After 3 years of serving in this vital role, during which he became a very popular fixture on Capitol Hill, Lieutenant Kokot will return to sea duty in USS *Tripoli* (LPH 10), the Navy's newest America class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego, CA. *Tripoli* was built in Pascagoula, MS, and is the third ship to bear the name of the first U.S. battle fought on foreign soil. This Chamber will keenly feel Lieutenant Kokot's absence. A substantial debt is owed to Jon's parents, Ronald and Pamela Kokot, for the parenting and love that produced this outstanding young leader. Regrettably, Jon's mother passed away when he was 22, but I know that she watches over her son with the same pride that is felt by many Members of Congress. I am grateful for LT Jonathan Kokot's service and his work with my office and the Senate, and I salute him. May he always have ''fair winds and following seas.''

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING KAREN FERGUSON

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a lifelong champion for American workers across the country, the founder and longtime president of the Pension Rights Center, Karen Ferguson.

Karen came to Washington, DC, in the early 1970s to work with Ralph Nader as a public interest lawyer, fighting for consumers and workers against unchecked corporate power. As one of ''Nader's Raiders,'' she found her calling. Recognizing the void of public advocacy for retirees and pensioners, Karen founded the Pension Rights Center in 1976. This marked the beginning of a crusade that lasted more than four decades, on behalf of pensioners who so often did not have much of a voice in their own government. Over the next 45 years, Karen personally assisted thousands of workers who were denied the retirement benefits they earned, and she advocated for retirement security for millions more.

As one of our country's leading experts on pension law and a passionate advocate for workers and their families, Karen was a source of strength and guidance to her allies in Congress for decades. She was instrumental to the passage of a number of reforms that improved the cause of retirement security, including the Retirement Equity Act of 1984, a critical law that provided benefits to millions of widows and divorced women.

Most recently, Karen was a leader in the fight to protect and restore multiemployer pension benefits for millions of union members across the country, including 100,000 Ohioans. She worked directly with my office to help draft the Butch Lewis Act and fought for years alongside Mr. Lewis, his widow and leader in her own right, Rita Lewis, and other workers, families, and small businesses, for its passage. Because of their advocacy, we were finally able to pass the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act into law as part of the American Rescue Plan in 2021. We were successful in no small part due to the unwavering support she provided. Now, more than a million Americans who have worked hard all their lives and gave up raises at the bargaining table in order to put that money toward retirement are no longer at risk of losing the benefits they earned. And many American businesses—often small, family-owned businesses—will be able to continue to support their workers and grow and create more good, union jobs.

Karen Ferguson will be remembered for a lifetime of service on behalf of workers and their families, and the compassion and skill she brought to our efforts. Her legacy will continue through the millions of past, current, and future workers and their families who will have a more secure retirement thanks to her work.●

TRIBUTE TO TONY COLTER

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Tony Colter of Powell County as Montanan of the Month for his many years of leadership in resolving forestry and timber issues and his dedication to making Montana a better place to live for all Montanans.

Tony is a founding member of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group, which was formed in 2011. The group brings Montanans with diverse interests together to collaborate with Forest Service staff and community members to promote collaboration and transparency when solving forest-level issues in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Tony's leadership and passion for the Working Group has impacted the lives of many of his fellow Montanans. He has been instrumental in helping develop science-based restoration strategies, forging diverse partnerships, and improving Forest Service projects through collaborative approaches and recommendations.

Fellow members of the Working Group say that Tony cares deeply about the group's vision for the Forest, and his passion and charisma made him a valuable leader and representative for the Working Group. They say that learning from and working alongside Tony was an honor.

Tony also worked for many years at Sun Mountain Lumber in Deer Lodge. His former coworkers, friends, and colleagues all agree that his efforts have made a lasting impact. Bryan Lorengo with the Montana Logging Association said, ''The one thing that sticks out about Tony is his calm demeanor and willingness to listen first while respecting people's opinions and views even though they might be opposite of his own.''

It is my honor to recognize Tony for his leadership and commitment to bettering the Forest and serving his community. Through his passion for advancing the Working Group's mission for and dedication to solving forest-related issues, I have no doubt that Tony's hard work has made the great State of Montana a better place to live.

Congratulations on your retirement, Tony. You make Montana proud.●

REMEMBERING VICE ADMIRAL PAUL FOSTER

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize VADM Paul Frederick Foster, USN, of Wichita, KS, on the 50th anniversary of his passing. Foster was the first Naval Officer to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Moreover, he earned the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Award, and Navy Merit Commendation. VADM Paul Frederick Foster was a true American hero.

Paul Foster was in Wichita, KS, in 1889. He was the son of a traveling minister and thus grew up in Kansas, Utah, Oklahoma, and finally Idaho. There, he would attend the University of Idaho for 1 year before earning an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, from Senator Fred Dubois of Idaho in 1907. In June 1911, Foster exited the Naval Academy as a passed midshipman with a bachelor of science. He was commissioned as ensign in July 1911. After graduation he would be attached to the USS *Washington*, but by December was quickly transferred to the USS *Utah*, a battleship in the Atlantic Fleet.

In the beginning of 1914, the United States chose to intercede in the Mexican Revolution. While on its way to Mexico, the USS *Utah* was instructed to intercept a German ship carrying arms intended for the Mexican dictator Victoriano Huerta. The German ship arrived in Veracruz before the *Utah*, which resulted in the American occupation of the city. During the fighting on April 21 and 22, Foster led his company ashore. For distinguished conduct in battle, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Paul Frederick Foster would go on to serve as commanding officer of multiple submarines during World War I. During his service a submariner, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander and was decorated with the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for the sinking enemy submarine. At the outset of U.S involvement in World War II, Foster was called for Active Duty at the rank of commander. He was tasked with naval inspections. The highest rank he would achieve was vice admiral at the time of his second retirement from the Navy. After the war, Paul Frederick Foster was appointed to the Atomic Energy Commission in Vienna, Austria, by President Eisenhower.

It is my honor to commemorate VADM Paul Frederick Foster for his