

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING BILL GEORGE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise tonight for a very specific purpose. It is to speak about a person I have known a long time—25 years or more—who is currently the President of the Pennsylvania State AFL/CIO, a great labor leader in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I will submit a longer statement for the RECORD due to the late hour, but I did wish to say a few words about him. His name is Bill George, and anyone who knows anything about organized labor in Pennsylvania, anyone who knows anything about the topic of battling on behalf of working men and women, knows the name Bill George. He has been the President of our State AFL/CIO since 1990, 20 years in that position. Prior to that, he was a great leader with the United Steelworkers of America and someone I came to know long before I was a candidate for public office, and certainly in the 15 years or so that I have been either a candidate or a public official he has been a source of great inspiration and a great friend.

Even beyond the work he has done for candidates and for causes, this is someone who understood, at a very young age, what it means to battle—to fight the battles for working men and women, to work together with people to collectively bargain for wages and benefits, making sure that working men and women have a voice, and someone who understood what an election means. At the end of the process of conducting an election, you elect someone to public office—or a group of candidates—and their votes and their actions have an impact on working men and women. Bill George has always understood that. He has always understood that those in our society who do not have a voice need people like him to stand and fight battles.

I know the Presiding Officer is well aware that organized labor—and I think Bill George has been a great example of this—often has been battling the hardest on issues from which they do not necessarily benefit directly. The case in point, the minimum wage. We know that those who are represented by unions in almost every circumstance have a pretty solid wage compared to those who may be making a minimum wage or less. We know organized labor, thankfully over many generations now, has been able to bargain collectively for health care benefits. But even despite that, they have battled for those who do not have health insurance. Bill George has been one of the leaders in Pennsylvania for 20 years, making sure the voice of working men and women have been heard but also making sure the poor had a voice, the vulnerable, the forgotten, the people who have been left out. To use a line from Scriptures, “The least, the last and the lost” have been

beneficiaries of his great voice and his strength of personality, his commitment to fighting for justice and especially fighting for economic and social justice.

Tonight, as we are here in Washington and voting, there is a huge crowd of Pennsylvanians at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, a convention center named in honor of one of our greater Governors, a native of Pittsburgh. The AFL/CIO tonight is paying tribute to Bill George and also Dan Rooney, the great owner of the six-time Super Bowl Pittsburgh Steelers and now the Ambassador to Ireland. So I wish to compliment both Dan Rooney and Bill George on their award tonight at the AFL/CIO dinner in Pittsburgh.

But in a very particular way, I wish to commend and salute the work Bill George has done over so many years in our Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, culminating in the last 20 years as President of the Pennsylvania AFL/CIO. Congratulations to Bill George. I know he will stay active in Pennsylvania and beyond, but we want to commend him especially tonight.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I listened intently to the Presiding Officer's remarks just before I took the floor, and I, too, wanted to add my congratulations to Bill George and associate myself with his remarks.

I was particularly moved by the comments the Senator made about often organized labor in this country works on behalf of all Americans, all working Americans, and organized labor often does not receive acknowledgment. Sometimes it receives absolutely the opposite, slings and arrows that are often sent toward organized labor.

There is much that organized labor has done over the years that we take for granted in the workplace, everything from workplace safety to pension protection to the 40-hour workweek. Children do not work in our factories anymore because of what organized labor did for many decades.

So, again, that was very moving for me to hear. I salute Mr. George. I also took note of the mention of the six-time world champion Pittsburgh Steelers. In my State we have a two-time world champion football team, the Denver Broncos. It always seemed, though, we had to go through Pittsburgh. Often we fell short, but on two occasions we were able to make it to the Super Bowl itself. We also had to pass the test that the Steelers presented.

(The remarks of Mr. UDALL of Colorado pertaining to the introduction of S. 3201 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT SEAN DURKIN

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I want to close and take advantage of another minute or two to speak on a separate note but a related note.

I wish to talk about Sean Durkin. He was a soldier from Fort Carson whom we just lost from wounds that he suffered in Afghanistan in a roadside bomb attack. Those are the most casualty-ridden attacks that our forces have faced over and over, not only in Afghanistan but in Iraq.

Last week, Army SGT Sean Durkin died at Walter Reed because of his wounds. He had been one of three Fort Carson soldiers who were presented a Purple Heart from President Obama when he visited Kabul and went to the military hospital when he was there.

On his Facebook page, he included a quotation from an unnamed marine. This quotation said:

This is my charge to you. Tell everyone of the heroism of the soldiers who lost their lives and of the soldiers who are fighting to recover what they have lost.

I wanted to tell everyone here, everyone listening, everyone watching of Sergeant Durkin's heroism and ask that we keep in our prayers and our thoughts all of our service men and women and their families as they serve us all over the world.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During the month of April, I urge my colleagues and Americans around the country to reflect on the effects of sexual assault and domestic violence in their communities and to join me in making a commitment to end this stain on our society. In conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, our country will observe

National Crime Victims' Rights Week on April 18–24, 2010. This year's theme, Crime Victim's Rights: Fairness, Dignity, and Respect, is a reminder of the progress our country has made as well as the work that still must be accomplished.

As a former U.S. Capitol Police Officer, I understand the effects violent crime can have on a family and community. I recognize the significant role government and other supporting agencies must play in assisting victims of sexual assault and preventing violence. We must never forget that sexual assault is a violent crime with devastating implications.

One in six women and one in thirty-three men reported experiencing rape or attempted rape in the United States. In 2008, an estimated 222,000 rapes or sexual assaults on individuals age 12 and older were reported. One in four women will experience domestic violence from a partner in their lifetime. Each year, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner. These numbers, while terrible, grossly underestimate the problem. Many cases of sexual assault and domestic violence are not reported because victims are afraid to tell the police, their family, or their friends about the abuse.

Such violence affects not only the victims of abuse, but their families, communities, and, most unfortunately, their children. Women, men, and children throughout our country suffer the long-lasting effects of sexual assault and domestic violence through the emotional and physical scars they carry each day.

It is clear we must do more to prevent these crimes and help those who are victimized. I have long supported efforts to recognize, prevent, and combat violent crimes committed against women and children, and I am always seeking to improve Federal laws and programs regarding this issue. In 1990, I was a cosponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, proposal, and I supported passage of the bill when it became law in 1994. Additionally, I support the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, FVPSA, and I am pushing for greater funding for FVPSA programs and grants.

Countless organizations throughout our country are helping victims of abuse every day, thanks in part to VAWA and FVPSA. It is essential to recognize the organizations committed to providing victims of abuse the assistance they need to overcome the trauma of violence. Please join me in commending the dedicated efforts of the individuals who work tirelessly to stop violence in our communities.

TRIBUTE TO MARK LEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to honor Mr. Mark Leet of Flemingsburg, KY, for recently receiving the middle school Teacher of the Year award presented by the Veterans

of Foreign Wars of the United States, VFW. Mr. Leet was recognized by the VFW for his dedication to educating students about the importance of citizenship and patriotism.

Today, I wish to honor Mr. Leet's dedication to the children of the Commonwealth and congratulate him on this well deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA K. VAUGHAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Miss Jessica K. Vaughan of Bowling Green, KY. Miss Vaughan was recently selected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to receive the Patriot's Pen scholarship award. This scholarship program is a youth essay contest that gives middle school students from across the Nation the opportunity to articulate their views on democracy.

Miss Vaughan, an eighth grade student, was selected to receive this award based on her essay entitled "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" I wish to congratulate Miss Vaughan on her hard work, perseverance and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO MISS SOPHIA BROWN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Miss Sophia Brown of Louisville, KY. Miss Brown was recently selected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to receive the National Voice of Democracy scholarship. This scholarship competition gives high school students from across the Nation the opportunity to write and then record a broadcast based on a selected theme.

I am particularly proud since Miss Brown is a sophomore at my alma mater, duPont Manual High School. She was awarded the scholarship based on her broadcast pertaining to American heroes. I wish to congratulate Miss Brown on her hard work, perseverance and dedication.

TRICARE DEPENDENT COVERAGE EXTENSION ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of the TRICARE Dependent Coverage Extension Act.

Last month, President Obama signed the health care reform bill into law. It was a historic day. For the first time in American history we committed to ending the abuses of the insurance industry. We committed to covering every single American. It extends the solvency of Medicare for nearly a decade. It ends the punitive practices of insurance companies that deny coverage based on gender, age, or race. It expands universal coverage to 32 million Americans who have been without insurance. And we pay for it with an emphasis on wellness and quality. We say goodbye to quantity medicine by emphasizing quality medicine. It was a very big deal. But there is more to do.

I voted for health care reform because I listened to the people of Mary-

land at diners and in the grocery store, at roundtables, tele-town halls, in hearings, and in letters and emails. Time and again I heard, "Save my Medicare." I heard, "Don't take my mammograms away." I heard, "They turned me down for health insurance because I had a C-Section." I voted for health care reform because I listened to the stories of the people. I know that the best ideas come from the people.

Over the recess I heard from another group in Maryland. I met with my wonderful Veterans Advisory Board. They represent Vets from World War Two to Desert Storm. They are my eyes and ears in the veterans' community. One of my board asked me a question. He said, "We think health care reform is great but we think there is a problem." The part of the health care bill that extends parents' health insurance to kids age 26 and younger left out military families. I promised him that if there was a problem, that I would fix it! Wow was he right. Military families in the TRICARE system were left out.

TRICARE is a critical benefit for our military and their families. It covers active duty military, retired military, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reservist in a certain status, and the uniform corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. They were all left out. That is why I am here today—to right this wrong.

I am proud to join Senator UDALL and my colleagues in introducing the TRICARE Dependent Coverage Extension Act. This bill says that if military children can't get insurance through an employer that their parents can keep them on their TRICARE insurance until they reach age of 26. This is the right thing to do. If the kids of a hedge fund manager can stay on their parents' health care until they are 26, then kids in military families should be able to be covered to age 26 too.

I am so proud of the men and women of our military. I stand here today saluting them for their honor, courage, and commitment to our country. Make no mistake. I have my marching orders. I commit to making this right for them. I will fight to see this bill signed into law. Because promises made must be promises kept.

RECOGNIZING THE PETER M. GOODRICH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to call the Senate's attention to the inspiring work of Donald and Sarah "Sally" Goodrich of Bennington, VT, through their efforts to turn their own devastating personal tragedy into new opportunity and hope for children and families a world away in Afghanistan.

Confronted by the death of their son Peter aboard the flight that struck the south tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, Don and Sally