

State constitution. Two hundred years of subjugation and oppression, of bondage and tyranny, serve as a reminder to all of us now of the importance of freedom and equality.

Although Maryland was a slave State, it did not secede from the Union. Marylanders' contributions to the Union cause and the abolitionist movement did much to secure the abolition of slavery. Harriet Tubman, who was born Araminta Ross in Dorchester County, freed countless slaves from bondage and was the first woman to lead an armed assault in the Civil War. Frederick Douglass, who was born Frederick Augustus Bailey in Talbot County, escaped slavery and went on to become one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement. These heroic Marylanders dedicated their lives to the emancipation of all slaves and the empowerment of African Americans.

Earlier this year, we commemorated the 40th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. His legacy remains with us as we continue to pursue equality and justice wherever disparities exist, whether in the economic, educational, housing, or health care arenas. It is our duty to eradicate discrimination in all its insidious forms. Our concerted efforts will be necessary to wipe out racial intolerance, and the strength of the Nation depends on the success of these efforts.

Today, on this 143rd anniversary of the first Juneteenth, another historic event will take place. The first African-American woman to represent Maryland in the U.S. Congress, DONNA EDWARDS, will be sworn in this afternoon. It is my honor, on this historic day, to call upon my colleagues to join me in celebrating Juneteenth and those who made this day possible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JUNE SALANDER

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to June Salander of Rutland, VT. On June 28, 2008, June will celebrate her 100th birthday.

June Salander has led a remarkable life. Like many Jewish immigrants, she came to the United States via Ellis Island in 1920 after a journey from Ros, Poland, making the trip with her mother, brother, and sister. Family and a supportive Jewish community were always positioned as cornerstones of June's upbringing. In 1941 she married her husband Lew Salander and moved to Rutland, VT, where she has remained an active community member ever since. A strong believer in the idea that it takes a village to raise a child, June has lent her time volunteering at the Rutland Hospital and teaching Hebrew school classes. June has remained an active citizen into her golden years, earning her real estate license at the age of 62 and taking up tennis at the impressive age of 73. Her

commitment to education and community outreach expands to the home with June's famous cooking. June warms the homes and lives of others with her legendary apple strudel which she has shared through cooking lessons. She continues to inspire with her dedication to continual learning and improvement.

June Salander inspires with her energy and enthusiasm within the religious community as well. The Rutland Jewish Center has remained an integral part of her social and cultural life. June's daughter, Menasha, accurately describes the center as June's living room, kitchen, dining room, and backyard. Deeply rooted community involvement remains a core value, and to further uphold and solidify the Jewish tradition, June was Bat Mitzvahed at the extraordinary age of 89. It is believed that June is the oldest Rutland resident to complete the significant ceremony. Her commitment to observing Judaism and keeping tradition alive through education is a landmark of encouragement and pride for the Jewish community. I congratulate June Salander as she reaches yet another remarkable milestone, her 100th birthday. The message she has instilled in others through a lifetime of active citizenship is commendable. I am confident that June's spiritually fulfilling and publicly active life will continue to inspire others for years to come.

On a personal note, my wife Marcelle and I have cherished her friendship for a third of a century, as we did that of her wonderful husband.●

CELEBRATING WAHIAWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Wahiawa community as it marks the centennial of Wahiawa Elementary School. Located in central Oahu, Wahiawa is home to one of Hawaii's first pineapple plantations. As the industry grew, so did Wahiawa and the needs of its residents.

Wahiawa Elementary opened in 1908, on Lehua Street with one teacher, Mrs. H.C. Brown, and 56 students. In 1924, Wahiawa Elementary expanded to six classrooms, only to be closed during World War II. In 1950, Wahiawa Elementary reopened with a new building and a new location on Glenn Street.

Today, Wahiawa Elementary has an enrollment of approximately 500 and includes a center for medically fragile students, a teacher training center for students with autism, and a preschool. Wahiawa Elementary students have a 95 percent attendance rate.

For 100 years, Wahiawa Elementary has been a focal point for Wahiawa, providing a strong foundation for the community's children and families. There are now several other elementary schools in the Wahiawa area due to dramatic population growth on the island of Oahu, but Wahiawa Elementary remains a special place. In under-

standing what this elementary school represents to its community, the school's motto is fitting: Ku lokahi ka 'ohana 'o Wahiawa! Stand in unison the family of Wahiawa!●

IN HONOR OF ALFREDO NÚÑEZ

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the life and work of a dedicated educator. This month, Alfredo Núñez will retire as principal of the Agassiz Elementary School of Jamaica Plain, MA, and as he prepares to do so I am proud to join with his colleagues, friends, and family in celebrating more than 30 years of service to Boston Public Schools.

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Núñez immigrated to the United States in 1963. He attended high school in Jersey City, NJ, and subsequently moved to New Brunswick, NJ, where he graduated from Rutgers University.

Following graduation, he moved to Boston where he became a U.S. citizen and obtained his master's degree from Boston University in bilingual education. Núñez then became a fifth grade teacher at the Agassiz, where he has worked ever since. One of the largest elementary schools in Boston, with over 800 students and 100-plus faculty and staff members, the Agassiz is a diverse and dynamic school with a large bilingual student population. Núñez relished the opportunity to not only teach but also to learn from the thousands of students, parents, and teachers he has worked with over the years.

During his tenure as principal, the Agassiz has garnered numerous awards and accolades for its drive to achieve excellence in education. Núñez has encouraged partnerships with institutes of higher education such as the University of Massachusetts and Harvard University, as well as art and cultural institutions like the Boston Ballet, to try to expand his students' horizons. He has also worked to grow parent participation within the school to foster a more community oriented approach to learning.

I am proud to pay tribute to the service of Alfredo Núñez to the Agassiz and to the children of Boston. I wish Alfredo the very best as he looks back on so many achievements and contributions to the community and begins this new chapter in life.●

HONORING J.R. SIMPLOT

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, in 1923, a 14-year-old boy dropped out of school in Declo, ID, and began working as a potato sorter. He eventually became a potato and hog farmer, a forester, a miner, an entrepreneur, an industrialist, an investor, a billionaire, and today—he is a legend.

John Richard Simplot was born in Dubuque, IA, in 1909—but his family moved to Idaho when he was young, and Idaho remained his home. At an early age, J.R. knew school was not for him, so he dropped out and began

working in the fields. He saved up and was able to buy 40 acres of land and several hogs. He planted potatoes and fed his hogs with a homemade feed recipe that allowed him to use his own spuds and meat from wild horses. That saved him some money on feed; moreover, as luck would have it, a harsh winter depleted the grain stock, and come market time, J.R.'s fat, home-fed hogs stood out against everyone else's skinny pigs, and the young man reaped the rewards.

He expanded his hog business, and by the time he sold it, he owned roughly 500 hogs. He took his earnings and put them into horses, farm machinery, and seed potatoes. From there, he rented some land and began to build what would later become his empire.

In 1928, at the ripe old age of 19, Simplot learned of a machine that had been built in eastern Idaho. It was an electrically driven potato sorter. J.R. saw potential and found a partner, and together they spent \$254 on the new piece of equipment, which enabled them to sort not only their own crops but the crops of other farmers as well—for a price.

A dispute between J.R. and his partner forced them to decide who would keep the machine. J.R. said "I'll flip you for it," and wouldn't you know it—he won the coin toss. He was off on his own.

Winning the toss was luck, but the rest of his success throughout the years can only be attributed to his devotion to hard work and his incredible resourcefulness. For years the young Simplot built hog pens, dug potato cellars, tilled soil, hauled sacks of potatoes, and did countless other tasks.

It was after the Great Depression, though, when Simplot's chance came to make a name for himself in the potato business. The Bureau of Reclamation was created, and projects like dams and canals began along the Snake River in Idaho. The projects would bring more water to the valley, which would lead to more farms, more crops, and more opportunity to diversify within agriculture. By 1940, J.R. had 33 potato warehouses and had also gotten into the business of onions and onion-drying.

When the United States entered World War II, there were only five companies that could dehydrate vegetables, and no one could dehydrate potatoes at least not until J.R. Simplot found a way. He began producing dry potatoes for U.S. troops and by 1945 was producing an average of 33 million pounds of dried potatoes a year. That was one-third of the U.S. military's consumption during the war.

As his success in potatoes expanded, his ability to save money by producing his own raw materials grew. In 1943, he didn't have enough boxes to ship out his dry potatoes, so he started his own box plant. When that company needed more lumber, he bought a lumber company. And when his supply for fertilizer for his potatoes was cut off, he devel-

oped his own. He went to the Fort Hall Indian Reservation looking for phosphate rock for his new fertilizer and ended up tapping into the largest phosphate mine in the West. He leased the land and built a fertilizer plant.

In 1945, J.R. Simplot became a cattleman when he built a small feedlot for the purpose of getting rid of the potato waste coming from his processing plants. Peelings and sprouts were mixed with alfalfa and barley to make feed for cattle, and yet another Simplot business flourished.

A huge discovery in the 1950s propelled the empire forward even further when Simplot discovered a way to freeze potatoes—and the frozen french fry was born. It was the 1960s when J.R. went into business with a man by the name of Ray Kroc. Kroc was a fast food operator who had begun a chain. That chain was McDonald's, and soon the Simplot Company became the largest supplier of frozen french fries to the fast food giant.

By the late 1960's, J.R. Simplot grew more potatoes, owned more cattle and land, and employed more people than anyone else in Idaho. He was the largest processor, drier, and freezer of potatoes in the world and owned processing plants, fertilizer plants, mining operations, and other enterprises in 36 States, Canada, and overseas—making him the largest industrialist in Idaho and one of the largest in the world.

But he continued to get into new businesses. Using his potatoes, he began producing ethanol in the 1970s, and with the manure from his cattle operations, he began fueling methane gas plants in the 1980s. At the same time, he invested in a small computer chip company that is today Micron Technology.

He left his footprint on Idaho perhaps more than anyone else in history. Dubbed "Mr. Spud," he provided countless jobs for Idahoans in so many areas. He seemed to have his hand in everything that is Idaho, and everything he touched seemed to succeed.

But that is not the reason I admired the man. Even with all his success, J.R. Simplot had his failures. The difference between many people and Jack, though, was his never-ending drive and determination to get up and do something again, and to do it better. It was his persistence in wrangling successes from failures that made J.R. the kind of man everyone should admire.

He wasn't just a brilliant business man. He loved Idaho, and in fact, a few years ago, signed his home over to the State of Idaho to use as the new Governor's mansion. He also loved his fellow Idahoans. And although he never received a formal education, he always believed in getting one and therefore gave millions of dollars to universities and students in Idaho. He was also a major supporter of the arts.

Recently, at the young age of 99, J.R. Simplot passed away at his home in Boise. He had risen that Sunday morning, walked into his kitchen and in-

sisted to his wife Esther that he was going to go to the office. That was the kind of man J.R. Simplot was. Even at the age of 99, even with billions of dollars, his last thought was that he needed to go to work.

I am going to miss my friend Jack, and my sincere condolences go out to Esther and his family. But it is important for the record to show that his passing has significance well beyond his immediate community in Boise. J.R. Simplot should be celebrated for the tremendous impact he had, not only on Idaho's history but on U.S. history. That impact, and his legend, will live on.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I congratulate Rutgers University-Newark in honor of their 100th anniversary. From its roots as the New Jersey Law School, Rutgers-Newark has evolved into a premier urban research university with a tradition of outstanding scholarship and diversity.

Students from across New Jersey, the United States, and from all over the world come to Rutgers-Newark to work and study with a world-class faculty. Its global student body has earned it the designation by U.S. News and World Report as the most diverse national university in the United States for 11 consecutive years.

As Rutgers-Newark has grown, so has their commitment to the local community and the entire State of New Jersey. The expansion of Rutgers-Newark has added to the growing redevelopment of Newark. With the celebration of its first 100 years in Newark, plans abound for expanded development of the university and its connections and commitment to the great city of Newark.

The faculty, students and alumni of Rutgers-Newark have much to be proud of after a century of outstanding educational achievement. Rutgers-Newark is still dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of research and scholarship, educational opportunity, urban mission, and diversity. I applaud Rutgers-Newark for their "Century of Reaching Higher" and wish the university continued growth and success for many years to come.●

REMEMBERING JOHN W. KEYS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, unfortunately, a tragic accident is the occasion of my remarks today. On May 30, recently retired Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, John W. Keys, was killed, along with his passenger, when his plane crashed in Canyonlands National Park in Utah. John worked for the Bureau of Reclamation for close to 40 years, serving in most all regions including in Boise as regional director of the Pacific Northwest region. In