

ideas of Justice Ginsburg in thinking, in believing that unless American courts are more open to discussing the ideas raised by foreign cases, and by international cases, that we are going to lose influence in the world."

Similarly, Ms. Elena Kagan asserted that "it may be proper for judges to consider foreign law sources in ruling on constitutional questions." She further stated that judges can get "good ideas" from the decisions of foreign courts. For this reason among others, I opposed both Supreme Court nominees.

Even lower court nominees, such as Third Circuit Judge Thomas Vanaskie, have embraced the trend. In his testimony, Judge Vanaskie implied that he believed the Supreme Court used foreign law correctly in the much criticized cases of *Lawrence v Texas* and *Roper v Simmons*, and said the "opinions of international tribunals and foreign courts may be relevant" when interpreting our Constitution. Because of his statements on the use of foreign law and his expansive view of the commerce clause, I opposed his nomination.

Looking to foreign law is a tool of activist judges who seek to reach the outcomes they desire, based on their personal sympathies and prejudices, rather than on the law. As Justice Antonin Scalia aptly described it, the Court is merely "look[ing] over the heads of the crowd and pick[ing] out its friends." Further, judges who do so violate their judicial oath. A circuit court judge must swear to "faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon her as a judge under the Constitution and laws of the United States." The oath requires our judges to evaluate cases based on U.S. laws and the U.S. Constitution, not the decisions of foreign countries who do not treasure the same liberties and fundamental freedoms enshrined in our Constitution. The decisions of foreign countries should have no bearing on an American judge's decisions.

This progressive trend of looking to foreign law is deeply disturbing and is something I hope my colleagues will consider when voting on this nomination and the administration will consider when nominating individuals in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IRON COUNTY COURTHOUSE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on behalf of my fellow Missourians, I extend my warmest congratulations to the citizens of Iron County and Ironton upon their celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Iron County Courthouse.

Courthouses like the one in Iron County symbolize the basis of America's freedoms: a fair and independent judiciary. America is a nation based on laws and not men.

While it is not perfect, to be sure, our system of justice makes it possible for

all Americans to live in relative peace and prosperity most of the time.

The Iron County Courthouse has long stood as a mark of this community's history. The county from which the courthouse takes its namesake was originally established from portions of the counties of St. Francois, Madison, Washington, Dent, Reynolds, and Wayne by an act of the legislature approved February 17, 1857. According to county records, the Iron County Courthouse was the product of an order which called for the construction of a courthouse and the issuing of county bonds, bearing 10 percent interest, for \$10,000. The courthouse's cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1858, and the structure was completed just 2 years later in October 1860.

In its 150-year history, the Iron County Courthouse has been the site of countless hearings and trials in addition to serving as the home of county offices ranging from soil and water to university extensions. The circuit court for Iron County was organized on May 16, 1858, by Judge John H. Stone. In September 1864, during the Civil War, the courthouse received damage in the Battle of Pilot Knob.

The courthouse has been featured on the cover of several local and regional publications and, even more notably, has earned the honor of inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We recognize the important role the courthouse has played in Iron County's history and congratulate local residents on its 150th anniversary.●

REMEMBERING JANET FAIRBANKS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to offer a few words in memory of Janet Fairbanks, a California regional planner who passed away last month in her beloved hometown of San Diego.

Janet Fairbanks was a visionary planner who brought people and communities together to plan for sensible, sustainable growth while protecting the natural environment.

From 1980 until her retirement in 2006, Ms. Fairbanks helped guide the development of growth management and habitat conservation plans, first at the city of San Diego and later at the San Diego Association of Governments, SANDAG. Along with her technical skills and expertise, Janet was known for her outstanding ability to educate public officials and a wide array of stakeholders about the virtues of smart growth, conservation, and biodiversity—and then to bring these often divergent individuals and groups together to create plans that enabled communities to grow and thrive while preserving San Diego County's unique natural areas and resources.

As a longtime member of the California Planning Roundtable, Ms. Fairbanks brought city and regional planners together with conservationists to protect some of California's most precious and endangered natural areas.

And as an active member of the California Biodiversity Council, she brought a planner's comprehensive perspective to the Council's mission of protecting California's fragile biodiversity.

Janet Fairbanks helped to make San Diego County a nationally recognized leader in regional planning and conservation. She will be sorely missed, but her work and legacy will live on in the beautiful communities she helped to create and the natural landscapes she helped to preserve.●

ARKANSAS'S "BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS"

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize four Arkansas schools that were recently designated as "National Blue Ribbon Schools" by the U.S. Department of Education. These schools represent the best of our State, and I am proud to congratulate them on this significant achievement.

Arkansas's Blue Ribbon Schools for 2010 are Arnold Drive Elementary School in Jacksonville, Calico Rock Elementary School in Calico Rock, Kingston Elementary School in Kingston and Salem Elementary School in Salem.

The national Blue Ribbon designation honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students. Nationally, 254 public and 50 private schools received the designation.

I commend Arkansas's Blue Ribbon Schools for their extraordinary efforts helping students receive a high-quality education and reach their full potential. Education is key to a bright future, and I am proud of these schools for encouraging students to achieve their dreams and goals through a high-quality education.●

HONORING ARKANSAS'S WORLD WAR II HONOR FLIGHT VETERANS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize more than 80 Arkansas World War II veterans who will travel to Washington, DC, this weekend to visit the national World War II Memorial and other memorials dedicated in their honor.

The group is traveling as a part of the second Northwest Arkansas Honor Flight. They will fly free of charge from Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport to Washington, DC, and back. Without the efforts of the Northwest Arkansas Honor Flight program, many of these veterans would never be able to visit our Nation's military memorials, including the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials, and Arlington National Cemetery.

This year's veterans range in age from 88 to 98 and include four women

who served in the military during World War II. They will receive cards and letters of appreciation from local school groups and other members of the community. To date, more than 700 cards and letters from the northwest Arkansas community have been collected.

In Arkansas, there are approximately 26,714 living World War II veterans, and each one has a heroic tale. World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs, but was also a conflict filled with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including more than 35 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers. The ultimate victory is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.

I salute these World War II veterans, along with all of our 260,000 Arkansas veterans. My father and both grandfathers served our Nation in uniform and taught me from an early age about the sacrifices our troops and their families make to keep our Nation free. All of our veterans—from the greatest generation to Vietnam war veterans to the new generation of servicemembers in the Middle East and across the globe—have sacrificed greatly on behalf of our country. I thank them for their service and sacrifice.●

FORT SMITH'S RIVERFRONT BLUES FESTIVAL

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize the Fort Smith Riverfront Blues Festival in my home State of Arkansas for being named one of the Top 100 Events in North America by the American Bus Association.

Each year, the association compiles a list of the most appealing events across the continent for tour operators who are planning trips for the coming year. More than 600 events competed for inclusion on the 2011 list. This year marks Fort Smith's first appearance on the list.

Riverfront Blues Fest will celebrate its 21st year in 2011, and is known as "The Best Little Bluesfest in America." The festival draws thousands of music lovers to enjoy top musical talent on the banks of the Arkansas River on two summer nights.

Fort Smith Riverfront Blues Fest's entry in the 2011 Top 100 Events in North America reads:

The Fort Smith Riverfront Blues Fest is the premier blues event on the Arkansas River. It's big enough to draw national and international musical talent, yet intimate that you don't have to fight the crowds to enjoy the music. Set on the banks of the Arkansas at Fort Smith Riverpark, this blues festival brings people from several states to enjoy two low-cost nights of family entertainment. Because the festival gets started after 4 p.m., this leaves plenty of time to see the sights in and around historic Fort Smith.

Two other Arkansas events made the 2011 Top 100 Events list: the World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade in

Hot Springs and the Arkansas Trail of Holiday Lights, which occurs in 60 communities across the state, including Fort Smith.

I congratulate all of these Arkansas events and communities for preserving and promoting the history and heritage of our State.●

RECOGNIZING KELD RADIO

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize radio station KELD 106.5 in El Dorado, AR, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

As the longest and oldest continuous radio station in Arkansas, KELD has educated and informed residents across South Arkansas for more than seven decades. From music to news and community events, KELD offers a mix of programming to meet the needs of its listeners.

Radio stations like KELD are an important part of Arkansas's culture, providing essential information to listeners across our State. I am proud of their efforts to broadcast thoughtful, educational, and entertaining programming.

KELD represents the best of Arkansas, and I am proud of the station for reaching this historic milestone. Along with all Arkansans, I thank KELD for their many contributions to the El Dorado community and South Arkansas over the past 75 years.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHY MANIS FINDLEY

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Kathy Manis Findley for being named Arkansas Business' Non-profit Executive of the Year. Kathy serves as the executive director of Safe Places of Little Rock, which she founded in 2002.

Safe Places is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides individual and group support, counseling, education and training, criminal justice advocacy and other services to encourage and strengthen the healing process for survivors of violence. Many of Safe Places' services, including its Crisis Line, are provided throughout the State.

Located in Little Rock's Governor's Mansion Historic District, Safe Places serves children and families who live in areas of Pulaski County that present the highest risk for violent victimization.

Safe Places' mission speaks volumes about the work they do each and every day to keep Arkansas's children safe:

We envision a world without violence, a world in which every child can experience safety, nurture, and opportunities that ensure a future filled with hope.

From that Vision our Mission takes its form.

In fulfilling our vision of a world without violence, Safe Places works in the community to help children, young people and families create safe homes, schools, and communities through counseling, advocacy, support, and education.

I commend the entire team at Safe Places for their efforts to protect our

most vulnerable young citizens. Their efforts have improved the lives of countless young Arkansans, and I am proud of their hard work and dedication.●

NASHVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S QUIZ BOWL TEAM

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize Nashville Junior High School in my home State of Arkansas for winning the Junior High Quiz Bowl National Championship in New Orleans, LA, earlier this summer. Along with all Arkansas, I congratulate the Nashville team for this tremendous accomplishment.

Under the leadership of coach Tammy Alexander, the school competed in the event as two separate teams, A team and B team.

The A team came out national champions with the only undefeated record of 9-0 at the tournament. The group included Jonathon Lance, Hayden Kirchoff, Cameron Alexander, Alex Perrin, Alex Kwok and Tyler Tollett. I also wish to recognize student Jonathon Lance, who was named national MVP at the tournament.

The B team included Luke Dawson, Blake Hockaday, Kathleen Lance, Sydney Hughes, Braden Bowman, Nicole Drummond and Dillon Roberts.

I am proud of the hard work and talent of these students, who exemplify the best of our state. Not only are they to be commended for achieving this championship, they are also to be commended for their teamwork and dedication to sportsmanship and education. They set a fine example for all Arkansas students, and I commend them for their exemplary efforts.

I also salute the entire community of Nashville for providing support and encouragement to these young students. Nashville is a strong, thriving community, and I am proud of the community's efforts to encourage education and learning.

I join all Nashville residents in congratulating the Junior High School Quiz Bowl Team on this significant achievement.●

ROGERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the staff of the Rogers Historical Museum in my home State of Arkansas for being awarded accreditation through the American Association of Museums. The Rogers Historical Museum joins an impressive group of 778 institutions currently accredited nationwide. This accreditation represents the highest recognition of the Rogers Historical Museum's commitment to public service, professional standards, and excellence in education.

Museums like the Rogers Historical Museum play an important role in promoting lifelong education, travel and tourism, and quality of life. They offer a center of exploration, discovery, and lifelong earnings for students and citizens of all ages and all walks of life.