

global economy, improve the region's infrastructure, and build the Appalachian Development Highway System.

In working to make the region more economically competitive, ARC's model of development, based on community support, creates sustainable, lifelong solutions that likewise stress the value of service at all levels. The hundreds of annual projects funded by ARC, all of which address one or more of the strategic plan's goals, further demonstrate the intrinsic significance of public service and its vital role in planning for a better future.

ARC approves funding for more than 400 projects annually throughout the 13-State region, including both highway projects and access road projects. The projects have invested funding and resources in a range of sectors that directly impact economic development in the Appalachian region, including child development, community infrastructure, transportation, arts and culture, career and technical education.

Maryland's projects have included the formation of Allegany County Connect 2 Compete, created to boost educational achievement and attainment, and increasing health-care access through Allegany County Public Health Accreditation. Another federally funded program in Maryland, HRDC Head Start Facility, provides services to low-income families with small children, promoting school readiness, health, and parent involvement in an educational environment. In Frostburg, a project called Frostburg Grows: Grow it Local Greenhouse involves conversion of unused mined land into an innovative five-acre greenhouse and shade house complex, designed to create additional job opportunities, reduce food insecurity, and provide local and healthy food to the residents of Western Maryland.

As Hillary Clinton once remarked, "Aid chases need; investment chases opportunity." Al internalized this message, focusing on the implementation and improvement of reforms to foster, protect, and fully benefit the lives of Marylanders. This dedication to public service helped define and differentiate the various communities he served, and illustrates the many, varied possibilities of public service—not limited to elected office. Serving on scores of local, State, and national committees only cemented Al's involvement in civic life.

While Al championed community involvement and public service, ARC's structure also ensures an active Federal-State-local partnership rooted in cooperation. One of ARC's guiding principles is to support inclusive local decisionmaking, and to cultivate a collaborative problem-solving culture in which community achievements are made possible through collective efforts and investments. ARC's development of new strategic plans relies heavily on obtaining citizen input on high-priority regional issues, promoting homegrown solutions. ARC

awards program grants to State and local agencies, governmental entities, local governing boards, and nonprofit organizations: targeting the region's specific needs, and executing plans that reinforce the necessity of teamwork and commitment.

Al, too, recognized the fundamental importance of working together to strengthen the capacity of interdependent elements: individual leaders, organizations, and the community as a whole. Working in tandem, broad-based leadership structures and institutions not only spur change but also encourage the establishment of new business and economic opportunities that can strengthen a community while diversifying its base.

Just as ARC's strategy creates a framework for building on past accomplishments to help move Appalachia forward, so, too, did Al bridge his vision of the rich, fruitful past with his present—capitalizing on existing assets and acknowledging the importance of public service in improving communities. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the contributions Al made to the State of Maryland and to our Nation.●

CONGRATULATING BOB CASHELL

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mayor Bob Cashell, of Reno, on his retirement. After serving as the mayor of Reno for 12 years, Mayor Cashell presided over his last city council meeting on November 12, 2014. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him not only as a colleague but also as a friend on his retirement after more than 35 years of hard work and dedication to the Silver State.

A devoted husband and proud father of four, Mayor Cashell stands as a shining example of someone who has dedicated his life to serving his community. Upon graduating from the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX, with a bachelor's degree in business, Mayor Cashell moved to Reno to work as a truckdriver and salesman for a small refining company in 1961. Several years after moving to Nevada, Mayor Cashell and his colleagues were able to purchase a small casino-restaurant in 1967, which would later become known as Boomtown Casino and Hotel. His impressive business expertise has allowed him to continue on to manage and own several large properties across Nevada and the United States. Serving as the chairman of the board for his business, Cashell Enterprises, a hotel casino and management company, he quickly became a business leader within the local gaming community. After a long and distinguished career in gaming, Mayor Cashell decided that he also wanted to pursue a new endeavor and give back to his community.

Mayor Cashell's public career began in 1979 when he ran for the University of Nevada System Board of Regents and was subsequently elected chairman

by his peers. After his tenure as a respected member of the board, Mayor Cashell was then elected Lieutenant Governor for the State of Nevada in 1982. In his role as Lieutenant Governor, he was instrumental in the founding of the Nevada Commission on Economic Development and the Nevada Commission on Tourism—both of which he served on as chairman. Upon being sworn in as mayor on November 13, 2002, Mayor Cashell worked diligently to ensure the city continues to thrive and to make Reno the renowned place for gaming that it is today. His roles in establishing the Truckee River Whitewater Park, opening the Community Assistance Center for the homeless, helping to extend the Reno Bowler's Convention contract, and founding the YMCA Youth Soccer League are just a few of the accomplishments that exemplify the legacy that Mayor Cashell will leave behind upon his retirement.

His service to the Reno community goes far beyond the many positions he has held in the Silver State over the years. Mayor Cashell also served his country in the U.S. Air Force. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mayor Cashell for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication to his family and community earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve America but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home.

I am grateful for his dedication and commitment to the people of Reno and to the State of Nevada. He personifies the highest standards of leadership and community service and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. Today, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Mayor Cashell on his retirement, and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada an even better place. I offer my best wishes to Mayor Cashell and his wife Nancy for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL CHARLES H. JACOBY, JR.

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in a few short weeks a thoughtful and inspirational military leader will retire after serving his country proudly for 36 years. Today I recognize and commend my good friend GEN Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., of the U.S. Army for his exceptional leadership over those 36 years, most recently in his role as commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command. It has been a tremendous pleasure to work closely with General Jacoby. I know many of my