

VIII. USE OF DISPLAY MATERIALS IN COMMITTEE

Committee members may use the electronic display system provided in the committee hearing room or physical graphic displays during any meetings or hearings of the committee. Physical graphic displays are limited to the following:

Charts, photographs, or renderings:

Size: no larger than 36 inches by 48 inches.

Where: on an easel stand next to the member's seat or at the rear of the committee room.

When: only at the time the member is speaking.

Number: no more than two may be displayed at a time.

IX. CONFIRMATION STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

(1) Standards. In considering a nomination, the committee shall inquire into the nominee's experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. The committee shall recommend confirmation if it finds that the nominee has the necessary integrity and is affirmatively qualified by reason of training, education, or experience to carry out the functions of the office to which he or she was nominated.

(2) Information Concerning the Nominee. Each nominee shall submit the following information to the chief clerk, who will distribute to the chairman and ranking member at the same time:

(a) A detailed biographical resume which contains information concerning education, employment, and background which generally relates to the position to which the individual is nominated, and which is to be made public;

(b) Information concerning financial and other background of the nominee which is to be made public; provided, that financial information that does not relate to the nominee's qualifications to hold the position to which the individual is nominated, tax returns or reports prepared by federal agencies that may be submitted by the nominee shall, after review by the chair, ranking member, or any other member of the committee upon request, be maintained in a manner to ensure confidentiality; and,

(c) Copies of other relevant documents and responses to questions as the committee may so request, such as responses to questions concerning the policies and programs the nominee intends to pursue upon taking office.

(3) Report on the Nominee. After a review of all information pertinent to the nomination, a confidential report on the nominee may be prepared by the committee staff for the chair, the ranking member and, upon request, for any other member of the committee. The report shall summarize the steps taken and the results of the committee inquiry, including any unresolved matters that have been raised during the course of the inquiry.

(4) Hearings. The committee shall conduct a hearing during which the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to his or her suitability for office, including the policies and programs which he or she would pursue while in that position. No hearing or meeting to consider the confirmation shall be held until at least 72 hours after the following events have occurred: the nominee has responded to the requirements set forth in subsection (2), and, if a report described in subsection (3) has been prepared, it has been presented to the chairman and ranking member, and is available to other members of the committee, upon request.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

Mr. KING. Mr. President, this month Togus VA Maine Healthcare System will observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam war by honoring veterans of the Vietnam war era and their families. Togus will welcome veterans, their families, and communities in a ceremony at the Togus Theater in Augusta on March 23, 2017, to commemorate their service and sacrifices and to thank them for dedicating both strength and service in defense of our freedom.

Throughout the war, the United States deployed nearly 3 million servicemembers to Vietnam. Over 58,200 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice, and more than 150,000 were wounded during the conflict. Our veterans selflessly served this country, and they deserve to be recognized for their unwavering patriotism, courage, and resilience that exemplifies the strength of the American spirit and our Nation's commitment to democracy worldwide.

Maine played a critical role in the war effort. Those who served in the Vietnam war represent the largest contingent of veterans in Maine, and their record of service has earned them our eternal gratitude. Nearly 48,000 soldiers from Maine served in Vietnam, and almost 350 Mainers lost their lives or went missing in action during the war.

For this observance of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam war, I am proud to recognize the brave Americans who served, both overseas and here on the homefront. Their service makes this country great, and their countless personal sacrifices to protect our freedoms can never be fully repaid. It is my honor to express my gratitude to our veterans for their service during the Vietnam war and their many contributions to the State of Maine and our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my colleague Senator SHAHEEN, I would like to recognize the contributions made to our Nation and its small businesses by the good work of America's small business development centers. As chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Ranking Member SHAHEEN and I understand the impact that boosting small businesses makes, with 99.7 percent of all firms across America being small businesses and their employees making up 48 percent of the total workforce.

America's small business development centers provide small businesses across the country with high-quality, low- or no-cost consulting, and a variety of educational programs. These centers operate in all 50 States to support an established network of small businesses while encouraging new en-

trepreneurs to develop and execute their unique vision, helping innovators get their own small businesses up and running.

Small business development centers are successful because they provide the services of a large consulting firm on a locally scaled level in areas that may go unnoticed by other programs. They provide tailored, individualized attention to over 450,000 entrepreneurs a year, which resulted in \$6.9 billion in new sales in 2015. That same year, America's small business development centers aided in the creation of over 100,000 jobs, and the small businesses they serve averaged a growth rate of 15.5 percent, which is nearly eight times the national average.

One of many success stories that can be told is that of Velma, a marketing software firm in Nampa, ID. Founded in 2006, the firm focused on empowering loan officers to create stronger relationships through a customized direct email program. The recession of 2008 hit Velma hard, and in 2010, the company entered into the small business development centers business accelerator program. The structure of the program provided organizational discipline, and the firm pivoted to providing email marketing for mortgage companies. Since the firm began participating in the accelerator program, Velma has quadrupled its employees and created a sustained positive cash flow.

It is a privilege for my colleague and I to recognize America's Small Business Development Centers Day today, March 22, 2017, and we wish them continued success as they work to support the next generation of America's small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, as ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is a privilege to join Chairman RISCH as we celebrate the first ever Small Business Development Center Day, which will unite the more than 1,000 small business development centers, SBDCs, across the country with the hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs they have assisted in their 37-year history.

Small businesses are the engine of our economy, creating two out of every three new jobs in the United States. As Chairman RISCH stated, since 1980, America's SBDCs have provided these small businesses with high-quality, low- or no-cost consulting, and a variety of educational programs across the country. Together with SBA's other resource partners—women's business centers, veterans business outreach centers, and SCORE chapters—SBDCs have enhanced the ability of America's small businesses to grow and create jobs.

To provide some context for what this means to our economy, the association representing SBDCs estimates that SBDC clients start a new business every 30 minutes, create a new job every 5 minutes, generate \$100,000 in

new sales every 7.5 minutes, and raise \$100,000 in capital every 11 minutes. Job growth for SBDC clients is nearly 10 times greater than job growth for the average business.

Under the leadership of Dr. Richard Grogan, the New Hampshire SBDC State director, New Hampshire SBDCs have helped thousands of small business owners and entrepreneurs realize their dreams, start new businesses, and create jobs. Last year alone, New Hampshire SBDC counseled and trained more than 2,500 businesses and assisted in the formation of more than \$39 million in capital for New Hampshire's small businesses.

For example, NH SBDC has been instrumental for Julie Lapham, the founder and chief sales officer of a startup in Dover, NH, called Popzup. Popzup is a family-owned business that provides a new popcorn product for health-conscious consumers. As Julie explained it, her local SBDC helped to prepare her for a Shark Tank-style pitch competition in which she took home a first-prize award of \$10,000. They have helped her understand her financing options and continue to stay involved and support her company's growth.

I hope my colleagues will join me and Chairman RISCH in celebrating SBDC Day and acknowledging their local SBDCs for their accomplishments and the role that they play in helping small businesses create jobs.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING PABLITA TA-NEZ-BAH ABEYTA

• Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, Ta-Nez-Bah means in Navajo "one who completes a circle." Ta-Nez-Bah was an apt middle name for Pablita Abeyta whose life encircled art, advocacy, and dedication to Native peoples.

Pablita Ta-Nez-Bah Abeyta was born in Gallup, NM, in 1953, to Narciso Ha-So-De Abeyta and Sylvia Ann (Shipley) Abeyta. Her father was Navajo and an internationally recognized painter and silversmith. Her mother was Anglo and a Quaker and an accomplished ceramist and weaver in her own right.

Pablita and her six siblings were raised in and around the arts and the traditions of the Navajo people. Each had an artistic talent. Her sister Elizabeth was a masterful sculptor and ceramic artist; her brother Tony is a highly acclaimed painter and jeweler; and her sister Alice Seely is a nationally recognized sculptor, painter, and jeweler.

Pablita attended the Institute for American Indian Arts in Santa Fe and received a masters in public affairs from the University of New Mexico in 1983.

She then headed off to Washington, DC, where she would combine advocacy and art the rest of her life and where she would play a key role in founding

the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, NMAI.

Pablita had a full career on Capitol Hill for many years until her retirement, always advocating for Native causes. She lobbied for the Navajo Nation; worked as a legislative aide to U.S. Representative Ben Nighthorse Campbell from Colorado; staffed the U.S. House Interior Committee's Office of Indian Affairs under my uncle, U.S. Representative Mo Udall; held a legislative liaison position at the Smithsonian Institute; and served as special assistant with the NMAI.

Pablita attended the first congressional hearing on NMAI in 1987, worked for its establishment through congressional legislation, and worked on its highly successful private fundraising drive. Her work was instrumental to starting and building the museum.

Pablita was also an accomplished sculptor. Inspired by the strength, beauty, and serenity of Native women, her sculptures have been described as "smooth, round and sensuous." Her artwork won many awards at the Santa Fe Indian Market, was included in a Smithsonian National Museum of American History exhibition, and is held in the permanent collection of the NMAI. Pablita commented of her sculptures that ". . . the female figurines sing, talk, and reflect the seasons and Navajo spiritual ceremony. I am making a statement with my art about the importance of family, community and my heritage."

Pablita passed away January 31, 2017, at age 63. She completed many circles in her life, and I honor all that she accomplished.●

REMEMBERING WILSON M. HALONA

• Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Wilson Miles Halona, an outstanding member of the Navajo Nation, a loving husband and father, and a courageous American veteran. Sadly, at age 95, he passed away February 28, 2017.

Mr. Halona was born January 1, 1922, in the Chuska Mountains near Tohatchi, NM. His maternal clan was the Ashiihi, Salt People Clan, and his paternal clan was To'hani, Near the Water People Clan. He was the son of sheep herders, Barney and Annie Halona. One of his sons tells the story of Mr. Halona's mother going into labor with him as she was herding sheep in the middle of winter. She stopped to give birth, outside in the cold, and then went back to herding. He came from strong stock.

This is the second time I have had the privilege to honor Mr. Halona. The first was on November 20, 2012, at the Pueblo Indian Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mr. Wilson was a World War II hero, but had not received the recognition he deserved. Almost 60 years after the war, his family worked to make sure he received the acknowl-

edgment and medals he earned for his bravery and service.

Mr. Halona was part of the D-Day invasion. Serving in the Army, he and his fellow soldiers landed in Normandy, on Utah Beach, in July 1944. They were part of the third wave of American soldiers to land, and there were already many casualties scattered on the beach.

Mr. Halona was a gunner. As he and his battalion started moving inland, they encountered heavy gunfire from Germans who were dug into mountaintops along the beach in cement bunkers. The American troops returned the gunfire and fought for over 3 hours before they destroyed two German bunkers. Mr. Halona's battalion stopped further casualties and took control of the beachfront.

They headed to Brussels and then on to Bonn and Luxembourg, where the U.S. had established a military base. Winter came upon them, and they were snowed in for 4 months. After the snow cleared, the battalion moved to take over Munich, where they saw firsthand the death and destruction of the Holocaust. In Stuttgart, they drove out the Germans, captured Hitler's top generals, transferred them to jail in Nuremberg, and kept guard. Mr. Halona himself guarded Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering for several hours. Mr. Halona credited his Navajo traditions and prayers for helping him during and after the war.

When Mr. Halona was finally given the honors owed in 2012, he received the Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star, World War II Victory Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, and the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar Presentation. I was deeply honored that he asked me to present his medals.

Mr. Halona served the Navajo Nation with distinction as well. He was a member of the Navajo Nation Council for four terms and president of the Tohatchi chapter for eight terms. He was first appointed to the advisory board for the Navajo Housing Authority and then served as its first chair. He was instrumental in developing the housing authority—The Navajo Housing Authority was one of the first tribal housing authorities to be funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—and making sure that Navajo people had better living conditions. He worked to develop the Indian Health Service within the Navajo Nation and to build schools on the reservation. He even helped create the Navajo rodeo association. Mr. Halona's service to his tribe stretched far and deep.

Mr. Halona was married to his wife, Ruby Arviso, from 1942 until her passing in 2013. He had 7 children, and is survived by 5, along with 16 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

Wilson Miles Halona lived a life of service to family, tribe, and Nation. I honor his life and his work.●