

upcoming retirement as general manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, also known as SEPTA. Mr. Casey has served SEPTA in this position for the last 7 years and will officially retire on September 30, 2015.

For those who do not know, SEPTA is the largest transit system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the sixth largest in the Nation. Services including bus, subway, commuter rail, light rail, and electric trolleybus are provided to over 3.9 million people in and around Philadelphia, PA, including parts of Delaware and New Jersey. A lifelong resident of the Philadelphia area, Mr. Casey's first memories of SEPTA were riding the trolley to visit his grandmother in the city and to attend games at Connie Mack Stadium.

Mr. Casey began his career at SEPTA in 1982. Before becoming general manager in 2008, he served for 6 years as chief financial officer and treasurer. In senior leadership positions at the Internal Audit and Finance departments, he received praise for his efforts to implement fiscal responsibility at the authority.

As general manager of SEPTA, Mr. Casey oversaw 9,000 employees and instituted several necessary programs for the authority. He shifted SEPTA's customer relations focus to reflect the "Four Cs"—Cleanliness, Convenience, Courtesy and Communication—and implemented initiatives to reduce energy consumption on vehicles and at facilities. As a result, SEPTA received the 2012 American Public Transportation Association, APTA, Outstanding Public Transportation System Award.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Casey has focused on community engagement and policy reforms with the aim of helping riders and the overall transit infrastructure system. I applaud Mr. Casey for his work with SEPTA over the past 34 years and his service to the residents of southeast Pennsylvania. His leadership and determination should serve as an example for his successor.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I wish to commend all foster grandparents on the program's 50th anniversary this year. The Foster Grandparents Program provides ways for volunteers age 55 and older to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. These volunteers give their time and talents as role models, mentors, and friends to children in need.

More than 25,000 foster grandparents volunteer through over 300 programs throughout the United States. Last year, foster grandparent volunteers provided 23 million hours of service to their local communities, serving more than 189,000 children facing academic,

social, and financial challenges. These volunteers serve at thousands of locations, helping children build reading skills, providing one-on-one tutoring, mentoring troubled teenagers and young mothers, caring for premature infants or children with disabilities, and assisting children who have been abused or neglected.

I am particularly proud to honor the more than 500 seniors in Kansas who contribute their time and talents serving children in my State. Foster grandparent programs operate across Kansas out of Augusta, Hays, Kansas City, Manhattan, Paola, Topeka, and Wichita. Volunteers serve in an array of locations throughout the State, including schools, hospitals, juvenile correctional institutions, and early childhood education and childcare centers. These compassionate individuals have reached more than 5,000 Kansas students over the last 50 years. The following are just a few examples of their inspiring service:

Alice Reid has been part of the Foster Grandparent Program since 2004. At the age of 92, she has consistently given an average of 33 hours per week and 11,341 lifetime volunteer hours. She primarily works on reading with children younger than 5 years of age, but Grandma Alice is happy to help any student. She often spends her lunch hour in the cafeteria eating with the children. Grandma Alice is so valued that the school had a big celebration for her 90th birthday. There were more than 400 children involved in this birthday celebration for their friend. The students made birthday cards and sang to her. A kindergarten teacher remarked, "We love Grandma Alice and we appreciate all that she does for us. She has been a wonderful part of our school."

In WaKeeney, Grandma Deb Fabrizius serves in kindergarten classrooms at Trego Grade School and has formed trusting friendships with many of the children she serves. She shared a story about a child, "a sweet little guy who is quiet, very particular about his work and has a great smile. This little boy does not hug a lot, but when he does it, it is special—he's very sincere about it." The child told Grandma Deb that he wanted to share a secret with her. She followed him to his locker, where he took out a folder from his backpack with papers in it. The papers detailed what he wanted to be when he grew up. Grandma Deb was touched that he trusted her enough to keep his secret, and she told him that his parents would be proud of him and encouraged him to share his dreams with them. Foster grandparents such as Grandma Deb are sometimes the only adults with whom children have consistent, loving, nonjudgmental relationships. Grandma Deb and other foster grandparents do their best to encourage students and inspire them to have self-confidence and reach for the stars.

Carol Sheffield, Udena McKee, Naomi Graves, and Margaret Hill work as fos-

ter grandparents in the Manhattan area. These women note the work they do for the kids is very fulfilling, and they plan to continue to serve in the classroom for years. By giving positive attention to kids, the volunteers and teachers have been able to see a real turnaround in students' lives. Carmen Flaz, principal of Oakdale Elementary School in Salina, said that foster grandparents have a large effect in the classroom.

Grandma Linda Downs is the only foster grandparent in Waterville, a town of around 700 people in northeast Kansas. Grandma Linda serves students in her local preschool as well the afterschool and summer elementary programs. She volunteers at least 30 hours each week for her community.

Grandma Melinda serves as a foster grandparent at Lucas-Luray Elementary School in Luray. When she was younger, she lost her right thumb in an accident. While most people do not notice her missing thumb, Grandma Melinda says, "Leave it to a kid! They look you over from head to toe. They spy my missing thumb right away. They watch me holding a crayon or glue stick. They are always watching my hand to see what I can do." When children at school ask her about her missing thumb, Grandma Melinda lets them look closer and touch her hand if they want. She uses this opportunity to teach the children a life lesson about each person being special in their own way and about accepting everyone.

Grandpa Hubert Brown serves in a Head Start classroom in Great Bend, where he gives special attention to three particular students. A set of two boys have formed a close bond with him. Another child, a little girl who is very shy and did not talk much with other students, always finds a place near Grandpa Hubert during circle time. Through her friendship with Grandpa Hubert, she has increased her involvement in class and developed friendships with her classmates.

The special way of life we live in Kansas and across this great country would not be possible without individuals committed to giving back to improve their own communities, and foster grandparents change the world for the better one soul at a time. Their acts of kindness and selflessness are inspiring to us all. I honor foster grandparents for their shining examples of service to others. This commitment to service enriches our own homes and strengthens our Nation.

Thank you, congratulations on your 50th anniversary, and all the best for many more years of helping others.●

##### REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT CHARLES GLINIEWICZ

• Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, on September 1, 2015, Lieutenant Charles Joseph Gliniewicz of the Fox Lake Police Department made the ultimate sacrifice. Lieutenant Gliniewicz, who