

In 1978, she became the first Native American to run for secretary of State in Wisconsin, and in 1992 she was the first Native American woman to run for Congress in Wisconsin. In 1993, Ada became the first Native American woman to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She subsequently served as Chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

I am proud to call Ada a friend, and I am grateful for her lifelong leadership and commitment to social justice. Her vital work continues today, focused on efforts to reduce the prison recidivism rate and create a reentry program for American Indians. Her lifetime of work, coupled with an enduring passion to instill in young people the drive to change their society through education and social engagement, shows what a determined person will continue to do—even when they have stated that they are “retired.”

I wish Ada good health and happiness for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BRYCE LUCHTERHAND

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I honor Bryce Luchterhand on his retirement from Federal and public service. He has dedicated his career to improving the quality of life and the vitality of communities throughout the State of Wisconsin. The occasion of his retirement presents a special opportunity to celebrate his dedication to public service and social justice.

Bryce was born in Colby, WI, and raised on the Luchterhand family farm—a fixture in the local rural community since 1902. He graduated from Colby High School and earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education broadfield social studies from Northland College in Ashland, WI. Growing up on a Wisconsin farm, Bryce was instilled with the values of hard work, love of the land, Central Wisconsin optimism, and a sense for social justice that would serve him well throughout his career and life.

In 1970 he started his lifelong path in public service as teacher of social studies on the Navajo Indian Reservation at Many Farms High School in Many Farms, AZ, where he inspired and mentored the youth of the Navajo reservation. Working with the impoverished youth of the Navajo reservation sparked within Bryce his passion for equal opportunity, creating bonds and lifelong friendships that became a foundation for his life of service.

Throughout his public service career, Bryce has been guided by his love of the land. In 1973, Bryce took an opportunity to return to Colby, WI, to buy a dairy farm next to the Luchterhand family farm. And with the same drive and determination that have become his trademark, he and his wife, Max, milked dairy cows and raised beef cows for the past 42 years, even developing a new breed of cow called a Gloucester Lineback. As a farmer, Bryce greets

every season with the same grit and resolve he learned as a child in rural Wisconsin. However, the time of year he holds most dear is the maple syrup season each spring. Bryce and Max spend many early mornings and late nights tending to the taps, boiling down the sap, and bottling one of Wisconsin's treasures—Wisconsin maple syrup. Each bottle of Luchterhand maple syrup is a labor of love, and I have been honored to be among the select individuals to receive this special gift.

Bryce's years of public service are comprised of distinguished service on various boards, committees, and associations, often in roles as chairman or advisor. He is most proud of his roles as instructor for the Presidential Classroom in Washington, DC, executive council member of Wisconsin Rural Partners, member of the Board of Directors for Wisconsin Farm Progress/Technology Days, as well as a founding and current member of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, an organization dedicated to giving citizens a voice in land use planning.

Bryce's career in public service has also included serving the President of the United States, the Governor of Wisconsin and two U.S. Senators. He served as President Clinton's Director of Rural Development for the State of Wisconsin for 8 years, helping to make critical economic and agricultural development investments in rural Wisconsin. He served as the director of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle's northern office, serving residents of 40 counties for 8 years, and as Senator Herb Kohl's area representative for 2 years in 14 counties. As my Deputy State Director of Outreach for the past 2 years, it was not uncommon for Bryce to travel in excess of 1,000 miles a week representing me at meetings and events in northern Wisconsin. Of course, these trips were made easier if you knew the “Luchterhand shortcuts” that often took Bryce snaking along the back county roads of northern Wisconsin, inevitably getting him to his destination quicker. In all of these capacities, Bryce served the people of Wisconsin with distinction and honor.

I am proud to call Bryce a friend and I am grateful that in choosing the path of public service, he has impacted countless people's lives, changed communities for the better, and strengthened rural communities of Wisconsin. In retirement, I wish Bryce and his wife Max all the best, including good health and happiness, for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARTY BEIL

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I recognize and honor Marty Beil of Madison, WI, for his 30 years of leadership as executive director of AFSCME Council 24. I have known Marty for many years, and have been proud to stand in solidarity with him. Marty has been a leader in the labor community, and his passion for the rights of

working persons will be missed by all who have worked alongside him and who have benefited from his strong leadership.

Marty began his professional life in service to his union as a member of the WSEU Professional Services Bargaining team in 1973. He continued his service as a member, leader and activist in Council 24 until 1985, when he was appointed executive director. Throughout that time, Marty has been passionate in his advocacy for the rights of working people, to the honor and value of public service, and to insuring that working people have a level playing field on which to compete. Marty has dedicated his career to protecting and serving his members in the collective bargaining and political process, always with a sense of fairness and compassion.

Marty's work is exemplified by his long-term efforts in support of American workers, the American labor movement, and those fighting for civil rights for all Americans. Among many other important priorities, he supported the expansion of antidiscrimination laws to protect the LGBT community, and defended workers from discrimination and retaliation for political activities. He was a staunch defender of labor's right to back candidates who made a commitment to support the goals and activities of union members regardless of partisan affiliation. His 30 years of service at the helm of Council 24 has inspired a new generation of workers to lead the union into the 21st century.

I am proud to call Marty a friend, and I am grateful for his important contributions to our State and the labor community. I know that his passion and dedication, in the model of his forebears such as Roy Kubista and John Lawton will serve as a lasting example for generations of future labor leaders. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE NEW JERSEY- INDIA RELATIONSHIP

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am honored to serve a State with one of the largest Indian American diasporas in the country.

The Indian diaspora community in New Jersey is an active, vocal and engaged constituency whose contributions to the State reach across all sectors. When given the opportunity, the very first caucus I joined in the Senate was the U.S.-India caucus. Soon after I joined the caucus, I had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Modi during his visit to the United States. His visit signaled a meaningful moment in the relations between the United States and India. It became clearer that the oldest and newest democracies can forge a transformational relationship to leverage the historic opportunities before us.