

has installed and provided solar energy technology to the Solomon Islands in hopes of improving the environment and livelihoods of their people. Taiwan has also set up an impressive medical mission in the Marshall Islands to treat the high prevalence of cataracts sufferers. In fact, our government will boost the overall effectiveness of our medical aid by initiating many more medical and public health missions that will target specific conditions and diseases common among the people of the Pacific island allies and friends. At the same time, after Taiwan effectively controlled the spread of the H1N1 Flu within our own borders, with a mortality rate of 2 deaths per million, which is only 1/3 of the average for OECD countries, I am proud to report that Taiwan will also be giving away locally manufactured vaccines worth 5 million U.S. dollars to other countries in need. Taiwan's search and rescue teams were also one of the first on the scenes when Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake earlier this year. In addition to donating \$16 million worth in aid and funds, our government is also planning to set up medical and vocational training centers to train for hundreds of medical and skilled workers, and build 1,200 housing units. Also, as a sign of Taiwan's flourishing civil society, World Vision Taiwan has collected countless small donations from our people that will be sufficient to feed and save more than 8,000 homeless Haitian children and orphans. However, my administration realizes humanitarian relief is only a small part of the long and challenging road to full recovery. This is why we hope to continue the work we have started in integrating the advances we make in healthcare and green technology into our foreign aid framework, so that Taiwan can truly make a meaningful difference in the countries we help.

V. THE UNIVERSAL VALUE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

However, coming back full circle, the search for a modern nation cannot merely lie upon the pillars of wealth and power. It is only under a true democracy that one's citizens can live without fear according to the law, and share in the burdens as well as benefits of good governance. Although Taiwan has made impressive sociopolitical progress over the last decades, it is still a young democracy. So, as firm champions for democracy, my administration will work to strengthen the democratic infrastructure of my country. Already we are taking tangible steps to enhance Taiwan's rule of law and protection of human rights in conformity with international standards. In the past year, we have ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), both administered by the United Nations. In converting these covenants into domestic law, they will certainly strengthen the human rights of our citizenry and further consolidate our rule of law. Furthermore, I came to power on the promise of combating corruption in elections and government, whereby we have already made meaningful progress. Without a doubt this goal will continue to be a cornerstone of my presidency, which I am determined to carry through in my capacity as the President of the country. I will assuredly not waver from the path in laying the foundations of a true democracy. In fact, next year in 2011 will be the Centennial Anniversary of the Republic of China. Against the background of thousands of years of Chinese history, the last century was in some ways merely a comma. But from a larger perspective, it was nothing short of an exclamation mark, as it has been 100 years of struggle; 100 years of experimen-

tation and 100 years of education before a people learned that they too have the unequivocal rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This nation-building process undoubtedly was achieved through the collective efforts of countless dedicated individuals who traversed between tradition and modernity that helped bridge the East to the West so many years ago. Inevitably, this made it possible for a people to aspire to the same democratic values as you cherish. From the chaos arising out of the turn of the 20th century, to the founding of the first republic in Asia in 1912 and its evolution forward in 1949 when the Republic of China Government moved to Taiwan, in 1987 when Taiwan lifted martial law, launched its democratic transformation, and subsequently allowed Taiwan residents to visit their relatives on the mainland, in 1996 when people on Taiwan directly elected its President for the first time, and in 2000 and 2008 when the Presidential elections further consolidated Taiwan's democracy through two rotations of power between political parties, the passage of these 100 years has irrevocably transformed the foundations of a political culture. Distinguished faculty members and students, ladies and gentlemen, as the elected president of the Republic of China, I will continue to strive toward forging Taiwan into an exemplary democracy; one that will be a source of inspiration and emulation for generations to come.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT MA'S CLOSING REMARKS

Dear distinguished faculty, students and friends; it is my great pleasure to hold this teleconference with you. Your questions and comments are very good, and some are very tough to answer, but in thinking and answering these questions you force me to think deeper and strive harder on the challenges that confront the road ahead.

Although today's conference is near an end, I am heartened by the thought that our friendship will continue to grow as there is still so much we need to do, together. The international system that the US forged out of the devastation of World War II 65 years ago has today become the enduring foundation of our global village. Being rule-based and sufficiently flexible, this system encourages positive-sum international cooperation rather than zero-sum interstate conflict. Hence, it changed the underlying dynamics of the world order that made it possible for countries, big or small, to prosper together. As a matter of fact, my idea to seek rapprochement with the mainland find some similarities with the ideas espoused by the American leaders in having soft talks with the Soviet Union and to have détente. In other words, to replace confrontation with negotiations; to solve international disputes through peaceful means. It is this very system that has interlocked the world into a community of thriving interdependence, giving rise to the possibility where foes can turn into friends, where every country can be a winner and every contribution become part of a greater picture.

This is also the system from which I draw my inspiration to lead my country, particularly in dealing with the mainland. In taking a responsible stake in the world, and in seeking rapprochement with the Chinese mainland, my administration has committed the Republic of China on Taiwan to becoming a dependable and valuable contributor to this international system. In my visit abroad last month, I kept saying to our friends or to the overseas Taiwanese and to members of my delegations, that what I tried to do as far as my country's foreign relations is concerned is to make Taiwan a respectable member of the international community. I want every

Taiwanese when they walk in the streets of New York, of Paris, of Sydney, of Beijing that they are respected. People will say they are from Taiwan, and that Taiwan is a respectful country in the world. Some in my domestic audience may disagree with me, but I firmly believe that this is the right path for Taiwan to avoid being marginalized from the forward march of the rest of the world. However, we will not merely concentrate on our own interests but equally apply our resources in hopes of having a positive impact on the world community. In fact, under this system that the United States started over half a century ago, we, as a whole, ought to be able to right what has gone wrong; to unite as one humanity against the global crises that threatens all that we hold dear, whether climate change, the global economic downturn, the risk of pandemics, or the wars that endanger the peace of our world. In the end, we are the only ones that can overcome the challenges we face. And in such an important partnership, I am confident Taiwan will be there to live up to its responsibilities.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO JIMMY WAYNE

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to take a moment of the Senate's time to recognize the leadership and contributions of Jimmy Wayne to the State of Tennessee and the United States of America for his remarkable efforts to combat homelessness.

Jimmy Wayne began his "Meet Me Halfway" on January 1, 2010. He plans to walk 1,660 miles from Nashville, TN, to Phoenix, AZ, to raise awareness about the plight of homeless youth in our country.

He knows firsthand about the challenges of being homeless. Jimmy is a product of the foster child system who grew up in a variety of foster homes, and he occasionally found himself homeless as a teen.

He was fortunate to be given a second chance at the age of 16 when Bea and Russell Costner gave him a home and a new start. They gave him a place to stay but only if he agreed to "meet them halfway," by following the rules of their house.

It is fitting that Jimmy Wayne is using his "Meet Me Halfway" campaign to not only raise awareness but to raise funds for organizations that benefit homeless youth. I thank Jimmy Wayne for his work, and I look forward to congratulating him once he finishes this campaign.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DAVE MUNSON

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the lifetime of achievement by one of South Dakota's finest and most dedicated public servants. Dave Munson's distinguished tenure as mayor of South Dakota's largest city, Sioux Falls, followed a successful career in the financial industry and 24 years as an elected member of the South Dakota Legislature.

As a native of Sioux Falls, Mayor Munson married and raised his children in the city he loves, pursued a successful business career, and ultimately rose to the position of mayor. He has provided critical, consistent, and caring leadership to the residents of Sioux Falls during his terms in office.

Over the past decade, Sioux Falls has witnessed tremendous residential housing growth and business development. During Mayor Munson's tenure, an impressive sum of over 16,000 jobs have been added in the city. Tax valuation in the city has grown from \$125 million in 2002 to \$229 million today.

Sioux Falls continues to be a great place to work, live, and raise a family, and this has been reflected in numerous top national rankings for quality of life and job development. Most recently, Sioux Falls was named one of the top five cities in the Nation for job prospects by the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey. For the past 8 years, *Forbes* magazine has ranked Sioux Falls first out of 200 small metropolitan areas as the best places for businesses and careers. From adding 490 acres of parkland throughout Sioux Falls to increasing public safety by adding 50 police officers to the streets, from development of 23,000 acres on the east side of the thriving community to enhancing and improving neighborhoods, Mayor Munson has exhibited a progressive attitude to developing and maintaining Sioux Falls as one of the best cities in our Nation. A recent survey shows that 92 percent of Sioux Falls citizens say their community is a good or excellent place to live. Few city officials can tout such an extraordinary level of satisfaction.

I have enjoyed my working relationship and friendship with Mayor Munson over many years. I have appreciated his can-do attitude, his vision for the future of Sioux Falls, and his team-oriented approach to resolving issues. Most of all, I have enjoyed collaborating with him on several large-scale projects that will continue to enhance the quality of life in Sioux Falls for decades. For example, the roadway from "Phillips to the Falls" has been completed. Together, we ensured the future of the Orpheum Theater. We have long been partners to bring much needed water to Sioux Falls with the construction of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System, which will meet the infrastructure needs for increased growth in the Sioux Falls area far into the future.

Mayor Munson has provided a lasting legacy of leadership that will benefit the citizens of Sioux Falls for generations to come. His dedication and commitment to the people of Sioux Falls is unmatched, and I commend his distinguished service as mayor. Another of his achievements, the illumination at Christmastime of the falls for which the city is named, will serve as an annual reminder of his leadership. As Mayor Munson concludes his final tenure, I thank him for his service, and I

wish him all the best in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleagues for the time this morning to speak about a very special flight that just took place. The Louisiana HonorAir flight that came into Washington on Saturday, April 10 included a group of 82 World War II veterans from Louisiana. These veterans visited the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable servicemembers.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, sponsored this latest trip—its 21st flight—to the Nation's Capital. The organization honors surviving Louisiana World War II veterans by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. On this trip, the veterans visited the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials. They traveled to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs, but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there are roughly 30,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. The oldest in this HonorAir group was born in 1918. Some began their service as early as 1940, before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and some members of this group served as late as 1972. This HonorAir group served in various branches of the military: 31 in the U.S. Army, 21 in the Navy, 16 in the Air Force, 7 in the Marine Corps, 2 in the Coast Guard, 2 in the Merchant Marines and 1 was a Women's Army Corps Member, WAC.

Our heroes trekked the world for their country. They served across the globe, participating in major invasions such as those at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, Leyte, the Philippines, and southern France.

One was a prisoner of war in Germany, while others fought in the historic Battle of the Bulge or stormed the beaches at Normandy.

Many of these veterans have been decorated with multiple Purple Hearts, Bronze Star Medals, Air Medals and Navy Crosses.

These men and women, who have given so much for our country, truly

represent our greatest generation. I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 82 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, that we welcomed to Washington on April 10 and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality.●

RECOGNIZING SEA BAGS, INC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I honor a Maine small business that has not only captured Maine history and tradition through their unique craft, but has also aimed to selflessly support various organizations and charities throughout the State of Maine for over a decade. Sea Bags, Inc., coowned by Maine natives Hannah Kubiak and Beth Shissler, is based in Maine's largest city, Portland, and has been using recycled sails to create inventive, environmentally friendly purses and tote bags that are "sailed around the world" and "recycled in Maine."

Sea Bags, Inc. was founded in 1999 on the principle that "recycling is not just a fad, but a responsibility." And while they own a globally successful business, Hannah Kubiak and Beth Shissler have always emphasized making a positive and lasting impact locally. Ms. Kubiak, who grew up sailing in the famed seaside town of Kennebunkport, was inspired by her father, who would often brainstorm ways to reuse old sails. Additionally, Ms. Shissler travelled the world in her work for several large companies before being drawn home to put her business experience to use at Sea Bags. Their work has been featured in a variety of publications, including *Vanity Fair*; the *New York Times*; *Vogue*; and *O, the Oprah Magazine*.

Believing that everyone should have a second chance, Sea Bags has previously partnered with the Maine Department of Correction's Industries Program to engage inmates at the Maine Correctional Institute for Women in helping make the bags and teaching them job skills such as sewing. This 2-year collaboration helped the company keep up with the increased demand in recent years. In 2005, Sea Bags was selling roughly 60 items per year, and it now sells over 2,000 each month. In addition to its line of regular, everyday tote bags—which are water resistant and durable—the company also offers creative bath mats, coasters, and shaving kits. Sea Bags has also created a limited-edition line of "Cure Bags" to "celebrate a cure" for breast cancer. Fifty percent of all of the proceeds from Cure Bags goes to the Maine Cancer Foundation for breast cancer support and awareness programs.

When it comes to supporting Maine's timeless tradition of sailing, Sea Bags donates to the Sail Maine Scholarship Fund with the aim of helping underprivileged children learn how to sail. Sea Bags has teamed up with other local nautical organizations, including the Islesboro Yacht Club Youth Sailing Program, the Compass Project, and the