

their high quality products. I wish them the best as they continue to forge ahead, create jobs and innovate.

#### NATIONAL PEDIATRIC RESEARCH NETWORK ACT

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate the passage of the National Pediatric Research Network Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that was signed into law last month.

I wish to thank my colleague, Senator SHERROD BROWN, for his leadership on this issue. I was pleased to work with him on this important initiative in the previous two Congresses.

The National Pediatric Research Network Act expands and enhances our Nation's commitment to pediatric research by providing the infrastructure that is needed to advance the field for decades to come. To do so, the law includes training and support for early-career investigators and authorizes the National Institutes of Health to select a number of competitive pediatric research consortia. Each consortium, comprised of multiple institutions, will focus on specific, high-impact pediatric research, including basic, translational, and clinical investigations.

In addition, the law specifically states that a subset of the consortia must focus primarily on pediatric rare diseases. Participating institutions are encouraged to coordinate with multi-site clinical trials of pediatric patient populations. This will provide needed support for the families of children suffering from rare diseases, such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, and spinal muscular atrophy, the leading genetic killer of children under the age of 2.

The National Pediatric Research Network Act's collaborative approach allows us to rethink and improve the way pediatric research is conducted. Shared resources among pediatric institutions help maximize the government's return on investment and avoid duplication. Rather than allocating additional funds at the taxpayers' expense, the law seeks to accelerate treatments for pediatric diseases by emphasizing collaboration and the efficient use of limited Federal resources.

I wish to thank the many families and organizations in Mississippi and across the country that helped build the bipartisan support necessary for passage of this bill, including Children's Healthcare of Mississippi, FightSMA, Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, the Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research, Children's Hospital Association, National Organization for Rare Disorders, National Down Syndrome Society, the Federation of Pediatric Organizations, and the Kakkis EveryLife Foundation.

Simply put, this law will result in an improved and coordinated NIH pediatric research investment. This effort will help children across our Nation

overcome numerous devastating diseases and conditions. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the timely and effective implementation of this law, and I will continue to fight for the health and well-being of our children.

#### REMEMBERING U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST DANIEL ECKSTEIN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise with a heavy heart to memorialize the promising life and service of U.S. Army SPC Daniel Eckstein, who died on December 10 at the young age of 22. Specialist Eckstein was a member of the 3rd Special Forces Group, serving as an unmanned aerial vehicle mechanic at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

Daniel was born in Lowell, MA on January 5, 1991, to Hans and Sharon (Green) Eckstein, and spent the first 6 years of his life there. In 1997, Daniel moved to Nashua, NH, where he remained for his formative years until his graduation from Nashua High School North as a member of the class of 2009. During high school, Daniel eagerly competed as a member of the Nashua North Titans baseball team. He was also a passionate New England Patriots and Boston sports fan.

Daniel enlisted in the Army in 2011, and following basic training he went on to successfully complete both Army Airborne School and the Warrior Leader Course. A testament to Daniel's drive for excellence as a soldier, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Daniel loved his family, and was a proud father to his young son Brayden. It is my hope that during this extremely difficult time, Daniel's family and friends will find comfort in knowing that Americans everywhere appreciate deeply his vow to sacrifice his life in the defense of our country so that the rest of us may continue to live in peace and freedom.

Along with his parents Hans and Sharon, Daniel is survived by his wife, Kristina Eckstein, whom he married on January 9, 2011; his son, Brayden Daniel Eckstein; his sister, Amy Eckstein of North Carolina; his stepfather, Edward McLaughlin of Lowell, MA; his maternal grandmother, Barbara Green of Nashua; his grandparents, Peter and Elaine Beaton of Nashua; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Michael and Darlene Burton and their daughter Summyr of Nashua; also aunts, uncles and cousins. This patriot will be missed by all.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave young American, Daniel Eckstein.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING WILLIAM SCRANTON

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to remember and honor former Pennsylvania Governor William W. Scranton who passed away July 28, 2013. In both his public and his private life, Governor Scranton was always working to serve Pennsylvania and the Nation.

Bill Scranton was a descendent of colonists who came over on the Mayflower and his family founded Scranton, PA. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was an assistant to Secretaries of State John Foster Dulles and Christian Herter during the Eisenhower administration.

In 1960, Bill was elected to Congress and was dubbed a "Kennedy Republican" for his support of the President's programs, including the Peace Corps, urban renewal projects and the minimum wage. He would only serve 2 years in the House of Representatives, before he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1962.

As Governor, he signed into law legislation creating the State community college system, the State Board of Education, and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, PHEAA. During his four years in office, unemployment went down and wages went up. Limited to one term, he left elected office in 1967, but that did not end his public service.

Under President Nixon, Governor Scranton served as a special envoy to the Middle East and after the Kent State University shooting in Ohio in 1970, President Nixon again called on him to serve, appointing him the Chairman of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest. President Ford also reached out to Governor Scranton to serve, appointing him Ambassador to the United Nations where he prioritized human rights.

After leaving the United Nations, Bill Scranton retired. Throughout his life he was known as a man of integrity who said and did what he thought was right. In 2000, he received the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Founders Award, which is given to a living person who represents the ideals of William Penn in individual rights, religious tolerance, representative government, public support of education, and free enterprise. Bill remained devoted to the city that bears his family name. He worked with various civic and charitable organizations and continued to advocate for economic development and job creation projects. His son, William W. Scranton III, followed him into public service as Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania from 1979 to 1987.

My thoughts are with his family and we thank him for his life of service to our Commonwealth and our country. •