

personal and professional life that has taken him across the country and around the world. His myriad of experiences in the private sector and across the globe has made him such an innovative economic development expert and a valued contributor to me. Peter is kind and courteous to a fault. We would be hard pressed to find anyone who has met him who doesn't like him. He has a great capacity to put people at ease, and people just generally like to be around him, as evidenced by his multitude of friends and acquaintances. It is probably because the best friendship qualities run deep in Peter: He is loyal and can be tough when needs be, but he is also a cheerful encourager.

Peter has been a great asset to me, my staff and the Senate throughout his service to Idaho and the Nation, and I will miss him greatly. However, I wish my friend and his wife Kris great happiness throughout his retirement. I am hopeful that retirement will provide them more time to spend with their family, including their two children Katy and Paul, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. Peter's retirement is a well-deserved respite for his years of hard work for Idahoans and our country. Thank you, Peter, for your great service and extraordinary friendship.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFT WORKERS LOCAL 04

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize the 100th anniversary of the Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers, BAC, Local 04 of South Dakota Local 04 has served the western region of South Dakota with a sterling dedication to the rights of its members. The Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers is nationally recognized as the oldest continuous union serving both the United States and Canada. The Local 04 unites trowel trades craftworkers throughout West River South Dakota.

Throughout their existence, Local 04 has served the West River region of South Dakota with a steadfast commitment to its trade. Its membership has always been modest in size, today consisting of 72 members, yet the BAC is dedicated to protecting the working rights of its members. To date, Local 04 has negotiated fair wages, safe working conditions and retirement benefits.

I applaud Local 04 for its dedication to ensuring its members' rights and working towards a higher quality of life. I am honored to recognize this historic milestone of 100 years.●

##### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JEFFREY TALIAFERRO

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize

the work and military service of COL Jeffrey Taliaferro, who is concluding a 2-year stint as commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base. During the past 2 years, Colonel Taliaferro has commanded the largest B-1 combat wing in the U.S. Air Force and will now move on to the Pentagon as Chief, Combat Forces Division at Headquarters, USAF-A8PC.

Colonel Taliaferro's command tenure at Ellsworth Air Force Base is the latest in a long line of impressive assignments. He received his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1989 and has served in a variety of flying and staff positions. His staff experience includes positions with U.S. Air Force headquarters, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and U.S. Central Command. He is a command pilot with over 2,400 flight hours in the B-1 and T-38.

During his 2 years at Ellsworth Air Force Base, a large number of base personnel have been deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Odyssey Dawn, as well as numerous other missions. During my years in Congress, I have always been impressed with the high degree of patriotism, expertise, commitment and dedication of the Ellsworth personnel and the base's leadership command. Those qualities have been continued in the great leadership of Colonel Taliaferro.

I have appreciated Colonel Taliaferro's work on a number of issues impacting Ellsworth Air Force Base and the Air Force in general. He has promoted and developed great relationships with the South Dakota congressional delegation and their staffs, with South Dakota State officials, Black Hills mayors and local officials, as well as the media and local citizens. He has worked to communicate the intricacies and details of a number of issues to officials and the general public, including the proposed expansion of the Powder River Training Complex, privatization of base housing to the local community, the status and effectiveness of the B-1 Lancer fleet, the status of the new MQ-9 mission at Ellsworth, and efforts to support deployed personnel and their families.

Colonel Taliaferro has provided oversight on a number of infrastructure changes at Ellsworth during his command and has continued to enhance the great relationship between Ellsworth Air Force Base and the local communities. Few bases enjoy such a friendly working relationship with local businesses and the general public as Ellsworth does with the Black Hills communities, and I commend Colonel Taliaferro for his ability to promote this relationship.

I have appreciated the insight and input from Colonel Taliaferro and his staff over the past 2 years. I have had the opportunity to visit the base on a number of occasions during Colonel Taliaferro's time at Ellsworth, and I appreciated his candor. He is a true pa-

triot and a tremendous asset to the U.S. Air Force. I commend Colonel Taliaferro for his service to Ellsworth Air Force Base and wish him, Ellie, and their family all the best in future endeavors.●

#### REMEMBERING BETTY HOLLANDER

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, on April 7, a pall passed over my hometown of Stamford, CT, when the news began to spread that Mrs. Betty Ruth Hollander, one of its leading citizens and a good friend of mine and my family, had passed away peacefully. A pioneer, entrepreneur, philanthropist, inventor, and a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, Mrs. Hollander lived a truly remarkable life that touched and inspired almost everyone she met. Her passing is a great loss not just for those of us who were lucky enough to know her personally, but for the entire Stamford community and well beyond.

In 1962, while raising four young children, Betty Hollander founded Omega Engineering out of her kitchen in Stamford. At a time when women faced pervasive discrimination in many industries, Betty utilized her steady work ethic and sharp business acumen to grow Omega from a firm focused on manufacturing a single line of thermocouples to a globally recognized business that produces over 100,000 state-of-the-art products for measurement and control.

Omega's record of success gave Betty the opportunity to serve on a number of corporate boards, including Target Corporation—then Dayton Hudson Corporation—Peoples United Bank and Southern New England Telephone. She was also deeply involved with many charities, and served on the boards of Yale New Haven Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Vincent Hospital, Bridgeport, CT, among many other corporations and nonprofit organizations.

Alongside all her success and busy schedule, Betty remained deeply committed to her family. Even when serving as corporate executive officer of Omega, when asked her occupation Mrs. Hollander would reply that she was "a wife and mother." Later, she was able to add "grandmother" to the title. These, she insisted, were the most important roles she ever played. In 1952, she married Milton Bernard Hollander, her best friend since high school, beginning a strong 58-year marriage characterized by extraordinary mutual devotion. Together, they had four children, Eva Lynn, Steven, Aaron, and Joel, and nine grandchildren.

To get a sense of the truly exemplary person that Betty Hollander was, all you need to do is look over an online forum set up to honor her memory. Already, over 100 individuals from all walks of life have taken the time to express their condolences and share their favorite memories of Betty. One longtime employee in Omega's shipping department remembers that, no matter