

Wanda continues to give back to the troops and their families.

Thank you to Cedric, Naomi, Wanda, and all of our military spouses for your support at home while your loved one is away defending our Nation. We thank you for your dedication and commitment to our Armed Forces, your family and extended military family.

HONORING WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to welcome some of West Virginia's most outstanding citizens to Washington. This week, as part of the fifth annual Always Free Honor Flight Program, we will recognize veterans from my home State for their dedicated commitment to our country. In light of West Virginia's proud tradition of military service, it gives me great pleasure to honor these brave men and women who answered the call of duty during America's hour of need.

Since its inception, the Always Free Honor Flight Program has taken up the important task of thanking those to which we owe our deepest gratitude. As the daughter of a World War II veteran, this is something very near and dear to my heart. This year, we are joined by 29 Vietnam, Korea and World War II veterans from all across southern West Virginia.

These brave patriots sacrificed the comforts of home to defend the cause of freedom in a foreign land. The perseverance of our soldiers during these conflicts cannot be overstated. These individuals embody the extraordinary sacrifice exhibited by our service men and women throughout the greatest conflicts of the 20th century.

One veteran on this year's trip, SGT John M. Watson, Jr., who served with the renowned Tuskegee Airmen, will be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal for his service during World War II.

In addition to Sergeant Watson, West Virginia veterans participating in this year's Always Free Honor Flight Program include Joseph F. Graham, Bluefield, WWII; Staff Sergeant Robert Graham, Hinton, WWII and Korean war; First Sergeant Melvin L. Grubb, Bluefield, WWII and Korean war; Staff Sergeant Robert G. Kushner, Charleston, Korean war; Airman First Class Herbert R. Dickerson, Beckley, Korean war; Corporal Billy G. Cooper, Milton, Korean war; Corporal James W. Bennett, Charleston, Korean war; Richard L. Graham, Beckley, Korean war; Petty Officer Second Class William B. Sowers, Princeton, Korean war; Petty Officer Third Class Charles E. Turley, Scott Depot, Korean war; Colonel Jack E. Fincham, Brenton, Vietnam war; Sergeant Philip Templeton, Milton, Vietnam war; Petty Officer Second Class John W. Fleming, Princeton, Vietnam war; Master Sergeant Edward F. Simmons, Bluefield, Vietnam war; Airman Second Class Nancy J. Sim-

mons, Bluefield, Vietnam war; Sergeant Fred R. Smith, Hurricane, Vietnam war; Sergeant Marshall G. Mann, Princeton, Vietnam war; Sergeant James R. Bond, Midway, Vietnam war; Senior Airman Allan D. Harbour, Princeton, Vietnam war; Sergeant First Class Andrew J. Thompson, Bluefield, Vietnam war; Captain Charles H. Mann, Athens, Vietnam war; Seaman Thomas E. Caruso, Lashmeet, Vietnam war; Sergeant Gordon L. Caldwell, Jr., Bluefield, Vietnam war; Lance Corporal Ricky D. Williams, Beckley, Vietnam war; Senior Airman Mary Byrd, Nitro, Vietnam war; Corporal Johnny L. Sanson, Cyclone, Vietnam war; Sergeant Dennis C. Hurley, Cyclone, Vietnam war; Corporal William Cox, Bluefield, Vietnam war; and Corporal William L. Harry, Butler, TN, Korean war.

Veterans participating in the Honor Flight as "guardians" include Command Sergeant Major Kevin L. Harry from Milton; Sergeant First Class Mark A. Harry from St. Albans, and Specialist Selena K. Barker of Milton. These men and women are voluntarily dedicating their time to helping ensure that our veterans receive the thank-you they deserve.

A great debt of gratitude is also owed to Dreama Denver, president of the Denver Foundation and Little Buddy Radio. These nonprofit organizations, which were founded by Dreama and her husband, Bob Denver, established the Always Free Honor Flight Network in West Virginia.

I am so proud of the service and sense of duty that defines the American people. As the beneficiaries of that service, one of the most sacred tasks we hold is properly honoring the dedication of our veterans. In bringing them together with the symbols of their sacrifice, we can express our unyielding gratitude while demonstrating our lasting commitment to preserving their memory. One of the greatest honors of serving in the United States Senate is representing citizens who have given so much to their country. I take seriously the duty of ensuring that their sacrifice is honored with the same steadfast conviction with which they defended the rights and freedoms of every American. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming and thanking these exceptional West Virginia veterans.

RECOGNIZING KAREN LOVE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Karen A. Love upon her retirement from the Department of Defense, DOD, after over 36 years in civil service.

Karen was born in Greenville, OH and later moved to Ansonia, OH. She spent most of her formative years in Celina, where she attended the Immaculate Conception School, Celina Junior High School and Celina High School.

After graduating magna cum laude from college, Karen moved to Wash-

ington, DC to begin her career. She first worked for the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and then moved to the Senate Armed Services Committee. While working for the Armed Services Committee, Karen had the privilege to work for chairmen on both sides of the aisle including John Stennis, John Tower, Barry Goldwater, and Sam Nunn.

After 8 years as a staffer on Capitol Hill, Karen joined the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, OASD LA. She subsequently served as the personal and confidential assistant to six successive OASD LAs. As a result of her tenure in OASD LA, Karen was one of few DOD employees with significant institutional knowledge of both DOD and Congress.

Because of her unique expertise, Karen was promoted to the position of Deputy for Legislative Operations in OASD LA, managing congressional committees' questions and inserts for the RECORD, the congressional reporting requirements, and the legislative appeals process for DOD. Karen's last position with DOD was as the Deputy Director for Operations for the OASD LA, where she was instrumental in the oversight of the office's operations in support of the DOD's legislative mission and was a critical participant in the legislative affairs consolidation effort directed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

During Karen's distinguished career of over 28 years with DOD, she supported eight Assistant Secretaries of Defense for Legislative Affairs and served under eleven Secretaries of Defense.

I am honored to recognize and thank Karen for her dedicated Federal service to the country and wish her the best as she begins the next chapter of her life.

SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I wish to honor the city of South Bend on its 150th anniversary and to recognize the many contributions of South Bend's citizens to the great State of Indiana, to our country and the world.

South Bend's history stretches back to the 1600s, when the St. Joseph Potawatomi settled along the future St. Joseph River. European settlers established fur trading posts in the early 19th century. Soon after, Father Edward Sorin arrived and founded the University of Notre Dame. Less than a decade later, in 1851, the first train passed through South Bend and development and economic growth soon followed. The town of South Bend became the city of South Bend on May 22, 1865, when it was granted a city charter.

The city of South Bend quickly became a manufacturing leader and continues to innovate to this day. In 1852, Henry and Clement Studebaker opened the H&C Studebaker blacksmith shop.

After the Studebakers' younger brothers joined them, they became the Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Company. Studebaker became the world's largest wagon and buggy manufacturer and then entered the automotive industry. The company had some famous customers, such as Thomas Edison, who purchased the second Studebaker electric car in 1902. The Studebaker Corporation would go on to bring opportunity and hundreds of jobs to families across northern Indiana.

As business boomed for the Studebaker Corporation, new businesses opened and South Bend grew. In the early 1900s, the Bendix Corporation, Honeywell, the South Bend Toy Company, AlliedSignal, and other well-known companies opened their doors. Like many communities across the country, South Bend changed with the times. Companies, like Studebaker, were forced to close their doors, but the innovative spirit of South Bend carried on. Now, South Bend is taking its manufacturing roots in a new direction, creating a high-tech hub in northern Indiana. Transforming old factory grounds into the high-tech Ignition Park, the city has opened its doors to data centers and turbomachinery research. There are many exciting entrepreneurial efforts that will continue to create jobs and opportunities for South Bend residents.

Today, South Bend is one of the largest cities in Indiana and has a population of more than 100,000 citizens. The city is not only critical to Indiana's economy but also a top destination for visitors to our State. Top attractions in the South Bend area include Potawatomi Park Zoo, the Studebaker National Museum, South Bend Chocolate Company, and the nearby University of Notre Dame.

A center of world-renowned academic excellence, the University of Notre Dame grew from a small school for boys founded by Father Sorin in 1842 to one of the most prestigious universities in the country. With excellent academic and athletic programs, Notre Dame attracts students from around the Nation and about 90 different countries. Important to our South Bend community, the university is the area's largest employer and an active member of the community. Our community is home to other outstanding higher education institutions, including, St. Mary's College, Holy Cross College and Indiana University at South Bend, which draw the best and brightest students from across the State.

The city of South Bend also has a long history of outstanding public servants. Vice President Schuyler Colfax was a South Bend native, serving as Congressman, then Speaker of the House during the Civil War, and finally as Vice President to Ulysses S. Grant. Former Indiana Governor Joe Kernan once led the city as mayor and continues to call South Bend home. Former Congressman John Brademas, a South Bend Central graduate, was an

active participant in the civil rights movement, working hard to both integrate schools and increase their funding across the entire country.

Today, I also congratulate the current leaders of South Bend: mayor Pete Buttigieg, the members of the South Bend Common Council, and all of the other hardworking city officials for their many contributions to making this "21st Century City" the thriving city it is today.

The city of South Bend reflects our Hoosier values, and its citizens serve as an example of how hard work and dedication lead to success, opportunity, and prosperity. I came to South Bend as a student in 1972. I was privileged to have met my wife and raised our family here. And today, we continue to call the South Bend community our home.

It is also a great honor to represent the city of South Bend in the Senate. On behalf of the State of Indiana, I congratulate each and every citizen of South Bend on the city's 150th anniversary and wish you an equally bright and prosperous future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HOPKINTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I honor Hopkinton, NH—a town in Merrimack County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am proud to join citizens across the Granite State in recognizing this special milestone.

Hopkinton, previously known as New Hopkinton by the original settlers from Hopkinton, MA, was incorporated in 1765 by colonial Governor Benning Wentworth, and included the three communities of Hopkinton, Contoocook Village, and West Hopkinton. As a centrally located town, Hopkinton gained an influential reputation. Its farms thrived on fertile land fed by local bodies of water and businesses continued to prosper as State leaders and prominent business owners moved to the area to be closer to the center of activity.

As the town's influence grew, it came to be known as one of the most powerful locations in the State. Coincidentally, the New Hampshire Legislature met in Hopkinton four times during the years of 1798 to 1807. The civic-minded residents of the town later petitioned for Hopkinton to become the State's capital city, but the neighboring town of Concord eventually won the bid in 1814 and now houses the New Hampshire Legislature.

Hopkinton is home to two historic covered bridges, including the Rowell's Bridge that was built in 1835 and the Contoocook Railroad Bridge that spans the beautiful Contoocook River and is the oldest covered bridge of its kind in existence. With 1290 acres of protected land, Hopkinton is rich in natural beauty with sprawling forests, numer-

ous hiking and biking trails, as well as access to countless outdoor activities including canoeing, kayaking and cross country skiing.

The town's population has grown to over 5,500 residents, but their record of service is indicative of a much larger town. The people of Hopkinton have a strong commitment to the spirit of community and volunteerism, as evidenced by the hard work and dedication of its residents involved with the planning and celebration of the 100th anniversary of the renowned Hopkinton State Fair this coming September and the town's special sestercentennial anniversary.

Hopkinton and its residents have greatly contributed to the life and growth of New Hampshire. I ask my colleagues to join me today in extending congratulations to the people of Hopkinton as they celebrate the town's 250th anniversary. ●

TRIBUTE TO DIANE JUERGENSMEYER

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Diane Juergensmeyer of St. Elizabeth, MO, for her dedication and service to St. Elizabeth High School, her community, and the entire State of Missouri. From 1980 through 2010, Juergensmeyer coached St. Elizabeth High School's women's softball team to 489 victories, including 358 fall championship wins, while also teaching reading skills, English, speech, and drama in the classroom.

Overall, the St. Elizabeth Lady Hornets won eight conference titles under her leadership, not to mention three Class 1 State championship titles in 1992, 1994, and 2002, and another as an assistant in 2011.

As the daughter of Leonard and Marie Schanzmeyer, Juergensmeyer grew up in a large family on a farm where a fundamental respect for hard work and competition were instilled in her at a young age. She played on St. Elizabeth's first softball team and has remained a key contributor to the growth of the sport's popularity as it is seen in Missouri today.

After graduating from St. Elizabeth High School in 1976, she attended Central Missouri University. Shortly after graduating from Central Missouri University, she returned to her local high school to coach, teach, and even drive the bus. Her dedication to her community has remained constant and has remained a force in her efforts to make the St. Elizabeth Lady Hornets the respected softball program that it is today.

In addition to her coaching and teaching careers, Juergensmeyer served on the Missouri Softball Advisory Committee for 8 years and the National Federation Softball rules committee for 4 years. She was also named the 115th District's Outstanding Missourian in 2004.

Diane Juergensmeyer has played a major role in the success of the Lady