

this great country and the people of Nevada, and any measure of excellence that we achieve will bear the distinct handprint of Margot Allen.

It is truly my pleasure and my honor to recognize the outstanding contribution Margot Allen has made to my organization and to the people of Nevada in the years she has been part of my congressional team and to wish her a very blessed and happy birthday.

NOMINATION OF JANET YELLEN

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I want to briefly explain for the record my votes on the nomination of Janet Yellen to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and to be Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Dr. Yellen is qualified to sit on the Board of Governors. She has already been a member of the Board, and is currently the president of a regional Fed—the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. She has more monetary policy experience than most recent nominees and certainly understands what the job requires.

However, I have serious concerns about her views on monetary policy and her actions during the credit and housing bubble. In reviewing Federal Open Market Committee, FOMC, meeting minutes and transcripts, it is clear to me that Dr. Yellen will support easy money policies and I am afraid she will not take inflation seriously. I do not believe she will stand up to Chairman Bernanke or break the groupthink that exists at the Fed. The FOMC transcripts and minutes I reviewed only strengthen my concerns. I am also concerned that as president of the San Francisco Fed she did not spot or take action to address the housing and credit bubble while overseeing one of the most affected regions of the country. These reasons are why I oppose Dr. Yellen's nomination to be Vice-Chairman and will vote against her for that position when the vote is called.

The RECORD will thus reflect my vote against Dr. Yellen to be Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NATIONAL PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I would like to speak about the issue of babies born prematurely, an area Senator DODD and I have been working on together for many years. November is Prematurity Awareness Month and today, November 17, is Prematurity Awareness Day. This year, in the U.S., approximately 28,000 babies will die before their first birthday. In Tennessee, 236 babies are born preterm per week on average, and, in 2007, 12,256 babies or 14.2 percent of all live births were premature.

According to the CDC, babies who died from preterm birth-related causes

accounted for more than 36 percent of infant deaths in 2006. In addition to being the leading cause of newborn death, prematurity can cause those who do survive a lifetime of health challenges and intellectual disabilities. Even infants born just a few weeks early have higher rates of hospitalization and illness than full-term infants. The last few weeks of pregnancy are critical to a baby's health because many important organs, including the brain and lungs, are not completely developed until then.

We are making incredible advances in how we treat these children, but we need to do a lot more. This is a critically important issue. It is the kind of issue that deserves more attention. I am pleased to be joined by Senator DODD in introducing the PREEMIE Act, which reauthorizes and builds upon our legislation from 2006. It is supported by the March of Dimes, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, to name a few. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

Mr. DODD. I thank my colleague. I am pleased to join my good friend, the senior Senator from Tennessee, in this effort. Five years ago, we stood on this floor discussing the risks, costs, and toll of premature birth. Following three decades of increases, in 2008, the Nation achieved the first 2-year decline in the preterm birth rate to 12.3 percent. This rate is still too far from the Healthy People 2010 goal of 7.6 percent and our Nation earns only a "D" on the March of Dimes annual prematurity report card. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, in an average week in Connecticut, 84 babies are born preterm. More than half a million babies still are born preterm each year, a serious health problem that costs the United States more than \$26 billion annually, according to the Institute of Medicine. I believe that the recent 2-year nationwide decline, albeit small, is encouraging and this should be the beginning of a positive trend. The recent developments must be supported by access to better health care, new research and new programs to lower the risk of preterm birth.

This is why the Senator from Tennessee and I have introduced the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers Who Deliver Infants Early Act. This important bill expands research into the causes and prevention of prematurity and increases education and support services related to prematurity. The March of Dimes has been an important partner through its leadership of a national prematurity campaign, but they cannot combat this serious and costly public health crisis alone. The Federal Government must partner with them to increase research on the causes of preterm birth. I hope more of my colleagues will join us in supporting this important bill.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR PEREZ

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Fresno resident Victor Perez for his valiant actions that resulted in the rescue of an eight-year-old kidnapping victim and the arrest of her alleged kidnapper.

I know I am joined by the victim's family and friends, the Fresno Police Department, the entire Fresno community and so many others across the country in offering my deepest appreciation to Mr. Perez for his bravery, his quick thinking and his willingness to put himself in harm's way to protect a child.

Mr. Perez, like many others in Fresno and around California, was deeply concerned when he learned the news about the abduction of an 8-year-old girl from the front yard of a home in central Fresno on October 4.

The next morning, when Mr. Perez noticed a truck outside of his home that matched the description of a vehicle of interest reported in the news, he decided that time was of the essence and he had to take action.

Without hesitation, Mr. Perez jumped into his truck and pursued the suspicious vehicle. At one point during the pursuit, he noticed a young girl in the passenger seat, which strengthened his resolve to track down the vehicle. After seeing her, he said he had only one thought in his mind, "I've got to get that little girl out of there."

He bravely pursued the suspect with selfless disregard for his personal safety until he successfully cut off the vehicle, forcing the suspect to stop.

Sensing that he was cornered by Mr. Perez, the suspect pushed the young victim out of the car and sped off. Mr. Perez immediately tended to the young victim and called 911 so that law enforcement officials could continue to pursue the kidnapper. When the young girl told Mr. Perez that she was scared, he assured her that she was out of harm's way.

As a result of Mr. Perez's heroic actions and the speedy response by hundreds of law enforcement officers from multiple jurisdictions, the suspected kidnapper was apprehended. Most importantly, the young girl has been reunited with her mother and her family.

I am thankful for Mr. Perez's altruism and courage. His selfless actions that led to the rescue of this little girl represent the best ideals of being a good neighbor, a Good Samaritan and a responsible member of a community.

We shall always be grateful for his heroic deeds on the morning of October 5, 2010. •

REMEMBERING LOUIS HENKIN

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the life of Louis Henkin.

As chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I

wish to honor the memory of Professor Louis Henkin, known to many as the father of human rights law, who passed away last month. He was born Eliezer Henkin on November 11, 1917, in modern-day Belarus. He was the son of Rabbi Yosef Eliyahu Henkin, an authority in Jewish law. Louis, as he later became known, came to the United States at the age of five in 1923. By 1940, Louis had obtained his law degree from Harvard University after receiving his undergraduate degree from Yeshiva University.

Much can be said about Mr. Henkin's contributions to our Nation. As a civil servant, Mr. Henkin worked as law clerk for two of the sharpest American legal minds, Judge Learned Hand of the U.S. Court of Appeals and, later, for Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter. Louis also served in World War II. He earned a Silver Star, the third highest military decoration that can be awarded, for his role in negotiating the surrender of 78 German soldiers to his 13-man artillery observation unit.

These accomplishments notwithstanding, it has been Mr. Henkin's unquestionable devotion to the cause of human rights which prompts me to speak in his memory. It would not be an overstatement to say that Mr. Henkin is a pillar in the field of human rights. From 1948 to 1956 Mr. Henkin worked for the State Department's United Nations Bureau and its Office of European Regional Affairs. He is considered one of the architects of the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention, where the defining terms of what it means to be a refugee and the international community's responsibility in providing asylum to these individuals were set forth. At Columbia University, Professor Henkin helped establish the Center for the Study of Human Rights in 1978 and created the Human Rights Institute 20 years later. Mr. Henkin was also a founder of the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights, which we know now as Human Rights First. As a mentor, his influence has been felt by generations of legal scholars, including Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Anthony Kennedy, Stephen Breyer, and Sonia Sotomayor. Our colleague on the Helsinki Commission, Assistant Secretary of State Michael Posner, is a protégé of Professor Henkin.

Mr. Henkin was a prolific legal scholar. He published more than a dozen books on the Constitution, international law, and human rights. His scholarship has helped inform and shape the United States ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The international human rights community mourns the loss of Louis Henkin, and we at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe join that mourning. Our deepest and most sincere condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends. He shall be missed.●

RECOGNIZING HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I recognize the 40th anniversary of Howard Community College in Howard County, MD. In 1970, Howard Community College began with 1 building and 600 students in the planned community of Columbia. Since then, Howard Community College has grown into a sprawling campus and cultural magnet that draws nearly one out of every four Howard County high school graduates to its classrooms.

In fiscal year 2010, Howard Community College enrolled more than 12,851 credit students and 16,780 noncredit continuing education students. Nearly 30 percent of its faculty has doctorates and the community is able to choose from more than 7,056 classes each year.

The Howard Community College administration works closely with the business community and county government to ensure that the college's courses are preparing students for careers and/or educational advancement in areas that will result in employment and respond to business needs. For example, in response to the national nursing shortage, Howard Community College has developed a nursing program with a reputation for excellence—90 percent of last year's nursing students passed the licensing exam on the first try.

The Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center, which opened in 2006, has added a community cultural dimension to the college by offering three performance venues, two dance studios, and instructional space for art and music classes. The Children's Learning Center serves as a child care center as well as a lab school for students in the Early Childhood Development Program, an important resource for working parents.

Howard Community College can be proud of its rapid growth and its outstanding reputation. The college offers an important resource to the community and works hard to deliver on its pledge: "You Can Get There From Here."

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Howard Community College on its success and join me in wishing President Kathleen B. Hetherington, the Board of Trustees, and the Howard County community continued success in educating students.●

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND M. KIGHT

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I recognize the outstanding career and service of Raymond M. Kight, who is the longest-serving elected sheriff of Montgomery County. Ray Kight was an Army veteran when he joined the Montgomery County Police Department in 1963. He was sworn in as deputy sheriff in 1967 and was elected sheriff in 1986.

During his tenure, Sheriff Kight transitioned the office into a modern,

professional law enforcement agency. In addition to the traditional role in the service of legal process, protecting the courts, transporting prisoners and apprehending fugitives, the Sheriff's Office now provides responsive services to the community, including a family law unit that provides immediate law enforcement and social service intervention in domestic violence situations. Sheriff Kight was part of the strategic planning responsible for designing and implementing the inter-agency Montgomery County Family Justice Center, which opened in May, 2009, and has since served over 2,000 domestic violence victims.

Under Sheriff Kight's administration, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office became the first Sheriff's Office in Maryland to be nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, CALEA. Sheriff Kight has also brought professionalism and recognition to the office by requiring uniforms for all deputies, marked Sheriff's office vehicles, and standardized training. He established the Sheriff's Office SWAT team, K-9 explosive detection teams, and hostage negotiators. These units are deployed throughout Montgomery County in cooperation with the Montgomery County Police Department. The sheriff's deputies maintain partnerships and serve in major regional Federal, State, and county law enforcement task forces, including the U.S. Marshal Service's Capitol Area Regional Fugitive Task Force, CARFTF, as well as the Firearms and Gang Task Forces.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Sheriff Raymond Kight for his 50 years of public service. I ask you to join me in thanking him for his dedication to the safety of the residents of Montgomery County, MD, and in sending him best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.●

REMEMBERING CLINT STENNETT

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I honor the life of Clint Stennett. I join Clint's wife Michelle, his family and friends in mourning his loss and honoring his distinguished life. There is deep sadness associated with the passing of Clint Stennett, who was a good friend and dedicated associate.

Clint Stennett had numerous accomplishments in his life that was cut off far too short. Clint knew the meaning of hard work, and he made great use of his sense for business. Clint grew up in Idaho and graduated from Idaho State University, where he served as student body president. He worked for the Idaho Statesman selling advertising. He later went to work as a publisher for the Wood River Journal, and he served as president of a company that owned various Idaho television stations. He also had multiple Idaho ranches. Clint served in the Idaho State House of Representatives for 4 years before he began serving in the