

The Veterans Guest House has long been one of Reno's best kept secrets. This "home away from home" is one of the only facilities of its kind in the country serving U.S. military veterans and their families, providing temporary overnight accommodations for veterans receiving treatment at a medical facility in the Reno-Sparks area. In the early 1990s, veterans visiting the Veterans Administration Medical Center of the Sierra, VAMC, in Reno noticed that the family members of veterans were sleeping in their cars because they couldn't afford lodging while their loved one was in the hospital. Even some veterans were sleeping in their cars so they could arrive for appointments and other treatments. It was clear that this was not acceptable, and so our generous Northern Nevada community went to work to do better for our veterans.

In 1994, Reno's Spouse House opened its doors in an old bungalow-style home right near the VAMC in Reno. It had a handful of beds, and in those early years, the House provided lodging to about 800 guests each year. In the 25 years since that time, the Veterans Guest House has evolved and expanded to better meet the needs of our veterans and their families. In 2002, the nonprofit took the name "Veterans Guest House" to reflect its broader mission of assisting both veterans and their families, and in 2004, a new 12-bed home was built. By 2012, the nonprofit had acquired another property and expanded the bed total to 17, allowing them to provide more than 5,000 guest nights that year. Recently, construction concluded on the latest expansion bringing total capacity to 33 beds.

The Veterans Guest House is key to connecting our community to our veterans, providing a variety of ways to show our support for our veterans and their families and the sacrifices made by both. Volunteers are welcome at the Veterans Guest House to help provide the organization ongoing support doing everything from cleaning rooms, to assisting in small repairs, to helping with fundraisers. Community groups, families, and businesses also are encouraged to provide a home-cooked meal for the guests or help fill the needs of the agency's "Wish List." Most guests reside more than 30 miles away from the hospital, and so having that support for them and their families is crucial. Guests are asked to make a donation to support the work of the House, but no one is turned away because they can't pay. The organization relies completely on donations and receives no Federal or State funding.

I am so pleased to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Veterans Guest House and the critical services and support it provides to our veterans and their families.●

TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA LIEDLE-CAISSEY AND KAI BAUER

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing

the first set of graduates from Anaconda Junior/Senior High School's Copper Academy, Alyssa Liedle-Caissey and Kai Bauer.

The Anaconda Junior/Senior High School's Copper Academy allows students to learn at a different pace and in a unique environment which includes the use of online programs that have visual demonstrations and explanations for different educational requirements.

Alyssa and Kai both took a chance participating in this program, and it paid off. They both graduated 6 months early. I am very proud of these two young Montanans for pushing themselves and showing the Anaconda community that this new, individualized program allows students to thrive. Congratulations to Alyssa and Kai on their graduation from the Copper Academy. I wish them the best of luck as they transition into the next steps of their lives.●

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA MATTHEWS AND BELLE RAE ZACHESKY/COPP

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Melissa Matthews and Belle Rae Zachesky/Copp of Raymond as December's Granite Staters of the Month for seeking to turn their own grief into positive change and mental wellness for their community.

In the last few months, both Melissa and Belle have lost someone dear to them. Melissa lost her husband, Graham, to suicide on September 30, 2019; and her niece, 8-year-old Belle, lost her father, Jesse, to an opioid overdose the next day, on October 1.

In response to their shared grief and to distract from their sadness Melissa and Belle are seeking to raise awareness about the importance of mental wellness in their community. Belle and Melissa have started promoting wristbands with the slogan "Lets change the 'I' in mental illness with 'WE' for mental wellness," to help spread this important message to others.

The two have also started a Facebook page to try to create an online community of support and positivity. The group's name, MW Warriors—MW standing for mental wellness—was inspired by the song "Warrior" by singer Demi Lovato, who has struggled with drug addiction and depression.

Their story is another inspiring example of how people across New Hampshire come together during difficult times to support one another. This is particularly true as the opioid crisis continues to ravage our State, and it is crucial that we continue to be there for the loved ones of those whom we have lost.

Melissa and Belle are trying to do the challenging but important work of promoting positive change, all while battling their own loss and channeling their energy to help others.

Thank you, Melissa and Belle, for your strength and courage.●

100 SEASONS OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

● Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th season of the National Football League.

Ohio has a rich football history. In 1920, 10 teams gathered in Canton, OH, to form the American Professional Football Association. Of those original 10 teams, Cleveland, Canton, Akron, Columbus, and Dayton were all in the lineup. Further, the Dayton Triangles hosted the first-ever NFL game in 1921 against the Columbus Panhandles.

Home to the Cleveland Browns and the Cincinnati Bengals, Ohio has continued to embrace the legacy and tradition of America's game. The birthplace of the NFL, Canton's Pro Football Hall of Fame sees 225,000 visitors annually. Additionally, Ohio natives Don Shula, Chuck Noll, Paul Brown, Roger Staubach, and Cris Carter are among the 326 players who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. Further, Cleveland looks forward to hosting the 2021 NFL draft, and I was proud to advocate for this selection last year.

Since its first season in 1920, the NFL has grown from humble beginnings to a national pastime known as America's game. Represented in 22 States by 32 teams, the NFL has united communities across the Nation through live games and televised events. In fact, the Super Bowl has become the single most-watched annual television event in the United States.

I commend the NFL for their continued philanthropic and volunteer efforts. Through working to honor veterans, promote cancer awareness, and encourage healthy lifestyles, the league has embraced community through sport. I applaud the commitment of the NFL, its staff, and all who were involved in reaching this milestone and making the first 100 seasons of the NFL a success.●

TRIBUTE TO NANCY WHITWORTH

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize Ms. Nancy Whitworth of Greenville, SC, for her over 40 years of service to Greenville County. I extend my congratulations to her on her upcoming retirement and wish to reflect on her successful career.

As the longtime economic developer and deputy city manager for the city of Greenville, Nancy was responsible for commercial and neighborhood revitalization, downtown development, business recruitment and retention, planning and zoning, and building codes. She has also authored articles on Greenville's award-winning downtown and meets frequently with other cities to share Greenville's success story. Last year, she was awarded with the 2018 Local Economic Developer of the Year award.

Ms. Whitworth is to be commended for her role in spurring the dramatic growth and revitalization Greenville