

sent to investigate the atrocities while the CNDD crackdown cast a dark shadow on Guinea's prospects for peace and stability.

During this period, I was pleased to see the Obama administration engage proactively to help reverse Guinea's political crisis—particularly in the aftermath of the shooting of CNDD leader Captain Dadis Camara. In those fragile moments of uncertainty, the consistent diplomacy undertaken by our senior officials played an important role. Working with key regional actors and organizations, the State Department helped to broker an important political agreement, known as the Ouagadougou Declaration, which was widely welcomed as an end to the protracted political vacuum that had existed. The signing of this agreement ushered in a transitional united government that, while imperfect, has been actively supported by the Obama administration.

Unquestionably Guinea remains on delicate ground but the upcoming Presidential elections scheduled for June 27 create an opportunity for Guinea—and our bilateral relationship—to progress forward. Undoubtedly the process will be chaotic and messy, but there is a good chance we could see this beleaguered country bounce back from decades of mismanagement. Of course, in order for Guinea to truly progress, these elections must be the beginning of serious and sustained reform—a process which must also include accountability for the abuses committed in September 2009. Elections are only one component of the democratic process, but still they are a significant one and may give the people of Guinea their long deserved chance to finally turn the page on their troubled political history.

While there are plenty of factors that could lead to another election postponement including the will of the transitional government and the capacity and efficiency of the election commission, I remain optimistic that this will not occur. Certainly there are real challenges to fostering democracy given Guinea's history, but the recent commitment from the Acting President and Chief of the Army to remain neutral and ensure the elections are free, credible, and transparent should not go without notice. I have long said that promoting and supporting democratic institutions should be a key tenet of our engagement with Africa, as institution building is essential to Africa's stability and its prosperity. In the case of Guinea—a nation that has great potential to flourish and thrive—credible elections are an important first step on the road to better governance.

TRIBUTE TO RON GETTELFINGER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, leaders demonstrate their talent and character not when life is easy but at times of crisis. During the greatest crisis in the

history of the American auto industry, that industry's workers and the communities in which they live have benefited enormously from the leadership of a quiet Kentuckian whose devotion to working families cannot be overstated.

When Ron Gettelfinger took office as president of the United Auto Workers in 2002, I do not think anyone, and certainly not Ron, foresaw the turbulence ahead. As his 8 years as president of the UAW come to a close, it is time to congratulate and thank him for exceptional leadership in tough times.

Ron navigated those rough waters guided by two lights: a clear-eyed assessment of what was necessary to preserve America's auto industry, and the sure knowledge that millions of families depended on its preservation.

That knowledge came from Ron's days on the assembly line at Ford's Louisville assembly plant, from his days as his plant's local president, from his service as regional president for UAW members in Indiana and Kentucky, and from his time at Solidarity House in Detroit. He is a sharp, tough-minded negotiator, but underlying his talents and skills is a real emotional bond with the workers who have depended on his leadership. That bond with his members meant that when Ron Gettelfinger asked them to make sacrifices, they knew it was not because he was taking the easy way out, but because it was necessary.

The sacrifices have been great. Ron knows this better than anybody. But he also knows that in making those sacrifices, the workers of the UAW have set the stage for a renaissance in the U.S. auto industry, one that is already taking shape in the form of increased sales, more consumer confidence, and a commitment to the clean energy technologies that will shape our transportation future.

I have been proud to stand with Ron Gettelfinger in many of his battles. Members of the United Auto Workers honor the leaders who over nearly a century of progress and challenge have guided their union. I have no doubt that for generations yet to come, those workers will honor Ron's work in guiding their union through one of the most difficult periods in its history.

TRIBUTE TO NINA THOMAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I express my sincere congratulations and best wishes to Nina Thomas on her retirement as registrar at Vermont Law School. Since 1976, Nina has served that institution with dedication and a devotion to its students. As Ms. Thomas ends her many years of exceptional service to Vermont Law School and its students, I wish her the very best as she enters this new chapter of her life. I thank her for her service, and I know her commitment over the years has helped to make the school the special, unique place it is today.

Nina Thomas is a native of Vermont, having attended grade school in the

same building that is now part of the Vermont Law School campus in South Royalton, VT. In 1976 she returned to be part of a fledgling institution where her care, her counsel, and her wisdom have made a difference in the lives of many law students who have passed through her office. Her dedication helped the school grow into a successful institution for legal education that is a source of pride for Vermont and Vermonsters. Her career spanned from the early days of the school's beginnings to the present, where it stands as a national leader in environmental legal thinking and learning.

As Nina Thomas enters her retirement, I hope she will take great comfort in knowing that the mark she left at Vermont Law School will be a lasting one and that her contributions are part of the school's strong foundation. I know she will be dearly missed by faculty and staff and most especially the students to whom she has given so much.

TRIBUTE TO TOM HOWARD

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute today to a man who has provided immeasurable leadership and dedication to the lives of young people and families around the State of Vermont. Tom Howard of East Montpelier. After 31 years as executive director, Tom will be retiring this month from the Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club.

Tom is a native Vermonter who, while growing up, lived in the Philippines, Panama, Germany, and throughout the United States. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea between 1963 and 1966, and earned a B.A. from Johnson State College in history and international relations in 1970. Tom went on to earn a master's degree in executive development in public service at Ball State University in 1974, and wrote his master's thesis on youthful offenders.

Appointed as executive director of the bureau in 1979, Tom has built the agency into a diverse organization with statewide impact. Under his leadership, the organization developed cutting-edge programs, like the Return House in Barre, VT—a program operated by the Washington County Youth Service Bureau for 18- to 22-year-old young men who are returning to the community after being incarcerated. In addition to his commitment to working with young people and youthful offenders, Tom has secured millions of dollars in Federal, State, and foundation grants to bring sustainable services and opportunities to youth.

We are fortunate in Vermont. I am always impressed by the high level of collaboration on behalf of Vermont's communities to solve its problems. Over the years, I have brought the Senate Judiciary Committee to Vermont several times for field hearings to explore community efforts to counter drug-related crime in rural America.

On each occasion, I have looked to Tom for testimony about the work he and his organization have done with youthful offenders. Tom not only offers his knowledge of work going on around the State, but provides the expertise of his organization, and personal stories about the lives of the young people he works with.

As a fellow photographer, I would be remiss if I failed to note that Tom's office documents a life full of adventure. His walls depict the bureau's accomplishments—such as when he was invited to represent Vermont's 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs at a White House Ceremony hosted by President Bill Clinton. They also capture the faces of those who inspire him, like the pupils for whom he served as a teacher and counselor at the Wittlich Prison in West Germany.

I believe Tom embodies the core principles of what it takes to serve Vermont's youth, from his skill as an administrator, to his contribution as a caring person. I thank Tom for all that he does, and I commend his work to the Senate as an example to others. We are grateful for his service to Vermont's young people and families for the past 31 years. Marcelle and I wish Tom and his family all the best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LADY SEA WARRIORS SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I heartily congratulate the Lady Sea Warriors of Hawaii Pacific University for winning the 2010 NCAA Division II Softball College World Series title. The team won the title on May 31, 2010, beating Valdosta State University, 4-3, at Heritage Park in St. Joseph, MO. This is the school's first national softball title.

I wish to congratulate the team members: Chante Tesoro, Kozy Toriano, Erin Fujita, Melissa Awa, Malia Killam, Chelsea Luckey, Ashley Valine, Ciera Senas, Breanne Patton, Pomaikai Kalakau, Casey Sugihara, Maile Kim, Ashley Fernandez, Nicole Morrow, Sherise Musquiz, Laine Shikuma, Celina Garces, and Caira Pires. A special congratulations goes to Casey Sugihara, Ciera Senas, Nicole Morrow, and Sherise Musquiz for being named to the All-Tournament Team. Musquiz was also named the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament.

The team's success is shared by their coaches: head coach Bryan Nakasone and assistants Howard Okita, Roger Javillo, Jon Correles, and Richard Nomura. A special thanks and congratulations goes to the coaches whose leadership inspired the team to succeed at the highest level. The team's success reflects their hard work and determination. It is a great honor for Hawaii to be represented by such fine athletes. I wish the Lady Sea Warriors and their coaches the best in their future endeavors.●

RAINBOW WAHINE SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the University of Hawaii Women's softball team for its record-breaking 2010 season. The Rainbow Wahine captured the Western Athletic Conference regular season and tournament titles and won all three games in the regional tournament.

In one of the most memorable games in University of Hawaii softball history, the Rainbow Wahine defeated the top-seeded University of Alabama team at the Tuscaloosa Super Regionals and secured their first appearance in the NCAA Women's College World Series. The team set numerous school records this season including most runs scored, 488, hits, 578, and home runs, 158. Team members Melissa Gonzalez and Kelly Majam also earned the honor of being named 2010 Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Americans.

It is with great pleasure that I commend the Rainbow Wahine for a job well done. The team's superb season serves as a reminder that hard work and dedication can lead to success. Congratulations to team members: Kelly Majam, Jessica Iwata, Mikalemi Tagab-Cruz, Rachel Paragas, Brynne Buchanan, Tara Anguiano, Dara Pagaduan, Sarah Robinson, Stephanie Ricketts, Tasha Pagdilao, Jori Jasper, Jenna Rodriguez, Alexandra Aquirre, Kaia Parnaby, Traci Yoshikawa, Kanani Pu'u-Warren, Katie Grimes, Jocelyn Enrique, Amanda Tau'ali'i, Makani Duhaylonsod-Kaleimamahu, and Melissa Gonzalez.

I also wish to acknowledge the coaches for their leadership and commitment to the players: head coach Bob Coolen, associate head coach Deirdre Wisneski, assistant coach Kaulana Williams, and volunteer coach Dickie Titcomb. I wish the Rainbow Wahine all the best in their future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT LITTLE EBERT

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Robert Little Ebert, a respected and inspiring Maryland community leader and philanthropist who passed away at age 93 on May 9, 2010.

Mr. Ebert served as Allegany County commissioner from 1962 to 1970, and he continued to dedicate himself to the progress and prosperity of the area throughout his lifetime. Mr. Ebert was especially dedicated to eradicating poverty throughout his community, and he demonstrated a consistent willingness to help people through his involvement in various philanthropic and community organizations.

Mr. Ebert was born in Parkersburg, WV in 1916, and attended Marietta College in Ohio, graduating in 1938. He later worked as a radio newscaster in the Midwest and served as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Following the war, Mr. Ebert moved to Cumberland, MD, to join his mother in the S.T. Little Jewelry Company, a family business founded by his great-grandfather in 1851. Mr. Ebert eventually became president and general manager of the company, and he devoted himself to the development and success of his business's locale in downtown Cumberland.

Mr. Ebert's leadership and business acumen helped shape downtown Cumberland. He served as chairman of the Downtown Cumberland Business Association and the Downtown Development Commission. He served as chairman of the Board of the Allegany County Department of Social Services and as chairman of the Allegany County Chapter of the American Red Cross and was involved with civic organizations such as the Cumberland Cultural Foundation and the Cumberland Rotary Club.

While Mr. Ebert often wished for his charitable contributions to remain anonymous and tried to stay behind-the-scenes, his philanthropic endeavors eventually inspired him to become the founding donor of the Community Trust Foundation. The Community Trust Foundation, established in 2006, serves Maryland's Allegany and Garrett Counties as well as West Virginia's Mineral County by providing the administrative services, sophisticated investment management, professional advice, and stewardship that help communities maximize their charitable giving and investing.

The Community Trust Foundation served as a stepping stone for Mr. Ebert to establish the Elta Mae and Robert Little Ebert Family Hope Fund. The Family Hope Fund is a leader in fostering cooperation and collaboration among the area's many philanthropic organizations that work to prevent poverty. The fund has made, and will continue to make, enormous achievements thanks to Mr. Ebert's leadership and dedication.

Mr. Ebert was immensely successful professionally, and he was also a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He leaves behind three daughters, five granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren as well as countless friends and admirers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the many accomplishments of Mr. Robert Little Ebert and in recognizing him as a truly inspiring community leader and humanitarian.●

REGENT, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I recognize a community in North Dakota celebrating its 100th anniversary. On June 24 to 27, the residents of Regent will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

On the peaceful prairies of southwestern North Dakota, a city of just over 200 people will be joyfully celebrating 100 years of trials, tribulations, growth, and happiness. Regent was