

that I have introduced with my colleague Senator CANTWELL. Few issues are as important to the American people as the availability of good jobs in our communities. Unemployment in Maine and across the country remains unacceptably high. We must continue working together to identify ways to improve job training initiatives to help people find jobs in fields where jobs exist.

I have met with many business owners in Maine who have jobs available but cannot find qualified and trained workers to fill these vacant positions. One way for employees to acquire the skills needed to thrive in in-demand fields is through apprenticeship programs. Apprentices get hands-on experience that is invaluable to employers and can help workers secure a good-paying job.

According to the Congressional Research Service, approximately 44,000 individuals graduated from apprenticeship programs in 2013 nearly 1,000 of those individuals were from Maine. However, that number is likely insufficient to meet tomorrow's needs. One manufacturer in Maine estimates that nearly 2.7 million manufacturing employees are expected to retire in the next decade. We must do all we can to ensure that an adequate pool of skilled workers is available to fill these good-paying jobs.

Our bill helps achieve this goal by giving tax credits to businesses that hire apprentices. To ensure that workers are given adequate time to prove their value, the apprentice must be employed for 7 months in order for a business to claim the credit. Our bill also provides incentives for experienced workers who spend at least 20 percent of their time passing their hard-earned knowledge on to the next generation. These workers would be allowed to receive some retirement income early, without facing tax penalties. Finally, our bill ensures that the brave men and women who defend our country are given credit for the skills they learn while serving. Training received while serving in the Armed Forces would count toward an apprentice's training requirement.

This bill would help better align the needs of our Nation's employers with potential employees to promote hiring and the creation of new jobs. I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I am pleased to join Senator CANTWELL in introducing it.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr President, I wish to recognize a noble Missourian, the spirited and courageous Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman. Fifty years ago today, this body confirmed Mrs. Freeman as President Lyndon B. Johnson's choice to be the first female Commissioner to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She served honorably in this capacity for 16 years, hav-

ing been reappointed by Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

By the time President Johnson first nominated Mrs. Freeman to the Civil Rights Commission, she had worked tirelessly to end racial discrimination and secure equality, justice and fairness for every citizen. Born Marie Frankie Muse on November 24, 1916 in Danville, VA to parents who experienced the benefits of formal education and who in turn supported their daughter's educational pursuits, Frankie was educated in Virginia and attended college at the distinguished and well-known historically black college Hampton University. Almost 10 years after she started college, Frankie began her law school career at Howard University School of Law, where she graduated second in her class. Soon afterward, Frankie settled in St. Louis, MO, and began her successful career as a civil rights attorney. She worked on a variety of important civil rights issues ranging from education to hiring practices. Most notably in 1954, Frankie argued and won the fight against racial discrimination in public housing in the landmark NAACP case *Davis et al. v. St. Louis Housing Authority*. The following year, Frankie became the first associate general counsel of the St. Louis Housing Authority and Land Clearance Authority. Three years later in 1958, she joined the Missouri advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The quality and breadth of her work combined with her passion for advocacy eventually led to her selection as a U.S. Civil Rights commissioner.

In the five decades since her historic appointment, Frankie's energy and devotion to justice has not diminished. She has received appointments from former Presidents to serve on other service-related commissions. In addition, she worked as a municipal court judge for many years and was instrumental in the formation of the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights, an organization that seeks to ensure the Federal Government's vigilance in its enforcement of anti-discrimination laws. In addition to this public service, Frankie wrote a book about her storied life and career. Just 6 years ago at the age of 92, she retired after spending the latter part of her career in private practice. Not surprisingly, even retirement has not slowed Frankie down. She remains active on a number of urban and community service-based social welfare boards.

To countless residents of my State and across the country, Frankie Muse Freeman is a hero. She is a woman who grew up in Jim Crow-era South when racial segregation was legal. Growing up, if Frankie wanted to go somewhere, her options were to either walk or take the segregated streetcar. She witnessed first hand the harsh consequences of racial inequality and she chose to devote her entire career to ending that injustice. Frankie is an inspiration to

so many Americans, across all racial lines, and to me personally. She is a public servant whom my children and grandchildren can look up to. Because of leaders like her, who fought and sacrificed but ultimately believed in our country's ability to empathize and change, we are all better off and our lives more enriched.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman on the 50th anniversary of her Senate confirmation to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. In addition, I ask my colleagues to recognize Frankie's distinguished service to the people of this country.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### NEAL'S CAFÉ 70TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. I wish to celebrate 70 years of down-home cooking at Neal's CAFÉ in Springdale, AR.

Opened in 1944 by Toy and Bertha Neal, the restaurant is currently run by the family's fourth generation. Over the last 70 years, Neal's Café has been one of the most popular dining spots in northwest Arkansas.

Neal's is not just known for its menu of delicious comfort food. It is also a popular gathering spot for locals to catch-up and discuss family life, politics and the Razorbacks chances on the football field this week.

It is hard to miss the pink exterior of Neal's Café as you drive down N. Thompson Street. When you park your vehicle and step inside Neal's, the unique décor of the restaurant and the aroma of fried chicken immediately hit you. While fried chicken is among the most popular dishes at Neal's Café, visitors come from far and wide for the homemade pies as well.

Neal's Café is so much more than a restaurant. It is an integral part of the Springdale community. The Neal family has worked relentlessly to make it that way.

As someone who has experience starting a family business, I know how challenging of an endeavor it is to get off the ground, much less be successful to the level that the Neal family has been for the past 70 years. It is a testament to the family's commitment to quality, service and dedication to the community.

As the Neal family celebrates 70 years of operating Neal's Café, I would like to extend my wishes for many more years of serving food and fellowship at their Springdale institution.

I look forward to stopping by for some fried chicken and a slice of coconut cream pie very soon.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JAY AND MARY SAUNDERS

• Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, each year, I have the honor of recognizing outstanding parents who have chosen to adopt as Angels in Adoption. I am