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TRIBUTE TO DAVID JOST

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to David Jost for his hard work as an intern in my Riverton office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

David is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where he received a B.A. in psychology, B.S. in sociology, and M.S. in neurophysiology. David has also received a master of natural resources from Virginia Tech. 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 David 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 THE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CJI

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the elementary students of Chester-Joplin-Inverness, CJI. These students took part in Chester's annual Harvest 4 Hunger Campaign. All together, they gathered 2136.5 pounds of nonperishable food.

CJI is a combination of three towns up on what we call the Highline in Montana. The towns are Chester, Joplin, and Inverness. These three towns have come together to make one great school to serve the students of the area.

There are 108 elementary students at CJI, and they did such a wonderful thing for families in the area. Harvest 4 Hunger is a campaign operated by CHS to gather nonperishable food items and money donations to give to local charities to feed families in need.

Now I hear the students had a little motivation for bringing food in. The winning classes at the end of each week were rewarded with a pizza party. There is no better motivation than a pizza party. I read a lot of quotes from the kids, and it sounds like they had a great time collecting the food, and they were happy to get the chance to help people in need. One student told their teacher Miss Manion, That is what Hawks do.

It makes me so proud to see young Montanans helping out their communities. These students did such a wonderful thing. Great job, and God bless.●

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Veterans Guest

House for its unwavering commitment and loyalty to providing our servicemembers, veterans, and their families lodging while they address their own health care needs at medical facilities throughout northern Nevada. The Veterans Guest House is one of a kind for our great State and is an invaluable resource to our military community.

The Veterans Guest House was founded over two decades ago when a mother and her children were found sleeping in their car while their veteran father was in the intensive care unit at the local VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. In the early 1990s, founders of the Veterans Guest House—Chuck Fulkerson, Dick Rhyno, Thomas Purkey, Minor Kelso, Robert Crowell, Esq., Wally Willson, Lois Crocker, David Parsons, Joseph Rooney, Charles Grundy, Jes Barbera, Don Anderson, Lew Carnahan, Ben Duncan, Jeani Hunt, Jim Martin, Manuel Muniz, Rick Sorenson, Ensio Tosolini, Joe Scamihorn, William Wood, Len Crocker, Kit McGrath, Richard Shuster, Elaine McNeill, Rand Tanner, Chester Henry, and Ted Buchwald—realized that many veterans and their families lacked a place to stay while family members received medical treatment, and in 1994, they created the Spouse House. By 1998, the facility grew to offer five beds for veterans and their families.

In 2002, the facility was officially named the Veterans Guest House, and on Veterans Day in 2004, with only private donations, the organization purchased and renovated a 3-story home across the street from the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. This facility now accommodates up to 17 guests. The Veterans Guest House provides both long-term and short-term lodging to veterans and their families for various situations, including veterans receiving outpatient care, families of veterans who are hospitalized, and veterans' immediate family members who are receiving medical treatment as an inpatient or outpatient. In the 22 years since its inception, the Veterans Guest House has served over 55,000 nights to veterans, veteran spouses, and veteran families.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but those at the Veterans Guest House have gone above and beyond to show their appreciation. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to chief executive officer Noreen Leary, the incredible staff, and the many dedicated individuals who volunteer at the Veterans Guest House, in addition to president Terry Tholl, vice President Monk Maim, secretary Lucy Miller, treasurer Carol Langford, and past and present members serving on the board of directors. These individuals helping our active military members, veterans, and their families at the Veterans Guest House stand as shining examples of the

manner in which we should respect our men and women in uniform. The unwavering dedication of the Veterans Guest House to providing our brave men and women with a place to stay is commendable, and I am proud to honor it today.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. Equally as important, it is crucial that these servicemembers and their families have a place to stay while receiving quality care. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service organizations like the Veterans Guest House are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing the Veterans Guest House, an organization whose mission is noble and charitable. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge this organization and its work to provide active military members, veterans, and their families a safe place to stay, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING THOMAS C. SWEENEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the people of Kodiak, AK, will gather on Saturday, May 7, to celebrate the life of Thomas "Tom" Cornelius Sweeney. Tom passed away on March 29 at the age of 84.

Tom was born on February 9, 1932, in Helena, MT. He first came to Kodiak as a member of the U.S. Navy, then returned to work construction and married Nancy Ann Norman. Nancy's family owned the gift and photo shop, Norman's.

Tom first pursued a career in law enforcement, serving as a territorial policeman, detective, State trooper, and private investigator. That took Tom and Nancy to various cities in Alaska. Following the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and tsunami, they returned to Kodiak for good. Tom and Nancy helped Nancy's family restore Norman's following the disaster. Tom pursued his entrepreneurial interests in oil sales, automobile sales and service, and finally insurance brokerage before retiring in 1996—a well-rounded career.

He was equally committed to the Kodiak community, serving as president of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce, the Kodiak Rotary Club, and Pioneers of Alaska Igloo #18, which Tom helped reactivate in 1983. His statewide leadership roles included service as state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and chairman of the Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.