

working with local chronic disease patient advocates on July 10 to highlight contemporary challenges and opportunities, and I encourage my colleagues to join in this effort.

Chronic illness includes cancers, cardiovascular disease, and many other conditions, some very rare. Some chronic illnesses can be preventable, and Chronic Disease Day is an opportunity to feature healthy lifestyles, the importance of regular health screenings, and proper self-care. In this regard, awareness and education can go a long way towards improving patient outcomes, preventing the progression of disease, and lowering healthcare costs.

Many chronic illnesses are unavoidable though and have genetic components or are simply idiopathic with an unknown origin. These include rare and life-threatening conditions that require near constant access to life-sustaining care or therapies. These patients occasionally rely on voluntary charitable assistance programs to maintain this access when they have no other options.

July 10 is a time to promote the importance of preventing chronic disease while reflecting on opportunities to better serve individuals and families facing serious chronic illness. I call on my colleagues to please join me in recognizing Chronic Disease Day.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Outdoor Industry Association, OIA. Based in Boulder, CO, OIA is the leading trade organization of the outdoor recreation gear and apparel industry.

Founded by a group of 14 brands and specialty retailers, OIA has grown to include 1,300 companies that are the backbone of an \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy supporting 7.6 million jobs across the United States. For the past three decades, OIA has represented American businesses and individuals whose vocations and avocations are connected to this Nation's best idea: our public lands and waters. OIA is motivated by a shared commitment to protecting, maintaining, and expanding outdoor recreation infrastructure and ensuring every person in the United States has equitable access to nature.

From its earliest days, OIA has partnered with conservation organizations to advocate for our public land and water. OIA helped to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and they continue to press for full funding. They have also supported wildfire funding legislation, rails-to-trails, and similar transportation infrastructure programs and continue to work toward responsible climate and energy policy. The organi-

zation also produces outdoor recreation economy report that highlights the influence of the outdoor recreation sector on the national economy, including statistics on consumer spending, tax revenue, and job creation. This report is an incredible resource for lawmakers, land managers, and local planners. As a result, over the past half decade and following Colorado's leadership, States have created State offices of outdoor recreation to ensure that government leaders and business leaders are working together to grow their recreation economies.

I am honored to continue to work with OIA to protect our public land and water. Earlier this year, OIA announced their support for the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act, S. 241/H.R. 823, our bill to protect 400,000 acres of public land in Colorado while safeguarding existing outdoor recreation opportunities. OIA stated that they are "one hundred percent in support of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act because it would protect nearly half a million acres of public lands across Colorado and support the state's \$28 billion outdoor recreation economy while honoring its history in protecting Camp Hale, the origin of the 10th mountain division during WWII." I appreciate OIA's support for conserving public land in Colorado.

OIA members exemplify the collaborative and altruistic stewardship at the heart of the outdoor recreation industry. For that, I congratulate OIA on this 30-year anniversary and thank them for their contributions to our American outdoor heritage.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WILLIAMS

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today, I am honored to recognize in the RECORD Mr. Robert M. Williams, Jr., who recently retired after almost half a century as editor and publisher of the Blackshear Times in Blackshear, GA.

While he may be a small-town newspaperman, Robert Williams is known throughout south Georgia and across much of our State because of his work ethic, his devotion to the printed word, and his dedication to the newspaper business and what it means to a community. For more than 48 years, Robert has worked to be accurate, fair, and to provide his readers with the news that affects them and the community they all cherish. He has personally written more than 2,000 columns during his career.

It is worth mentioning that the newspaper's motto, printed at the top of the front page of the printed publication and online, is one Robert has also claimed as his own: "Liked by Many, Cussed by Some, Read by Them All." With the weekly newspaper also turning 150 years this year under Robert's leadership, both have long been widely read.

At Just 20 years old, Robert began his career at the Blackshear Times

after coming down to the community from the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. He was brought in by two legendary Georgians themselves, Roy Chalker, Sr., and Wilkes Williams of Waynesboro, to turn their investment around. Turn it around he did, settling well into the community at the same time. A short 5 years later, Robert purchased the Blackshear Times. Under Robert's leadership during the last 48 years, the newspaper has won hundreds of awards in a variety of categories.

Robert and his wife Cheryl have both loyally and successfully served not only this publication, but the newspaper industry as a whole. The Blackshear Times is one of five newspapers that Robert and Cheryl have owned as part of their SouthFire Newspapers organization, which also includes the Alma Times, the Charlton County Herald, the Telfair Enterprise, and the Monroe County Reporter in Georgia. Robert and Cheryl have both served as president of the Georgia Press Association, our State's newspaper industry advocacy organization. Robert was also president of the 2,300-member National Newspaper Association in 2014, serving nationally as the voice of small-town newspapers.

Locally, Robert Williams served two terms on the Blackshear City Council and served as executive director of both the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority and the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce. Robert is also a graduate of the Leadership Georgia program, an organization we both hold dear and that has guided our service to the State. Robert has found countless ways to give back. Whether it was as a member of the Georgia Agriculture Exposition Authority that governs the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry or the local college foundation board, Robert and Cheryl have made an impact well beyond Blackshear both professionally and personally.

Last week, Robert announced the sale of the Blackshear Times, bidding farewell after one of the longest editorial tenures in Georgia. With his final column as editor and publisher, Robert was incredibly gracious, thanking his colleagues, employees, mentors, and the fine bankers who gave him those first loans.

I speak for all Georgians when I say thank you to Robert and Cheryl for the difference you have made in our State. I count myself lucky to call you a friend, and Dianne and I wish you both the very best as you plan your future.●

REMEMBERING CHRIS CLINE

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I can't express enough what Chris Cline meant to our home State of West Virginia. He represented the very best of the Mountain State, which is saying a lot. Born in McDowell County and raised a stone's throw from the train tracks in the coalfields of Beckley, Chris's family was wealthy beyond measure in the

only currency that truly matters: love, work ethic, and profound strength of character.

One of my favorite stories about Chris is, when he was a child, he filled bags with dirt for his father, Paul, to use for blasting holes at the mine. His father paid him a penny per bag. It was once the front porch caved in that his father realized he had been getting the dirt from beneath it. Chris said that was how he learned the importance of infrastructure.

He never lost touch with the days he would come home from a shift in the mines as a young man of only 15, his face caked in coal dust. In fact, he kept his first hard hat, battered from years of hard labor, in a place of honor at his home in Beckley. From this foundation, he built an opportunity empire. From the early days of Pioneer Fuel to when Chris founded Foresight Energy, much of the success he gained was returned to the men and women who keep the lights on. He treated his workforce as family, knowing very well what it was like to be in their shoes, and so he invested in the safest, most innovative, and efficient tools and methods.

His coal enterprises took him from Appalachia to Illinois to Canada. He offered cash incentives to his miners, installed advanced and safe mining equipment, and was ahead of his time in anticipating the market for coal. Chris believed it was not enough to be innovative, you need a little luck. At Foresight, his four mine complexes were the most productive underground operations in the Nation. He bought docks on the Mississippi River and built rail spurs to haul coal onto ships bound for India, Europe, and Asia.

Chris understood opponents of burning coal while defending coal and his role in supplying the world with it. He believed that people deserved the cheapest energy they could get. He had a curious mind, was eager to learn about everything, and never stopped learning. As committed as he was to coal energy, for his Big Grand Cay property, he installed solar panels and batteries. Where renewable energy sources made sense, he was eager to embrace them.

There is no greater accomplishment in the world than to be in a position to give back to the community you love, that made you who you are. That is what made Chris the wonderful, inspiring, and generous person he was. Through the Cline Family Foundation, founded in 2009, Chris made a profound impact on Marshal University and West Virginia University. His legacy will remain forever in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him, and he will be remembered through the countless lives he benefited with his generosity to our academic institutions. Chris believed with all his heart that West Virginians are the most hard-working, ethical people in our Nation, and he wanted to ensure they had every opportunity to utilize their skills

with the best possible resources to build their lives from the ground up, just as he did. His mission was for each of his accomplishments to pave the way for others to go even further than he did.

Chris was generous with his philanthropy publicly through the Cline Family Foundation, but most importantly, he was generous and compassionate privately, almost daily. The foundation focuses on donations throughout West Virginia in recognition of the community's contribution to his success. It offers scholarships and grants, endows universities, and financially supports charitable organizations that make life better for children and older youth. Chris once said that everyone in West Virginia contributed to his success, and he was determined to repay the favor. He certainly did, and our statewide community is better for it.

Among other donations, the Cline Family Foundation supported Place of Hope, a foster care and adoption organization; Peacehaven Community Farm, a home for disabled adults; orphanages in West Virginia and Haiti; Save the Children; humanitarian aid organizations in Tanzania; churches; and the Raleigh County YMCA, among other organizations, and many needy individuals over the years. He also supported the Benjamin School from which his daughter Kameron graduated in 2015. Few people beyond the recipients know details of Mr. Cline's many and constant personal acts of private charity.

Sharing his adventures with his four children and his lifelong friends was his absolute favorite way to spend his time. He would take crowds of friends and family to the Super Bowl, the Big East Tournament, countless other sporting events, and on his frequent world travels. Chris was an adventure junkie, always looking forward to the next time he could drive a fast car or ride a four-wheeler through the West Virginia hills.

I can't speak enough to what a good-hearted, wonderful person he truly was. I always thought of him as a man for all seasons. No matter the circumstances, he kept a cool head and a warm demeanor, always able to discern the most honorable path forward. It was an honor to call him my friend, and I miss him dearly.

I join all West Virginians in extending my deepest condolences to his children, Candice and her husband James, Christopher, and Alex, for the loss of their loving father and their sister, Kameron. I also extend my condolences to Chris's brothers Greg and Kenneth. It is my hope the entire Cline family is able to find peace, strength, and support in one another.●

TRIBUTE TO MEREDITH BENSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Meredith Benson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of

the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Meredith is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending Creighton University in Omaha, NE, where she is double majoring in chemistry and Spanish. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Meredith for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO AUDREY COPE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Audrey Cope, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Audrey is a graduate of St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD, where she is double majoring in government and international affairs and French and minoring in political philosophy. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Audrey for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO RYDER FUHRMAN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Ryder Fuhrman, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Ryder is a graduate of Warner High School in Warner, SD. Currently, he is attending Northern State University in Aberdeen, where he is majoring in political science and minoring in economics and legal studies. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ryder for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KIERA LEDDY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kiera Leddy, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Kiera is a recent graduate of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK, having earned a degree in agricultural communications. This fall, Kiera plans to attend Drake University Law School in Des Moines, IA. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.