

can delay kidney failure; however, the only way to effectively stop the symptoms is by kidney transplant. Unfortunately, many who are waiting for a transplant will not survive long enough to receive it.

Aside from the debilitating nature of the disease, the costs associated with PKD are staggering. The current estimation of what PKD costs Federal health care programs annually is at least \$2 billion. This can be broken down as: \$78,000 per year, per patient, for dialysis; \$100,000–\$150,000 per kidney transplant; and \$15,000–\$20,000 per year, per patient, for post-transplant immunosuppressive drugs.

It is clear that PKD is a very serious disease that should be receiving more attention. As we increase our understanding and awareness of PKD, we also increase our ability to find treatments and eventually, a cure for this disease; and that is why I am proud to have helped designate this week as “National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week”.

#### REMEMBERING VENTURE SMITH

Mr. DODD. Madam President, today I wish to commemorate the life of Venture Smith, who passed away nearly 205 years ago on September 19, 1805. A Connecticut man who lived not far from where my home in East Haddam currently stands, Venture Smith's life is one of the best documented of the millions of Africans who were kidnapped from their homes and brought to the Americas as part of the transatlantic slave trade. A remarkable individual of uncommon strength and valor, Venture Smith's compelling story of perseverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds still serves as a potent source of inspiration and hope more than two centuries after it happened.

Originally born Brotheer Furro in 1728—the first son of a West African king—Venture's childhood was cruelly interrupted at the tender age of ten, when he was captured by slave traders, forced to board a crowded slave ship destined for the New World, and sold to Robinson Mumford of Long Island for four barrels of rum and a piece of calico. After more than a decade in the Mumford household, Venture was sold twice more, finally ending up with Colonel Oliver Smith of Stonington, CT, in 1760.

In 1798, by that time an elderly man, Venture dictated his life story to Elisha Niles, a Connecticut schoolteacher, who had it published that same year in New London. One of perhaps only a dozen firsthand accounts of that period in our Nation's history by enslaved Africans, Venture Smith's narrative is a seminal work of early American literature that traces many of the defining moments of his life, beginning with his childhood in Africa.

And while many of the experiences related in Venture's autobiography would be heartbreakingly familiar to

anyone who has studied this dark chapter in our Nation's history, Venture's life breaks the mold in one crucial respect. In spite of the tremendous challenges that he faced at nearly every turn Venture was able to win back his freedom through hard work, courage, and an unbreakable spirit.

By the time he was sold to his third and final owner, Colonel Smith, Venture had already spent the vast majority of his formative years in slavery. Having struck a deal with this new owner that would allow him to work for his freedom, Venture labored with incredible determination—fishing and growing food for sale, cutting and cording wood, and hiring himself out during seasonal hiatuses from his duties as Colonel Smith's slave—to acquire the 85 pounds and ten shillings needed to purchase his freedom. Such a sum was considered quite steep by the standards of 18th century colonial America, and even more so for an individual of Venture's means. But in spite of the tremendous hurdles that stood in his path, Venture successfully earned that money and bought his freedom in just over 5 years.

But Venture's story of hard work and dogged persistence in the face of unending challenges did not end there. During the four decades that followed, Venture fought tirelessly to free his wife Meg and three children, who were also enslaved in Connecticut, as well as to build a new life for himself as a free man. Harnessing those same unshakeable qualities of dedication, resourcefulness, and frugality that allowed him to secure his own freedom, Venture not only earned enough money to liberate his entire family from bondage, but also three men he barely even knew.

And if that wasn't remarkable enough, Venture Smith accomplished yet another feat that—in light of the serious financial and legal constraints that existed at the time—was exceedingly rare for a freed slave in colonial Connecticut: become a landowner. In 1775, just 1 year before the Thirteen American colonies declared independence from Great Britain, Venture purchased the first of what would become a nearly 130-acre farm on Haddam Neck, right at the mouth of the Salmon River. And it was there, in 1805, that Venture Smith ultimately died at the ripe old age of 77, having amassed a considerable fortune from his involvement in an array of commercial activities, from fishing and farming to the commodities trade.

Madam President, there are a significant number of historical lessons that can be gained from the life of this remarkable man—from firsthand insights into the evils perpetrated by the institution of slavery in this country, to a more complete understanding of the unique challenges faced by slaves who were able to gain their own freedom. But perhaps just as important are those lessons that transcend the period in which Venture Smith himself lived.

For, after losing almost everything—including that most fundamental of human rights, his freedom—Venture Smith set about tearing down the seemingly impenetrable barriers erected by slavery and racism that kept him from enjoying the same privileges as his White neighbors. And while his journey from slave to wealthy Connecticut landowner was long and arduous, filled with its share of disappointments and setbacks, Venture Smith never lost sight of his goals, ultimately achieving them through nothing more than grit, intelligence, and determination.

In this way, Venture Smith is much more than a mere historical figure. Rather, Venture's life is a testament to the sheer strength of the human spirit. It is a symbol of how a single individual can challenge societal norms and impact history. Perhaps most importantly, it is the embodiment of the principle that, even in the most dire and seemingly hopeless of circumstances, human beings are still capable of truly extraordinary achievements.

As we approach the 205th anniversary of his death, I would like to thank the Documenting Venture Smith Project for all of the wonderful work they have done over the past 5 years to help improve our understanding of this incredible individual. It is my hope that with continuing academic interest in Venture's life, new generations of Americans will be inspired by this timeless story of triumph in the face of adversity for years to come.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT MARTIN ANTHONY LUGO

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize an extraordinary soldier and son of Arizona who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our Nation. SGT Martin Anthony Lugo selflessly gave his life on the battlefield in Afghanistan on August 19, 2010, while serving his sixth, yes his sixth, deployment in the war on terror. Sergeant Lugo was killed while leading his Rangers in a fierce firefight that also claimed the lives of over a dozen Taliban fighters.

Sergeant Lugo's service to his country began after his graduation from high school in Tucson, AZ. He soon found himself in the Army recruiter's office and enlisted as an infantryman in September 2004. After distinguishing himself throughout basic training and the basic airborne course, he was assigned to the Ranger Selection and Training Program at Fort Benning, GA. Upon graduation in April 2005, he was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Over the next 5 years, he would serve as an ammunition handler, automatic rifleman, team leader, and squad leader. During this time, he would deploy twice to Iraq and four times to Afghanistan.

In addition to graduating from the U.S. Army Ranger course and earning

his Ranger Tab, Sergeant Lugo was also a graduate of the warrior leader course and the reconnaissance and surveillance leader course. He has been honored with the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal, in addition to various unit and campaign awards. Sadly, he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and Purple Heart.

"Rangers Lead the Way!" has long been the motto of the Army Rangers, and Sergeant Lugo clearly took this to heart. The fact that this exceptional Ranger spent his best years constantly deployed to a combat zone should serve as an example to all Americans of the selflessness and dedication of our young men and women in uniform. Words can do little to recognize the true sacrifice required of a young man in his prime to answer the call when asked to deploy six times in 6 years.

I am truly saddened that the lives of men like Martin Lugo are too often honored only in their deaths. Nonetheless, it is a far greater sin to fail to recognize them at all. I call on my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and service of Sergeant Lugo, and in expressing my sincerest condolences to his mother Maria Marin; his father Martin Lugo; his stepfather Esteban Oropeza; his sister Leslie Bencic; and his brother-in-law Christopher Bencic.

#### SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, I rise today with the heaviest of hearts to observe the ninth anniversary of the terrible tragedy that befell our country on September 11, 2001, and changed America—and Americans—forever. We remember those whom we lost that terrible day, but also celebrate the freedoms we cherish and which make our nation the greatest in the world.

On this September 11, as on all that have preceded it, we mourned the loss of those eight individuals from Maine who were taken from us all too soon—Anna Allison, Carol Flyzik, Robert Jalbert, Jacqueline Norton, Robert Norton, James Roux, Robert Schlegel, and Stephen Ward. We remember the heroic acts of valor that will always distinguish the thousands of men and women who went to work that day, or boarded a plane, or rushed to the aid of strangers whose lives they believed were as vital as their own. Indeed, if 9/11 was a snapshot of horror, it also became a portrait of consummate humanity. If it laid bare the unimaginable cruelties of which humankind is capable, it also imbued forever within our minds the heights to which the human spirit can rise—even and especially in the face of mortality.

And nowhere was that more evident than with the first responders who, in the face of unspeakable adversity and peril, heroically ran toward the very dangers others were desperately trying to escape, placing their lives in harm's

way in the most courageous and valiant of endeavors to save others without regard for their own safety. Their service and sacrifice are also a vivid reminder of the exceptional men and women who have donned our country's uniform to safeguard and defend our Nation. Whether on our shores or soil here at home or around the globe, their steadfast sense of duty and love of country are an inspiration to us all, their commitment fortifies our determination, and their professionalism steadies our hands in an uncertain world.

I will always remember here in Maine, firefighters from throughout the State rushed to aid in the rescue and recovery efforts, the Portland Symphony Orchestra gave an inspiring "Concert of Remembrance and Healing," dedicated to those with close ties to Maine who lost their lives, and the 554 employees of a pulp and paper mill in Baileyville who donated more than \$6,000 to help people whom the workers had never met, in places many of them had never visited. One employee contributed his entire \$600 tax-relief refund to the cause, saying it was the least he could do to help. That is the America our enemies could never understand—and never will.

How clear it is then that, out of the rubble rose our resolve, out of despair grew our determination, and out of the hate that was perpetrated upon us proudly stood our humanity. It was an unmistakable message to the world that we would never be deterred—that our freedoms could never be crushed by the blunt and tortuous instruments of terror that are no match against a resilient people certain in the knowledge that good ultimately triumphs over evil.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONNIE VEILLETTE

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

AUGUST 5, 2010.

Hon. RICHARD G. LUGAR,  
U.S. Senator,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LUGAR: On behalf of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, a broad and diverse coalition of international development and foreign policy practitioners, policy experts, and private-sector organizations committed to strengthening development as a key component of U.S. foreign policy, we are writing to express our sincere appreciation for the exceptional work of Ms. Connie Veillette, Senior Professional Staff Member for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, as she prepares for retirement.

Connie has truly been a pleasure to work with on a variety of issues that are vital to the global development agenda—from comprehensive foreign assistance reform, to global food security and agricultural development, to funding of key U.S. government programs that contribute to the success of our nation's development efforts abroad. We

would like to especially recognize her tireless efforts on S. 1524, the Kerry-Lugar Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act, and S. 384, the Lugar-Casey Global Food Security Act—both of which were successfully passed out of committee this Congress.

She has consistently kept an "open door" to our network's members and staff, providing valuable insight, guidance, and support on policy matters of critical importance to making U.S. development activities more effective and efficient. In more ways than one, she is a reflection of your longstanding and continuing leadership on these issues, and we are grateful for your collective elevation of development as a pillar of our foreign policy approach.

While we are saddened to see her leave the Committee, we know that the development community will always have a friend and champion in Connie, wherever she may be.

We respectfully request that this letter be entered into the Congressional Record as deserving recognition of Connie's service to you, the United States Senate, and our country.

With warm regards,

DAVID BECKMANN,

MFAN Co-Chair,

President, Bread for the World.

GEORGE INGRAM,

MFAN Co-Chair, Vice President,

Academy for Educational Development.

#### REAL AND WANTED CHANGE

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, during the August recess, I am sure we all have met with people who expressed frustration with how things are going in Washington. Very recently, a poem, written by Norman Klopp of Cleveland, OH, was given to me. I think it represents what many people across the country are feeling about their government. 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:

#### THE REASON

(By Norm Klopp, Sept. 10, 2010)

There's a rising in our nation  
It is sensed both far and wide  
It's a movement based on common sense  
And deep and personal pride.

In cities, town and villages  
As families faced what's real  
They make the tough decisions  
To make family finance heal.

They cut back here and cut back there.  
They do things they never tried  
To balance personal family books.  
It's common sense and pride.

And is it any wonder  
As they struggle to do right  
That they're appalled at Washington  
With no discipline in sight.

There is a rising in our nation  
And the reason's very clear  
There's a discontent with Washington  
That's fed people's fear.

And politicians wonder  
Why we don't understand  
They know what's best for all of us  
Across this mighty land.

But we still have our common sense  
We know it is true fact  
You cannot spend and grow the debt  
With no thought to pay it back.

Nor will the people silent stand  
As politicians threat  
To shove the country further left