

years of work, is very impressive to this newer Senator. I appreciate so much what he and Senator GRASSLEY have done over the years to begin to put an end to this practice.

I think the straw that broke the camel's back—or maybe the 80 straws that broke the camel's back—was the absolute avalanche of secret holds that has confronted our new President from this Republican minority. It has come to the point where the President, I think fairly, believes his ability to staff his own administration is being compromised by people who will not stand and be counted and be accountable for the reason for their opposition. It is being done in the dark, secretly, and without any accountability. I agree that needs to be put to an end.

So I urge people who are watching this: The sixth day has begun—6 days of session. At the end, we will know who is doing this or we will be able to clear these nominees, and we will have broken this unfortunate practice, to a significant degree or we will have learned something I think very unfortunate about our friends on the other side; that is, that they have agreed to connive with one another to play a switcharoo and bring in a new Senator to dodge the clear import of the rule that the Senator from Oregon and Senator GRASSLEY worked on, on a bipartisan basis, to put into effect in this body and which was approved by an enormous majority of this body. So the clock is running and we will see. We will learn a lot about this institution and our colleagues in 6 days. I thank the Senator for his leadership on this issue.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, 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.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I come to the floor to recognize the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and to remember the man who founded Earth Day, the late Wisconsin Governor and Senator Gaylord Nelson.

Before he was the founder of Earth Day, and one of the Nation's greatest

conservationists, he was a son of Wisconsin. He was a young boy growing up in the town of Clear Lake, WI, amid the great natural beauty of our State. When asked how he developed his lifelong interest and dedication to the environment, Nelson would say "by osmosis" while growing up in Clear Lake, WI.

He reflected the very best of our State from the beginning, building on Wisconsin's long tradition of environmental conservation. Our State passed landmark forest and waterpower conservation acts during the progressive era and lays claim not only to Gaylord Nelson but to other giants of the conservation movement such as Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Sigurd Olson.

All of them were inspired, as Nelson was, by the beautiful Wisconsin wilderness. The natural beauty of our State charted the course of Nelson's life, from the shores of Clear Lake to the banks of the Potomac, where he changed the way we think about our planet and changed the law to protect the water we drink and the air we breathe.

There are few Members of this body, past or present, who have left such a valuable legacy. So I am proud to help celebrate that legacy with a resolution in the House and Senate celebrating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and its founder. As we look ahead to the many challenges we face, we can draw strength from the example Gaylord set for us all. He drove tremendous change and, with Earth Day, created a new momentum that has been critical to so many efforts to protect the health of our environment.

Gaylord also understood the connection between the two great Wisconsin traditions of fiscal responsibility and conservation. Too often, a Federal program that is wasting taxpayer dollars is also laying waste to our air, our water or our public lands. The Nation's outdated mining laws are a perfect example. These laws allow the mining companies to mine on our public lands for next to nothing and leave behind an environmental mess for taxpayers to clean up.

Gaylord fought to change those laws, and when I was elected to the Senate, he asked me to take up this fight and I have. I have made it part of my Control Spending Now Act, legislation to cut the deficit by about \$½ trillion over the next 10 years. If we scrap these outdated mining laws, we can save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and protect the public lands that belong to the American people. They do not belong to the mining companies.

I am also working on another environmental issue that has a special connection to Gaylord Nelson; that is, clean water. The man from Clear Lake did so much for clear, clean water everywhere, including being a champion of the Clean Water Act.

Today, the Clean Water Act is under threat because two recent Supreme

Court decisions have jeopardized its protections. Those decisions put nearly 20 million acres of wetlands habitat and more than 50 percent of our stream miles in the lower 48 States at risk. These waters could now become polluted or wiped out altogether unless Congress takes action.

I am working to see that Congress stands up to the special interests that want to roll back the Clean Water Act's protections and ensure that these bodies of water can continue to provide drinking water, wildlife habitat, recreation, and support for industry and agriculture for generations of Wisconsinites to come.

So I have joined with Minnesota Representative JIM OBERSTAR to introduce the Clean Water Restoration Act. This bill is designed to accomplish one basic and important goal: ensure that the Clean Water Act of 1972 stays in place. There are no new regulations in our legislation, only a return to the original intent of the Clean Water Act, which has protected our waters for more than 35 years.

Gaylord Nelson and others have done so much to protect the health of our waters, and we owe it to them and to ourselves to carry that legacy forward. That is what I seek to do in the Senate with the Clean Water Restoration Act.

We face many other challenges as well. Of course, climate change looms largest of all. We need to address the serious problem of climate change and do so without unfairly hurting Wisconsin, which relies on coal for much of its energy needs. If we do this right, we have an opportunity to pass legislation that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create energy jobs here in America. We can help American businesses gain a competitive advantage developing new renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

The desire to protect our air, our water, and our planet will bring people together tomorrow, all around the world. They will talk about global issues we face and the local environmental issues in their communities that they want to address. They will organize, mobilize, and galvanize new momentum for change.

That is exactly what Gaylord Nelson intended. He knew the power of people coming together and what that could mean for the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the national parks and public lands we all cherish. He knew that these natural resources connect us all and that Earth Day would bring us together to protect them.

I am so grateful to have known Gaylord Nelson, and I am proud of the legacy he left behind. As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, we remember the man from Clear Lake who came to this body inspired by the beautiful Wisconsin landscape of his childhood and in the end made a better world for us all.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would say to my distinguished friend from Wisconsin, I was delighted to hear those words about Gaylord Nelson. I had the privilege of serving for a term with Senator NELSON. He was down-to-earth, respected by all in this body, and he had a commitment to the environment rarely ever matched. The Senator from Wisconsin has said it far more eloquently than I could. But I think how fortunate we are that we have this Senator from Wisconsin who has carried out that commitment to the environment, that commitment to the best ideals of our government. I know our dear, departed friend Gaylord Nelson would be so proud to have the Senator here representing Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, let me thank the Senator from Vermont for his kind words, for his remembering Gaylord Nelson, and, of course, for the incredible legacy of his own for the environment, coming from one of the most beautiful States in this country, Vermont. I thank him.

95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we teach our children that genocide, wherever it occurs, is a crime against humanity that must never be tolerated or ignored. That is why it is so important for the United States to always recognize genocide for what it is and acknowledge when it takes place.

Between 1915 and 1923, the Ottoman Empire carried out genocide against the Armenian people. However, the United States has yet to recognize this stain on history by its rightful name despite an irrefutable body of evidence documenting the atrocities.

Diplomats, members of the military, humanitarians, journalists and others from the United States and around the world saw with their own eyes the deportation, starvation, drowning and murder of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians. And there are countless testimonies from victims who lived to tell of their experiences.

The American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, wrote:

When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact.

There were great efforts made by Americans to relieve the suffering of the victims of what would become the first genocide of the 20th century. Powerful leaders of industry and government did speak out. Schoolchildren and poor families contributed mightily to try to save lives by donating whatever they could. American farmers sent food to reduce starvation.

Yet in the 95 years since the Armenian Genocide began, the word "genocide" has not been used by the United States to describe the atrocities carried out against the Armenians.

The United States has always been a beacon to the world—standing up for what is right and just. Now is the time for the United States to join countries such as Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, and more than 40 U.S. States and unequivocally affirm the Armenian Genocide.

TRIBUTE TO RITA McCAFFREY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a distinguished and giving Vermonter will be retiring after nearly 40 years of working on behalf of Vermont's prisoners and former prisoners. Rita Whalen McCaffrey is stepping down in May as the Executive Director of Dismas of Vermont, a residential program that helps former prisoners transition and reintegrate into society. Opened in Burlington in 1986, Dismas of Vermont has grown to provide supportive housing in three homes and three satellite apartments in the Burlington and Rutland communities, and has served more than a thousand men and women in the past 25 years.

Rita has engaged hundreds of Vermonters from all walks of life through the years to actively participate in the Mission of Dismas: to reconcile former prisoners with society and society with former prisoners through participation in a supportive family-like community. The Dismas model Rita founded in Vermont is powered by volunteers who cook and share the evening meal, choose to live in the community with the residents, and participate as active board members. The act of mutual reconciliation happens because community members come into the home and become a part of the Dismas family.

Rita's strong commitment to building and encouraging community support for former prisoners exemplifies the charitable spirit that has made Vermont one of the best places in the country to live. Her efforts have changed the direction of many lives and encouraged many to work towards reconciliation and respect. By steering former prisoners away from crime and toward a more constructive path, her work has also made the community a safer and better place to live. She leaves a legacy that is as inspiring as it is impressive, and her successor will have large shoes to fill.

As she moves on from a career path that began in 1974, I congratulate Rita for her invaluable service and leadership and I wish her a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM TORTOLANO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of my fondest memories of my undergraduate days at St. Michael's college was getting to know both Dr. William Tortolano and his extremely accomplished wife Martha.

I could tell many stories about the Tortolanos and the times they were also part of the Leahy family. I would rather let a story in the Burlington Free Press about his retirement after a 50-year career at St. Michael's speak for me, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, April 20, 2010]

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE PROFESSOR DEPARTS WITH CONCERT

(By Matt Sutkoski)

St. Michael's College emeritus professor William Tortolano has made big, varied contributions to the school in his 50-year career there.

He's taught humanities and music, directed the chorus, gave and organized countless performances, and even designed the organ in St. Michael's chapel.

So it stands to reason his going-away gift to the community is just as varied.

The free concert at 7:30 p.m. today in the chapel will feature his beloved organ, even more beloved family members, the Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola, the St. Michael's College Chorale and a wide range of musical selections.

Tortolano, 80, is founder and first chairman of the St. Michael's College fine arts department. He also founded the St. Michael's Chorale and was its director for 28 years.

Music extends deeply into his personal life. He married a musician, his three children are accomplished musicians and his grandchildren are headed in the same direction, he said. "They were not forced into it, obviously. This was something they wanted to do," Tortolano said.

Tonight's concert will feature two of his children, and a grandson, a senior majoring in music at Boston College and a cellist.

Tortolano said he had some experience with organ design because he took a course on the subject while at the New England Conservatory of Music, and he has always been interested in the instrument.

He designed the organ for the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel with the structure's acoustics in mind. "It has to fit the acoustics, the reverberations. You don't buy it at Walmart or anything," he said.

He completed the organ's design in 1962; the chapel opened in 1964; and the organ was installed in 1966, he said. At the time, it cost \$13,500, which in today's dollars would be more than \$97,000, according to the Consumer Price Index inflation calculator. That's not particularly expensive for a custom-made organ, he said.

St. Michael's College's student body was strictly male when Tortolano joined the faculty. He was in charge of the chorus, but as more women became students, he created a new St. Michael's Chorale in 1970, when the college became co-ed and eventually disbanded the all-male group.

Tortolano said the Chorale is among his best memories of his career. True, he performed for the Pope, and at Notre Dame, and Cambridge University. But he said he takes great joy in remaining in touch with past Chorale members and attending reunions.

This semester, Tortolano is teaching humanities, but this will be his last year, and the concert is his official retirement.

He won't just sit back. "I feel very good, and I keep very busy," he said. He'll continue in music; he'll do workshops and recitals. And, Tortolano says, he'll look back fondly at his five decades at St. Michael's.