

dedicated almost 40 years of his life to the service of his constituency. Senator TED STEVENS was appointed to represent Alaska in the Senate in 1968 and has done so in a way that the citizens of his State have reelected him six times since. Senator STEVENS is currently the longest-serving Senator in the history of our party and a steadfast representative for Alaskan conservative values.

As a young man Senator STEVENS served his country honorably during World War II. A member of the Flying Tigers of the Army Air Corps' 14th Air Force, he is also twice a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism in aerial combat. Senator STEVENS is in excellent company as the first recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross was Captain Charles A. Lindbergh, who also set a few records in his own time.

I am especially thankful for the work Senator STEVENS has done to help aid the people of Louisiana. Through his position as Chairman in the last Congress and currently Vice-Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee he has worked tirelessly on important legislation to our State. Especially noteworthy are the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act, which included provisions dedicated to the aid of the fishing industry in Louisiana following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and his essential support of legislation to get Louisiana its fair share of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues.

It has been an extraordinary experience to work with as accomplished a legislator as Senator STEVENS in my time in the Senate. I thank him for his service to the citizens of this great country.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about my long-time great friend, advisor, and colleague, Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska, who just became the longest serving Republican Senator in the 218 year history of the United States Senate.

I have worked with Senator STEVENS on a wide array of matters, but none more closely than national security and defense issues. Senator STEVENS and Senator INOUE exemplify that extraordinary group of veterans, largely of World War II distinction and experience, that led the Senate I joined 28 years ago. They found the time to teach the new Senators, inspiring them to gain the experience to someday take their places of responsibility in the Senate. I owe a great deal of gratitude to that generation, and particularly to TED.

He has loyally served the men and women of the Armed Forces throughout his long Senate career, particularly through his leadership positions on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

My good friend has compiled a remarkable record on national security, ranging from complex issues of global strategy all the way down to the very

basic pay and quality of life issues for the men and women in uniform and their families. His own distinguished record in World War II as an aviator provides special insights into military matters.

Military matters, however, are not the only field in which the senior Senator from Alaska has invested his time and passion. Senator STEVENS has also fought hard to find ways to meet America's energy needs, offering the extraordinary resources of his own State to meet these demands. I think back time and time again when Senator STEVENS has taken to the Senate floor urging his colleagues to fully address America's demand for energy. Dressed in his trademark "Hulk" tie, he was a sight to behold and quite a force to reckon with. If only Congress had listened to Mr. STEVENS a decade or two ago, not just limited to Alaska issues, but towards a broad world view on energy, America might not be so dependent on foreign oil today.

Senator STEVENS truly loves Alaska. I remember one codel trip in particular. A few years back, Senator STEVENS had escorted a small group of Senators, making stops along the way, up to Prudhoe Bay, one of the closest points to the Arctic. Senator Symms, our former colleague from Idaho, and I decided we had enough learning for the day. So, unwisely, we chose to play hookie and dashed from the group for an impromptu plunge in the frigid waters of Prudhoe Bay while the other Senators looked on in disbelief. We were quite a sight as we crawled ashore frozen to the bone.

Despite this experience, I am proud to say that Senator STEVENS hasn't held my rowdiness against me, as he has invited me back to Alaska over the years.

TED STEVENS is not only a great champion for Alaska, American energy, and our Nation's armed forces, but he is also a champion of the Senate. One of the most lasting legacies he has had on this special body, and one of the legacies he has imparted on me, is his remarkable record of work with new senators from both sides of the aisle. Throughout many years, Senator STEVENS has voluntarily stepped forward to counsel new colleagues about the history and intricacies of the legislative process in the Senate.

I am particularly indebted to him for helping me. Therefore, Mr. President, it is my honor and privilege to today congratulate my good friend, Senator TED STEVENS, on becoming the longest serving Republican in the Senate. Carry on, dear friend.

TRIBUTE TO LYNN CLANCY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I recognize and honor my friend Lynn Clancy, who retired in January after 20 years of service as my State director. He is a friend to me, and he is a friend to North Dakota.

Over two decades as my State director, Lynn touched the lives of thou-

sands of North Dakotans. He handled countless casework requests and hundreds of speeches and appearances on my behalf. I could not have had a better ambassador.

Twenty years in itself is a lifetime of public service, but the 20 years that Lynn spent with me was really the culmination of a much longer career in service to the public. This is a man who genuinely lives on the tenant that it is best to do good to your fellow man. He devoted his life to helping other people.

Not many know this, but when Lynn joined my staff after my 1986 election, he was working as the right-hand man to the Catholic bishop of North Dakota, overseeing operations in the diocese. And that was after a long career serving North Dakota's farmers. So he came to work for me with an already long history of public service.

That public service began after Lynn graduated with an education degree from the State college in his hometown of Valley City. His degree in hand, Lynn left North Dakota for Turkey and England to teach high school on U.S. military bases.

After returning home to North Dakota, he went to work for the North Dakota Farmers Union, first as its education director and then assistant secretary-treasurer. About that time, he was elected to the North Dakota legislature as a representative from his hometown of Valley City.

Lynn later received an appointment as North Dakota's deputy commissioner of agriculture, before finally going on to work for the diocese. And that is where I found him.

Part of what drives Lynn is his affinity for the land, and his affinity for those people who are the stewards of the land. In North Dakota, those stewards are our farmers and our good friends, the first Americans.

Lynn shares a special bond with North Dakota's Native Americans. Leaders of the American Indian community liken Lynn's special qualities to that of a tribal elder. Over the years, he worked tirelessly to ensure that our tribes had equal access to all parts of our Federal and State government. His goal was always to make sure Native Americans were equal before the law.

In the 1990s Lynn was instrumental to the success of the Walking Shield Housing Project, which helped alleviate a housing crisis on the reservations of Spirit Lake, Fort Berthold, Standing Rock, and Turtle Mountain.

When he told me about his plans for retirement, Lynn said one of his greatest joys has been working closely with Native Americans, learning about their culture and experiencing their hospitality. So while it is true that Lynn is a naturally gentle and soft-spoken man, it is also true that North Dakota's Native Americans may not have a fiercer advocate than Lynn Clancy.

Lynn's devotion to the family farmer started with his own experiences on the

farm where he lived and worked as a young man. Over the years, from his time with the Farmers Union to his leadership in the State agriculture department, Lynn became the “go to” person in North Dakota for any farm-related concern. Whether it was helping one farmer cut through the bureaucratic red tape, or helping organize a massive farm rally, Lynn showed patience, persistence, and skill.

Farmers and Native Americans shared that special place in Lynn’s heart with one more thing—Marketplace for Entrepreneurs. Never was Lynn’s passion, creativity, and dedication more evident than with Marketplace.

Today, Marketplace is North Dakota’s signature initiative to develop the State’s economy—the largest and longest running business development effort in North Dakota. But in 1988, it had much humbler origins. North Dakota farmers were suffering through a searing drought. The auction barns were buzzing while the grain silos went silent. Nothing was in as short a supply in North Dakota as hope.

Lynn gave our farmers hope. Lynn was the force behind making Marketplace possible year after year, creating an opportunity for farmers and others from around the State to gather and think of new ways to update their operations to reach new markets—and ultimately stay in business and stay on the land. Lynn’s vision and determination were vital to the eventual recovery of many farmers and to making Marketplace the enormous success that it is today. That first Marketplace drew about 800 people. Today, thanks to Lynn, we draw more than 10,000 people. It is a tremendous success.

Hearing all this may lead you to ask how a man could devote so much of his life to service. The answer is that Lynn has faith. It is central to his life. He serves as an ordained Catholic deacon in the Bismarck parish. In March, he was appointed to the Rural Life Committee of the North Dakota Conference of Churches. And even in retirement, Lynn and his wife, Janice, are working long hours as volunteers.

In both his public life and his personal friendships, Lynn’s fellowship, devotion, and loyalty set examples for us all. Whenever I needed him, he was there. Whenever North Dakota needed him, he was there. He lives his life in service, making other people’s lives better.

WRITING CHALLENGE 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Do the Write Thing Challenge, or DtWT, is a national program designed to give middle school students an opportunity to examine both the causes and the effects of youth violence. In this program, students work together through classroom discussion and writing to evaluate what preventative measures should be taken with an emphasis on personal responsibility. Since the pro-

gram’s founding in 1994, more than 350,000 students have participated within 28 different jurisdictions, including Detroit.

In 2006, more than 40,000 students submitted their essays, poems, plays, or songs to be considered in the DtWT writing contest. These students wrote about how violence impacts their lives and what they could do to prevent its reoccurrence. Students are also asked to make a personal commitment to carry out their ideas in their daily lives.

Each year, a DtWT committee made up of business, community, and government leaders from each participating jurisdiction reviews the writing samples and selects two national finalists, one boy and one girl from their area. I am pleased to recognize this year’s national finalists from Detroit, Marcelle Walker and Brandi Baldwin-Gat, for their outstanding work and dedication to the prevention of youth violence.

Marcelle and Brandi have written very passionate literary pieces about how both gang violence and domestic violence have affected their lives and have influenced them to think practically about what could and should be done. They have conveyed a deep understanding of youth violence, and I am impressed by the maturity they have shown in their work and congratulate them on being selected as national finalists.

In July, Marcelle and Brandi will join the other DtWT national finalists in Washington, DC, for National Recognition Week. They will attend a recognition ceremony and have their work permanently placed in the Library of Congress. Also, they will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on youth violence with Members of Congress and other policymakers.

I know my colleagues join me in celebrating the work of all of the DtWT participants from around the country. I would also like to thank the DtWT organizers who make a commitment to facilitating open discussions about youth violence. Their work is an essential means to the development of local solutions to the youth violence problem in our nation.

With the tragedy of Virginia Tech fresh in our minds, I believe it is important we recognize the efforts of DtWT participants and organizers to help prevent such acts of violence. It is also important that we, as Members of Congress, support their efforts through our actions. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting legislation that would help prevent youth violence by increasing police patrol on our streets, by increasing resources for school and community violence prevention programs, and by making it more difficult for children and criminals to acquire dangerous firearms.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church on its Founders Day. As the largest church in Genesee County, the NJFGBC has con-

tributed over 43 years of committed service to the southeastern Michigan community.

In 1965, the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church was founded as the Rose Hill Baptist Mission by a small group of Genesee County citizens at the home of Rev. L.W. Owens in Flint, MI. Seven days later, the mission was renamed New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church. The church grew steadily, and in 1968 a new and larger edifice was acquired to better accommodate the growing membership. While the congregation has undergone many changes and expansions throughout the years, it remained enthusiastically devoted to its activities and its service to the City of Flint. By the early 1990s membership had grown to more than 2,100, and the church was renamed the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

In 1969, the Reverend Odis A. Floyd was unanimously elected pastor of the NJFGBC. As the grandson of the founder, Reverend Owens, Reverend Floyd has proven to be a charismatic leader of this passionate church community. In his many years of faithful service to the church, he has overseen numerous outreach programs, including Operation Blessing. This vital program is designed to provide food and clothing to those in need in the Flint community. Reverend Floyd also manages the New Jerusalem Intervention Ministry Team, which provides counseling and social work services to the less fortunate. Under Reverend Floyd’s capable leadership, the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church has become a powerful force for change in the Flint community. With over 30 years of dedicated leadership, Reverend Floyd has shown steadfast resolve and determination in his role as pastor of the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church.

During its 43 years of existence, the New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church has made many important contributions to its community and has a rich tradition of serving Flint area residents, which is evidenced by programs such as Operation Blessing and the Intervention Ministry Team. I know my colleagues join me in commending the work of The New Jerusalem Full Gospel Baptist Church and Reverend Floyd for their many years of excellent work in the Flint community.

HONORING SMALL BUSINESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues in the Senate the accomplishments of several Vermont entrepreneurs.

Each June, the Small Business Administration honors the best and brightest of each State’s small business community. The entrepreneurial spirit in Vermont breeds many successful small businesses, and today I would like to congratulate the 2007 Vermont Small Business Person of the Year,