

she confronted her illness by continuing to be the same kind, caring person she had always been, living life to the fullest right up to the end. Denise Addison was truly one of a kind, beloved and missed by everyone who had the pleasure of being her friend.

Thank you, Denise, for who you were and for all you did for me, for my staff, and, most important, for the State of Nebraska. The “good life” will not be quite the same without you.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER BRYAN E. HELLER

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I am so proud to rise today to honor a Nevadan whom I have known for my entire life and who has my utmost admiration and respect. It is with great pleasure to recognize my brother, Bryan Heller, as he retires from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of service to his State and country. On June 1, 2012, he will enter the next chapter of his life, and I am thrilled to see what he will accomplish next. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Bryan for his many years of faithful, selfless service and extend heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of his retirement.

Bryan began his naval career while studying civil engineering at Brigham Young University. In 1992, he entered the Navy in the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program and was later commissioned at Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. Bryan successfully completed the rigorous nuclear pipeline and submarine school and subsequently reported to the USS Georgia, where he earned his gold dolphins and qualified as nuclear engineer officer.

Over the course of his career, Bryan and his family moved across the country to respond to his next call of duty. Returning to his civil engineering roots, he transferred to the Civil Engineering Corps, CEC, where he experienced his first CEC tour aboard the NAS Oceana and became registered as a professional engineer. He also earned his master of science in civil engineering from the University of Texas. In 2007, Bryan reported to Commander, U.S. Naval forces Central Command, where he headed the Navy’s construction program in Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Currently serving as the desert operation officer, Bryan leads the Desert Integrated Product Team, which supports Navy bases outside of San Diego and Ventura County. Bryan continues to be an incredible asset to the naval community, and I know it will be difficult to replace him. Throughout his career, Bryan has been extensively decorated, exemplifying his strong work ethic and commitment to serve. He has been awarded three Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Today, it is also my distinct honor to recognize and express my gratitude to

Bryan’s family—his wife, Kristi, and children, Natascha, Heidi, Josef, and Jakob. Their strength during times when their family was apart embodies the resilience that makes our military communities strong. I constantly find myself in awe of the sacrifices and efforts that have been made by our military families. Each and every deployment causes great stress and a burden of separation that every member of these families experience. We must remember that these families serve as the backbone for the men and women who wear the uniform of our armed services, and they deserve our support. The invaluable sacrifices of our servicemembers and their families are debts that can never fully be repaid.

I am proud to honor my brother today and recognize his accomplished career in the U.S. Navy. On the eve of this Memorial Day holiday weekend, we must recognize all our brave servicemembers and their commitment to our country. It is with great appreciation that I ask my colleagues to stand with me in honoring Bryan’s service to our Nation as he moves onto the next phase of his life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DENVER GAY MEN’S CHORUS

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Denver Gay Men’s Chorus on its 30th anniversary. For the last 30 years, the group has shown great commitment to educational, cultural, and social enrichment in the community on behalf of the Rocky Mountain Arts Association.

Since the Denver Gay Men’s Chorus was formed in 1982, it has performed more than 130 concerts and more than 1,400 compositions, arrangements, and medleys. The group has commissioned 25 works. It performed at the 1996 World Summer Olympics in Atlanta at the opening of the Olympic Diversity Center. It has also received the Denver Mayor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Today, the organization has more than 170 volunteer singers who perform at numerous community outreach events every year. They include performances at Manhattan Middle School’s Diversity Week to end school bullying and a performance at the World AIDS Day Concert.

I join the State of Colorado in thanking this organization for working to address social issues and spread a message of tolerance and for enriching our community and our State. I look forward to its future work and the effect it will continue to have on our community.●

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD TRADE CENTER UTAH

• Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the World Trade Center Utah on the naming of one of

Utah’s finest buildings in their honor. On May 23, 2012, my Utah staff had the pleasure of attending a ceremony whereby the building formerly known as Eagle Gate Tower became the World Trade Center at City Creek. Naming one of Salt Lake’s premier business addresses after the World Trade Center Utah is a fitting tribute to the important role the organization plays in guiding Utah’s world-leading companies into new markets. This achievement is all the more remarkable when you consider that the organization was only founded in 2006.

We hear time and time again about the fact that 95 percent of our potential consumers live outside the United States. But we all know that reaching those customers can be difficult. Since 2006, the World Trade Center Utah has assisted over 1,000 companies to do just that, through educational classes and seminars, international business development events, and networking opportunities. The World Trade Center Utah rightly prides itself on being the “first stop” for Utah businesses seeking to expand their trade opportunities. By assessing their capabilities, providing educational opportunities and connections to the right people and organizations, the World Trade Center Utah provides the businesses of the Beehive State a much needed roadmap to engaging in international trade.

Their hard work has paid off. Thanks in no small part to the World Trade Center Utah and the leadership of its CEO, Lew Cramer, Utah merchandise exports increased 37 percent in 2011 compared to 2010, growing from \$13.8 billion to \$18.9 billion. In a time of great economic difficulty for our Nation, this was no easy feat and was no doubt welcome news to the nearly 93,000 Utahns whose jobs depend on exports, as well as the companies in Utah which collectively exported to over 190 foreign markets.

I congratulate the World Trade Center Utah, as well as its founding CEO, Lew Cramer, and his dedicated staff for this achievement.●

KEEPING CHILDREN ALCOHOL FREE

• Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed the attached statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP TO KEEP CHILDREN ALCOHOL FREE FOUNDATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today it is my honor to recognize the accomplishments of a group of dedicated volunteers who have devoted extensive time, resources and energy toward the worthy effort of helping our children avoid the pitfalls of alcohol dependence and binge drinking. The Leadership To Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation is a unique coalition of current and former Governors’ spouses, Federal agencies, and public and private organizations united in their goal to prevent the use of alcohol by children