

Fort Carson, all of the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, were killed in combat while bravely defending their outpost against a coordinated attack by hundreds of insurgents in the mountainous Nuristan Province. Over the course of his service, Sergeant Scusa received an array of honors and awards, including a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Army Good Conduct Medal; and he was posthumously promoted from specialist to sergeant.

Upon his wishes, Sergeant Scusa has been laid to rest in Colorado in order to be near his wife and son. He also leaves behind his mother Cindy; father and stepmother George and Kelley; sisters Susan and Kami; brothers John and Jimmy; and numerous other family members and friends.

Sergeant Scusa passed away making the ultimate and most valiant sacrifice. My condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends. His heroism and selflessness will remain an inspiration for all of us.

CALLING UPON TURKEY TO FACILITATE THE REOPENING OF THE HALKI SEMINARY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week's visit to Washington by the Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew I, is an appropriate occasion to renew calls for the reopening of the Halki Seminary, without further delay. Founded in 1844, the Theological School of Halki, located outside modern-day Istanbul, served as the principal seminary for Ecumenical Patriarchate until its forcible closure by the Turkish authorities in 1971. Counted among alumni of this preeminent educational institution are numerous prominent Orthodox scholars, theologians, priests, and bishops as well as patriarchs, including Bartholomew I. Many of these scholars and theologians have served as faculty at other institutions serving Orthodox communities around the world. Despite occasional indications by the authorities of pending action to reopen the seminary, to date all have failed to materialize.

Earlier this year, several of my colleagues from the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which I chair, joined me in a letter to President Obama to underscoring our long-standing concern over the continued closure of this unique institution. The continued denial of requests for the reopening of the seminary stands in clear violation of Turkey's obligations pursuant to the 1989 OSCE Vienna Concluding Document which affirmed the right of religious communities to provide "training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions." While there is no question that the Halki Seminary is the appropriate institution for training Orthodox clergy in Turkey, the Government of Turkey continues to refuse to reopen the school.

In his address to the Turkish Grand National Assembly in April, President

Obama said, "Freedom of religion and expression lead to a strong and vibrant civil society that only strengthens the state, which is why steps like reopening Halki Seminary will send such an important signal inside Turkey and beyond." In a welcomed development, Turkey's Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met with the Ecumenical Patriarch in August. In an address to a wider gathering of minority religious leaders that day, Erdoğan concluded by stating, "We should not be of those who gather, talk and disperse. A result should come out of this."

Mr. President, I urge Prime Minister Erdoğan to follow through on the sentiment of those remarks by actions that will facilitate the reopening of the Halki Seminary without further delay. I am told that the Theological School of Halki is situated atop the summit of the Hill of Hope. For those of us who have pursued this issue over the years, our hope has been that we would indeed witness the reopening of this historic institution. I remain hopeful and encourage Prime Minister Erdoğan to act decisively and without condition on this matter before his upcoming visit to Washington.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING GEORGE M. SULLIVAN

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to remember one of the great public officials in the history of the State of Alaska, the former mayor of Anchorage, George M. Sullivan, who died peacefully in his sleep last month at age 87. George served Alaska during a time of transition in our State's history.

A lifelong Alaskan who was born and raised in Valdez, George worked for the U.S. Army's transportation corps during World War II in the Aleutians. He later won a seat in the Alaska House of Representatives in 1964 and 1965, being an excellent representative for Anchorage to represent the city's vast economic needs in the State legislature. He was a convincing spokesman for Anchorage in securing the aid that the city so desperately needed to rebuild.

George became the mayor of the city of Anchorage in 1967, just 8 years after statehood, but more importantly just 3 years after the Good Friday earthquake of 1964 that destroyed most of downtown Anchorage. The city was still in the early phases of rebuilding when George became the leader of city government. He guided the city through crafting new building and zoning codes as well as implementing land use planning to prevent further earthquake damage from occurring in the future.

Meanwhile, an economic earthquake struck Alaska—the discovery of oil on Alaska's North Slope in December 1968. That discovery did more than any

other event, even the earthquake, to turn Anchorage from a small port city to Alaska's largest city and the center of business, commerce, and supply in the State.

In preparation for the construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline and the subsequent economic boom, Sullivan had the vision to see that municipal government needed to have greater authority to regulate and supervise growth. He led the effort to bring about the merger of the city of Anchorage with the surrounding borough to build a unified government, helping to write the city-borough's first charter in 1975. He then stayed on to guide the young unified city-borough government, serving as mayor for 14 years, longer than any other person before or since.

While guiding Anchorage to become the State's largest city, he also found time to represent Alaska as the State's first member of the executive board of the National League of Cities in 1972. He also served as the president of the Alaska Municipal League.

George also worked tirelessly to represent Alaska's needs during congressional consideration of the Alaska lands act that eventually passed in 1980. It was then that I first met him since I was working as an aide for the Alaska Legislature. George truly was an inspiration. He could light up a room in Juneau just by entering it and could influence legislation simply with a few words of wisdom.

George did not speak to hear himself talk, but everyone listened when he did talk. That was because everyone who knew George knew he was a straight shooter, a totally honest, fair, dedicated and hard-working man of outstanding judgment. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word.

He worked tirelessly to develop a complete city, one with services for the young which is why the town's sports center the the Sullivan Arena—is named after him. He also worked to build facilities for senior citizens and low-income individuals and he worked to build the infrastructure necessary for a modern city in a cold climate.

While we had known of his ill health and his battle with cancer for some time, there is still a great emptiness at his passing. While his wife Margaret passed away 2 years ago, George is survived by nine children, one of which, Dan, is Anchorage's current mayor.

As much as George was known for his leadership in the community and State, he was also known to be a family man. He and his wife Margaret were married for 59 years and raised nine children. I offer my deepest condolences to all of his children and grandchildren.

George was truly one of Alaska's original pioneers, a giant who will be sorely missed. His many accomplishments will live on in Alaska's history. Many Alaskans, including myself, will continue to remember the good humor, wisdom, and selflessness of the man who will always be called Mr. Mayor. ●

TRIBUTE TO ANNA "ANN" ROSS
KARY ANDERSON

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Anna "Ann" Ross Kary Anderson who served honorably during World War II as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP.

More than 1,000 women answered the call and served as pilots during World War II. However, because WASP records were classified and archived for over 30 years, WASPs have been left out of much of the documented history of World War II.

On July 1, 2009, legislation was signed into law that honors the service of these women with the Congressional Gold Medal, which is given in honor of outstanding service to the United States and is one of the Nation's highest civilian awards. This Congressional Gold Medal finally gives Anna "Ann" Ross Kary Anderson and the rest of these brave women the honor and recognition they deserve.

Between 1942 and 1944, the 1,102 women of WASP were trained in Texas, and then went on to fly noncombat domestic military missions so all their male counterparts could be deployed to combat. WASPs were required to complete the same primary, basic, and advanced training courses as male Army Air Corps pilots, and many went on to specialized flight training. By the conclusion of the war, WASPs logged 60 million miles of flying in every kind of military aircraft.

Following the war, the WASPs were disbanded and the women pilots paid their own way home without pomp or circumstance. Even during the war, the families of the 38 women who died in the line of duty were responsible for the costs to transport their bodies and arrange burials. It was not until 1977 that the WASPs were granted veterans status.

Anna "Ann" Ross Kary Anderson was born in 1920 on her family's homestead in Mellette County in South Dakota. Following high school, she attended the University of South Dakota. After her military service "Kary," as she was known to her students, went on to instruct hundreds of future pilots and was one of the first female FAA inspectors. By the time she retired she had logged over 20,000 flight hours. She still has family living in South Dakota.

While many of the South Dakota WASPs are no longer with us, I would like to recognize all of the women who joined from South Dakota in addition to Anna "Ann" Ross Kary Anderson: Helen (Anderson) Severson of Summit, SD, who was killed in service during a flight training accident in 1943; Marjorie (Redding) Christiansen of Mystic, SD; Loes (Monk) MacKenzie of Salem, SD; Laurine Nielsen of Deadwood, SD; Maxine (Nolt) Wright DeHaven of Sioux Falls, SD. I would also like to honor Violet (Thurn) Cowden formerly of Bowdle, SD, who now lives in California, and Ola Mildred "Millie" Rexroat, who currently resides in Edgemont, SD.

The WASPs served our country with extraordinary bravery, even in the face of discrimination. Their service was essential to the war effort, and this recognition of their heroics is long overdue and rightfully deserved. Though the pages of history have thus far overlooked the accomplishments and even the existence of this group, which served its country so well, this bill ensures forever their rightful place in history.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL GROETHE

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Rapid City, SD, resident Bill Groethe on the occasion of his 86th birthday.

Bill has dedicated most of his life to preserving and capturing the history and heritage of Native Americans and South Dakota through his photographs. This means of documentation, which Bill has so aptly and skillfully employed, has allowed for the preservation and study of many of our region's most significant events.

Bill's photographic experiences and services extend beyond the scenery and history of the South Dakota. During World War II, he served his country as a photo reconnaissance technician for the Army Air Force.

Throughout his career, the photographs Bill has taken have not only been masterpieces of great artistic achievement but have also contributed, in a unique way, to memorializing great events of the past and, oftentimes, the people whom these events affected. Examples of this include photographs of Gutzon Borglum and his crew during the carving of Mount Rushmore, the dedication of the Crazy Horse monument, survivors of the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre, the Rapid City flood of 1972, and, most notably, 1948 photos of the last nine Native American survivors from the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Each of these photographs captures a pivotal and monumental event in our history.

Thanks to the efforts, talents, and generous donations of Bill Groethe, generations to come will have the opportunity to look upon and more fully appreciate the events of the past.●

TRIBUTE TO JUNE CULP ZEITNER

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the life and accomplishments of June Culp Zeitner, the "First Lady of Gems," who passed away on October 11, 2009.

June, a longtime South Dakota resident and world-renowned mineralogist, contributed greatly to the study and knowledge of minerals and fossils through her research and published writings. Her written works include 12 books and more than 1,000 scholarly and magazine articles on subjects such as natural history, cutting and polishing techniques, and collection methods.

In 1976, June acquired the nickname of the "First Lady of Gems" during a

ceremony honoring the 25th anniversary of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Those in attendance that day in the White House's Rose Garden to honor and thank June Culp Zeitner included First Lady Betty Ford and Mayor of Washington, DC, Walter Edward Washington.

As the founder of the State Stone Program, June encouraged each State to select an official stone, mineral, and fossil. It is thanks to June's initiative in founding the State Stone Program that South Dakota's official gem is the Fairburn Agate, our mineral is Rose Quartz, and our fossil is the Triceratops.

June's activities extended beyond the purely scientific to include education and journalism, serving as a teacher and, for 38 years, a member of the editorial staff of Lapidary Journal. She also founded the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame in my hometown of Murdo, SD. Her other accomplishments include creating a display collection for the Smithsonian Institution and receiving various State and national awards.

The passion and dedication June displayed for mineralogy has done much to influence professionals and hobbyists alike. The people of South Dakota and our Nation are grateful for the contributions and life of June Culp Zeitner.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2009, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 30, 2009, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1929. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2996. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3606. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to make a technical correction to an amendment made by the Credit CARD Act of 2009.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3854. An act to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve programs providing access to capital under such Acts, and for other purposes.