

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

Goodrich channeled their grief and energy into a foundation established in his memory—a foundation with a unique and uplifting purpose.

The Peter M. Goodrich Foundation provides food, clean water, shelter and educational opportunities to Afghan children facing extreme hardship, dismal circumstances and little hope for the future. The foundation's mission is far broader than offering basic humanitarian services to a country torn by conflict; its work recognizes the untapped potential of a generation of Afghan children, helping them to rise above hate and to embrace values based on understanding, tolerance and respect.

With this vision and this goal, the Goodrich Foundation supports exchange programs that bring Afghan students to the United States and vocational programs that allow them to put their knowledge and skills to use upon their return to Afghanistan. The foundation also promotes the work of The Afghan Women's Writing Project, which helps Afghan women to be heard in their own right rather than solely through their male relatives. These are just a few examples of the tremendous amount of good the foundation has achieved in less than a decade. We can all be grateful to Sally and Don for opening their hearts, amid their personal grief, and lighting an enduring flame of hope after one of our Nation's darkest hours.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WALTER J. BISHOP

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to Walter "Wally" Bishop, general manager of the Contra Costa Water District—CCWD—as he retires after 18 years of dedicated service.

A native of Washington DC, Mr. Bishop started his career in 1973 as an engineer for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. Upon arriving in California, he went to work as an engineer for the Ventura Regional County Sanitation District in 1975 before moving to northern California, where he worked for the East Bay Municipal Utility District from 1983 to 1992.

The CCWD serves over 550,000 people in Central and Eastern Contra Costa County and carries a large influence on the direction of California water policy, given its location on the Delta's edge. Starting as CCWD's general manager in 1992, Mr. Bishop continually advocated for a customer-first, entrepreneurial approach throughout the district. Under his leadership, CCWD's Los Vaqueros Reservoir Project was permitted, designed, and completed. It was the first major reservoir to be permitted and constructed in more than a decade.

A well-known leader in both State and national water issues, Mr. Bishop has been recognized by numerous orga-

nizations for his commitment to water issues and policy. He was recently awarded the Edward J. Cleary Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers for his leadership in environmental engineering and management. He has also been a two-term member of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, which advises the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator on everything that EPA does relating to drinking water.

I commend Mr. Bishop for his 18 years of dedicated service to the CCWD. Along with his friends and colleagues throughout Contra Costa County and the San Francisco Bay Area, I thank him for his efforts and wish him the best as he embarks on the next phase of his life.●

RECOGNIZING THE ASSOCIATED: JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION OF BALTIMORE

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to honor The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore on its 90th anniversary. The Greater Baltimore Area is comprised of more than 90,000 Jews, many of whom rely on The Associated to provide support and resources to a vibrant Jewish community in the region. The Associated was officially formed in 1920 by the merger of two community organizations, the Federated Jewish Charities with the United Hebrew Charities. The Associated and its agencies have worked hard to better the lives of Jewish Baltimoreans for almost a century.

The talents, commitment, and compassion of Baltimore's Jewish community activists, philanthropists, volunteers, and professionals have created and sustained The Associated. From Harry Greenstein to Marc Terrill, from Jacob Epstein to Jimmy Berg, men and women have provided their experience and expertise to help turn the organization into one of the most powerful and cohesive Jewish federations in the country today.

Through its Jewish Community Services program, The Associated helps support and serve the needs of the entire Baltimore Jewish community. It provides a wide array of counseling programs to help with substance abuse, relationship problems, depression, and grief. Its social workers also offer outstanding support for parents, caregivers, job seekers, teenagers, and senior citizens. All of these programs and initiatives have been vital in helping many Jewish individuals and families improve both their economic and mental health situations while still maintaining a positive connection to the Jewish community.

The Associated's international outreach also has been just as profound and important as its local impact. Since the early years of the federation, it has played an active role in the relocation of Jews to Baltimore. It helped more than 3,000 German Jews flee the

Nazi regime and settle in the Baltimore area and has provided support for both Iranian Jews and Russian Jews to resettle in Baltimore in recent years as well.

The federation has also played an integral part in strengthening the bond between Baltimore and Israel through its new sister city partnership with the Israeli city, Ashkelon. This relationship has already spurred initiatives that will help educate Jewish leaders in both communities on economic and leadership development. A different partnership with the Ukrainian city of Odessa complements the one with Ashkelon by promoting cross-cultural exchange and education as well.

In honor of its 90th anniversary, the federation is doing what it does best: helping people. The Associated has called on its community to log 90,000 volunteer hours together—1,000 hours for every year of existence. This is just one more act of generosity among countless others The Associated has sponsored throughout the years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore for its continued commitment to tikkun olam—repair of the world—and gemilut chasadim—acts of loving-kindness—as well as all the work it has done to better the lives of Baltimore Jews throughout the past 90 years.●

REMEMBERING CLIFFORD HARDIN

• Mr. JOHANNES. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a great Nebraskan and great American. Last week, we lost a visionary figure who, through years of service, made lasting contributions to our society: former University of Nebraska chancellor and later U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin.

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Cliff Hardin. His lifetime of service both in government and academia provides a shining example of the impact one person can have.

As chancellor of the University of Nebraska, Cliff was the steady hand that guided the University through a turbulent era. He was appointed to the position in 1954 at the age of 38—the youngest university president in the country at the time. His tenure at Nebraska lasted 15 years.

In reading the many tributes to Cliff over the last week, I was touched by one particular story that showed his true colors. Upon learning that a rival university had plans to place Nebraska's Black football players in one hotel and the White players in a separate hotel, he refused to let the team even board the plane to go to the game. It wasn't long until the other school changed course and offered the same accommodations for all players.

As Secretary of Agriculture, Cliff was a results-oriented advocate for farmers and ranchers in my home State of Nebraska and across the country. He put a premium on bipartisanship, and his