

ones of the lost, and all of those who worked tirelessly to serve the Surfside community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TYLER BLANCHETTE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Tyler Blanchette of Hudson as August's Granite Stater of the Month. Tyler has helped run an annual fundraiser outside his family's home in the middle of the winter to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association and has continued this effort even as he faces his own brain cancer diagnosis.

The yearly fundraiser began on a chilly day in the winter of 2009 when Tyler's older brother Brandon decided to sell hot chocolate on his front lawn to raise money to support Alzheimer's research. The inspiration behind the fundraiser stemmed from their great-grandfather, nicknamed "Big Papa," who was diagnosed with the disease and died from it when Brandon and Tyler were young.

Once Brandon grew older and moved out of the Blanchette's home, Tyler eagerly took over running the event—making the signs, brewing the hot chocolate, and getting the word out to the community.

The fundraiser, named Big Papa's Cocoa Stand in honor of Tyler's great-grandfather, sells hot chocolate for \$1 to friends, neighbors, and community members who come by for a hot drink and a good cause. All of the sales go to the Massachusetts/New Hampshire chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and since its founding, Tyler's family has raised approximately \$30,000 for the organization.

Four years ago, Tyler was diagnosed with brain cancer, a diagnosis he is living with today. Yet he was determined to continue helping others by running the cocoa stand. Tyler never let his diagnosis stand in the way of his goal to raise money for the organization that is working to find a cure for the disease that took his great-grandfather's life.

Despite incredible adversity, Tyler has exemplified the spirit of the Granite State by forging on and serving his community no matter the circumstances. It is a mark of Tyler's compassion and grit that he continues to operate this fundraiser as he battles his own health challenges. I am proud to honor Tyler for his efforts and will pray for him and his family during this difficult time.●

RECOGNIZING BAXTER'S COFFEE

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize a family-owned small business

and beloved staple, Baxter's Coffee of Somerset, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2001, Terri Tuttle opened Baxter's Coffee in Somerset, KY. After running a successful ice cream store, Terri decided to pursue a different business venture. She noticed an opportunity to fill a gap in the Somerset market since there were no coffee shops in town. As Terri brainstormed business names, she was inspired by her family's dog, Baxter. When Baxter's Coffee first opened in 2001, it was an instant hit. Along with delicious coffee, Terri and her team provided family-friendly service and a welcoming atmosphere. To meet growing demand, the original Baxter's Coffee shop soon moved to a new location on Ogden Street and opened a second location in 2005.

In 2021, Baxter's Coffee continues serving some of the best coffee in Pulaski County. As the business grew, so did the Tuttle family's involvement. Today, Terri's children, Jay, Lauren, and Ann, are actively involved in every facet of the business, from coffee roasting, to marketing, and bookkeeping. They continue welcoming customers from all over Kentucky and have expanded to four locations in Somerset, including a kiosk at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. Notably, since 2009, Baxter's Coffee has roasted its own coffee. Their newest location, which opened in 2016, includes a drive-thru, as well as a roasting and warehouse facility. Baxter's Coffee proudly offers its signature blends at all four locations and also sells its coffee wholesale and online. Baxter's Coffee also features baked goods and treats from local small businesses.

Like many small business owners, Terri is actively involved in her community. Baxter's Coffee is a member of the Somerset Pulaski Chamber of Commerce and regularly partners with them to hire local community members. For years, Baxter's Coffee has contributed to a wide range of local philanthropic organizations, including God's Food Pantry, and supported events such as charity golf tournaments, walks, and runs. They regularly support local school district events and organizations, including PTA fundraisers. To demonstrate appreciation for first responders, Baxter's Coffee provides free coffee to all on-duty police officers.

Baxter's Coffee is a remarkable example of the critical role small businesses play in uplifting and building community. Family-owned small businesses like Baxter's Coffee form the heart of towns across Kentucky, regularly stepping up to support their communities. Congratulations to Terri and the entire team at Baxter's Coffee. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

RECOGNIZING THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE ALS ASSOCIATION

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. ALS causes progressive degeneration of these motor neurons leading to their death. There is no cure for ALS, and although the mean survival time with ALS is 3 to 5 years, some people live 5, 10, or more years. While ALS is considered a "rare" disease, the reality is that 500,000 people alive today will eventually die from the disease.

I have seen how devastating and heartbreaking an ALS diagnosis is for families. Over time, this disease robs people of the ability to walk, talk, move, and breathe. In most cases, members of a patient's family eventually need to become full-time caregivers to help navigate all the challenges that ALS creates.

I want to commend the Florida chapter of the ALS Association for their work to fight ALS on all fronts and support the 1,300 families in Florida who are battling this disease each day. They work closely with a network of 10 ALS multidisciplinary clinics in the State to ensure those families have access to critical support as they fight this disease. Additionally, they provide a variety of programs and services that are designed to help ease the burden of ALS.

I want to thank the ALS staff and their many volunteers for their service to the community. I want to specifically recognize three individuals who are battling ALS.

John Robinson is a recently retired, 32-year veteran of the U.S. Army. Most recently, he served as the chief warrant officer of the Army's field artillery branch. In the same way that he served in the military to protect our freedom here at home, he serves in the ALS community to help those coming along behind him with ALS. Just as John protected our freedom, he is a staunch protector of hope in the ALS community. John wants the next generation of those diagnosed with this dreadful disease to have better care, more effective treatments, and the possibility of improved prognosis and quality of life.

Troy Fields is a husband and father of four living with ALS in Tampa, FL. Prior to his diagnosis, Troy worked at a global financial technology company for 26 years. Troy believes acceptance never means that having ALS is okay. It simply means one is willing to deal with it. Whether he is talking about advocacy with the ALS community and encouraging others to take action or talking one on one with a chapter board member about outlining strategic goals, Troy's strategy for coping is to live in the moment, accept what he cannot control, and work to change what he can.

Diane Mummaw is from Deltona, FL, and is the mother of two children and a recently retired small business