

committed to supporting efforts to provide assistance to Armenia to strengthen security, promote economic growth, and support democratic reforms and development.

We also must find a way to come together to recognize our past and to show our unwavering support to those facing persecution today.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MASSICK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we often hear about the term “Greatest Generation” in describing the people who endured the Great Depression and persevered in World War II. Today I am proud to talk about one of those people who is a part of the Greatest Generation, my constituent John Massick.

John was born, quite fittingly, on Veteran’s Day in 1915. Last November, John celebrated his 101st birthday.

Mr. Massick enlisted in the Army in 1941, serving the H Company 378th Infantry Division. During his time in the Army, John was promoted to the rank of sergeant. John served in combat, including multiple battles in France during 1944. Mr. Massick’s service concluded upon his honorable discharge in 1945. He earned several decorations in the line of duty, earning the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Ribbon, two Bronze Stars, and others.

After John’s discharge from duty, he returned home to Davenport, IA, where he still lives. John and his late wife, Velma, raised two boys.

Our country can’t thank Mr. Massick enough for his service. We will never truly be able to repay the debt owed to those who put their lives on the line in defense of freedom, not just for Americans but for those around the world. While I may not ever be able to thank Mr. Massick enough for his service, I do hope that shedding light on his incredible service may serve as a symbol of this body’s gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL SCOTT JACKSON

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to thank COL Scott Jackson for his exemplary service and outstanding leadership as the chief of the Army’s Senate Liaison Division. During his tenure with the Office of the Chief Legislation Liaison, Scott was able to bring more than 24 years of experience in various leadership and staff positions to provide superior support to the work of the U.S. Senate. Additionally, I congratulate Scott on his recent selection to command the Army’s first Security Force Assistance Brigade at Fort Benning, GA.

In support of the global war on terror, Scott has deployed to Iraq three times, for a cumulative 41 months. In 2003, he served as the lead operational planner for the First Cavalry Division, writing the initial counterinsurgency campaign plan for Baghdad; subsequently assigned as the executive officer for 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry Regi-

ment and participated in its assault into Najaf, Iraq, August 2004, and Fallujah, Iraq, November 2004. In 2006–2008, he served as the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, First Cavalry Division, deputy brigade commander with duty as the deputy team leader, Diyala Provincial Reconstruction Team, where he was the governance team leader and senior coalition adviser to the governor of Diyala, providing daily coaching, mentorship, and liaison to the provincial governor.

In April 2008, Scott assumed command of 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment and deployed his battalion in January 2009, assuming responsibility for coalition operations in the Baghdad districts of Adamiyah, Rusafa, and Taji. During this deployment, his battalion executed the coalition withdrawal from the cities and transition of responsibility to the Iraqi Security Forces.

Following command, Scott was selected to be the assistant chief of staff, G3, Operations and Plans, for the First Cavalry Division and subsequently selected as an Army War College fellow at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory. While at Lincoln Laboratory, Scott focused his research on how technology enables the application of strategy, producing an original research project entitled, “An Operational Design Concept for Wide Area Persistent Biometric Surveillance.”

Following the War College, Scott served as the 3rd Infantry Division, Rear chief of staff, while the headquarters was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He then went on to assume command of the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, SPARTANS, at Fort Stewart, GA, from 2013 to 2015.

Scott’s humble character rarely does justice to his accomplishments and accolades. However, he does speak very proudly of his wife, Valerie, and their sons, Benjamin and William. Military families are true testaments of both strength and pride. They are constantly challenged by deployments, changes in duty stations, and uncertainties. These hurdles create resiliency that the Jackson family patriotically embodies. Scott’s family are his pride and joy and will equally be missed by everyone they have inspired during their time here.

While we will miss having Scott’s support and counsel here in the Senate, I know that he will be moving on to greater things. I want to again thank Scott and his family for their service to our great Nation and congratulate him for his selection to command the Army’s newest brigade at Fort Benning.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE L’AMBIANCE PLAZA COLLAPSE

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, yesterday was Sunday, April 23.

In Connecticut, April 23 is a solemn day. It is the day when we pause to remember and reflect upon the lives lost and the lives forever altered by one of the worst workplace disasters in Connecticut history, the collapse of the L’Ambiance Plaza construction site in Bridgeport.

On almost every April 23, I have stood with laborers, families, officials, and others at the L’Ambiance memorial park to recognize the heart-breaking loss. It is a somber, sobering moment.

On that day—30 years ago yesterday—workers were constructing a 16-story apartment building using a process known as the lift-slab method. This method allows floors to be built at the base of a building and then hoisted up, one by one, using hydraulic lifting technology. This process was at work at L’Ambiance Plaza when things went horribly wrong. Due to shortsightedness and failures by the building’s developers, the massive concrete slabs that formed several upper floors gave way, crushing the floors below like pancakes, all within seconds.

Twenty-eight workers lost their lives. Nearly 2 dozen others were seriously injured. Those who survived the collapse demonstrated tremendous bravery and unity in the days afterward as a massive rescue and recovery operation ensued. The techniques deployed in that operation were later put to use at the World Trade Center on 9/11.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, the lift-slab method of construction used in Bridgeport ended nationwide, thankfully. Still, however, the pain and grief continues for the families who lost loved ones.

Today, in recognition of this grave anniversary and in memory of the victims, I enter into the RECORD their names: Michael Addona, Augustus Allman, Glenn Canning, Mario Colello, Francesco D’Addona, William Daddona, Donald Emanuel, Vincent Figliomeni, Herbert Goeldner, Jr., Terrance Gruber, John Hughes, Joseph Lowe, John Magnoli, Rocco Mancini, Richard McGill, Mario Musso, Nicholas Nardella, John Page, Guiseppe Paternostro, Angelantonio Perugini, John Puskar, Jr., Anthony Rinaldi, Albert Ritz, Michael Russillo, Reginald Siewert, William Varga, Frank Visconti, and Scott Ward.

We must honor their lives—and the lives of many other American workers killed or injured in the workplace—by ensuring that employees are able to work at facilities that are safe and secure, free from needless dangers and hazards. We can achieve that realistic goal through strong regulations, meaningful oversight, and effective enforcement.

On this day, I pledge to continue fighting for workers and workplace safety. I pledge to fight against efforts to roll back safety rules and against efforts to hamper agencies tasked with enforcing those rules.

I strongly urge and challenge my colleagues and this administration to demonstrate their concern for their constituents and all American workers by publicly adopting this same pledge.

We owe nothing less to the 28 victims of the L'Ambiance Plaza disaster.

Thank you.●

REMEMBERING INA BOON

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, Missouri has lost a true crusader of the civil rights movement. Ina Boon passed away Monday, February 27, in St. Louis, at the age of 90 after dedicating her life to fighting and advocating for justice and equality through her long tenure at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP.

Ina Boon started as a volunteer for the St. Louis Branch of the NAACP. She quickly demonstrated her tenacity and strong leadership skills to work her way up in the organization. Ms. Boon's work included a position at the NAACP headquarters in New York, but she is best known for the work she did as the region IV director of the national NAACP office. In that role, she became the national office's longest serving regional director.

Over the years, she became a fearless advocate and organizer, helping to address racial inequities in the workplace. Even in the face of adversity, she was not deterred. When her counterpart Medgar Evers was killed in 1963, Ina Boon sent her children to live with family members in Wisconsin, while she continued to push for changes. For over 50 years, Ina Boon worked in various roles for the NAACP, never ceasing and always full of energy, even up to her retirement in her late 70s.

As a true civil servant, Ina Boon continued to give back after her retirement through her work on many St. Louis area boards such as the Myrtle Hilliard Davis Comprehensive Health Center, the St. Louis Black Roundtable, and the Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church. She even provided her expertise to help the local St. Louis County NAACP, where she volunteered to serve as their branch president.

Ina Boon is survived by her son Gentry Trotter, founder of Heat-Up St. Louis/Cool Down St. Louis. Like his mother, Gentry Trotter saw the needs in the community and stepped up to address them. His organization focuses on regional energy assistance to help as a safety net to prevent low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities from losing their heat or air-conditioning in times of freezing temperatures or the excessive summer heat. The organization also offers energy: efficiency education and advocates for public engagement regarding utility rates, health, and safety issues. Ina Boon leaves behind nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and seven great-and great-great-grandchildren. She will be missed by many, but her work and efforts will never be forgotten.●

RECOGNIZING MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE AND THE 366TH FIGHTER WING

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring Mountain Home Air Force Base both on its 75-year anniversary and the 366th Fighter Wing of Mountain Home Air Force Base on its 50-year anniversary of being recognized as the "Gunfighters."

According to historical accounts from Mountain Home Air Force Base, the 366th Fighter Wing's roots trace back much further than 50 years, all the way to the activation of the 366th Fighter Group in 1943. The fighter group participated in action over France, ground support in the Normandy invasion, air attacks near St. Lo, France, and attacks and reconnaissance in the Battle of the Bulge. Following World War II, the fighter group went through deactivations, reactivations, redesignations, and base reassignments before earning its nickname, the "Gunfighters," in the 1960s, for its weapons innovation and effectiveness in accomplishing its missions in Vietnam. The wing became renowned as the Gunfighters after it mounted Gatling gun pods on its aircraft wings to improve short-range capabilities in battling enemy aircraft over Vietnam. The Gunfighters' effectiveness was recognized with a Presidential unit citation. The tenacity and ingenuity at the heart of the wing and its earning its Gunfighters moniker is an attribute we celebrate today.

While both the fighter wing and Mountain Home Air Force Base started taking shape in 1943, it was not until 1972 that the two combined when the then-366th Tactical Fighter Wing, later redesignated the 366th Fighter Wing, moved from Vietnam to its current location at Mountain Home Air Force Base. Mountain Home Air Force Base reports that the base first opened on August 7, 1943. The base has since been home to many of our Nation's outstanding servicemembers, including the men and women of the 366th Fighter Wing. From accommodating the training of crews for a variety of aircraft to supporting combat, covert, and special operations missions, the base has a long history of remarkable contributions to defending Americans and allies both at home and all around the world. As part of its more recent service, Mountain Home Air Force Base has provided personnel and equipment to support efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as throughout Southwest Asia.

The approximately 3,500 military and civilian members and 4,300 family members of the 366th Fighter Wing and Mountain Home Air Force Base have an extensive record of excellence. In 2015 and 2016, the 366th Fighter Wing received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, adding to a long list of accomplishments of the men and women of Mountain Home Air Force Base. The families of the 366th Fighter Wing and

Mountain Home Air Force Base represent a lasting tradition of distinction in meeting our Nation's call to service. As we celebrate the significant milestones of the Mountain Home Air Force Base and 366th Fighter Wing, we also honor the exceptional dedication inherent in those who serve and the families who support their service.

Congratulations, Gunfighters and all those who support Mountain Home Air Force Base, on your decades of achievements and extraordinary service.●

REMEMBERING ELEANOR BYERS

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the life of my aunt, Eleanor Atwater Byers, who passed away peacefully on March 20, 2017. Nunnie, as she was affectionately known, was born on November 30, 1927, in Fall River, MA, and grew up in Tiverton and Providence, RI.

She grew up doing anything she could with water such as swimming, fishing, and sailing, as well as climbing trees, collecting arrowheads, and communing with the natural world on and around Nanaquaket Pond for the first 14 years of her life in Tiverton. At 12 years old, Nunnie took her first photograph with a Brownie camera of her best friend. At age 14, her family started to summer in Little Compton, RI, and while her childhood pals continued to sail and swim, Nunnie photographed the Sakonnet landscape. She continued snapping pictures until age 22 and then never photographed again until 30 years later. After the loss of her family's home to fire in 1940, Nunnie and her family moved to Providence, where she attended Lincoln School. After graduating from Lincoln School in 1945, Nunnie went to Bradford Junior College in Haverhill, MA. Soon after graduating from Bradford in 1947, Nunnie suffered a broken back from a skiing accident which required a year's recovery, including many months in a full body cast. This injury would be a source of physical discomfort and limit her mobility for the rest of her life, but it would fail to squelch her mischievous and indomitable spirit.

Ahead of her times and a true adventurer, Nunnie joined the American Friends Field Service and participated in a mission trip to the village of Santiago Ixcuintla in Nayarit, Mexico. She taught in health clinics and schools to improve the quality of life for the native Huichol and Mexican women and children with whom she fell in love. Soon after her return from Mexico, she accepted the marriage proposal of Randolph Kunhardt Byers, Jr., of Milton, MA, and they were married in August of 1951.

Randy's enlistment in the Army took them to Lawton, OK. They then returned to Rhode Island where Nunnie gave birth to their first of four children, Elizabeth "Libby". In 1955, they moved to Wilton, CT, while also bringing son Bartlett "Bart" Cooke into the world. Two more daughters were to follow, Eleanor "Ellie" and Mary.