work ethic. He has deployed widely for training across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa; operationally in support of Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and to combat in support of multiple contingencies and named operations including ENDURING FREEDOM, FREEDOM SENTINEL, IRAQI FREEDOM, INHERENT RESOLVE, and YUKON SCEPTER.

Colonel Wilkinson has excelled in numerous other leadership positions in the Army, most recently as the chief, Army Senate Liaison. In the Russell Senate Office Building and around the globe, Colonel Wilkinson continued the tradition of strengthening Army relationships with Members of Congress and their staffs.

Over the course of the last year, Colonel Wilkinson provided support to multiple congressional delegations to locations within the United States and to various countries around the world. He became a trusted adviser and friend to many of us. He distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each and every trip, despite any number of weather, aircraft, and diplomatic complications.

This June, Colonel Wilkinson departs Washington, DC. This Chamber will feel his absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Colonel Wilkinson for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Army. I especially recognize his patient and supportive family, Mrs. Mindy Wilkinson, and his two daughters, Blakely and Parker. I wish this Army family the best as they move to Fort Campbell.

TRIBUTE TO DAN AND JAN SMOOTS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today during national small business week to honor and recognize Dan and Jan Smoots of Emporia, KS. The Smoots were recently announced as the Small Business Administration's Small Business Persons of the Year for Kansas, and once you hear why, it is clear to see they are more than deserving of the award.

The Smoots' business, Fanestil Meats, was recognized in part for surviving multiple flood disasters on the Cottonwood River. Their facility's foundation is just south of Emporia in the flood plain, making it susceptible to flooding any given year. Yet, through the hurdles, the Smoots persevered to keep their business running. Of course, the COVID–19 pandemic brought on a whole new set of challenges for the Smoots, but once again, they trekked along. With 100 employees to take care of, along with unprecedented supply chain disruptions, they had to be resourceful through this new challenge. Thankfully, Fanestil Meats was able to secure a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program, which the Smoots say was instrumental in keeping the business afloat throughout the pandemic.

Moving forward, Fanestil Meats is now constructing a new 40,000-square-foot meat-processing facility that will replace the original plant and help expand the worldwide reach of their beloved product, the Party Time Ham. The new facility is located adjacent to the cold storage warehouse, retail store, and administrative offices that were constructed in 2015 in Emporia, KS.

This award is truly an honor that everyone at Fanestil should be proud of. The Smoots have worked long and hard to expand and improve this business since they took over in 1997, which is no small task. Yet, thanks in part to the Smoots' ownership, Fanestil continues to rise to the occasion and prosper, even when faced with adversity. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dan and Jan Smoots for their dedication to their business and for representing Kansas greatly.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN JAMES LENEHAN, JR.

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Mr. John James Lenehan, Jr., a remarkable man and Korean war veteran who graduates from college on May 21, 2022, at the age of 88.

The son of Irish immigrants, Mr. Lenehan was born on April 5, 1934. He was raised alongside his four siblings in a one-bedroom apartment in Queens. Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Lenehan was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving at Fort Dix. Thanks to the GI Bill, he was able to pursue his dream of higher education and enrolled at Fordham University. Mr. Lenehan took night classes while working at KLM Airlines, where he met his future wife, Lillian. When KLM transferred Mr. Lenehan to the Houston office, the couple moved to Texas the day after their wedding, and Mr. Lenehan had to pause his studies.

The Lenehan family lived in Wallingford, CT, for 6 years. While there, Mr. Lenehan began working for Xerox, where he quickly gained recognition for his determination. During this time, he took several classes at Sacred Heart University and Yale University, but never had a sufficient chance to complete his degree. He eventually retired in 1991, only to start a new company with his wife before long. Mr. Lenehan retired a second time, moving with Mrs. Lenehan to a cottage in the west of Ireland.

Last spring, Mr. Lenehan decided he wanted to make the time to obtain his college degree, so he wrote to the president of Fordham University, requesting the opportunity to finish his studies nearly 70 years after he began. The university accepted him, and this month, Mr. Lenehan will achieve his dream of completing his undergraduate education. He will be Fordham University's oldest ever graduate when he receives his diploma on May 21, 2022.

Mr. Lenehan's lifelong commitment to pursuing his studies and supporting his family will be an enduring legacy. He and his wife instilled a love of learning in their children that they in turn have passed on to their own children. I now join his 6 children and 13 grandchildren in saluting Mr. Lenehan. I applaud his many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mr. John Lenehan, Jr., on this milestone of his graduation.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT ''BOB'' EDGAR ROSE

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I recognize Robert ''Bob'' Edgar Rose, who passed away on February 14, 2022. Bob served as Nevada's 26th Lieutenant Governor and as chief justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. He will be greatly missed and always remembered for his invaluable contributions to the State of Nevada.

Bob grew up in Livingston, NJ. After law school, Bob moved to Nevada to clerk for the Nevada Supreme Court. He then went on to practice law in Reno before serving as chairman of the Nevada Democratic Party and as Washoe County district attorney. In 1974, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Nevada. During his decades of service to the State of Nevada, Bob made a difference in every role in which he served.

As Lieutenant Governor, Bob worked to safeguard the rights of all Nevadans. He strongly advocated for the Equal Rights Amendment to ensure equality under the law for women. Despite political backlash at the time, Bob cast the deciding vote to send the amendment to the Nevada Assembly in 1977. Although Nevada did not ratify the amendment until 2017, Bob was recognized for his early leadership in this fight for equality. This important vote may have cost him the chance to be Governor, but Bob believed in doing what was right. Following Bob's term as Lieutenant Governor, Governor Richard Bryan appointed him to the Eighth Judicial District Court in Las Vegas.

In 1988, Bob achieved his lifelong dream of winning a seat on the Nevada Supreme Court. During his 18 years on the bench, he led efforts to modernize and improve Nevada's judicial system. Bob helped establish the Nevada Judicial Assessment Commission and the Jury Improvement Commission. Additionally, he pushed the court to mandate a statewide seminar on standardized practices for domestic violence cases. Nevada became the first State in the country to require such judicial training. In recognition of his many accomplishments and contributions, the Nevada Supreme Court awarded Bob the first Legacy of Justice Award in 2009.