

would have to provide to any requester under the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA.

Today, I am releasing my hold on Mr. Steve Johnson to acknowledge that EPA has made a good faith effort to provide documents on the Portland sewer situation since I placed a hold on his nomination. Although I am lifting my hold on Mr. Johnson, I remain troubled by EPA's policy for withholding documents from Members of the Senate and the Environment and Public Works Committee, in particular. I believe the EPA position on this critical issue is contrary to the law and the controlling court decisions. I have also voiced my concern that EPA policy would mean the end of Congressional oversight. I believe that Senators should not be forced to place holds on nominees in order to obtain documents they need to conduct their oversight duties as members of the committee with primary responsibility for oversight of EPA.

I will lift my hold on Mr. Johnson's nomination today to acknowledge recent EPA efforts to respond to my requests. I will also be monitoring EPA cooperation in responding to my requests for information in the future. And if EPA again tries to stonewall as it did to my requests for information on the Portland sewers, I will put a hold on other EPA nominations if that is what it takes to get the agency's attention and cooperation.

OFFICER ISAAC ANTHONY ESPINOZA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I have just returned from San Francisco, a city whose heart has been broken by the tragic shooting death of a brave young police officer. On April 10, Isaac Espinoza was killed in the line of duty at the age of 29.

Officer Espinoza died doing the duty he loved: protecting the community from gang violence. He had volunteered to work as a plain clothes officer in the gang suppression unit of Bayview Police Station, where he served with distinction for 7 of his 8 years on the San Francisco police force.

Officer Espinoza was well known and liked in the Bayview neighborhood. Residents trusted him, and they appreciated his efforts to defuse violence and get guns off the streets. His outstanding work was recognized by the Police Department, which honored him with a Silver Medal of Valor and a Purple Heart as well as a Police Commission commendation.

Isaac Espinoza was also a loving husband, father, and son. My heart goes out to his wife, daughter, and family. I want them to know that the entire community shares their grief. All San Francisco feels the loss of Isaac's death, just as we all appreciate the gift of his life and work.

A gallant police officer is gone, but he will not be forgotten. We can and must carry on his work by giving com-

munity police officers and other first responders the resources they need to bring peace and safety to our Nation's streets and neighborhoods.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, due to a previous obligation, I was unable to vote on the conference report to H.R. 3108, the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004. If I had been present, I would have voted in support of the conference report. I appreciate the work done on this conference report by my colleagues, Senators GRASSLEY, GREGG, MCCONNELL, BAUCUS, and KENNEDY. As others have mentioned before, this legislation is very important to many businesses and their employees suffering from the recent economic downturn and in need of pension relief that the act will provide.

While the act will help millions of employees who are covered under this measure, I am concerned that approximately 9.7 million Americans who belong to multi-employer pension plans, many of them in the construction industry, who are facing the same problems as employees covered by other pension plans, will not be receiving this relief. In January, when the Senate overwhelmingly passed H.R. 3108, we agreed that our pension laws should affect not just single-employer plans but also multi-employer plans. We thought including multi-employers was fair and just. Unfortunately, in conference, there were some that agreed with the Bush administration that multi-employer plans should only receive partial relief. Some would say that the relief will be four percent, others will say it is even less than that. All I know is that millions of hard-working Americans, who report to work just as any other employee, will not receive this relief.

However, with the April 15 deadline where many employers were facing an inflated contribution to their pension plans and the administration's threat of a veto if the final bill included multi-employer relief, I could not penalize approximately 35 million Americans who are covered by single-employer defined benefit plans. The low 30-year Treasury bond interest rates and the unpredictable stock market have adversely affected many companies that contribute to these defined benefit plans. Again, while I believe these conditions affected not just single-employer plans, but also multi-employer plans, I could not jeopardize the 35 million Americans who could have lost their pensions if this important legislation were not enacted into law.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING ERIN SMALLEY: A REMARKABLE YOUNG WRITER

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a fine young

Iowan, Erin Smalley of Johnston. Erin is a seventh-grade student at Johnston Middle School. Erin wrote the following essay for a school-wide contest for American Education Week on the topic "Great public schools for every child—America's promise." Erin's eloquent and inspiring words remind us of the importance of education in America. I would like to take a moment to share with you what Erin Smalley wrote in her essay, *A Passion for Education*.

William Butler Yeats, an Irish poet who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923, once said, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." He made an excellent point, but reading through is quote just once will not make the meaning sink in. I am going to break it down to make it more easily understood.

The first part of Yeats' quote states, "Education is not the filling of a pail." I believe it means this: Education is not just putting information and knowledge into someone's mind. You can't dump fact, after fact, after fact onto someone because it will just go in one ear and out the other. Putting a lot of information into someone's head is just like filling a pail with a lot of water. It will probably just sit there, but it won't sink in. That is why education means something more.

The rest of the quote says: "... but the lighting of a fire." I believe this means that education is all about enlightening students and making them wonder. To light their fire is to make them want to learn more, to build a passion for what they are being taught. When they have an interest, then they will go for it. When kids are given an education, and they discover a passion for something important to them, then they will go higher and higher and never give up, until they reach their dreams. When the light goes on, that's when they start to discover and learn. That's when education is most important, because then it will hopefully become a turning point in their life.

Everyone should get to go to a free school to learn freely and learn new things. I want every kid to be able to have a passion for something, and be able to have the chance to go for their dreams. I want every kid to get the chance, because it's not fair if only some do. I hope that having an education will light all of the flames, and not just fill up the pails. •

CENTRAL COLLEGE SESQUICENTENNIAL

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, last fall, Central College kicked off a year of festivities to celebrate its sesquicentennial. Founded in 1853 by a determined group of immigrants from the Netherlands, Central College has grown in size and stature during the last century and a half, but remains grounded in the tradition and faith of its founders. This weekend, the celebration continues with the Happy Birthday Dear Central Gala.

Currently affiliated with the Reformed Church in America, the college was originally created through the efforts of the Baptists of Iowa. The Iowa Baptist Society worked to establish an "institution of liberal and sacred learning" in the early days of our State. An enterprising, open-minded Pella resident, Dominie Scholte, believed in the

power of higher education and campaigned to bring the new institution to his community. Scholte, a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, sealed the deal for Pella by donating land and money to the new school.

The new Central University of Iowa opened its doors on October 8, 1854, with 37 students in a rented building on Washington Street. From a humble beginning, Central College has grown into a state-of-the-art liberal arts college with 1,700 students. The college offers degrees in 36 disciplines and is well known for its ambitious study abroad program.

The study abroad program began in the summer of 1962 when a group of Central students ventured to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. The program also sent students to Paris, France the following summer and was expanded to a full year of study in 1965. The popularity of the program and the number of foreign locations has increased and now includes England, Wales, Austria, Spain, Holland, China and Kenya. Today, approximately half of Central students spend at least one semester abroad.

Central College alumni, students, staff and Pella residents have participated in a variety of special events over the past several months. The sesquicentennial celebration has showcased the strong liberal arts tradition of the college with special performances, lectures, exhibits and social events. As the college community comes together for the Happy Birthday Dear Central Gala, I offer my heartfelt congratulations on 150 years of excellence in the education and my best wishes to Central College for the next 150 years.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LADY PANTHERS OF DRURY UNIVERSITY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the Drury University Lady Panthers basketball team on their fantastic march to the NCAA Division II championship game in St. Joseph, MO, on March 27, 2004. Fans and alumni in Southwest Missouri and across the country are justifiably proud of the Lady Panthers.

For years fans from the great State of Missouri have enjoyed watching some of America's most outstanding sports legends. The Lady Panthers are continuing this tradition of excellence, ending their year with an enviable record of 36-2. In an amazing performance, the Drury team battled until the end for the NCAA Division II National Championship. In the words of Coach Nyla Milleson, it was a tremendous journey.

What makes this story remarkable is the fact that the Lady Panthers basketball team was established just 4 years ago under the direction of the late Dr. Bruce Harger, Drury's athletic director for 15 years. Many teams work for years to gain preeminence and respect in their sport. Thanks to the bril-

liant coaching of Nyla Milleson and her staff, along with the team's strong commitment and hard work, the Lady Panthers were able to achieve this distinction in a very short time.

Coach Milleson skillfully assembled a group of talented young women, many from southwest Missouri where basketball takes center stage in most communities during the winter months. The women's team played their first game in 2000, joining a Drury men's team that is rich in tradition. With strong support from the University and its boosters, the Lady Panthers enjoyed immediate success, culminating in their championship appearance this March.

Long known for academics, Drury University can now add women's basketball to its list of nationally recognized sports programs, continuing its tradition of excellence. There is no doubt that the Drury Lady Panthers are poised to compete in many more games. I congratulate Coach Milleson and all the Lady Panthers team members, coaches and supporters who worked hard to turn their dreams into reality.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. TOM DIBELLO

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to pay tribute to Mr. Tom DiBello of Covington, KY who has served with great distinction as the Executive Director of the Covington Community Center since 1995.

Tom has strong roots in Covington, KY, even though he first came to the community as a 1-year VISTA, Volunteers in Service to America, worker. Mr. DiBello then worked his way through the Covington Community as an outreach worker, community organizer and program director. As he rose through the ranks, his dedication to the community and list of achievements only grew.

Some of Mr. DiBello's early accomplishments include organizing grassroots efforts for welfare reform and developing the Covington Neighborhood Action Coalition, now known as the Covington Neighborhood Collaborative.

Mr. DiBello is responsible for marked growth of the Community Center, transforming it from a small organization on the west side of Covington to a truly city-wide support and development organization. From developing partnerships to running a capital campaign, Tom's leadership has been integral to the success of the Covington Community Center.

Congratulations again, Mr. DiBello, on your dedicated service to the Covington Community Center. You are an inspiration for all of us throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We look forward to your continued success and achievement.●

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALEC BRINDLE

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to offer a tribute to a very significant figure in one of my State's largest industries: seafood processing. This man is Alec Brindle, who was for many years with Wards Cove Packing Company, and who has now entered retirement. In addition to having played an important role in the development of Alaska's salmon industry, Alec has also been a friend of mine, and of my family, for many years. It seems to me that anyone with the stamina and perseverance to work in the fish business for 50 years deserves some recognition.

Although Alec was born in the Seattle area, his life has long been tied to Alaska's fisheries. Almost his entire extended family has been involved in Alaskan fisheries since well before Alaskan statehood. As a young boy he spent summers in Ketchikan, at first playing around the cannery, and then, at age 13, he began his career as an employee of the family salmon packing operation. This was the beginning of a career, and a commitment, that would last for 50 years. Alec is one of those people about whom you can say, "He has truly seen it all". At various points in his long career fish prices for red salmon have varied from pennies a pound to a point in the late 1980's when a single fish was worth more than a barrel of North Slope crude oil. As Alec himself has pointed out, the fish business is one where at the beginning of the season the processor doesn't know how much fish he will be able to buy, what price he will pay, or at what price he will be able to sell the finished product. Needless to say, trying to craft and maintain a business plan under such circumstances is not an easy task. But Alec, to his great credit, was able to maintain his grace and charm in the face of all these challenges. He was a true gentleman in a very tough business.

Alec did take enough time off from the family business to obtain a law degree. He spent a year clerking for well known Alaska Supreme Court Justice John Dimond. Since Alaska had only recently been granted statehood, these were exciting times for our young State as we sorted through the growing pains of creating a judicial system. As a young attorney Alec contributed to this process.

Most people outside of Alaska aren't aware that the fishing industry has traditionally been my State's largest private employer. Each year, thousands of fishermen and other workers come to Alaska to help in the harvesting and processing of the amazing variety of fishery resources of my State. Although most of Alec's career was spent in the salmon business, he and his family have also been involved in the crab, herring and groundfish sectors. Many fishermen and processing workers have spent their entire careers enjoying an association with Alec and other members of the Brindle family.