

symbolizing the renewal of life and the ripple effects of donation.

It is important to note that one organ donor can save the lives of nine people. In addition, a single eye and tissue donor can restore sight to two people and enhance the lives of up to 50 more. What a wonderful legacy to leave behind. To actually save and enhance the lives of so many others is almost beyond compare.

Someone once said, "If today brings even one choice your way, choose to be a bringer of the light." Thousands of families each year across America choose to be "bringers of the light." To the loved ones and family members who are faced with the agonizing decision to share the gift of organ donation at the very same time they are faced with the death of someone they love and cherish, I want to say a very simple and heart-felt "thank you." Thank you for your choice, for your sacrifice, and for your precious gift. Your gift has helped thousands of people live another day to experience the joys of life, people who can now see the face of their child, and people who can now experience the ultimate blessing of good health and strength. Your precious gift is sacred and inspiring.

I sincerely hope that the presence of this new monument in Salt Lake City will motivate and educate people across our State and Nation to register as an organ donor and prepare themselves and their loved ones for what may be the ultimate gift of life. Utahns can do this by visiting the web site www.yesutah.org and register; or by call (866)—YES-UTAH. I truly believe that out of the tears of tragedy; comfort can be found in organ donation. Our lives can be extended through the eyes, skin, blood, and organs of others.

I want to sincerely congratulate all of those who have shared their tears and joy through building this wonderful monument. Many people and organizations in Utah have toiled for several years to make this dream a reality. May the people who visit be stirred by the names and memories of those who are named there, and may the peace of this monument inspire many to register to become an organ donor. I have always been touched by the quote, "To the world you may be one person, but to one person . . . you may be the world." Any of us can be "the world" for someone special through organ donation.

A MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, at the "March for Women's Lives" yesterday, I joined the hundreds of thousands of women from across the United States and the world to show support for a woman's right to choose and for access to reproductive health services.

This demonstration comes at a time when women's reproductive rights are in immediate danger. Not only has President Bush done more to roll back women's reproductive health than any

president in history, opponents of abortion in Congress have made advances in the assault on the right to choose.

In the past decade, Congress has voted on choice related issues 168 times. Women lost in 136 of those votes.

As if these attacks themselves were not disturbing enough, the fact that they have gone largely unnoticed and unchallenged is even more alarming.

That is why, now, more than ever since *Roe v. Wade*, it is vital to show President Bush and his friends in Congress that we will fight to maintain women's reproductive rights and access to health care in America.

Since the day George W. Bush took office, his administration has been systematically chipping away at women's reproductive rights.

One of his first acts as President was to reinstate the global gag rule, which prevents U.S. foreign aid from funding any overseas clinic that performs or counsels women on abortion.

The Bush Administration has announced at international conferences that the United States believes that life begins at conception.

They have canceled the United States' contribution to the United Nations' family planning program.

Instead, they have promoted abstinence-only sex education for young people both here and abroad, even though their success at preventing pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases has been questioned.

George W. Bush has also consistently nominated judicial candidates who oppose a woman's right to choose to lifetime appointments on the Federal bench.

Just this month, he signed the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which, for the first time, puts into Federal law the concept that life begins at conception. This will, in effect, grant a fetus or even a fertilized egg separate rights as a person and can now be used legally to further chip away at a woman's constitutional right to choose.

I offered an alternative to this bill that would have provided the same effect and punishment for offenders in criminal law, but did not address the profound and deeply divisive question of when life begins.

The President also approved a ban on so-called partial birth abortions, which is the first law outlawing abortion since the *Roe v. Wade* decision. It is also the first time that a medical procedure has ever been criminalized.

This unconstitutional law has not yet been enforced because of lawsuits pending against it in Federal courts in San Francisco, New York and Lincoln, NE.

In disregard for people's privacy, U.S. Justice Department attorneys defending the law have attempted to compel two doctors to turn over private patient abortion records.

Who knows where it will stop? We are on a slippery slope toward granting

fetuses greater rights than the mothers who carry them. It may not be long before common forms of contraception, in-vitro fertilization and stem-cell research are banned in the name of the unborn.

These Federal laws, along with more than 350 anti-choice measures enacted by States, are setting legal precedents that abortion opponents will use to challenge *Roe v. Wade*, which is perilously close to being overturned.

The Supreme Court appears to be only one vote away from reversing *Roe v. Wade* and taking the decision to have an abortion away from a woman and her doctor and putting it in the hands of politicians.

It is entirely possible that abortion will once again be illegal in this country.

For many women, it has been easy to take the right to choose for granted, because it is all they have ever known.

I remember a time, however, when an estimated 1.2 million women each year resorted to illegal, back alley abortions despite the possibility of death and infection.

I remember that time very vividly. In college during the 1950s, I knew young women who found themselves pregnant with no options. I even knew a woman who committed suicide because she was pregnant and abortion was illegal in the United States.

I also remember the passing of a collection plate in my college dormitory so that another friend could go to Mexico for an abortion.

That is why it is so important to show President Bush that we will NOT just stand back and do nothing while women's rights are taken away.

Women have a fundamental right to determine when and whether to become a mother. The Government should not be able to take that right away.

We cannot go back to a time without choice.

PAUL OFFNER

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to mark the passing of an outstanding public servant, former member of the Senate community, former staffer to Senators, and former staffer for the Senate Finance Committee—Paul Offner.

Born in Bennington, VT, Paul spent part of his childhood in Florence, Italy. He earned a bachelor's degree from Amherst College, a master's degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and a doctorate in economics from Princeton.

After this outstanding education, Paul began his career in public service with the U.S. Senate, serving as a legislative assistant to Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin.

Paul had caught the political bug. He decided to run for office himself, seeking to represent the people of La Crosse, Wisconsin, in the State legislature. That showed that Paul didn't

shrink from tough odds, as he ran as a Democrat in La Crosse, a city that had not elected a Democrat for quite some time. Paul proved a natural campaigner. He had a great slogan: "Vote once. Vote Offner."

Winning that election, Paul served in the Wisconsin State legislature, and then in the Wisconsin Senate. He established himself as an expert on the challenging area of health care and health insurance.

In the early 1980s, Paul ran for Lieutenant Governor and for Congress, but those elections did not work out for him. Fortunately for us, he stuck to his career in public service nonetheless.

In 1990, Paul returned to work for the U.S. Senate, serving as senior legislative assistant for health and human services for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York. Staff for Senator Moynihan recall that from their very first meeting, Senator Moynihan regarded the staffer with the Princeton doctorate as a colleague.

Paul became one of the leading national voices in welfare and health policy. After President Clinton won the 1992 Presidential election, Paul coordinated the Clinton transition team's welfare reform policies.

When Senator Moynihan became chairman of the Finance Committee, Paul became the committee's chief health and welfare counselor. Having served as chairman and ranking minority member of the Finance Committee, I know that Paul's position was a demanding one. Paul handled it well during the important year when Congress enacted President Clinton's first budget, in 1993. That budget set the pattern that led to 8 years of economic growth and the creation of more than 20 million new jobs.

Paul served with the Clinton White House Health Care Task Force, which tried to extend health benefits to millions of uninsured Americans. The task force did not succeed then, but they fought an important fight. We will need to revisit that important task again, before long.

During the debate on welfare reform in the mid-1990s, Paul contributed a series of prominent articles. He influenced the national debate.

When the Republicans took control of the Senate with the 1994 election, Mayor Marion Barry asked him to become the commissioner of health care finance for Washington, DC. One need not be a critic of Washington to know that when Paul took on the job of running Medicaid for the District of Columbia, he took on as thankless and difficult a task as there is. And he did it well.

He went on to work at Georgetown University and the Urban Institute. In recent years, he focused on the situation of young Black men in America, arguing that society needs to make a greater effort to improve their chances of making it.

It tells you something about Paul that while he was working hard at

high-powered Capitol Hill jobs, he also served as a dedicated tutor to school kids in the District. He was a volunteer tutor for the Friends of Tyler School, a public elementary school not far from the Capitol building in Southeast Washington, DC.

People will tell you that Paul had a tremendous intellect, a caring heart, and a quick wit. He was the kind of person who went through the policy wars enough to be a skeptic, but was still in there pitching, trying to make things better.

"He believed in public service," said Molly Collins Offner, his wife of 8 years. "Accomplishing good and making the world better was key for him," she said.

The noblest human endeavor is to serve our fellow man. It can be service to church, to community, to family, to spouse, to children. Paul Offner served.

Members of the House and the Senate who serve also get the benefit and gratification of seeing their names in newspapers and their faces on TV. But dedicated professionals such as Paul work very hard behind the scenes, often with little or no recognition. I recognize the central role that Paul Offner played.

Paul passed away last week, and was remembered this past weekend at a Mass of Christian Burial not far from here on Capitol Hill. He will be remembered by his wife Molly Collins Offner, daughter Mary Shu Yu Offner, and sister Antoinette Gerry. But he will also be remembered by a thankful U.S. Senate community. And for years to come, he will be thanked by millions of Americans whose lives will have been made better for his having lived, but who never knew his name.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALK POLIO VACCINE FIELD TRIALS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this coming Monday is the 50th anniversary of the Salk polio vaccine field trials.

On April 26, in conjunction with National Immunization Week, the March of Dimes will commemorate the development of the Salk polio vaccine.

This day holds great significance for our Nation. Fifty years ago, the first dose of the Salk vaccine was distributed to children at Franklin Sherman Elementary school in McLean, VA as part of the National Field Trial program. In the following months, more than 1 million school children participated in these trials, making this the largest peacetime volunteer mobilization in United States history.

National Immunization week, which was established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is an opportune time to emphasize the importance of immunizations. In April of every year since 1993, dedicated people across the country have joined forces with State and local health departments, health care providers, and other partners to deliver this immunization message.

Immunization against vaccine-preventable disease is one of the most effective health care and public health tools developed in the 20th century. Advances in technology and widespread immunization efforts have led to an all-time record low in the infection rate for diseases that once devastated entire communities. Smallpox has been eradicated; polio has been eliminated from the Western Hemisphere; and the number of cases of other infectious diseases has been reduced to record lows.

We have learned a vast amount about the importance of immunizing children and adults in this country since the creation of the Salk vaccine. However, there is still work to be done. Though overall immunization levels in the United States have been improving, levels in many parts of the country remain dangerously low. According to a 2001 National Immunization Survey Conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 77 percent of our Nation's children are fully immunized by age 2. Tragically, levels in some areas of the country are as low as 55 percent.

The Salk vaccine could not have ended the scourge of polio in American without a concerted Federal effort to provide it to all of our citizens. I hope that my colleagues will join me in continuing and expanding Federal support for immunization efforts.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the University of Alabama School of Law for their outstanding ranking among the country's law schools. U.S. News and World Report recently released its annual list of the Top 100 Law Schools, and ranked the University of Alabama School of Law fortieth in the Nation. This ranking places the Law School in the top tier of law schools nationwide, which is phenomenal considering the institution was ranked in the third tier just 8 years ago in 1996. As a graduate of the law school myself, I am proud to see their elevation to one of the premier law schools in the Nation.

I believe that much of the school's success must be attributed to the dean of the Law School, Kenneth Randall. Dean Randall holds four law degrees, including a doctorate from the Columbia University School of Law, 1988; a master's from Columbia, 1985; a master's from Yale University, 1982; and a juris doctor degree from Hofstra University, 1981. Additionally, Dean Randall received a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from Adelphi University on Long Island. Indeed, his educational background is outstanding, and he has demonstrated a true enthusiasm for the law.

Since taking the reins as dean in 1993, Dean Randall has provided a clear