

in charge of a team of staff who receive, process, and advocate for the casework needs of Californians seeking assistance from Federal agencies. I have depended on Iyad's sound judgment, management capabilities, and cool head in this critical function.

As all Senators know, your casework director needs to be a special person. They represent you to constituents who are in need and often have nowhere else to turn. I have been particularly lucky to have Iyad in this role; he has performed with skill and with a deft personal touch.

I am proud of our casework successes under Iyad's management in recovering millions of dollars in benefits for those needing help with Social Security checks, student loans, tax refunds, veterans' benefits, and other payments from the Federal Government. He has worked on behalf of countless constituents seeking visas or other immigration benefits. When a constituent is in a foreign jail or has lost their passport overseas, Iyad has been on the case, immediately, professionally, and successfully.

I am particularly thankful for Iyad's help with Maria Mendoza, a nurse from Oakland who is back in the United States with her children after Iyad's work in securing an H1-B visa; also Maria Isabel Bueso, a young woman from Guatemala who has lived in the United States for most of her life in order to receive lifesaving medication, but who was threatened last year with removal. Iyad worked with the family and with Judiciary Committee staff, and now, Isabel has been given a stay from deportation.

In addition to his casework efforts, Iyad has provided guidance in my San Francisco office. His steady presence has been indispensable for three State directors and four chiefs of staff.

Before joining my team, Iyad graduated from Purdue University with a double major in history and political science in 2009. He received academic honors, graduating in the top 10 percent of his class. Following his lifelong passion of international issues, he dedicated himself to his studies and wrote a dissertation titled, "They Also Served: The Untold Story of the Egyptian Labour Corps in World War One." In 2010, he graduated from the London School of Economics, where he received a master of science in the history of empires. His efforts afforded him a deeper knowledge of economics and globalization, and once again, he centered his academic curiosities on foreign affairs by writing his thesis on "Money, Arms, and Superpowers: British Foreign Policy towards the War of Attrition."

While I am sad to see him go, I am thrilled for Iyad's family as he will join them in the day-to-day management of their restaurant in south San Francisco. His energy, ideas, and ability to connect with people will undoubtedly serve his family and community well for many years to come. I am deeply

grateful for the wisdom and dedication that Iyad Shihadeh has brought to our office and his dedication on behalf of the people of California. I thank Iyad and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BETH BURKE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am here today to recognize a loss for the Murray office and a major victory for Wisconsin and that is the return of Beth Burke, a longtime and deeply trusted aide of mine, to her home State after 8 years with my office.

Over her time with us, Beth saw me through office move after office move, countless hectic days of running to and from the Capitol all without missing a vote, I should say and more rebooked flights back to Washington State than sure she would like to remember.

All of that would be enough to keep a team of ordinary people busy, but it doesn't even scratch the surface of what Beth has meant to me, to our team, and to our country because, during those same years of Beth's service, she helped lead our team as we grew from scrappy and small to still scrappy, but spanning three different office buildings in the Senate, in addition to our two coast, as I negotiated a bipartisan budget agreement no one thought we could get done and through the negotiations between Chairman Alexander and me on reforming K-12 education to end No Child Left Behind.

She was up at all hours, all week, every week, doing everything she could to advance our efforts to fight for patients' healthcare, for women's reproductive rights and equality, and always, always for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

It is a bit of a truism that the loudest voice in the room is not always the one having the biggest impact. Now, Beth will be the first to admit that she has a loud voice. But she used it and her expertise at navigating every logistic and obstacle imaginable to ensure we were in the best possible position to succeed in whatever we set out to do. She is a true public servant with the biggest heart you can imagine, and I know families and communities in Washington State and nationwide are better for her time here.

I would also be remiss if I didn't note that Beth met her wonderful husband Dan, got married, and had her adorable, fierce baby girl Lillian all while she worked in our office.

It has been a true joy seeing her family grow, so before I close I want to thank Beth's family—Dan, Lillian, their dog Karl—the most important Burke and everyone who's excited to welcome her home to Wisconsin, for sharing Beth with us.

I know it is not always easy having a Senate staffer as a spouse or a family member or a close friend, especially one who works as hard and cares as much as Beth, so I want to recognize all your loved ones for their service as well.

Beth, thank you again from my State and my family to yours. We are so deeply grateful for you and so excited to hear about everything you have in store.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MARIE GREENWOOD

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Marie Greenwood, who passed away late last year at the age of 106 years old. Marie, a teacher by trade, spent her life dedicated to the idea that each child—regardless of their race, gender, or class—deserves a quality education. Her intellect, compassion, and vigor propelled countless children through the Denver Public School system and towards lives of purpose. Marie's work as Denver's first tenured Black teacher and an integration pioneer increased educational equity in our schools and helped shape Denver into the great city that it is today.

An only child, Marie was born in Los Angeles in 1912 before she and her family relocated to Denver in 1925. As a Black family in segregated Denver, they faced no shortage of obstacles. Despite being a star student who time and again overcame the bigotry leveled against her, Marie was told by her high school guidance counselor not to apply to college because it would be a waste of her parents' money. Thank goodness Marie did not heed this wrongheaded advice. She went on to graduate third in her class and earned a scholarship to Colorado Teachers College. Marie had set out on a path that would eventually lead to touching the lives of generations of Colorado's students.

Marie was a trailblazer in civil rights and the ideal teacher. In 1938, she earned tenure in the Denver Public Schools, the first Black teacher to do so. Throughout the 1940s, Marie was involved in local activism that challenged discriminatory policies. In 1955, Marie made history again when she became the first African American in Denver to teach at a segregated school. In the 1960s, she served on a Denver Public Schools committee tasked to study racial inequities in district funding and staffing. All the while, she was a kind and determined teacher who ensured that her students always tried their hardest.

In retirement, she authored two books, one outlining her philosophy on teaching children facing difficulties and the other her autobiography. In 2001, her legacy was further solidified as the school district named a new elementary school in her honor. She will continue to be remembered by students who participate in the Greenwood Scholars program, which teaches the history of Denver through her life story.

As the former superintendent of Denver Public Schools, I can confidently