

uphold the law and enable all Americans to receive a fair hearing and an equal chance at justice.

Solicitor General Kagan has my full support in her nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I rise to speak on a matter of great importance to me. Recently, I met with Gil Kerlikowske, Director of National Drug Control Policy and his Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, David Mineta. In that meeting, they shared alarming information with me about the rates of prescription drug abuse among veterans and active duty military personnel. The Office of National Drug Control Policy, ONDCP, and the Centers for Disease Control have characterized the rate of prescription drug abuse in our country as an epidemic, with rates of unintentional drug overdose deaths having increased fivefold since 1990.

Our active duty military forces and veterans are not immune from this disturbing trend. In the 2008 Department of Defense Survey of Health Related Behaviors among Active Duty Military Personnel, prescription drug misuse was reported by one in nine personnel in the past month and nearly one in five in the past year. Further, the percentage of men and women reporting prescription drug misuse in all military services combined—11.5 percent—was more than twice that of the civilian population in the age group 18–64—4.4 percent.

Unfortunately, substance abuse remains a problem for newly returning veterans as well.

Data collected between 2002 and 2008 indicate that across all medical conditions of returning veterans, mental health disorders are the second most common—40 percent—with both post traumatic stress and substance use disorders among the highest within this category.

Aggregated data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's annual household survey reveals that from 2004 to 2006, 7.1 percent of veterans—an estimated 1.8 million persons 18 or older—met criteria for a past-year substance use disorder.

The Army recently released a study highlighting the importance of suicide prevention. The Army experienced 239 suicide deaths across the total Army, including the active reserve members, in fiscal year 2009. This number does not include 74 drug overdoses in the same year. As the Army stated in its recently released report, "Health Promotion, Risk Reduction, Suicide Prevention," this is an issue that cannot be ignored. I urge ONDCP to pursue solutions, along with the Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, to address the serious issue of prescription drug abuse in both the active duty military and among veterans of all service, including the Reserve Component.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the enactment of legislation that created real estate investment trusts, REITs. The development of real estate investment trusts is among the true success stories of American business. Moreover, REITs legislation enacted over the past 50 years presents a remarkable example of how Congress can create the legal framework to liberate entrepreneurs, small investors, and men and women across the country to do what they do best—create wealth and, more importantly, build thriving communities.

When REITs were first created in 1960, small investors had almost no role in commercial real estate ventures. At that time, private partnerships and other groups closed to ordinary investors directed real estate investments, typically using debt, not equity, to finance their ventures. That model not only served small investors poorly, it resulted in the misallocation of capital, and contributed to significant market volatility.

Since that time, REITs have permitted small investors to participate in one of our country's greatest generators of wealth—income-producing real estate—and REITs have greatly improved real estate markets by promoting transparency, liquidity, and stability. The growth in REITs has been particularly dramatic and beneficial in the past 15 years, as capital markets responded to a series of changes in the tax rules that modernized the original 1960 REIT legislation to adjust it to new realities of the marketplace.

Equity REITs have outperformed the major U.S. equity market benchmarks for all multi-year periods over the past 35 years, as well as over the entire 38-year period since the inception of the U.S. REIT indexes.

I am proud of my role in sponsoring legislation that included many of these changes that modernized the REIT rules, and I remain committed to making every effort to ensure that the people of Utah and across our Nation continue to benefit from a dynamic and innovative REIT sector.

I have seen firsthand what REITs have done for communities across my State of Utah. It is very much in Utah's interests, and in our country's interests, to make sure that REITs continue to work effectively and efficiently to carry out the mission which Congress intended.

NATIONAL POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I speak today, along with my colleague, Senator BOB BENNETT, in recognition of "National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week". Senator HERB KOHL and I introduced S. Res. 592 on July 22

to designate September 13–19, 2010, as the National PKD Awareness Week for 2010, and Senator BENNETT was a co-sponsor of the resolution. S. Res. 592 passed the Senate by unanimous consent on July 29, 2010. I thank my colleagues for their support.

Polycystic kidney disease, also known as PKD, is a life-threatening, genetic disease affecting more than 600,000 adults and children in the United States and 12.5 million people worldwide. In fact, PKD is one of the top three most prevalent life-threatening genetic diseases in the world. It is, in fact, one of the most deadly diseases of which you have likely never heard. To help put it into perspective, more people have been diagnosed with PKD than have been diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, muscular dystrophy, Down's syndrome, and Huntington's disease combined. However, these diseases are much more well-known than PKD. I take particular interest in PKD because so many Utahns suffer from the disease. According to the PKD Foundation, approximately 5,000 Utahns have been diagnosed with PKD and end stage renal disease—ESRD—instances in Utah are almost three times the national average.

Polycystic kidney disease often goes unnoticed due to the fact there are no telltale symptoms in the early stages of the disease. Many people who have PKD are not diagnosed until the disease has already affected other organs. More than half of individuals diagnosed will reach end-stage renal failure and require dialysis or a kidney transplant in order to survive. When a kidney has been affected by PKD, fluid-filled cysts develop on the kidney. These cysts can range in size from that of a pinhead to the size of a grapefruit. The size and weight of each cystic kidney can grow to that of a football or basketball and weigh as much as 38 pounds. Other diseases and symptoms may show up as the disease progresses and, unfortunately, this is often how PKD is diagnosed. Examples of such symptoms are urinary tract infections, hypertension, kidney stones, high blood pressure, potentially fatal heart diseases, and aneurysms.

There are two forms of polycystic kidney disease: autosomal dominant PKD and autosomal recessive PKD. Autosomal dominant PKD is more serious and it affects one in every 500 people and is commonly diagnosed in adulthood. Every child born to an affected parent has a 50 percent chance of inheriting the disease themselves. The other form, autosomal recessive PKD, also called ARPKD, is diagnosed in children. Approximately 30 percent of the infants diagnosed with ARPKD will die within the first month of life; and of the 70 percent who survive infancy, one-third will require a kidney transplant by the very young age of 10.

As of today, there is no cure or treatment for PKD. There are ways to alleviate pain, and a healthy lifestyle

can delay kidney failure; however, the only way to effectively stop the symptoms is by kidney transplant. Unfortunately, many who are waiting for a transplant will not survive long enough to receive it.

Aside from the debilitating nature of the disease, the costs associated with PKD are staggering. The current estimation of what PKD costs Federal health care programs annually is at least \$2 billion. This can be broken down as: \$78,000 per year, per patient, for dialysis; \$100,000–\$150,000 per kidney transplant; and \$15,000–\$20,000 per year, per patient, for post-transplant immunosuppressive drugs.

It is clear that PKD is a very serious disease that should be receiving more attention. As we increase our understanding and awareness of PKD, we also increase our ability to find treatments and eventually, a cure for this disease; and that is why I am proud to have helped designate this week as “National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week”.

REMEMBERING VENTURE SMITH

Mr. DODD. Madam President, today I wish to commemorate the life of Venture Smith, who passed away nearly 205 years ago on September 19, 1805. A Connecticut man who lived not far from where my home in East Haddam currently stands, Venture Smith's life is one of the best documented of the millions of Africans who were kidnapped from their homes and brought to the Americas as part of the transatlantic slave trade. A remarkable individual of uncommon strength and valor, Venture Smith's compelling story of perseverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds still serves as a potent source of inspiration and hope more than two centuries after it happened.

Originally born Broteer Furro in 1728—the first son of a West African king—Venture's childhood was cruelly interrupted at the tender age of ten, when he was captured by slave traders, forced to board a crowded slave ship destined for the New World, and sold to Robinson Mumford of Long Island for four barrels of rum and a piece of calico. After more than a decade in the Mumford household, Venture was sold twice more, finally ending up with Colonel Oliver Smith of Stonington, CT, in 1760.

In 1798, by that time an elderly man, Venture dictated his life story to Elisha Niles, a Connecticut schoolteacher, who had it published that same year in New London. One of perhaps only a dozen firsthand accounts of that period in our Nation's history by enslaved Africans, Venture Smith's narrative is a seminal work of early American literature that traces many of the defining moments of his life, beginning with his childhood in Africa.

And while many of the experiences related in Venture's autobiography would be heartbreakingly familiar to

anyone who has studied this dark chapter in our Nation's history, Venture's life breaks the mold in one crucial respect. In spite of the tremendous challenges that he faced at nearly every turn Venture was able to win back his freedom through hard work, courage, and an unbreakable spirit.

By the time he was sold to his third and final owner, Colonel Smith, Venture had already spent the vast majority of his formative years in slavery. Having struck a deal with this new owner that would allow him to work for his freedom, Venture labored with incredible determination—fishing and growing food for sale, cutting and cordoning wood, and hiring himself out during seasonal hiatuses from his duties as Colonel Smith's slave—to acquire the 85 pounds and ten shillings needed to purchase his freedom. Such a sum was considered quite steep by the standards of 18th century colonial America, and even more so for an individual of Venture's means. But in spite of the tremendous hurdles that stood in his path, Venture successfully earned that money and bought his freedom in just over 5 years.

But Venture's story of hard work and dogged persistence in the face of unending challenges did not end there. During the four decades that followed, Venture fought tirelessly to free his wife Meg and three children, who were also enslaved in Connecticut, as well as to build a new life for himself as a free man. Harnessing those same unshakeable qualities of dedication, resourcefulness, and frugality that allowed him to secure his own freedom, Venture not only earned enough money to liberate his entire family from bondage, but also three men he barely even knew.

And if that wasn't remarkable enough, Venture Smith accomplished yet another feat that—in light of the serious financial and legal constraints that existed at the time—was exceedingly rare for a freed slave in colonial Connecticut: become a landowner. In 1775, just 1 year before the Thirteen American colonies declared independence from Great Britain, Venture purchased the first of what would become a nearly 130-acre farm on Haddam Neck, right at the mouth of the Salmon River. And it was there, in 1805, that Venture Smith ultimately died at the ripe old age of 77, having amassed a considerable fortune from his involvement in an array of commercial activities, from fishing and farming to the commodities trade.

Madam President, there are a significant number of historical lessons that can be gained from the life of this remarkable man—from firsthand insights into the evils perpetrated by the institution of slavery in this country, to a more complete understanding of the unique challenges faced by slaves who were able to gain their own freedom. But perhaps just as important are those lessons that transcend the period in which Venture Smith himself lived.

For, after losing almost everything—including that most fundamental of human rights, his freedom—Venture Smith set about tearing down the seemingly impenetrable barriers erected by slavery and racism that kept him from enjoying the same privileges as his White neighbors. And while his journey from slave to wealthy Connecticut landowner was long and arduous, filled with its share of disappointments and setbacks, Venture Smith never lost sight of his goals, ultimately achieving them through nothing more than grit, intelligence, and determination.

In this way, Venture Smith is much more than a mere historical figure. Rather, Venture's life is a testament to the sheer strength of the human spirit. It is a symbol of how a single individual can challenge societal norms and impact history. Perhaps most importantly, it is the embodiment of the principle that, even in the most dire and seemingly hopeless of circumstances, human beings are still capable of truly extraordinary achievements.

As we approach the 205th anniversary of his death, I would like to thank the Documenting Venture Smith Project for all of the wonderful work they have done over the past 5 years to help improve our understanding of this incredible individual. It is my hope that with continuing academic interest in Venture's life, new generations of Americans will be inspired by this timeless story of triumph in the face of adversity for years to come.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT MARTIN ANTHONY LUGO

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize an extraordinary soldier and son of Arizona who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our Nation. SGT Martin Anthony Lugo selflessly gave his life on the battlefield in Afghanistan on August 19, 2010, while serving his sixth, yes his sixth, deployment in the war on terror. Sergeant Lugo was killed while leading his Rangers in a fierce firefight that also claimed the lives of over a dozen Taliban fighters.

Sergeant Lugo's service to his country began after his graduation from high school in Tucson, AZ. He soon found himself in the Army recruiter's office and enlisted as an infantryman in September 2004. After distinguishing himself throughout basic training and the basic airborne course, he was assigned to the Ranger Selection and Training Program at Fort Benning, GA. Upon graduation in April 2005, he was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Over the next 5 years, he would serve as an ammunition handler, automatic rifleman, team leader, and squad leader. During this time, he would deploy twice to Iraq and four times to Afghanistan.

In addition to graduating from the U.S. Army Ranger course and earning