

foreign policy, programs and international cooperative efforts to combat the flow of illegal drugs or substances.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD, *Chairman*; BENJAMIN L. CARDIN; JIM WEBB; EDWARD E. KAUFMAN; JEANNE SHAHEEN; JOHNNY ISAKSON, *Ranking Member*; JIM DEMINT; BOB CORKER; and JAMES M. INHOFE.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee has geographic responsibilities corresponding to those of the Bureau of African Affairs in the Department of State. It considers all matters concerning U.S. relations with countries in Africa, with the exception of countries bordering on the Mediterranean Sea from Egypt to Morocco, which are under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs.

This subcommittee's responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

BARBARA BOXER, *Chairman*; RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD; ROBERT MENENDEZ; EDWARD E. KAUFMAN; JEANNE SHAHEEN; KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND; ROGER F. WICKER, *Ranking Member*; JIM DEMINT; JOHN BARRASSO; and JAMES M. INHOFE.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee's responsibilities include all matters involving international operations and organizations, human rights, democracy, and global women's issues. This jurisdiction includes the general oversight responsibility for the Department of State, the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the Foreign Service, and public diplomacy. It also includes oversight responsibility for United States participation in the United Nations, its affiliated organizations, and other international organizations not under the jurisdiction of other subcommittees. Finally, it includes general oversight responsibility for U.S. policy in promoting democracy and human rights abroad.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ROBERT MENENDEZ, *Chairman*; BARBARA BOXER; BENJAMIN L. CARDIN; ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.; JEANNE SHAHEEN; KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND; BOB CORKER, *Ranking Member*; ROGER F. WICKER; JIM DEMINT; and JAMES E. RISCH.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee's responsibilities include general oversight responsibility for U.S. development policy and foreign assistance programs. It includes U.S. bilateral humanitarian, development, economic, trade and security assistance programs carried out by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and other U.S. agencies, and U.S. voluntary contributions to international organizations providing assistance to foreign nations.

It also includes matters related to: (1) international monetary policy, including U.S. participation in international financial institutions; (2) U.S. foreign economic policy, including export enhancement and trade promotion; and (3) international investment, protection of intellectual property, and technological transfer.

Finally, the subcommittee is responsible for matters related to international energy security and international environmental protection, including the oceans and space.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., *Chairman*; CHRISTOPHER J. DODD; RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD; BARBARA BOXER; BENJAMIN L. CARDIN; EDWARD E. KAUFMAN; JAMES E. RISCH, *Ranking Member*; BOB CORKER; JOHN BARRASSO; and JOHNNY ISAKSON.

Jurisdiction:

This subcommittee deals with all matters concerning U.S. relations with the countries of the Middle East and Arab North Africa. This subcommittee's geographic responsibilities also encompass U.S. relations with the countries of South and Central Asia, corresponding to the jurisdiction of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs in the Department of State.

This subcommittee's responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

JIM WEBB, *Chairman*; CHRISTOPHER J. DODD; RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD; BARBARA BOXER; ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.; KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND; JAMES M. INHOFE, *Ranking Member*; JOHNNY ISAKSON; JOHN BARRASSO; and ROGER F. WICKER.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee has geographic responsibilities corresponding to those of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Department of State and considers all matters concerning U.S. relations with the countries of that region. It also considers matters related to regional organizations such as the Association of South East Asian Nations and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

This subcommittee's responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

JEANNE SHAHEEN, *Chairman*; CHRISTOPHER J. DODD; ROBERT MENENDEZ; ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.; JIM WEBB; EDWARD E. KAUFMAN; JIM DEMINT, *Ranking Member*; JAMES E. RISCH; BOB CORKER; and ROGER F. WICKER.

Jurisdiction:

The subcommittee deals with all matters concerning U.S. relations with the countries on the continent of Europe (except the states of Central Asia that are within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs), and with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Matters relating to Greenland and the northern polar region are also the responsibility of this subcommittee.

This subcommittee's responsibilities include all matters within the geographic region relating to: (1) terrorism and non-proliferation; (2) crime and illicit narcotics; (3) U.S. foreign assistance programs; and (4) the promotion of U.S. trade and exports.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE RECOGNITION IN VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the U.S. Constitution, the document by which we define ourselves as a nation, empha-

sizes freedom and equality. Its words have inspired generations of Americans to create a society that sustains those values: one that preserves our freedom and reminds its citizens that we are all created equally. Among those who are leading the fight to protect this constitutional guarantee of equality are the people of Vermont, who I have been proud to represent for the past 34 years.

Vermonters have consistently led the charge to perfect our Union and to support the fight for equality and social justice. Vermont was the first State in our Union to outlaw slavery, and was also the first to adopt voting rights, regardless of property ownership. Vermont demonstrated its commitment to social justice years ago with the passage of inclusive hate crimes and employment nondiscrimination legislation. I hope our Federal Government will follow Vermont's lead with regard to these essential protections.

Vermonters have led the Nation by protecting families and by ensuring that children are in stable, loving environments. This is because Vermonters believe that parents should be allowed to strengthen their commitments to one another. In 2000, Vermont took a crucial step when it became the first State in the Nation to allow civil unions for same-sex couples. Recently, Vermont took another step to help sustain the relationships that fulfill our lives by becoming the first state to adopt same-sex marriage through the legislative process without a court mandate to do so.

I commend the Vermont State Legislature for its actions, and for setting aside partisan differences to serve the people of Vermont and to serve as an example for the Nation. Throughout the tumultuous debate on this issue, both chambers considered each side's viewpoint, and all points of view were heard. This was a real testament to our democratic process. Yet despite that debate, the Governor vetoed the legislation that was approved by the legislature.

The Vermont State Legislature has the distinction of being a part-time body. They work within the very communities they represent on a daily basis. During the debate, these legislators listened to their neighbors, their friends, and their constituents. During this process, they realized that marriage equality was something the people of Vermont wanted. Some members of the State legislature ultimately decided to put aside their personal views. They did not want to have such an important issue decided by a single vote. They did not believe that one person should be able to prevent what Vermonters were seeking—equality for all its citizens. In the end, several of the legislators who originally voted against the bill cast their vote to override the Governor's veto. I believe that the actions of those legislators and the entire Vermont Legislature deserve our admiration.

As a Vermonter who has been married for 47 years, I am a great fan of the institution of marriage. I believe it is important to encourage and to sanction committed relationships, and to provide for stable, supportive families. When Vermont passed legislation on same-sex marriage, it reaffirmed my fundamental belief we should not create second-class families who do not enjoy the protections other families have. Unfortunately this is still not the case in our Federal Government. With laws like the Defense of Marriage Act in effect, Vermont same-sex marriages are still treated differently. I believe it is time to repeal it, so that all Vermonters can be treated equally under the law.

Vermont's State motto is depicted clearly on our State flag: "Freedom and Unity." Today, same-sex couples in Vermont are now able to enjoy the same freedoms that opposite sex couples in Vermont enjoy. Same-sex couples now have the freedom to create and to preserve family unity, and to bring happiness and stability to their children and loved ones. I am proud to represent the people of Vermont and I commend them for having reached yet another milestone in the march toward equality.

RECOGNIZING THE CAPITOL HILL SCREENING OF "THE WAY WE GET BY"

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I commemorate the Capitol Hill screening of "The Way We Get By", a deeply moving and powerful documentary film about the iconic Troop Greeters of Bangor in my home State of Maine. On this wonderful occasion, I join with my colleagues in the Maine Delegation—Senator COLLINS, and Representatives MICHAUD and PINGREE—in expressing my tremendous gratitude not only to the USO—the indispensable "home-away-from-home" for our more than 2.5 million men and women exceptional enough to wear our Nation's uniform, so admirably led by USO president and CEO Sloan Gibson—but also to Operation Homefront as well as HandsOn Network—cofounded by Michelle Nunn—who is forging her own path within the longstanding, Nunn family history of commitment to service as CEO of Points of Light Institute.

A part of President Obama's United We Serve initiative, all three of these stellar organizations are presenting this magnificent film in the U.S. Capitol at the wonderful Capitol Visitor Center, and we couldn't be more grateful to them—as well as to the Professional Services Council and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting—and others too numerous to mention for helping bring this documentary to fruition. And I would like to especially thank Simon Kilmurry, executive director of American Documentary, and Aron Gaudet, the film's director, for their stalwart leadership and dedication on this exemplary project.

And it couldn't be more fitting to have Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President BIDEN, introduce this well-deserved tribute to the Bangor Troop Greeters at today's screening—especially as Beau, the Vice President's son and Delaware's attorney general, has just returned from his deployment in Iraq as a member of the Delaware Army National Guard's 261st Signal Brigade. We commend Beau and all of those returning in his brigade, and we cannot thank them enough for their courageous service and heroic sacrifice to our Nation.

And of course, expressing our admiration and thankfulness to those who have placed themselves in harm's way on our behalf is the driving impetus behind this superb endeavor to capture on film the incredible generosity of spirit and good will unflaggingly exemplified by the Bangor Troop Greeters. For these extraordinary individuals, three of whom are showcased in the movie and attended today's screening, meeting our service men and women at the Bangor International Airport is an undeniable labor of love and a heartfelt expression of their devotion to our country and all who defend her.

In chronicling the selfless, patriotic and frankly larger-than-life actions of three amazing Mainers—Bill Knight, Joan Gaudet, and Jerry Mundy, director and Old Town native, Aron Gaudet—in tandem with Gita Pullapilly, the film's producer and interviewer, deftly brings to this undertaking the venerable tradition of extending handshakes and hugs to our brave soldiers, dating back to the first Gulf War and Operation Desert Storm. And to document the humanity underpinning this monumental outpouring of support for our troops—which occurs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, rain or shine—is a marvelous achievement and one which instills enormous pride in us all.

On a personal note, I can't tell you how many of our soldiers I have encountered who have expressed their immense appreciation to the world-renowned Bangor Troop Greeters. In fact, I well recall one soldier coming up to me specifically to convey just how remarkable the troop greeters were and that fellow soldiers shared the same sentiment. We echo that very sensibility today.

Congratulations to all who have been involved in the continuing success of this highly-acclaimed film documenting a phenomenal story of giving back to those who have given us all so much—our service men and women!

TRIBUTE TO FRANK D. STELLA

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a pillar of my community, Detroit businessman and philanthropist Frank D. Stella.

Born in Pennsylvania, the son of Italian immigrants, he founded the F.D. Stella Products Company in Detroit in 1946, shortly after he returned

from military service during World War II. Frank has built the company into a nationwide network of food-service suppliers, forming the backbone of his business and civic involvement in Michigan. And that involvement is extensive. From business to health care to the arts to charity work, there is little that happens in Detroit that doesn't involve Frank Stella in some way. Frank has long been active in the city's most important business groups, including the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce and Detroit Economic Club. A patron of the arts, he has served on governing boards for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Detroit Discovery Museum. He has demonstrated a long-time commitment to health care, serving on the boards of the Detroit Medical Center, Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital, Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center, and Grace Hospital of Detroit. Education has been another focus: He has served on the boards of the University of Detroit-Mercy, his alma mater, as well as the Wayne County Community College Foundation.

The breadth and depth of his accomplishments and involvement has drawn the notice of many. Organizations as diverse as the Detroit Urban League, the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, and the American Institute of Architects have honored him for his contributions. In 1995, he received an Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an award recognizing the importance of the immigrant experience in American life. The Italian Government has bestowed numerous awards upon him, as have four U.S. Presidents. His support of his Roman Catholic faith has earned the thanks of popes.

On Oct. 30, many of Frank's friends will gather to honor his 90th birthday. Fittingly, the celebration will serve as a fundraiser for four more of Frank's causes: the National Italian American Foundation Scholarship Fund, Orders of the Sons of Italy in America, Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance, and Boys' Town of Italy. I thank him for his years of service to our city and State and wish him continued health and success in his many community endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE PARKS AND PEOPLE FOUNDATION

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Parks and People Foundation of Baltimore, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Community activist Sally Michel founded Parks and People in 1984. Since then, Parks and People has grown from Sally's kitchen counter to a planned, eco-friendly, LEED Platinum-certified headquarters.

Today, Parks and People Foundation, under the leadership of Jackie Carrerra and the creative energy and advocacy