

senior to celebrate. In 2003, Ms. Wright was named National Master Field Athlete of the Year for 2003 and since the age of 55, she has amassed hundreds of medals and trophies as a competitor in Senior Olympic events. She started her track and field career with the softball throw, but now competes in a multitude of events including pole vault, high jump, long jump, and hammer throw. She continues to travel around the country competing and setting track and field records for her age group. Many seniors in Maryland are enjoying old age by starting new ventures. At age 68 and 66 respectively, Emily Levitas and Linda Segal decided to join forces and become co-owners of "Gotta Have Bags," a successful handbag store located in Hampden.

The list of enterprising, energetic, and active Maryland seniors and others throughout the Nation goes on and on and extends to all facets of life. We are very grateful for the enormous contributions they make day in and day out. But as a Nation, we do not always live up to our end of the bargain. There is much to be done to help seniors sustain quality long-term living. I have worked diligently in the Senate to ensure that older Americans are able to live with dignity and independence during their later years, and we will continue to fight the recent slew of misguided attacks on Social Security, Medicare, and other programs so crucial to senior citizens.

I have significant concerns about the impact of Medicaid cuts on seniors. People often forget that Medicaid is the largest funding source for long-term care services, institutional and home-based, for the elderly. Without such aid, many older Americans could not manage to pay for adequate care. Yet the Administration proposes to slash this program while extending tax cuts for the wealthiest among us. It is difficult to "celebrate long-term living" if you cannot afford to secure reasonable quality healthcare and long-term living facilities.

Another critical need that must be addressed is affordable prescription drugs. I voted against the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003 because I believed it would jeopardize promises that we as a Nation have made to seniors. I was principally concerned that the new law would fail to provide a comprehensive, consistent, and affordable prescription drug benefit to Medicare beneficiaries. Many of the concerns that I had during consideration of that measure are now coming to fruition. Indeed, as we prepare for the implementation of the drug benefit in 2006, we are just now learning that seniors will encounter the uncertainty of incomplete coverage for drug costs, along with rapidly rising pharmaceutical costs. To address these concerns, I favor proposals that provide Medicare beneficiaries with full prescription drug coverage. In addition, a number of my colleagues and I supported legislation during the Sen-

ate's consideration of the Medicare overhaul that would have controlled drug prices by allowing our Government to negotiate directly with drug companies. Unfortunately, these proposals were defeated when they came to the Senate for a full vote, but I continue to work with my colleagues on these and other proposals to bring drug prices under control.

On top of all of this, the Medicare trustees have predicted exhaustion of the Medicare Hospital Inpatient Trust Fund in 2020. With the rising costs of drugs and health care in general, and the implicit lack of means to reduce drug costs in the new law, we will be faced with hard decisions sooner than originally anticipated. The answer to the funding gap must not be to decrease benefits. A comprehensive Medicare plan and affordable pharmaceuticals are two important pieces that could help seniors live with dignity and independently, but these crucial needs remain very much in jeopardy.

Finally, our seniors deserve the guarantees promised to them after years of contributing to the Social Security program. In 1935, President Roosevelt sought to create a program that would "give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." There are those who suggest that the only way Social Security can meet the expanding demand of future retirees is by creating private accounts and simultaneously decreasing benefits. We must work to preserve, not diminish, Roosevelt's legacy. Thus far, Social Security has been effective in improving the standard of living and reducing poverty among the elderly and disabled by providing an inflation-indexed, defined benefit, no matter how long an individual lives and regardless of the vagaries of the stock market. Throughout their lives, seniors have paid into a system with the understanding that their benefits will be there for them when they retire. We must uphold our end of the bargain and ensure that these benefits are available. The words of President Roosevelt should continue to guide our conscience.

This Older Americans Month I ask my colleagues to respect and renew our commitment to our seniors and all of our citizens. As seniors face old age, they should not face uncertainty about their living situations, about their access to health care, and about their financial circumstances. Our older Americans add great value to our Nation. We must take this month as an opportunity to redouble our efforts on behalf of this and future generations so that our older Americans can continue to "Celebrate Long-Term Living" now and well into the future.

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I have 18 young men and women from

Louisiana and the Washington area taking part in Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. I am going to submit all of their names for the RECORD to show that they spent a day working in the Senate with me and with some of the other Senators and have seen firsthand the work that goes on.

I want to acknowledge the MS Magazine Foundation that started Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day to thank them for organizing this effort where there are thousands, maybe perhaps millions, of young people who have taken a day out of their school work to go to the various places where Americans are working to contribute to making this country of ours a better country and this world a better place.

I thank these young men and women for being a part of this special day and taking their time to come and learn about the workings of the Senate:

From St. Catherine of Siena School: Gabrielle Bordlee, Metairie, LA;
From Schriever Elementary School: Cameron Dark, Houma, LA;
From Georgetown Day School: Alexa Dettlebach, Chevy Chase, MD;
From St. Francis Xavier School: Brennan Duhe, Baton Rouge, LA;
From Washington International School: Maggie Johnson, Washington, DC;
From Holy Name of Jesus School: Ben Landrieu, New Orleans, LA;
From Xavier University Preparatory School: Jasmine Love, New Orleans, LA;
From Cathedral-Carmel School: Andrew Mahtook, Lafayette, LA;
From Cathedral-Carmel School: Robbie Mahtook, Lafayette, LA;
From Tehefuncte Middle School: William Mitchell, Mandeville, LA;
From St. James Episcopal Day School: Dexter Righteous, Baker, LA;
From Georgetown Day School: Molly Roberts, Washington, DC;
From Georgetown Day School: Connor Snellings, Washington, DC;
From Georgetown Day School: Mary Shannon Snellings, Washington, DC;
From St. George's Episcopal School: Leah Thomas, New Orleans, LA;
From St. Clement of Rome School: Mary Catherine Toso, Metairie, LA;
From St. Elizabeth School: Charlie Triche, Napoleonville, LA;
From St. Joseph Elementary: Sam Triche, Napoleonville, LA.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MISS ELIZABETH BRYDEN TO THE SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, in 1939, before many Members of this body had been born, Miss Elizabeth Bryden of Waltham, MA, came to Washington, D.C. to work for Congressman Robert Luce. She continued to work on the Hill, with little interruption, until the start of the 96th Congress in 1979. Today, when most Hill staffers remain here for only a few years, Betty Bryden, as she was always known, remains an example of rare dedication and extraordinary public service.

Her early employers are now mostly names for the history books. For example, Senator Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts and Bourke Hickenlooper of Iowa, not to mention

Gordon Allot of Colorado and Congressman McIntyre of Maine. Several of those gentlemen chaired the Senate Republican Conference, a position I now hold.

As the research librarian for the Republican Conference, in the days before computers, Betty would come into the Russell Senate Office Building hours before most staffers would arrive. By the time the Senate began business for the day, she would have copied, filed, and cross-filed, in what must have been one of the world's most elaborate reference systems, scores of that day's news items from a wide variety of sources. The cumulative result was a towering warren of filing cabinets, jammed with thousands of sheets of paper, the location of each of which she somehow remembered. It was not unusual for Senators to request urgent information from both the Congressional Research Service and Betty, knowing there was a good chance she would have it on their desks long before the official system could respond.

With today's internet, of course, it is not necessary for our staff to literally walk across town through a winter blizzard in order to provide the day's news clips, but that is what Betty was known to do on occasion. Little wonder, then, that she had a special place in the hearts of many Senators. Another remarkable Republican woman, Senator Margaret Chase Smith, was especially close to Betty and requested that she join the board of the Smith Library in Maine, on which Betty still serves.

It must be admitted that, during most of the period when Betty worked on the Hill, opportunities for advancement for women were limited. It's hard to imagine how they ran this place without the full participation of women; we could not manage to do that today. And yet Betty always found ways to make a difference. At the request of Senator Saltonstall, for example, she took under her wing a young man who needed to be trained as a legislative assistant. Even though, as a woman, she was not eligible for the job, she produced a first-rate legislative aide. The young man was named Elliott Richardson, and throughout his later career he never forgot his teacher and always made a point of paying his respects to her personally when his official duties brought him to the Senate.

On behalf of the Senate Republican Conference and its leadership past and present, I salute Betty for her lifetime of labor in our behalf and, indeed, for the entire Senate. Betty's contributions to this institution are still appreciated, and she remains an inspiration to us all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

A TRIBUTE TO LEONARD WING, JR.

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, Leonard Wing, Jr., who passed away Saturday, April 30, 2005. Leonard was a decorated war hero, a civic leader, a devoted family man, and a great Vermonter.

I knew Leonard almost my entire life. We grew up across the street from each other on Kingsley Avenue in Rutland, VT. When I was a young boy, Leonard left Vermont to fight in World War II. Leonard was wounded and taken prisoner in Europe before escaping and fleeing to northern Africa with help from the Polish underground. For his efforts in the European Theatre, Leonard was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, in addition to other commendations. I still remember listening in awe as my neighbors in Rutland recounted the heroics of Leonard and his father, MG Leonard Wing, Sr., who was a Vermont legend for his military leadership in the South Pacific. Leonard Wing, Jr. went on to serve for over 30 years in the Army and Army National Guard before retiring as a brigadier general in 1973.

After World War II, Leonard returned to the United States and continued his studies, graduating from the Boston University School of Law in 1950. After law school, Leonard returned to Vermont and became one of the State's finest attorneys, practicing law in Rutland for 46 years. During his legal career, Leonard served as both the president of the Vermont Bar Association and the State director of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

To residents of Rutland, Leonard is probably best known, however, for his local leadership and civic involvement. Leonard sat for 6 years on the Rutland City Board of School Commissioners, part of that time serving as the board's president. Most significantly, Leonard helped found the Havenwood School in Rutland. He also served as president of that school in addition to holding the same post at the Rutland Association for Retarded Citizens and the Vermont Association of the Retarded. These are just a few notable examples of the many charitable and civic activities to which Leonard lent his time.

Leonard's life was marked by his extraordinary service to his local community, his State, and his country. The city of Rutland, and the State of Vermont, will not be the same without Leonard's leadership. He will be most missed, however, by those he loved most dearly: his family. I offer my condolences to his wife Mary and their nine children. I hope they take comfort in knowing that Leonard's accomplishments and service will not soon be forgotten by the scores of Vermonters whose lives he touched.●

HONORING T. LAMAR SLEIGHT

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a native Idahoan who has distinguished himself in the military, public service, and as a religious contributor. T. LaMar Sleight retired recently from his position as the Director of International and Government Affairs for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. LaMar is a native of Idaho, born in Montpelier and educated in Preston. In his years of public service, he has set a fine example of leadership and dedication.

LaMar served more than 34 years in the military, retiring in 1993 as a Colonel in the United States Army. He joined the National Guard at age 18. Eventually the Guard sent him to OCS and he joined the Army. He was awarded three awards of the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star medal. His overseas assignments took him to Korea, Vietnam and Germany. Assignments closer to home include Oklahoma, Georgia, Nebraska, and Washington, DC. His military career clearly influenced his organized and structured leadership style.

Upon retiring from the military, LaMar took up the challenging position as the Director of International and Government Affairs for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He has been an outstanding liaison for the LDS Church and the international community. I have enjoyed my interaction with him during my tenure in Congress, which extends back more than 12 years. He has a calming, measured demeanor and could always be counted on to provide a full view of any issue that was being discussed.

No doubt LaMar is balancing his ongoing volunteer service to his church with lots and lots of golf. With 6 children and 11 grandchildren, there is also a lot of family time and experiences ahead. I wish him the best as he undertakes this change in his life.●

WE THE PEOPLE

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, recently, more 1,200 students from across the United States visited Washington, DC to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

I applaud the class from Maine Township High School in Park Ridge that skillfully represented the great State of Illinois in this prestigious national event. Through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, these outstanding students won the statewide competition and made Illinois proud in the national competition here in our Nation's capitol.

Congratulations to Nicole Calabrese, Carly Calkins, Emily Cottrell, Keith Dent, Katie Eichstaedt, Alyssa Engle,