

If Dr. King were alive today, I think he would be heartbroken, and he would challenge us to confront the tidal wave of guns that have turned so many American neighborhoods into combat zones.

Yes, the Second Amendment speaks of a right to bear arms. But children ought to have a right to play on school playgrounds without getting caught in gang crossfire.

Americans ought to be able to go to a movie or to a college lecture or a church Bible study class without risking being killed by someone who is too sick or too dangerous to have a gun but has one anyway.

Martin Luther King was taken from us by gun violence. If we truly believe in his dream, let's work together to find ways to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

"It is easier to build monuments than to make a better world." That is what the poet said. But people don't elect us to do the easy work. They expect us to do the hard work, the necessary work, of making America better, fairer, and more secure.

I ask my colleagues: Let's work together to advance economic justice, protect voting rights, and end the violence that is turning too many American neighborhoods into war zones. In short, let's work together to advance Dr. King's dream.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING AL WITTE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Albert Matthew Francis Witte, a University of Arkansas professor emeritus, former NCAA president, and World War II bombardier who recently passed away December 23, 2015, at the age of 92.

Witte, born in Pittsburgh, PA, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in November 1942 after graduating high school. His prominent military career included flying 35 missions with the 15th Air Force in Italy as a second lieutenant bombardier, and he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago, he went on to the University of Wisconsin School of Law, where he practiced law in Milwaukee. Witte spent the rest of his career at the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he officially retired in 1994, but continued teaching until the fall 2015 semester.

"He taught at the University of Arkansas School of Law for nearly six decades—that's almost two-thirds of the school's 91-year existence," Stacy Leeds, the dean of the University of Arkansas School of Law recently said of Witte.

His passion for law led to his involvement in many professional related projects, including member of the Fay-

etteville Planning Commission, member of the Arkansas Bar Association, a legal consultant to the Southern Governor's Conference, and a special assistant Arkansas attorney general, just to name a few.

Witte's experiences made him a trusted confidant and consult to many in the University of Arkansas's athletics department as well. Twenty years of service as the university's faculty athletic representative allowed him to work with the Southwest and Southeast Conferences, the College Football Association, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. His NCAA involvement included terms as Division I vice president and the association president in 1989.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Albert Matthew Francis Witte. As a member of the Greatest Generation, he lived a life of service. He leaves a lasting legacy through his brave military service, countless efforts on behalf of the University of Arkansas, and the knowledge he shared with several generations of attorneys across the Nation.●

RECOGNIZING HECLA MINING COMPANY

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of Hecla Mining Company, which is celebrating a remarkable milestone in its long and important history in the State of Idaho.

Hecla Mining Company was formed in October of 1891 for the purposes of acquiring and trading mining claims in what was then north Idaho's newly discovered Silver Valley. Mining played an integral role in the settlement of the West and, in particular, north Idaho. The resulting mining boom employed thousands of people living in the region. The Silver Valley has produced more than 1.2 billion ounces of silver. Hecla is now the last of the area's pioneer mining companies and the largest primary silver producer in the United States.

Hecla has not just weathered the storms of the last 125 years; rather, it has been shaped by them. The company and its workers' grit and resolve enabled their perseverance through the Panic of 1893, the Great Depression, and two World Wars; and they have had many achievements worthy of reflection. The minerals produced by Hecla played a key role in our Nation's defense and continue to play an integral role in the pursuit of alternative energy sources and other essential uses. Silver is a key ingredient for solar voltaic cells and is important for modern electronic and medical applications.

Hecla also advanced techniques that improved mine worker safety and works to deepen its connection with the communities in which it operates, while resolving legacy environmental issues. Additionally, Hecla is currently taking the Lucky Friday mine to 10,000

feet below the surface—opening up more than 20 years of additional resources.

The company and its approximately 1,300 workers provide tremendous economic and charitable benefits to communities and our Nation. Hecla's charitable foundation has provided more than \$1.5 million in the last 7 years alone in support of education, youth activities, community health, and infrastructure. The company estimates that its Lucky Friday Mine in north Idaho has provided more than \$1 billion to the local and State economy in the last 5 years. Hecla's employees support numerous community needs, including serving on school boards and other elected positions, as emergency medical technicians and firemen.

Congratulations, Hecla Mining Company and employees, on 125 years of accomplishments. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to strengthening our communities, Idaho, and Nation. I wish you all the best for continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO SHERADIA LINTON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Sheradia Linton, a teenager from Havre, MT, who recently used her Make-A-Wish request to support an orphanage for special needs children in India. Sheradia and her family visited the Save the Children India School in Mumbai, where they delivered school supplies and nearly \$3,000 that they had raised to the orphanage. During the trip, the family also met with Save Our Sisters girls, who had been rescued from sex trafficking, and participated in a sports day for the special-needs children at the orphanage.

Sheradia has Burkitt Lymphoma, a form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that affects her immune cells. But despite all she has been through, she still has a desire to help others in need. I commend Sheradia and her family for their work to help and support the children at the Save the Children India School. Sheradia's heart for service and her dedication to improving the lives of others is something that all Montanans can be proud of.●

TRIBUTE TO ROSS BRYANT

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ross Bryant, the director of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV, military and veteran services center. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Bryant who does so much for Nevada's veterans, active military members, and their families pursuing academic degrees.

Mr. Bryant served in the U.S. Army for 24 years before beginning his career to help fellow veterans and active servicemembers. He began working at UNLV 14 years ago, starting as commander of the UNLV Army ROTC program. He later took on the position of

deputy director of the Institute for Security Studies before accepting his current role as director of the military and veteran services center. As director, Mr. Bryant works to help active military members and veterans experience a fluid transition from the battlefield to college life. He also developed numerous university and community outreach programs for UNLV to help active military and veteran students be successful in their academic pursuits.

Through his tireless efforts, Mr. Bryant has contributed greatly to UNLV's achievement of being named a military friendly school by GI Jobs for 5 consecutive years, as well as making the Military Advanced Education's list of top military-friendly colleges in 2015. UNLV now educates over 1,475 Active-Duty military members, Reservists, National Guard members, veterans, and their families, in part due to the efforts of Mr. Bryant. I am grateful to have Mr. Bryant working on behalf of Nevada's brave men and women.

Through collaborative efforts during the last legislative session, Mr. Bryant was a key contributor in attaining passage of legislation for UNLV to waive fees for Active-Duty military members. The program also reinforces UNLV's presence at Nellis Air Force Base, where a classroom is available for Active-Duty military members and their families to take courses. His efforts have brought southern Nevada's military community the academic support that it deserves.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have had no greater honor than the opportunity to engage with the men and women who served in our Nation's military. I recognize Congress has a responsibility not only to honor the brave individuals who serve our Nation, but to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am grateful to have allies like Mr. Bryant working towards a common goal: fighting to ensure the needs of our veterans and Active-Duty military members are met.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Mr. Bryant for all that he does for UNLV's military community. ●

TRIBUTE TO WENDY DAMONTE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Wendy Damonte for her years of dedication to bringing northern Nevada in-depth news coverage. Wendy was an upstanding member of KTVN's news team for 21 years and an important face in Nevada journalism. While she will be departing from the anchor desk, Wendy's tireless dedication to the Reno community will continue as she embarks on a new journey as vice president of advocacy and community partnership at Renown Health.

Wendy joined KTVN's news team in 1994, shortly after graduating from the

University of Nevada, Reno with a broadcast journalism degree. Her passion in the newsroom quickly moved her up the ranks and led to her anchoring KTVN's evening news program, as well as reporting on medical information on her "Health Watch" segment. As part of KTVN's news team, Wendy went above and beyond in her career to bring Nevadans the most up-to-date and accurate news. Her work in our community is invaluable.

Throughout her tenure with KTVN, Wendy covered a variety of stories, including medical breakthroughs in Nevada, breaking news stories, and personal health stories. Specifically, Wendy shared an extremely personal story, covering the challenges her mother faced while fighting breast cancer. Wendy's coverage led to significant legislative changes in the fight against breast cancer. She was a key contributor in helping push legislation in Nevada mandating that doctors inform women about their breast density.

As someone whose family has been touched by cancer, I understand the difficulties that come with this terrible disease and am thankful to have people like Wendy working to eradicate cancer and increase awareness. I am pleased to say that I have worked with Wendy to raise awareness of the Breast Density and Mammography Act of 2015. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, which similarly requires mammography facilities to include up-to-date information about breast density. Wendy's work has truly touched the lives of many across northern Nevada, and we can't thank her enough.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in thanking Wendy for her years with KTVN and for her work to create a healthier northern Nevada. Although her time at KTVN may be coming to an end, her efforts to pursue her goals will continue. I wish her well in all of her future endeavors and at her new position at Renown Health. ●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE HEARTWELL

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the remarkable achievements of George Heartwell who, after 20 years of service to the city of Grand Rapids, 12 of them as mayor, won the city international acclaim for environmental sustainability and artistic creativity.

Mayor Heartwell, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, has served the citizens of Michigan's second largest city with honor and distinction. A graduate of Michigan's Albion College, Mayor Heartwell served the public in a variety of roles prior to his city hall service. Mayor Heartwell helped Grand Rapidsians achieve the American dream through his work as president of Heartwell Mortgage Corporation. Mayor Heartwell led Heartside Ministry, helping the homeless of Grand Rapids, and was also president and CEO of Pilgrim Manor Retirement Community.

Mayor Heartwell entered Grand Rapids City Hall in 1992, serving the first of four terms as a city commissioner representing Grand Rapids' Third Ward. He took office as mayor in January of 2004. Under his leadership, the city of Grand Rapids withstood the economic storms rattling the State of Michigan, finding methods to deliver city services in sustainable ways.

It is Mayor Heartwell's environmental sustainability efforts which have won the city international awards. During his tenure, city government implemented a variety of environmental measures, including purchase of renewable resource energy, use of alternative fuels in city vehicles, continued attention to water quality in the Grand River, and widespread implementation of energy conservation measures. In January 2007, the United Nations recognized Grand Rapids as a Regional Center of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development.

Thanks to Mayor Heartwell's leadership, Grand Rapids is widely recognized as one of the most sustainable cities in America. In 2010, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce gave Grand Rapids the Nation's Most Sustainable City award, and in 2012, Mayor Heartwell was given the first place Climate Protection Award by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. More recently, Mayor Heartwell was one of only 20 individuals chosen to serve on President Obama's Task Force for Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

Mayor Heartwell has also focused on making Grand Rapids a more socially equitable city. Concurrently, the city has enjoyed a decrease in crime rates and an increase in its economic strength. Grand Rapids is widely recognized for its support of the arts and was recently named as number 20 of the 52 Places to Go in the World in 2016 by the New York Times.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate Mayor George Heartwell on the lasting impact he has made throughout his service to his hometown, the city of Grand Rapids. ●

REMEMBERING PAUL KINSMAN

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the life and legacy of Paul Kinsman.

Paul was born in Watertown, SD, on September 7, 1958, and died in Pierre, SD, on January 10, 2016, at the young age of 57.

Paul was a lifelong South Dakotan and dedicated public servant to the citizens of our State. After earning his law degree, Paul began 28 years of public service to the people of South Dakota. We are a better State and a better people because of his hard work and dedication.

As an administrative law judge, the deputy commissioner of administration, the director of property taxes and special taxes, the commissioner of Administration, and the secretary of Revenue, he inspired his coworkers with