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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

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call to serve by joining our Nation’s Army at the age of 19 years old. Serving in the Army’s 10th Mountain Division as an infantryman allowed Private Castaneda to excel and leave a unique legacy of honor. Since his enlistment, Private Castaneda has been honored with numerous awards outlining his commitment to our country, such as the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

The legacy of Private Castaneda will undeniably continue through his mother and grandfather he leaves behind. It is with great pride and homage we recognize Private Christopher J. Castaneda. May we never forget his service and sacrifice to protect our country.

REMEMBERING ANITA DATAR

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to the life of Anita Ashok Datar—a loving mother, beloved daughter and sister, and dedicated humanitarian from Takoma Park in my home State of Maryland. She was one of 19 victims killed on November 20 in a terrorist attack in Mali.

Anita was in the unique position of service to others, both at home and abroad. She was born in Massachusetts and raised in Flanders, NJ. Her friends and classmates remember her as kind and smart, “one of the good ones.” After she graduated from Rutgers University, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal—the beginning of her career helping the world’s most disadvantaged.

From there, she went back to school to obtain master’s degrees in public health and public administration and began her work improving the lives of the poorest as a global health professional with expertise in reproductive health, family planning, and HIV prevention and treatment. Ms. Datar spent over a decade working on critical development projects in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.

As my colleagues know, Mali has been in turmoil for several years. It is the location of the world’s most dangerous peacekeeping mission. Despite the presence of a United Nations peacekeeping mission and a French-led military operation, terrorists have continued to carry out periodic attacks on Malian national forces.

Despite these dangers, Ms. Datar, who was serving as a senior director for field programs at Palladium, went to Mali as a U.S. Agency for International Development contractor to help those in need. Her dedication to seeing that vulnerable populations are not forgotten, overlooked, or marginalized epitomizes public service, and it exemplifies the best of American values and ideals.

For that, she will always be remembered.

The attack on the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako was nothing more than a senseless act undertaken by people who have no compassion and clearly no regard for human life. We cannot and will not let actions like this stop us from pursuing the mission that people like Anita Datar are so passionate about: improving the lives of the poorest of the poor.

There is no better way to honor her legacy than to continue to help the needy, the disenfranchised, and those at risk both here at home and around the world.

Anita is survived by her 7-year-old son, a brother, her parents, and countless friends and colleagues. In addition to offering our condolences, we must commit to continuing her work and remembering the sacrifices that she and countless other development workers make each and every day.

REMEMBERING KATE ROGERS MCCARTHY

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise today to honor a distinguished Oregonian who made it her life’s work to protect many of Oregon’s and the Nation’s most beautiful and majestic natural places. Kate Rogers McCarthy, a lifelong conservationist, activist, and friend, passed away in her hometown of Parkdale, OR. Born in 1917 adjacent to the snow-capped peaks of Mount Hood in Parkdale, Kate spent most of her life in awe of the natural beauty that surrounded her. Kate drew from that passion as she worked to preserve many of Oregon’s most iconic outdoor spaces, eventually taking on many leadership roles in conservation groups at the State and national levels.

Growing up with the wilderness of Mount Hood as her backyard, Kate learned the value of nature and the importance of protecting our natural treasures. By the time she was in high school, Kate and her younger sister Betty ran an outdoor recreation camp for girls on the family property that introduced those girls to the beauty of Mount Hood. Kate attended Reed College, Yale Nursing School, and the University of Oregon Medical School. After earning her degrees and with new commercial development threatening the preservation of the Mount Hood wilderness, Kate began her lifelong campaign to preserve the lands she loved.

In the mid-1970s, with development rapidly expanding into wild areas near Mount Hood, Kate and a group of local residents formed a Parkdale resident campaign to encourage county representatives to vote on zoning options. Thanks to her diligence and that of the other residents, the county voted to protect agricultural zones. Agricultural zoning still will protect the land and in the upper valley today. In 1977, Kate gathered a few friends and founded the Hood River Valley Residents Committee. The committee grew to 1,200 members under Kate’s leadership and continues to protect the natural spaces that are so unique to Oregon.

A tireless advocate and conservationist, Kate was involved in a multitude of other conservation groups as well. She served as a member of the Oregon Natural Resources Council, what is now Oregon Wild; the Board of the Oregon Environmental Council; and Friends of the Columbia Gorge. She was also a charter member of 1000 Women in Wildlife, and forests of Mount Hood that were still greater involvement by citizens in the protection of Mount Hood, Kate helped form Friends of Mount Hood, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the alpine meadows, wetlands, and forests of Mount Hood by working with the Forest Service and the Oregon congressional delegation.

In 2002, Kate McCarthy was recognized as a Women of Distinction honoree by the soroptimists of Hood River for making a difference in the lives of women and girls in her local community. She also received the highest award given by the Mazamas Mountaineering Club, becoming only the 41st person given the top award since the club was founded two decades years. Kate worked closely with local organizations, as well as my office, to protect the north side of Mount Hood and Cooper Spur from a massive destination resort in the Hood River Valley. After years of hard-fought battles, Congress passed the Mount Hood Wilderness bill. The bill protects the more than 200,000 acres of wilderness and rivers in the Hood River Valley, an accomplishment I am proud to have been a part of.

Because of Kate’s lifetime of work to protect some of our most beautiful wetlands, forests, wildlife, and farms, she has given Oregonians and people from around the world opportunities to experience Oregon’s natural splendor for generations to come. Kate McCarthy, a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend, and advocate of the natural beauty around her, deserves the utmost appreciation for a life fully lived. I honor the prolific life of Kate McCarthy and express my gratitude for her everlasting impact on our State and Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KATHARINE BLODGETT GEBBIE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Katharine Blodgett Gebbie, the past director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s—NIST—Physics Laboratory and its successor, the Physical Measurement Laboratory. On December 10, 2015, the Precision Measurement Laboratory at NIST’s Boulder campus will be formally renamed in honor of Dr. Gebbie, the first time in more than 50 years that a major NIST building has been named for an individual. This incredible recognition underscores and celebrates Dr. Gebbie’s 45 years of service to NIST and her contributions on behalf of the scientific community and our Nation.

At a time when a much smaller percentage of women were a part of the
American workforce and pursued advanced academic degrees. Dr. Gebbie received an undergraduate degree in physics from Bryn Mawr. She went on to receive a B.S. in astronomy and a Ph.D. in physics from University College. Gebbie began her career in 1966 by doing astrophysics research on the Joint Institute for Lab Physics—JILA—a cooperative enterprise between the University of Colorado at Boulder and NIST. She later joined NIST as a physicist in 1968, working in the Chemistry Division of the JILA. Dr. Gebbie’s ascent into a leadership role began in 1981, when she was named as a scientific assistant at the National Measurement Laboratory. In 1983, she became a program analyst for then-NIST Director Ernst Ambler and his deputy, Ray Kammer. In 1985, Dr. Ambler appointed Dr. Gebbie as the chief of JILA’s quantum physics division, and in 1989, she was named as acting director of the new NIST Center for Atomic Time and Frequency Standards. Under her management, the NIST physics laboratory flourished. Her extensive support for her staff in the form of increased funding, encouragement, and logistical support contributed to an overall environment of scientific freedom, creativity, and innovation. The physics laboratory’s scientific advances under her directorship are too numerous to recount here. Chief among them were progress in atomic clock technology, nanotechnology, advanced research on ultra-cold matter, and Bose-Einstein condensation—all of which prompted developments in a variety of scientific fields and helped to further establish NIST’s status as “America’s laboratory.”

Out of this atmosphere, an impressive four physicists in Dr. Gebbie’s organizational unit—Bill Phillips, Jan Hall, Eric Cornell, and David Wineland—were awarded Nobel Prizes between 1997 and 2012. Other scientists honored under her leadership include MacArthur Fellowship winners Debbie Jin and Ana Maria Rey and International Union of Pure & Applied Physics—IUPAP—Young Scientist Prize winners Till Rosenband, Ham Spielman, Jacob Taylor, and Gretchen Campbell. Among Dr. Gebbie’s greatest contributions to the scientific community include her early promotion of the importance of sharing scientific data at NIST through the laboratory’s Electronic Commerce in Scientific & Engineering Data program and her support of a broad range of NIST initiatives and external programming like the Center for Nanoscale Science & Technology and the Joint Quantum Institute, a research partnership between the University of Maryland and NIST, founded in 2006.

Perhaps the most aspect of Dr. Gebbie’s legacy, however, will be the programs she pioneered to support diversity and her tireless efforts to promote the inclusion of women and minorities in so-called STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—fields around the country. In 1993, NIST implemented the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships—SURF—program, aimed at integrating under-represented minorities into the laboratory, allowing students to participate in the cutting-edge scientific and mathematical research at NIST. The program has since expanded to every NIST laboratory and is jointly funded by the National Science Foundation.  

For her contributions to the scientific community and to the Nation, Dr. Gebbie has been recognized with numerous accolades, including the Women in Science & Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award, the Presidential Rank Awards for Meritorious Senior Executives, the Partnership for Public Service’s Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Career Achievement Award, the Women in Science & Engineering WISE Award, and two Department of Commerce Gold Medals. She also serves as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a fellow of the American Physical Society, a fellow of the Washington Academy of Sciences, and she previously participated in the 2nd IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. Gebbie and in celebrating her legacy as one of America’s scientific community’s trailblazers. Her work will undoubtedly open the doors for countless scientists to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW BROWN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Matthew Brown for his hard work as an intern in my Rock Springs Office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Matthew is from Laramie, WY, and a graduate of Laramie High School. He received a degree in history from the University of Wyoming. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Matthew for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.

TRIBUTE TO ADAM STAHL

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Adam Stahl for his hard work as an intern in my Republican Policy Committee office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Adam is from Guilford, CT, and a graduate of the University of Rochester, where he majored in history. He recently received a Master of Philosophy, Russian, and East European Studies degree from the University of Oxford. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.