl joined the business in 2008 before eventually purchasing it in 2014. He immediately took action by expanding the business and

increasing its community involvement. He acquired a stand-alone building and invested in high-tech optometry equipment. The company offers primary care, glasses and contacts, as well as medical optometry for all ages. Sergeant Bluff EyeCare has expanded to five locations across Iowa and Nebraska, with 35 staff members, including 6 doctors, dedicated to providing high-quality optometric care.

Dr. Uhl and his wife Sarah have made it a priority to support their community. Together, they started the Ben Uhl and Sarah Murray Family Scholarship Fund to support educational advancement in the community. In addition, they have worked to support the Siouxland Freedom Park's annual fundraiser, as well as the Siouxland Humane Society, the Gospel Mission food pantry, and autism awareness initiatives. In 2012, the Iowa Optometric Association named Ben the Young Optometrist of the Year. The following year, the Northwest AEA presented Ben and the Sergeant Bluff EyeCare team with the "Friends of Preschool" award for their dedication to providing vision screenings to schools across Iowa. In 2019, the 185th Medical Group selected Ben as Officer of the Year. Almost every year since 2016, the University of Houston's Cougar 100 Award list has recognized Ben and Sergeant Bluff EyeCare among one of the top 100 grossing alumni-owned businesses. Next year, Sergeant Bluff EyeCare will celebrate its 18th anniversary.

Sergeant Bluff EyeCare has become an integral part of the Woodbury County community through its quality care and dedication to supporting Iowa's communities. I want to thank Dr. Ben Uhl, his wife Sarah, and their family for all their work and sacrifices in service to our country. Dr. Uhl's dedication to both his country and community is inspirational. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### HONORING KEVIN MELVIN GROSSHEIM

- Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today we honor Park Ranger Kevin Melvin Grossheim of Kabetogama, MN. His bravery and decades of service to Voyageurs National Park were unparalleled. Ranger Grossheim was a devoted law enforcement officer and emergency services volunteer whose actions exemplified heroism.

On October 6, 2024, Ranger Grossheim courageously responded to a distress call on Namakan Lake, rescuing a family of three stranded near Birch Cove Island. Tragically, Ranger Grossheim lost his life when his boat capsized in the high winds and rough waters.

Ranger Grossheim was a pillar of the community and a longtime park ranger, beginning his career with the National Park Service in Colorado and his law enforcement career in Boston. After working in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore for 5 years, he