Hill. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Nate has served in the Air Force for over 18 years. As a deployed squadron commander and C–130 pilot, Nate has led thousands of airmen in support of U.S. Air Force missions worldwide.

Throughout his career, Nate has demonstrated exceptional, unrivaled officership. He is a senior pilot with over 2,150 flying hours in the C–130E/H and has flown more than 1,000 combat hours over five deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, and Inherent Resolve. Prior to his current assignment, Nate had the privilege of being a deployed squadron commander at the 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, where he led two teams of airmen and civilians in managing two strategically essential Kuwaiti airfields.

As a legislative liaison in the Air Force Senate Liaison Office from June 2020 to June 2022, Lieutenant Colonel Kitzke performed his duties well and without reservation supporting the 116th and 117th U.S. Congresses. His strategic thinking and foresight helped to strengthen and improve our national security. Nate accomplished this utilizing his in-depth Air Force knowledge with numerous engagements between Congress and the Department of the Air Force.

Nate expertly conveyed Department of the Air Force positions on the Air Force Future Design that included the future bomber, tanker, and fighter force. Nate's direct support provided the U.S. Senate critical information necessary for three National Defense Authorization Acts. His efforts helped establish the U.S. Space Force, ensure the confirmation of the 26th Air Force Secretary, the 22nd Air Force Chief of Staff, and ensured the Department of the Air Force support of the National Defense Strategy in our return to great power competition.

Lieutenant Colonel Kitzke planned and led delegations for Members of Congress on visits all over the world to include the bicameral Reagan National Defense Forum. Nate's significant efforts led to successful engagements between this governing body and senior Department of Defense Officials including the Secretary of the Air Force. All of these engagements helped U.S. Senators understand defense equities and their impact on national security. Due to his direct involvement and stewardship, Members of Congress were able to make informed decisions and ensure the Department of the Air Force was properly resourced and funded.

After serving in this crucial role for the past 2 years and becoming a fixture on Capitol Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Kitzke will move to his next assignment, attending Air War College at Maxwell AFB, AL, a selection reserved only for the top echelon of Air Force leaders. Nate, his wife Gileanne, and their son Diego have sacrificed much as a family in service to our Nation. I am thankful for Nate's service and his work with my office and the Senate over the past 2 years on issues of vital importance to this great Nation. I salute this American patriot whose selfless service has kept our country safe and strong.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACI HOLMES

● Mr. KING. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding career of Jaci Holmes and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement from the Maine Department of Education. For nearly 35 years, Jaci dedicated herself to advocating for Maine children and ensuring that their educational needs are not only met, but surpassed.

Jaci started her career in education as a kindergarten and first grade teacher where she quickly saw the importance of providing strong educations from the beginning of childhood. This passion and understanding brought her to Westbrook College in Portland, ME, where she chaired the early childhood education department for 7 years and used her experience in the classroom to help others to become educators themselves. Her passion for education, particularly early childhood education, only grew as she joined the Maine Department of Education—DOE—in 1989.

At the DOE, Jaci has served under five Governors and 13 Maine DOE commissioners—a remarkable feat that is a testament to her dedication to education and Maine's children. Her time at the department included tenures in several senior roles, including 12 years as the director of the child development services system and most recently as the Federal and State legislative liaison since 2000.

In these positions, Jaci played an instrumental role in shaping two decades of State and Federal education legislation. Her guiding hand can be seen throughout many of the most meaningful modernizations of the way students learn and are supported. This legacy of extraordinary impact was epitomized by the key testimony she provided Congress on the reauthorization of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—IDEA. Thanks to her feedback, the IDEA was able to better meet the needs of Maine's children with disabilities.

During the pandemic, Jaci did what she has done throughout her entire career and stepped up to serve Maine's children. In the height of the COVID–19 crisis, she served on the elementary and secondary school emergency relief team and helped to oversee the distribution of the CARES Act funding to Maine schools.

Jaci's lifetime of public service is truly admirable, and I know that others will be inspired to carry on her work supporting Maine's next generation.

Jaci, your dedication and presence at the Maine DOE will be dearly missed and not soon forgotten. Thank you for all that you have done, and I hope that you will enjoy your retirement and some more time out on Casco Bay.●

TRIBUTE TO TODD HAUGEN

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to Todd Haugen, a Minnesota legend who is retiring on November 18 after 42 years as a local radio host in Bemidji.

A proud graduate of Bemidji State University, Todd did not always intend to become a radio host. He graduated with a major in geography with no radio experience, originally hoping to pursue a legal career and only taking a part-time gig as an afternoon radio DJ to earn some more money. Todd figured that any job where he got to meet and interview Barbara Mandell, one of the biggest country singers in the country, couldn't be half bad. But he fell in love with his part-time pursuit, drawn to the critical role that local radio stations play in keeping communities informed.

Todd has been a staple on local airwaves since 1980 when he first joined the team at KB101. With the exception of 6 months in 1985, Todd has remained at KB101 throughout his entire career, where he has hosted the morning show for almost four decades.

For generations of families in the Bemidji area, Todd's voice was as integral to their mornings as their breakfast and coffee. Commuters counted on him for weather updates, students looked to him for the score of high school sports games, and the entire community depended on him for honest news reporting and candid interviews.

Through his daily Chatabout public affairs show, Todd has interviewed countless local elected officials and leaders, highlighting the issues that matter the most to his listeners, from city council agendas and school board meetings, to public safety guidance and flu season tips. As Todd says, public service and helping people is the best part of his job.

But not all of Todd's conversations were so serious. Throughout his four decades in local radio, he also got the chance to show off his light-hearted side, participating in cow milking contests, riding elephants, and even introducing a wrestling match—all for the enjoyment of his listeners.

Todd's engaging and entertaining work has won him a record six National Association of Broadcasters Crystal Awards, a National Association of Broadcasters Crystal Heritage Award, and two National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation—NABEF—Service to America Awards. He has also been a two-time finalist for the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award for Small Market Personality of the Year.

Todd's service to his community has gone beyond just keeping them informed and entertained on the radio.