

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOHN D. WRAY

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a former Tuskegee University professor whose efforts to support this country during the First World War, with the help of the hard-working young people he recruited for agricultural clubs, have gone largely unacknowledged until recently.

After the United States entered World War I in April of 1917, Professor John D. Wray left his position at Tuskegee University and relocated to North Carolina to aid in the war effort. As a professor specializing in agricultural science, Wray utilized his unique skills to help grow food for servicemembers fighting abroad. He partnered with Black county agents to organize and encourage African-American farmers' children to join agricultural clubs, which became known as the Saturday Service League. Wray even created a newspaper, the *Rural Messenger*, which was advertised as "the only Negro farm journal in the world."

In the first issue, Wray wrote that the children "were told why they should engage in this work as a necessary defense for their country; that they could greatly assist by growing food to feed the boys who had gone to the trenches." In just 1 year's time, Wray had increased participation in North Carolina agricultural clubs tenfold, growing enrollment from 1,400 to more than 14,000. The Saturday Service League produced more than 17,000 chickens, 30,000 eggs, 23,000 pounds of pork, 700 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of peas, 1,800 bushels of peanuts, 32 bales of cotton, 45,000 bushels of corn, and 700 bushels of potatoes in a single year.

Even after the war ended in 1919, many of the youth were inspired by Wray's patriotism and continued to work in the clubs to help feed the hungry and displaced peoples of Europe. By World War II, the clubs were nicknamed the "Victory Volunteers."

Born in 1889, Wray grew up on a tobacco farm near Durham and moved to Greensboro, NC, to attend the Agricultural and Technical College, where he received his degree in agricultural science. There he met his wife and developed a passion for community organizing. Utilizing the agricultural skills he learned at the college, Wray taught the youth he organized modern farming techniques that increased yields 10 times over, actively improving the utility of each farmer he encountered. In 1915, the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station offered him a job with a salary of \$1,200 per year, making him the first African-American agent for the North Carolina Extension Service. He also became an advocate for young Black men who were mistreated while serving their country in military service.

While many wartime stories focused on the front lines of combat, it is

equally important to recognize Americans who worked to support them. Professor John D. Wray knew exactly what he could do to maximize his support for the United States in one of our greatest times of need. I learned of Professor Wray through his granddaughter, Kathryn Green, who now resides in Denver, CO. She and her family take great pride in his contributions to our Nation's war effort during World War I. I join them and all Americans today in offering our gratitude and thanks to Professor Wray's outstanding commitment to country, community, and the agricultural sciences.●

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK LANGE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Chuck Lange, who recently retired as the executive director of the Arkansas Sheriff's Association after more than two decades of service at the ASA and a lifetime of dedication to safety and law enforcement.

As executive director of ASA, Chuck worked for the sheriffs of Arkansas but he shared his expertise in law enforcement with many more people. Chuck's passion for law enforcement and the lessons he learned at the University of Arkansas, the Southwest Texas State's Crime Prevention Institution, and the FBI National Academy benefitted Arkansans during his 43 years in law enforcement and security-related services.

Chuck's professional achievements are far-reaching and his accomplishments continue far beyond the office. He passed along his decades of law enforcement knowledge to others. As a volunteer, Chuck conducts training sessions for rape victim advocates, earning him accolades from Rape Crisis, Inc. Having also taught women's self-defense classes, it is evident that Chuck has a true commitment to making sure Arkansans understand how to protect themselves and stay safe.

Chuck shares his strong commitment to law enforcement as a member of several boards and task forces including the Arkansas Law Enforcement Memorial Board; executive board at the Criminal Justice Institute; Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence Board; Governor's Strategic Prevention Framework Advisory Board and Governor's Task Force on After School Programs.

I congratulate Chuck Lange for his outstanding achievements and success in law enforcement and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him on his retirement. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors. We are all grateful for his years of service and leadership to Arkansas.●

REMEMBERING KATIE BECKETT

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the courage of Katie Beckett, whose recent passing bids us pause to remember the challenges faced by families with chil-

dren with long-term care needs, and the support we can provide to them.

Katie and her family will forever be known as heroes who fought for fair Medicaid benefits for every child. Before their advocacy work, Medicaid did not cover at-home treatment for children with disabilities or special health care needs. As a child suffering from viral encephalitis, Katie was forced to live in a hospital in order to receive treatment under Medicaid. Her mother went to work lobbying on behalf of Katie and other children in the same situation. As a result of her efforts, President Reagan passed a waiver that would allow children on Medicaid the option to receive medical care in their homes.

To this day, the waiver—which is referred to as the "Katie Beckett Waiver"—enhances the quality of life of thousands of children across the Nation, including many in my home State of Rhode Island.

Caroline Friedman of Portsmouth, RI weighed 2 pounds, 15 ounces when she was born. In order to survive, Caroline must receive cardiac medicine through a central line in her heart. Because of the Katie Beckett Waiver, Caroline receives her life-sustaining treatment outside of the hospital. She is now 9 years old, and is living a full life attending school, joining Girl Scouts, and even taking karate classes.

Because of the Katie Beckett Waiver, Jacob Vandal of Little Compton, RI, who suffers from a rare genetic disorder, was able to receive home-based therapy services. Receiving this treatment at home made a huge difference to his developmental progress. Now, Jacob is a well-adjusted 27 year old who works in a supported employment program—something his parents say would not have been possible without the at-home care afforded to him by the Katie Beckett Waiver.

Katie Beckett and her family paved the way for Caroline, Jacob, and so many others like them to receive their treatment at home with their family, where they most wanted to be. I know these individuals and their families will be forever grateful for the difference the Beckett family has made to their lives. On behalf of all Rhode Islanders, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Beckett family for their loss.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.