

WELCOMING ELIZABETH  
MACDONOUGH

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the retiring Parliamentarian of the Senate, Alan Frumin, who has for the past two decades faithfully and honorably served this institution and who will, beginning tomorrow, embark upon a new chapter in his professional life. For 20 years, Alan has advised the Senate and the hundreds who have had the privilege of serving here with a deft understanding of its rules, some of which can be quite arcane, and an abiding passion for this august body that will reverberate for generations to come. As Alan departs this Chamber, I extend my personal gratitude to him, wish him the very best, and hope he knows that this country is deeply indebted to him for his longstanding service.

At the same time, I want to recognize and applaud a milestone moment in the life of this venerable institution as we welcome Alan's successor, Elizabeth MacDonough, the first woman in the history of the Senate to assume the indispensable responsibilities of the Parliamentarian. Elizabeth, who has served as Senior Assistant Parliamentarian since 2002, has proved herself to be not only well-versed in the labyrinthine procedures of this body but fully prepared for the demanding and often unheralded work of ensuring that my colleagues and I remain within the bounds of proper parliamentary procedure, allowing us to focus less on the operation of the Senate and more on fulfilling the Senate's constitutional role.

Since 1931, the Parliamentarian has diligently sat below the President's rostrum, independently advising the Presiding Officer on the often obscure rules and precedents that guide the process and work of the Senate. Tomorrow Elizabeth becomes the first woman in 80 years to answer what can only be deemed a calling, and a noble one at that. There are very few who have amassed the considerable experience, knowledge, and disposition required to serve with distinction in this capacity. Elizabeth is well-equipped to take on this formidable task, and I wish her the very best.

RECOGNIZING UVM PEACE CORPS  
ALUMNI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to commend the University of Vermont for its close relationship with the Peace Corps. This year, UVM ranked fifth in the Nation among mid-sized colleges and universities that are the top producers of Peace Corps volunteers. I am proud of the 42 UVM alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps around the world.

UVM has highlighted Eric Smith as one of its current alumni volunteers. Eric, who is stationed in Costa Rica, is

applying his business degree by teaching microfinance and helping young women develop small businesses. He says that such efforts "would not have been possible without my education at UVM."

Like Eric, all of the UVM volunteers have devoted 2 years to promoting cultural understanding and improving the lives of people in countries such as Cambodia, El Salvador, Tanzania, and Uganda. Some are employing innovative teaching methods to inspire young people. Some work on small farms, increasing food production in rural villages. Others help provide safe drinking water or combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Yet all of the UVM volunteers display an admirable commitment to civic engagement with the dream of building a better world.

This dream is emblematic of the Vermont spirit. For the second year in a row, in 2011 our State produced the most Peace Corps volunteers per capita in the Nation. The Upper Valley region of Vermont ranks eighth in the Nation among metropolitan areas whose citizens are serving in the Peace Corps. In 2010, the Burlington area ranked second in the same category.

As the Peace Corps continues its 50th year of building understanding between Americans and the citizens of other countries, I want to applaud the contributions of Vermonters and the University of Vermont. These volunteers deserve our appreciation and support.

I ask unanimous consent that a January 25, 2012, Burlington Free Press article entitled "UVM ranks 5th in producing Peace Corps vols." be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Jan. 25, 2012]

UVM RANKS 5TH IN PRODUCING PEACE CORPS  
VOLUMES.

(By the Associated Press)

BURLINGTON.—The Peace Corps says the University of Vermont ranks fifth in the country in the number of former students who are serving as volunteers overseas.

The rankings of medium sized universities released Tuesday show that 42 UVM alumni are serving overseas. The figure is up eight over last year and it moved the school from 13th to fifth.

The Vermont alumni work across the globe in programs that include agriculture, education, environment, health and business and youth development.

The top producing medium sized college or university is The George Washington University.

The overall top producing school is the University of Colorado at Boulder.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JOSE BUNDA

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, our veterans protected our country. They

have also helped to spread the ideals for which it stands and have made great sacrifices for our Nation throughout its history. We thank these patriots for the selflessness and courage they have exhibited under the most daunting circumstances.

The heroic tales of survival and commitment to service depicted in the history books are a reality for the men and women who served in our Nation's uniform while fighting to protect our interests and spread democracy worldwide.

While many of these patriots gave their lives on the battlefield, survivors such as Jose Bunda lived to tell some of the horrific events he endured. His firsthand accounts show the realities of WWII. They are gut-wrenching but show the human will to survive.

Today I wish to recognize the service and sacrifice of one of our veterans from the 'Greatest Generation' who stood in the face of danger: Jose Bunda. He is a true American hero who lived through the worst days of war and told his heroic story of survival.

Mr. Bunda grew up in the Philippines and joined the U.S. Army after graduating from high school when he was 18. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Mr. Bunda was stationed on Corregidor Island.

In 1942, Mr. Bunda was defending the island against the Japanese and although his squad was able to hold its ground, he and his comrades were forced to surrender.

The realities of war Mr. Bunda experienced is something he always remembered. Almost 60 years after he was taken prisoner he recalled it as one of the worst times of his life in a story published in the Times Record.

Mr. Bunda detailed how he was piled into a boxcar for a ride that lasted 18 hours. Once the train stopped at Camp Duo he was forced on the infamous Bataan Death March where he walked day and night with no food.

"Once you fall down, they shoot you or chop off your head," Mr. Bunda said in a 1999 interview saying it was a miracle that he survived.

He was a prisoner of war for 2 years, working in a Japanese labor camp but escaped and joined a guerrilla unit until the end of the war.

Mr. Bunda's will to survive triumphed over the atrocities he was put through in WWII. Despite all the hardships, violence and massacres he witnessed, he remained committed to the military and continued his service in the Korean War.

Mr. Bunda and his wife Rosario came to the United States in 1957 when he was stationed at Fort Chaffee. Although his career required him to move to other military bases, the couple moved back to Arkansas in 1962 once he retired from the military after 30 years of service.

In 2000, Mr. Bunda received many of the medals, awards and recognitions he