

For if there is one law that we can be most certain of, it is the law that binds people of all faiths and no faith together. It's no coincidence that it exists in Christianity and Judaism; in Islam and Hinduism; in Buddhism and humanism. It is, of course, the Golden Rule—the call to treat one another as we wish to be treated. The call to love. The call to serve. To do what we can to make a difference in the lives of those with whom we share the same brief moment on this Earth.

So many of you at Notre Dame—by the last count, upwards of 80 percent—have lived this law of love through the service you've performed at schools and hospitals; international relief agencies and local charities. Brennan is just one example of what your class has accomplished. That's incredibly impressive, a powerful testament to this institution.

Now you must carry the tradition forward. Make it a way of life. Because when you serve, it doesn't just improve your community, it makes you a part of your community. It breaks down walls. It fosters cooperation. And when that happens—when people set aside their differences, even for a moment, to work in common effort toward a common goal; when they struggle together, and sacrifice together, and learn from one another—then all things are possible.

After all, I stand here today, as President and as an African American, on the 55th anniversary of the day that the Supreme Court handed down the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Now, *Brown* was of course the first major step in dismantling the "separate but equal" doctrine, but it would take a number of years and a nationwide movement to fully realize the dream of civil rights for all of God's children. There were freedom rides and lunch counters and Billy clubs, and there was also a Civil Rights Commission appointed by President Eisenhower. It was the 12 resolutions recommended by this commission that would ultimately become law in the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

There were six members of this commission. It included five whites and one African American; Democrats and Republicans; two Southern governors, the dean of a Southern law school, a Midwestern university president, and your own Father Ted Hesburgh, President of Notre Dame. So they worked for two years, and at times, President Eisenhower had to intervene personally since no hotel or restaurant in the South would serve the black and white members of the commission together. And finally, when they reached an impasse in Louisiana, Father Ted flew them all to Notre Dame's retreat in Land O'Lakes, Wisconsin—where they eventually overcame their differences and hammered out a final deal.

And years later, President Eisenhower asked Father Ted how on Earth he was able to broker an agreement between men of such different backgrounds and beliefs. And Father Ted simply said that during their first dinner in Wisconsin, they discovered they were all fishermen. And so he quickly readied a boat for a twilight trip out on the lake. They fished, and they talked, and they changed the course of history.

I will not pretend that the challenges we face will be easy, or that the answers will come quickly, or that all our differences and divisions will fade happily away—because life is not that simple. It never has been.

But as you leave here today, remember the lessons of Cardinal Bernardin, of Father Hesburgh, of movements for change both large and small. Remember that each of us, endowed with the dignity possessed by all children of God, has the grace to recognize ourselves in one another; to understand that we all seek the same love of family, the same fulfillment of a life well lived. Remember

that in the end, in some way we are all fishermen.

If nothing else, that knowledge should give us faith that through our collective labor, and God's providence, and our willingness to shoulder each other's burdens, America will continue on its precious journey towards that more perfect union. Congratulations, Class of 2009. May God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.

#### CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, please allow me to take a few minutes today to discuss childhood obesity, and one way in which we can prevent the most common diseases that face our country. Obesity is an issue that must be addressed—not just by the Federal Government, but by individuals, parents, schools, and health professionals across the country. Given the high cost of health care, we must all look at ways we can reduce the risks of obesity and the many diseases that come with it.

I bring this up today because a constituent of mine made me realize that there is an easy and cost-effective way to address the problem. We all know that childhood obesity can be prevented if we motivate young people to eat better and exercise more. There are many fad diets, surgeries, strategies and pills that claim to help reduce obesity. Americans are always looking for the next big breakthrough, and they are willing to pay any price to do it easily and simply. But, nothing is as simple or as cost effective as helping kids learn and maintain the ability to do pull ups.

Kids can immunize themselves against obesity, and they can do that by learning to do pull ups. It's been acknowledged that pull ups counteract a child's tendency to obesity. In the context of a of a four year study at Jefferson Elementary School in Davenport, Iowa, my constituent demonstrated that if you start children young, most young people can learn to do pull ups. And, as long as young people maintain the ability to do pull ups, most can naturally immunize themselves against obesity for a lifetime without ever having to resort to pills, shots, or special diets.

Due to the rising prevalence of obesity in children and its many adverse health effects. Obesity has been recognized as a serious public health concern. The adverse health effects of obesity do not just include physical conditions like high blood pressure, heart disease, sleep problems, and other life-threatening disorders. The threat of obesity includes emotional and psychological problems, depression and low self-esteem.

Aside from doing pull-ups, we must also encourage other lessons for our youth. We must stress goal setting, diligence, diet, rest, and education. The goal is not only to beat physical obesity for life but also to overcome the psychological and emotional problems as a result of low self-esteem. Building

confidence is at the heart of pulling people out of obesity.

Childhood obesity is an issue we must all take seriously. I thank my constituent for bringing this simple solution to my attention and commend people like him who are concerned about the health of our future generations.

#### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I would like to recognize World Environment Day, which takes place every year on June 5. This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 and has been a reminder each year that protecting our planet is a global issue.

As countries around the world work toward the historic global warming negotiations in Copenhagen later this year, it is fitting that the theme for World Environment Day 2009 is "Your Planet Needs You—Unite to Combat Climate Change."

As chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I am working with my colleagues to address global warming here in the United States. The world is looking for American leadership, and they are watching closely what we are doing here in Congress.

We must demonstrate our commitment to take real action to cut our own greenhouse gas emissions. When we act, we will renew our leadership on this issue in the international community. Legislation to curb U.S. global warming pollution will also put us on a path toward a new clean energy economy that creates millions of American jobs and breaks our dangerous dependence on foreign oil. It's time to harness the greatest source of power we have in this country—American ingenuity. This country can and should be a leader of the clean energy revolution.

I am proud to say that for the second year in a row, a student from California has been selected as the winner of the United Nations' Environment Programme's International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment. This year, Alice Fuzi Wang, from Palo Alto, was honored for her creative and moving work of art, which will be recognized on World Environment Day at the North American celebration in Omaha. I met Alice when she was here in Washington to receive her award on April 22, Earth Day.

It is wonderful to see people of all ages, from all over the world, participating in the festivities honoring World Environment Day. I want to thank the organizers of World Environment Day for their important contribution in working to combat one of the greatest challenges of our generation—global warming.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## COMMENDING THE CABOT CREAMERY COOPERATIVE

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, today I honor a renowned Vermont business, Cabot Creamery, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary on June 13, 2009.

From its humble beginnings in 1919, when 94 farmers founded Cabot Creamery for \$5 per cow plus a cord of wood each, Cabot has grown into one of the strongest and proudest symbols of Vermont. With its cheeses distributed internationally, Cabot is the fastest growing cheddar supplier in the country. Naturally aged from two to 36 months, a process which gives these cheeses their superb taste, Cabot cheddar has won every award, including "Best Cheddar in the World" at the 22nd Biennial Cheese Championship. In fact, no other cheese company can make this claim.

For all its successes, the Cabot Cooperative remains firmly grounded in its history and tradition, using time-honored techniques to produce a superior product with no additives or preservatives that is enjoyed across the country; indeed around the world. Family farms remain the backbone of Cabot Creamery Cooperative, much as they have since its founding. As owners of Cabot, every cooperative member has a stake in its success and a say in its governance. Cabot has always valued democratic ideals, civic virtue, and a high-quality product.

Presently, Vermont's dairy farms are experiencing difficult times, with destabilized milk prices and a near monopoly control of milk distribution. For the members of the Cabot Cooperative, however, the milk market that Cabot makes available to its farmers continues to serve as a valuable return on their years of investment in the cooperative.

As Vermonters, we are deeply proud of our tradition of creating exceptional cheddar cheese. Therefore, I wish Cabot Creamery Cooperative continued success on its 90th birthday, and thank them for being an exemplary symbol of our State's commitment to quality and local democracy.●

## COMMENDING RHONDA GOFF

• Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I wish to honor and recognize a fellow Louisianan, Deputy Rhonda Goff, for showing courage and authority when she apprehended three suspects involved in a shooting and burglary last October. She received the National Association of Police Organization's TOP COP Awards for her efforts, and I would like to take a few moments to recognize her actions.

On October 20, 2008, Deputy Goff noticed three men, one of whom was covered in blood, leaving a bar. She immediately stopped and had witnesses identify the men as having robbed the bar.

Without hesitation, she ran after the men. Although outnumbered by three to one, she apprehended and handcuffed the suspects, and when she searched them found numerous stolen wallets. When back up arrived, they found four more wounded victims inside the bar and discovered that three more men had been involved in the robbery. Deputy Goff obtained a license plate from a witness and was able to air the information over the radio, enabling detectives to track down the remaining suspects.

Deputy Goff was honored for her coolness under pressure, as well as her quick and decisive action in getting a lead on the additional felons. Her actions exemplify what it means to go above the call of duty. Thus today, I congratulate Deputy Goff as being named one of 2009 TOP COPS and thank her for her bravery and courageous work in keeping the State of Louisiana safe.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 626. An act to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1817. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 North West Street in Somerville, Tennessee, as the "John S. Wilder Post Office Building".

H.R. 2200. An act to authorize the Transportation Security Administration's programs relating to the provision of transportation security, and for other purposes.

## ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 663. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12877 Broad Street in Sparta, Georgia, as the "Yvonne Ingram-Ephraim Post Office Building".

H.R. 918. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 East 3rd Street in Jamestown, New York, as the "Stan Lundine Post Office Building".

H.R. 1284. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

H.R. 1595. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building".

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. WARNER).

## MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 626. An act to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1817. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 North West Street in Somerville, Tennessee, as the "John S. Wilder Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2200. An act to authorize the Transportation Security Administration's programs relating to the provision of transportation security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 31. An act to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1847. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65)(74 FR 18152)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1848. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 634) (74 FR 21267)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1849. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (944 CFR Part 67)(74 FR 23117)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.