

TRIBUTE TO RIO SMITH

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Rio Smith for his hard work as an intern in the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Rio is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Cheyenne Central High School. He attends Stonehill College in Massachusetts where he is majoring in business administration. Throughout his internship, he has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the time he has been with us.

I want to thank Rio for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO KALEIGH WILLIAMS

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kaleigh Williams for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kaleigh is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Cheyenne East High School. She attends the University of Wyoming where she is majoring in political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Kaleigh for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO PEASE GREETERS

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the memory of Charles Nichols II, a World War II veteran who helped start the Pease Greeters—a New Hampshire-based volunteer group that honors the brave U.S. service members who touch down at Portsmouth's Pease International Airport.

A decorated marine who represented the very best of America's "greatest generation", Mr. Nichols understood the critical importance of showing support for our troops. Thanks to the Pease Greeters, service men and women returning from, and traveling to, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other deployments have arrived at Pease and found smiling faces and a warm welcome—along with good food and a phone to call home.

As a cofounder of the Pease Greeters, Mr. Nichols helped launch a very special Seacoast tradition that sets the standard for how we ought to recognize our service members. I join citizens across New Hampshire and Maine in expressing my gratitude for Mr. Nichols' service to our country, his commitment to supporting America's troops, and his contributions to the life of the Seacoast Region.●

MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF BOB CONNERS

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President. I rise today to honor Bob Connors, the retiring long-time voice on radio for thousands of Ohioans in Central Ohio, who broadcasted his final show on WTVN on November 30, 2011.

Bob and I have not always agreed on the issues, but he has always been the consummate professional. He is fair and dignified in discussions ever since he took to the airwaves back in 1964. And he is always armed with a quick wit. I spoke with Bob earlier this week. He told me that during his retirement he plans to learn a foreign language. When I asked which one, he said he wanted to master English first. That endearing sense of humor earned him the trust of listeners across Central Ohio. And as those who have listened to him over the years know, he has not only mastered English, he has mastered morning radio.

Growing up in St Marys, PA, Bob first wanted to become a radio actor, inspired by the Lone Ranger and encouraged by his father. He got his start on the airwaves when he was in high school, earning \$45 per month as a radio deejay. After graduating from high school, Bob worked in Erie, Buffalo, San Diego, and Pittsburgh. He served our nation and volunteered for the Army in 1956.

By 1964, he joined WTVN in Central Ohio. Bob cemented his loyal following in the afternoons transitioning from music to a talk radio format. Some memorable stories of his time on air relate to his beloved Ohio State Buckeyes football team, led at the time by the famed Woody Hayes.

"The Morning Monarch," as he would be known while hosting the Bob Connors Show beginning in 1978, he brought in more listeners and would eventually range 33 years, six U.S. presidents, and five Ohio State football coaches. And as much as he enriched the lives of his listeners, he also served his community away from the microphone, volunteering with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Columbus and the Charities Newsies.

Bob Connors had the ear of his listeners because they could trust him, whether they agreed or disagreed with him. It is that admirable trait we will miss with his retirement. But it is that endearing quality that's earned him this retirement and no more 3 a.m. wake-up calls.

Bob, I wish you and Linda all the best in your retirement. Thank you for

all that you have done for your listeners and for our great State.●

TRIBUTE TO ED STRICKFADEN

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, Ed Strickfaden. Today, the Idaho State Police will be naming a building after Ed, who served as the director of the Idaho State Police and was a 35-year veteran of the department. He is very deserving of this honor, and I congratulate him on this special day.

Ed Strickfaden graduated from Council High School, located in a small rural town in southwestern Idaho. He honorably served in the U.S. Air Force before beginning his career with the Idaho State Police. In 1967, he was hired as a port of entry officer, and from there he worked his way up the ranks, serving in almost every region of the State.

In 1980, he was promoted from a patrolman in the Lewiston area to a sergeant in Twin Falls. By 1984, he was district commander in Idaho Falls, then moving to the district commander position in Coeur d'Alene the following year.

He served in the headquarters office beginning in 1991, first as a major in charge of field operations, then as a deputy superintendent of the Idaho State Police. He was appointed ISP superintendent by Gov. Phil Batt and served 4 years in that position prior to his appointment as director of the Department of Law Enforcement by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne in January 1999.

Colonel Strickfaden undertook a major reorganization of the Idaho State Police, streamlining its functions and enhancing training throughout the department. He even initiated the name change to Idaho State Police, effective July 1, 2000.

With his years of service, rising through the ranks and serving in all parts of Idaho, Colonel Strickfaden understood more than most what was needed and how to do it. He was a man of uncompromising integrity and had the utmost respect of those he led and the respect of the state's elected officials.

Today, the Idaho State Police and the people of Idaho honor this humble man by putting his name on the building at ISP headquarters. It is a fitting tribute to a great leader and a wonderful human being. We are all very grateful for the many years of exemplary service Colonel Ed Strickfaden has provided to our great State.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention Colonel Strickfaden's wonderful family and especially his wife Barbara for her strong support throughout Ed's career. Together, they have served the people of Idaho with great distinction.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to