

movement. He has served on the executive committee of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, Working Rhode Island, the Providence Central Labor Committee, and as a national vice president for the American Federation of Teachers. He was recently awarded the Dante F. Mollo Labor United Award from the United Way of Rhode Island.

We thank him for his friendship and kindness over many years and for his great inspiration. Frank always demonstrated that, even during the most contentious times, you can find ways to work collaboratively. That is a lesson that resonates during these challenging times and an example that we should follow.

We join countless other Rhode Islanders in wishing Frank a happy and healthy retirement in the company of his wife Sharon and their children and grandchildren. He has earned it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING REPAINT STUDIOS

• 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. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Repaint Studios of Hampton, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

At the beginning of 2021, Billie Asmus left her career in the agriculture industry to pursue furniture refinishing and refurbishing full-time while caring for her first child. As time went on, Billie became acutely aware of the waste and mess generated by disposable plastic paint trays and was motivated to explore sustainable alternatives that wasn't available in the market.

Billie returned to school to pursue a sustainable alternative to paint trays when she was pregnant with her second child. She entered a pitch competition and won third place for her concept: the Repaint Tray. Encouraged by the success and feedback, Billie filed the nonprovisional patent for the Repaint Tray and found a manufacturing team that helped her expand her business. She attended meetings with her newborn strapped to her chest and was committed to following through what would later be categorized as groundbreaking innovation. Later that year, Billie publicly announced the Repaint Tray at the Iowa EntreFEST pitch competition, secured third place, and earned recognition as one of Iowa's Top 10 Startups.

After winning the Lowe's Global Blue Product Pitch Competition in December 2023, Repaint Studios officially launched the Repaint Tray to the market in February 2024. In August, Repaint Studios won first place at the Pappajohn Iowa Entrepreneurial Venture Competition. The company now

sells Repaint Trays, lids, and liners worldwide through its online marketplace. Partnering with six independent retailers, as well as Lowe's and Home Depot, Repaint Studios expanded its reach and will launch in Lowe's stores nationwide, including all locations in Iowa, later this year.

After graduating from the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at North Iowa Area Community College, Billie returned to the venture school program as a coach. In this role, she helps new entrepreneurs navigate the process and challenges of product-based manufacturing. Repaint Studios has also created a giveback program to recycle all damaged products. Billie has partnered with TerraCycle, a global leader in recycling, to ensure Repaint Studios materials are repurposed for the construction of accessible playgrounds with features for children with disabilities. Today, Repaint Studios has two community-based employees and looks forward to celebrating its third anniversary next year.

Repaint Studio's commitment to sustainability and customer service is inspiring. I want to congratulate Billie, her family, and the entire team at Repaint Studios for their dedication to innovative problem-solving and entrepreneurship. I look forward to seeing their continued success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW GREGG

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Matthew "Matty" Gregg of Nashua as October's Granite Stater of the Month. Matty ran the entire length of New Hampshire earlier this month—230 miles—to raise awareness about hunger in our state.

Matty's run was motivated by his desire to draw attention to the thousands of Granite Staters who experience food insecurity, to inspire others to help those in need, and to encourage State government leaders to evaluate what more they could do to address hunger. He raised funds for NH Hunger Solutions, which connects Granite State families with resources, and also highlighted additional organizations that address food insecurity. For instance, Matty spotlighted White Mountains Community College, which allows all students to eat for free, and the Manchester Food Collaborative, which focuses on expanding access to healthy food for everyone in Manchester while reducing food waste. Matty is also focused on ending the stigma that can sometimes be associated with seeking help, whether it is receiving free lunch at school or visiting a food bank.

Matty's 230-mile New Hampshire run took 8 days, and he made 11 stops. He was cheered on by students from local schools at his stops up and down the State—in his hometown of Nashua, 100 students from Mt. Pleasant Elementary came to his stop and even ran with him for a few minutes. Matty's run for hunger was not the first time that he has combined his love of run-

ning with his passion for making a difference. In 2018, he ran across America for the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, running more than 5,245 miles and raising thousands of dollars. According to Matty, these extreme runs act like "lightning rods" to draw attention to a cause, and over the past decade, he has raised over \$600,000 for different charities. He says that the support of his family—including from his wife Alicia and his children Noah, Ethan, and Emma—makes it easier to endure the grueling distances.

Matty's dedication to ending hunger in our State is a true example of the New Hampshire spirit of taking action to address issues affecting our communities. His creativity and willingness to—literally—go the extra mile to help more people get the food that they need is why I am proud to name him Granite Stater of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO LINDA SARETTE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Linda Sarette of Sanbornton as November's Granite Stater of the Month. Linda has been tending the gardens at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery since 2019, ensuring that the final resting place of fallen servicemembers is a place of beauty and calm.

Linda was raised to understand the value of service. Her father served in the Coast Guard, and after his death in 2019, he was buried at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen. The cemetery is a place that is deeply important to our State, where we can reflect on the brave Granite Staters who gave the words "Live Free or Die" true meaning. Linda noticed that there was no garden in the section that her father was buried in, and the staff told her that they would put one in if she would care for it—and she has been tending gardens at the cemetery ever since. Linda has been gardening for her entire life, and she uses her knowledge and skills to plant flowers, weed, and trim the hedges at the more than 100 gardens throughout the cemetery, working up to 4 days a week in the spring.

Over the years, Linda has found a family of volunteers at the cemetery. She has gotten to know many of the people that come to visit loved ones at the cemetery. Throughout the years, different people have also joined Linda in volunteering to take care of the gardens, but regardless of whether other volunteers are there, she has remained a constant presence. Linda is there on quiet days, comforting families going through a difficult time, and she is there on holidays to place wreaths and flags at each grave.

Linda's commitment to ensuring that all fallen servicemembers are shown dignity at their final resting place is a beautiful example of the Granite State spirit of showing respect toward those who serve, in life and in death. Her kindness in supporting the