

communities and damaged infrastructure. We spent several days in communication with constituents stranded in Japan that were trying to navigate the treacherous environment, communicate with the State Department, and ultimately obtain transportation home. He was also helpful in working with stranded Alaskan constituents after the 2015 severe earthquake in Nepal. He reached out to the lobbyist for Orbitz, since many of the foreign air carriers on their website raised prices drastically when trying to book flights out of Nepal after the earthquake.”

There are so many stories illustrative of Nathan's positive influence here in the U.S. Senate and in Alaska.

I thank Nathan Bergerbest for his service to Alaska and the Nation and wish him well.

TRIBUTE TO FAISAL AMIN

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the work of Mr. Faisal Amin, who has been serving for the past 4 months as a detailee on the staff of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Faisal is a senior attorney for the Budget and Appropriations Law Group at the U.S. Government Accountability Office and joined the staff in September of this year to fill in for a long-time staff member on maternity leave.

Faisal has been heavily involved in the drafting, consideration, and passage of the fiscal year 2020 Interior appropriations bill starting from the first day of his assignment with the subcommittee. In just 4 months, he participated in almost all of the milestones of the appropriations process: a committee markup, floor consideration, and conference negotiations.

He ably represented Vice Chairman LEAHY and me throughout the process, handling the day-to-day responsibilities of overseeing the budgets of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and related agencies and working with other congressional offices, Agency staff, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that the priorities of Members of this Chamber on both sides of the aisle were well represented.

Faisal did tremendous work, stepping in to handle complicated policy and budgetary issues in an unusually expedited process. He is smart, pragmatic, thoughtful, and strategic—creating an excellent rapport with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and serving as an optimistic and positive presence on the subcommittee. I am grateful for his time with us, and I know his colleagues on the subcommittee staff—Rachael Taylor, Ryan Hunt and Melissa Zimmerman—feel the same way.

On behalf of Vice Chairman LEAHY and the committee, I also extend our gratitude to the Comptroller General, Mr. Gene Dodaro, and the staff of the U.S. Government Accountability Office

for sharing Faisal with us during this critical time.

Congratulations, Faisal, for a job well done, and thank you for your service to the United States Senate.

TRIBUTE TO GARY HARTZ

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Mr. Gary Hartz, who is retiring from his position at the Indian Health Service with 48 years of distinguished Federal service to the Nation.

Mr. Hartz is especially deserving of this Chamber's recognition because he has spent his entire career on a single and absolutely critical goal-improving access to quality health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives. In his current position, Mr. Hartz serves as the Director of the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering, overseeing the construction, maintenance, and operations of Tribal health facilities, sanitation, and environmental health programs, a position that he has performed for more than two decades after working his way up through ranks of the office. An engineer by trade, Mr. Hartz also served as a member of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps—retiring with the rank of rear admiral—and served briefly as the agency's Deputy Director. He began his career in the field, working as an engineer on projects in New Mexico and Alaska.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Hartz in my roles as vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the ranking member of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. He has worked closely with me and my staff and testified before my committees, and I can say from firsthand experience that he is one of the most knowledgeable, dedicated, and pragmatic public servants at the Indian Health Service, and his wisdom and experience will be deeply missed.

Finally, I want to thank him for all that he has done for my home State of New Mexico. Mr. Hartz has been instrumental in working to improve and replace Tribal health facilities, including working most recently on plans to replace the Service's Albuquerque, Alamo, Pueblo Pintado, and Gallup facilities. While we have more to do, I am tremendously grateful for the work that he has done to improve access to quality health care in Native communities across the State.

On behalf of the Nation, thank you for a job well done, Mr. Hartz. I wish you all the best as you begin your next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO DELIA SCOTT

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Ms. Delia Scott, who is retiring next month with more than 40 years of distinguished Federal service in the executive and legislative branches of government.

I have been lucky enough to work with Delia twice, both when I served in the House of Representatives and in my current role as ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Most recently, Delia has served as the Congressional Liaison Officer at the National Gallery of Art, shaping the Gallery's relationship with members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. I know firsthand that Delia has been an effective advocate for the Gallery, playing an essential role in shepherding its annual appropriations through Congress and securing critical funding increases for operating and infrastructure needs.

Beyond her role with the budget, Delia has made it her goal to connect Members of the House and Senate with the world-class collection at the Gallery so they are invested in its success. My wife, Jill, and I are both grateful to have visited countless times to enjoy and learn about significant paintings, sculpture, photographs, and other works because of Delia's thoughtful invitations. The Gallery won't be the same without her.

For all her impressive work at the Gallery, I also want to recognize her enduring legacy of public service in other positions. Prior to her current position, Delia served as the staff director for the House Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, managing a \$30-plus billion funding bill and working to secure funding for natural resources, environmental protection, and Tribal and cultural programs. She also worked as a professional staff member for the committee and worked for more than two decades at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Delia has devoted her entire career to making sure that Federal agencies and programs—from the arts to environmental protection to foreign assistance—have operated smoothly and received ample funding to benefit the people of this Nation. For that service we should all be grateful.

I congratulate her on a job well done and an outstanding Federal career, and I wish her and her husband, John, the very best as they move on to the next chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER MICHAEL D. CASSADY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to Commander Michael D. Cassady, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Navy. Commander Cassady currently serves as the Program Manager, Naval Advanced Medical Development at the Naval Medical Research Center and will be released from Active Duty after almost 35 years of Active military service on March 1, 2019. Commander Cassady is a native of Millersport, OH, and I am pleased to recognize his distinguished career.

Commander Cassady enlisted in the U.S. Navy on May 21, 1985, and after