

We understand that closing the achievement gap and reducing the drop-out rate requires not only government action, but also the involvement of families and communities. In the past 15 years, we have supported a number of education programs throughout the country.

For example, right here in Los Angeles, through their work with the National Farm Workers Service Center, AmeriCorps members are achieving remarkable results. They are raising reading and math scores for children of families living 60 percent below the poverty line. Families that are too often overlooked and left behind.

I believe one of the significant challenges we face in service today is how we build communities from the inside out while also ensuring that they have access to the best national resource like City Year. That is where success lies. We cannot continue to believe that we can change lives, change communities but leave them out of the change process. We need to do a better job of aligning our resources in communities, engage stake holders, and demonstrate the power of service.

You know, many of us think of ourselves as organizers—movement builders. If we are to use the rhetoric of grass roots organizing, then it should be grass roots and it should be organized.

Only by bringing together national leaders and communities can we demonstrate the power of service in solving problems.

I saw this very thing yesterday when I visited Hope for the Homeless here in L.A. This program is changing the face of AmeriCorps. They have recruited AmeriCorps members who have lived the very lives they are trying to change.

Sitting before me in their blue shirts, they talked about leading lives of purpose, about leading lives of meaning, about realizing what it means to have people depend on them, believe in them.

Some have spent the better parts of their lives in prison, others on the streets, but all in the crippling prison of despair. But all of them—every single one of them, has been transformed by AmeriCorps, by service.

I was struck. Not just by their stories, but also by how similar those stories were to those I've heard from other AmeriCorps members—from NCCC members in Colorado, from VISTA Volunteers in West Virginia, and from City Year members in Texas.

No matter where they come from, no matter what their experience—blue shirts or red jackets, the transformation is real, it is tangible, it is profound.

Transformation is not easy. If it were, we'd have it done by now. It takes courage. The courage to cross boundaries, the courage to reach out of our comfort zones, most of all the courage of humility. But if the AmeriCorps members at Hope for the Homeless have the courage to change their lives, and the City Year Corps members have the courage to go into some of the toughest schools in the toughest communities, then surely we have the courage to be bold.

That's really why all of us are here today. This is not about feeling good and good intentions—it is about the kind of future we are creating for ourselves, our children.

This is an exciting time to be in what I like to call the solutions business. We now have a President and a First Lady who understand something we've known for a very long time—service is not secondary to solving the drop-out crisis and other pressing problems—it is essential to solving them. President Obama has issued a challenge that every American become engaged in some way in their community.

Every American, everyone, has a role, and service can illuminate that path, can help people find themselves in the solution.

Last year, with the help of many of you in this room, the President signed into law the Serve America Act, the most sweeping expansion of national service in a generation.

The Act challenges us to do a better job of demonstrating and measuring our effectiveness in solving problems.

Undergirding that mandate are four major goals: First, to fulfill the promise to make service a solution for big national problems. Second, to expand opportunities for more Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve. With new and diverse voices come new and innovative ways to approach and solve problems. So we need to embrace innovation by expanding proven programs and seeding promising emerging ones and finally we need to build the capacity of individuals, organizations and communities by giving them the tools they need to succeed.

City Year, with its laser focus on solving the drop-out crisis is a case-study in the fulfillment of all these goals. You are making service a solution. You are expanding opportunities for young people from diverse communities to serve.

And you're building the capacity of teachers, administrators and communities to turnaround failing schools but most of all you are giving students who need it most, the help they need to succeed. The entire service community has much to learn from you.

While Congress has expanded our mandate and given us more resources, the American people now expect us to use this opportunity to take service to the next level.

That means more of a focus on measuring outcomes to ensure that our efforts are making a difference.

At the end of the day, it won't mean a thing if we increase the number of volunteers and a million kids are still dropping out of school. It won't mean a thing if 15 million people are still out of work. It won't mean a thing if our communities continue to decline.

For too long, too many of us have been satisfied with saying that "we tried." That's no longer good enough. We must not only try, we must succeed. But the only way we will be successful, the only way we will win, is if we have the courage to plant a stake in the ground, draw a line in the sand and say that we are willing to be measured, to be judged, to be held to account.

At a time of great need, Americans are responding to President Obama's challenge.

But, to fulfill this new vision for service, we need a stronger investment from every sector. We don't only need more volunteers; we need them focused, like City Year, on solving specific problems. We don't just need more volunteer hours; we need to make sure those hours add up to results.

In order to do this, we need full funding of the President's budget request for the Corporation and its programs. The President's 2011 budget request of \$1.4 billion will strengthen our nation's civil society, foster innovation and civic engagement, and engage more than 6 million Americans in solving problems through service. If we make these needed investments. If we face the future with the courage to change. Then, and only then, will we fulfill our commitment to the American people.

So, let me say again, thank you to City Year for showing us the way. Thank you to the young AmeriCorps and City Year members who go into classrooms everyday to mentor, teach, and inspire struggling students. And thank you to everyone in this room who is a part of making service a solution.

The great American educator, Mary McLeod Bethune once said, "We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must

have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power towards good ends."

What I've seen City Year do in classrooms throughout this country is give young people the hope for a better tomorrow . . . the support they need to overcome the odds . . . the strength and the courage to dream big dreams. And so, I want to say to Michael and the City Year corps members here today, when someone asks you 20 years from now where did you stand when more than half of young people in some of our largest cities were not finishing high school . . . Where did you stand when more than 12 million children were living in poverty . . . where did you stand when we were struggling to lift up students whose dreams were crumbling as fast as the schools around them . . . you can proudly say, I stood with City Year. I stood with AmeriCorps. I stood with service.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

2010 NEW HAMPSHIRE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the recipients of the 2010 New Hampshire Excellence in Education Award. The New Hampshire Excellence in Education Awards, or "ED"ies, honor the best and the brightest among New Hampshire's educators and schools.

For the past 17 years, the "ED"ies have been presented to teachers, administrators, schools, and school boards who demonstrate the highest level of excellence in education. Outstanding individuals have been compared against criteria set by others in their discipline through their sponsoring organization. Experienced educators and community leaders select outstanding elementary, middle, and secondary schools based upon guidelines established by the New Hampshire Excellence in Education Board of Directors.

It is very important that our children receive a high quality education so that they can succeed in today's global economy. I am proud to recognize this year's recipients who will receive this prestigious award on June 12, 2010, for the positive examples they provide for their peers and the lasting impacts they have made on our future workforce.

The names of the 2010 New Hampshire Excellence in Education Award winners are as follows:

Shelia Adams, Susan Janosz Technology Impact Award.

David April, Meritorious Achievement Award.

Gerard Bastien, Distinguished Music Educator of the Year.

Barbara Belak, Elementary School Counselor of the Year.

Celeste Best, Pat Keyes Technology Award.

Catherine Bond, High School Counselor of the Year.

Daniel J. Clary, Assistant Principal of the Year.

Kathleen Conlin, Special Education Director of the Year.

Andrew Corey, Middle School Principal of the Year.

Anna Marie Davis, School Nurse of the Year.

Moirra DeBois, School Psychologist of the Year.

James Dowding, Business Education Achievement Award.

Julia M. Dutton, World Language Teacher of the Year.

Paul Flynn, Outstanding Service Award.

Duane Ford, School Business Administrator of the Year.

Terri Forsten, Supervision and Curriculum Development Award.

Pamela Harland, School Librarian of the Year.

Christine Haswell, Outstanding Community/Business/School Partnership.

Kenneth Heuser, EdD, The Dennis Maslakowski PDK Education Award.

Shea Higley, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year.

Michael R. Jette, Secondary School Principal of the Year.

Jennifer Lemoine, D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year.

Robert Mailloux, Middle School Counselor of the Year.

Dr. Michael J. Martin, Superintendent of the Year.

Greta S. Mills, Christa McAuliffe Sabatinal Award.

Teresa Minogue, Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Teresa Morris, Educator of the Gifted Award.

Edward R. Murdough, Alexander J. Blastos Distinguished Service Award.

Eric Nash, Teacher of the Year.

Katy O'Gorman Rhodebeck, Art Educator of the Year.

Joan Ostrowski, Elementary School Principal of the Year.

Janet Prior, English/Language Arts Teacher of the Year.

Julie Ramsey, Educator of the Gifted Award.

Joan Rees, Special Educator of the Year.

Christine Roderick, Reading Teacher of the Year.

Matthew Siranian, Technology Education Teacher of the Year.

Thomas Starratt, Middle School Principal of the Year.

Amy Vandersall, Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

Mascenic Regional School Board, School Board of the Year.

Milan Village School, Elementary School of the Year.

Timberlane Regional Middle School, Middle School of the Year.

Newfound Regional High School, High School of the Year.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13405 OF JUNE 16, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO BELARUS—PM 59

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Belarus are to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2010.

Despite the release of internationally recognized political prisoners in the fall of 2008 and our continuing efforts to press for further reforms related to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Belarus, serious challenges remain. The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared to deal with this threat and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 8, 2010.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13219 OF JUNE 26, 2001, WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—PM 60

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the

President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2010.

The crisis constituted by the actions of the persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, or the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in Macedonia, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, in Executive Order 13219, and to amendment of that order in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, has not been resolved. The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in Executive Order 13219, as amended, are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 8, 2010.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4213) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; with an amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill, in which it requests concurrence of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6037. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Value-Added Producer Grant Program" (RIN0570-AA79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 2, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6038. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Propenoic acid polymer, with 1,3-butadiene and ethenylbenzene; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 8827-4) received during