



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

RECOGNIZING: **HAPPY DAY CORPORATION**

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have not been easy for small business owners and their employees to overcome. Throughout the pandemic, many were forced to temporarily close their doors. Those that reopened had to innovate their business models to comply with local guidelines and public health mandates. As we turn the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic, I am proud to relaunch Support Local Gems, a statewide initiative, on May 21st to encourage Idahoans to support local small businesses in their communities. This month, as a senior member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I will honor six small businesses located throughout the State of Idaho. I am pleased to honor Happy Day Corporation in Lewiston as one of the Idaho Small Businesses of the Month for May 2021.

Happy Day is a four-generation family business founded by Bruce and Joy Finch in 1969. After opening their first franchise restaurant in the Lewiston area, the couple went into business with Bruce's father, Charles, and began to expand their venture. With 10 years of business under their belts, Bruce and Joy reorganized their budding company, officially naming it "Happy Day" to commemorate Joy's delight that their company was flourishing. Today, the business comprises 13 franchise and independent restaurants and a catering and events division. This has enabled the company to provide jobs for more than 450 employees in the Inland Northwest.

Above all else, Happy Day is known for its commitment to service. Each year, thousands of wildland firefighters battle wildfires throughout the West. In an effort to keep them fed, Happy Day provides hundreds of meals to these firefighters at their fire camps. In addition, the company has long supported veterans. Happy Day restaurants have served more than 100,000 meals to local veterans through its monthly "Tuesday Vets Meal" initiative where veterans can eat for free. Their enduring dedication to community service has garnered them local and national awards, including being inducted into the Idaho Hall of Fame in 2016. Happy Day's efforts to serve their community make them an exceptional example of service-oriented small business leadership.

Congratulations to Happy Day on being selected as an Idaho Gem for the month of May. You serve as an example in your community and are an outstanding example of what it means to be one of Idaho's Local Gems.