

the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. I further ask that following the disposition of the Morrison nomination, the Senate vote on the cloture motions for Calendar Nos. 42, 43, 44, 46, and 49; finally, that if cloture is invoked on those nominations, the confirmation votes on the nominations occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Wednesday, June 12; and that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL JAMES T. LOEBLEIN

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate RADM James T. Loeblein of the U.S. Navy on his outstanding service to our Nation as the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs from January 2017 to July 2019. During these 2 years, a period best described as one of constant change, he deftly led his team to execute with a lasting legacy of "precision and style."

Jim Loeblein was the Navy's lead advocate on Capitol Hill and had the challenging job of communicating with all 535 Members of Congress. He expertly handled our constituent inquiries and represented the Navy while balancing military, political, and budgetary priorities. His naval service is a lasting reminder that the United States remains the strongest maritime nation.

Rear Admiral Loeblein selflessly devoted the last 2 and a half years of his naval service ensuring our Nation's sailors were taken care of and represented faithfully in Congress. Specifically, Jim brilliantly led the response to the salient issues of this period: aircraft carrier purchases and overhauls, submarine procurement timelines, the rise of cyber warfare, the quality of on-base military housing—and the list goes on. Jim excelled in this role with his hallmark "precision and style."

Because of Jim's professionalism and friendly personality, he established warm and lasting relationships with our colleagues, garnering respect and admiration in both Chambers of Congress and on both sides of the aisle. He worked with us to broaden the Navy's

outreach beyond those members of defense committees. Jim's efforts, along with those of the Chief of Naval Operations, introduced the Navy to Senators who would not otherwise have had exposure to the great work our sailors are doing around the globe.

On behalf of my colleagues and the entire U.S. Senate, I want to personally thank RADM Jim Loeblein for his more than three decades of dedicated service to the Navy and our nation. He will be certainly missed. I also want to thank his wife Carol for her sacrifice during her own time in the Navy and for her continued, tremendous support to her husband. I wish them fair winds and following seas in his post-naval career, and I sincerely look forward to seeing him again in the future.

TRIBUTE TO RITA MEYER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this week in Wyoming, one of our finest will be recognized by the Wyoming GOP for a lifetime of service and leadership. I am privileged to tell my colleagues about Rita Meyer.

Rita honorably served our great country for more than 23 years in the U.S. military. She served as an enlisted airwoman before becoming an officer in the Wyoming Air National Guard. Rita is a combat veteran of both Operation Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom. In 1995, the Air National Guard brought Rita to D.C. to act as the strategic planning officer for the National Guard Bureau's counterdrug directorate.

Upon returning to Wyoming, Rita was appointed full-time comptroller for the Wyoming Air National Guard. Although eligible to retire from National Guard service in 2004, Rita answered the call and volunteered for an Active-Duty command in Southwest Asia. She was selected to serve as the 455th Air-lift Wing Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. She completed her tour in May 2005.

Having attained the rank of full colonel, Rita retired from her incredibly distinguished military career in November of 2007. Colonel Meyer was recognized for going above and beyond during her service by being awarded with the Legion of Merit, the Order of the Bayonet, and the Order of St. Barbara.

Although retired from the service, Rita would continue to give back to the Armed Forces. Colonel Meyer served as a member of my service academy nomination board. She also served as head of former Senator Malcolm Wallop's board. I can attest to how vital volunteers like Rita are to the process of nominating young men and women of Wyoming to West Point and the U.S. Naval, Merchant Marine, and Air Force Academies.

In addition to an outstanding military career, Rita is an exemplary scholar. Rita earned two degrees from the University of Wyoming: a bachelor

of arts in education and a bachelor of science in finance. She later earned a master of business administration in international business from Regis University, as well as a master's in national resource strategy from the National Defense University in Washington, DC.

Ultimately, the University of Wyoming would recognize Rita as outstanding alumnus in both colleges of business and education. It was also at the University of Wyoming in Laramie that Rita was appointed to the board of trustees.

Rita's distinguished career continued as chief of staff for Governor Jim Geringer. She was later elected as the State auditor in 2006 and served until 2011.

Building on her career in the military and State government, Rita took the lead of the largest public utility in Wyoming as vice-president-Wyoming for Rocky Mountain Power. As the company's only executive based in Wyoming, Rita oversees the utility's State business plan, customer service, and community relations. Rita's experience as a statesman proved to be valuable as she helps the company navigate regulatory and legislative issues. As Wyoming faces challenges in the ever-changing energy industry, we are fortunate to have a proven leader like Rita fighting for solutions.

While being incredibly busy in her life as a citizen soldier, public servant, and later as a corporate executive, Rita never let that get in the way of being a committed wife and mother. Rita married dentist Dr. Charles Meyer, a Rawlins, WY, native in 1977. Dr. Meyer served as a navy corpsman in the Solomon Islands during WWII. He passed away in 2011 after a long and distinguished career as a leader in dental health and education. Charlie and Rita were blessed with a son, Charles, Jr., who followed in his parent's footsteps by serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Charlie, his wife Jen, and their two children, Augusta Grace and John Charles, live in Maryland.

Rita is married to Stephen J. Miller of SJ Miller Associates in Cheyenne. Stephen, a senior private investigator with more than 35 years of experience in law enforcement, has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Wyoming.

Wyoming has benefited immensely from Rita Meyer's wisdom and leadership. We continue to look to Rita as the voice for veterans and civilians alike. My wife Bobbi and I are proud to have Rita as our friend, and folks all over Wyoming are fortunate because Rita set such a great example for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO JIM KURTH

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Jim Kurth for his 41 years of public service and congratulate him on his recent retirement.

On May 7, 1978, Mr. James Kurth was hired by the U.S. Forest Service as a biological technician having recently graduated with a degree in wildlife management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. On Friday, May 31, Jim retired from public service, after a 41-year career, working mainly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He ended his career after serving more than 4 years as the agency's deputy director for operations.

Jim's story is an inspiring example of dedication to the vital mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He grew up in Columbus, OH. He married his high school sweetheart. He picked a career in public service, quickly finding his way to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and moving his family across the country as he accepted positions at Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana, Seney National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan, and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island. From there, he jumped to Alaska where he became manager of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Nation's largest protected land area at nearly 20 million acres.

He left Alaska in 1999 and journeyed to the Nation's Capital, to take the position of deputy chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest system of protected lands and waters, including Maryland's Blackwater, Eastern Neck, and Patuxent National Wildlife Refuges. He served as deputy chief for 11 years and then chief for nearly 4 years before accepting the job as the Service's deputy director in 2015.

Former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe said, "Jim served as my Deputy twice. Once when I was Refuge Chief, and again when I was Director. He was fond of saying, 'It's better to have a Deputy than be a Deputy' but Jim was much more. He was a friend and mentor. The kind of person who would tell you what you needed to hear, not what you wanted to hear. His strength is his character and deep and authentic concern for the people who do the organization's work." A culture of character and integrity in an organization like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grows through the examples of principled conduct from those in positions of authority.

For 41 years, Jim Kurth served the American people. His legacy is in the legions of people whom he has mentored and in the millions of acres of habitat he has helped conserve for wildlife and for people.

On May 31, 2019, Jim Kurth retired from public service. We are better as a nation for his service, and we take a moment to celebrate his career and his example of public service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN STILLMON WILLIS, JR.

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of First Lieutenant John Stillmon Willis, Jr.'s 100th birthday and to speak on his extraordinary life and accomplishments. Mr. Willis has served his Nation honorably, and put his life on the line for the values that we hold dear as Americans. For this, we are forever grateful.

Mr. Willis was born on June 2, 1919, and was raised in Doyline, LA. He attended Louisiana State University from 1937-1940 and graduated with a degree in agronomy. Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Willis, a member in the army infantry reserve as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, volunteered for pilot training. He was then transferred to the Army Air Corps, in grade, as a second lieutenant, and assigned to the 452nd Bomb group in Deopham Green Airbase in Atleborough in Norfolk, England. While there, he piloted a B-17 Flying Fortress and hit strategic targets in Germany and supported ground forces across Europe after the D-Day invasion. He would later be promoted to first lieutenant. After the fighting stopped, Mr. Willis credited the survival of his crew and himself to the fact that the "good Lord has his arms around them."

After the war, he worked in his father's lumber business for 20 years. Mr. Willis would go on to marry Lillian Mae Life and have one daughter, Martha Lou Willis, who gave them 3 grandchildren. The Willises enjoyed a beautiful 54 year marriage. Mr. Willis worked for another 20 years at his father-in-law's business, Webb Hardware, in Minden, LA. Mr. Willis recently celebrated his 100th birthday at St. John's Episcopal Church in Minden, where he has been a lifelong member.

It is because of his long list of accomplishments and beautiful life that we celebrate First Lieutenant John Stillmon Willis Jr.'s 100th birthday. We honor and thank him for a lifetime of service to our State and country and wish him the happiest of birthdays.●

RECOGNIZING BOYD CYCLING

• Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, as a member of U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my honor to recognize a unique small business for its tremendous contributions to the local economy. Small businesses drive our Nation's economic expansion, generate lasting job growth, and encourage community development. This week, it is my honor to recognize Boyd Cycling of Greenville, SC, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Boyd Johnson, a former competitive cyclist, originally founded Boyd Cycling under the name Boyd Bikes in September of 2009. Charged by a mis-

sion of quality and service, Boyd set out to produce and sell various bike products in the Greenville area. About 3 months into the operation, Boyd's Bikes began to grow dramatically, and Boyd's wife Nicole joined as a partner of the business. Boyd and Nicole are a prime example of how a leap of faith, coupled with hard work, can pay off.

Boyd Bikes initially offered wheels, bike frames, handlebars, and other accessories, but the Johnsons quickly realized that their competitive advantage was their handcrafted wheels made out of carbon fiber and alloy. By 2011, Boyd and Nicole decided to focus directly on specializing in bike wheels and changed the name of the business to Boyd Cycling.

In addition to focusing on bike wheels, Boyd and Nicole decided to shake up their business model. Originally, Boyd Cycling focused primarily on direct-to-consumer sales. Wanting to expand their business, Boyd and Nicole reached out to the Spartanburg Area Small Business Development Center, SBDC, a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration, and received business counseling and exporting advice. Eventually, Boyd Cycling began selling their products to bike shops around the country in addition to their own website. By staying committed to high quality and low pricing, the Johnsons have been able to avoid undercutting their retail clients while diversifying their income stream. In turn, this has enabled them to export their products globally and now currently distribute to over 15 countries.

A seasoned cyclist, Boyd spends time carefully designing each product the company offers. Once a product is developed, Boyd Cycling contracts manufacturing out to different firms domestically and internationally. Boyd maintains rigorous standards when contracting with every manufacturing firm that the company uses, making sure to implement quality controls on materials and construction methods.

Boyd Cycling's dedication to quality has not gone unnoticed. They have received national media coverage, excellent customer reviews, and numerous awards. In 2017 and 2019, Boyd and Nicole were named the U.S. Small Business Administration's Exporter of the Year for South Carolina. This award recognizes small business owners for their success and commitment to exporting goods or services. Boyd Cycling also supports various philanthropies in their community including Meals on Wheels, the Alzheimers Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Miracle Hill, Upstate Forever, and Global Bike. Their community involvement has been a key to their success as Greenville has become a bustling hub for the recreational biking community.

Boyd and Nicole truly embody the entrepreneurial and community spirit. From its humble beginnings, Boyd has grown into a respectable player in the industry while maintaining a commitment to customer service and product