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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the source of our peace, again at the beginning of another day's deliberations, we crave Your guidance and peace. Lead our lawmakers. Take away any blindness that would prompt them to travel down the wrong path. Lord, lift their hearts and minds into the light of Your presence, empowering them to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. Help them to hear Your voice above the hum of their daily labors and beyond the clamor of the noises that distract them from their ethical resolve. Give them special gifts of understanding, wisdom, patience, and strength.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 26, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no rollcall votes during today's session.

However, there will be a vote Tuesday morning before the caucus, probably an hour after we come in, but we will make that decision a little later today. We will see if we can get agreement. If not, that is what we will try to do.

We will continue to try to reach an agreement to consider an act to extend for 30 days certain expiring provisions, including unemployment insurance, COBRA, flood insurance, highway funding, small business loans, and small business provisions of the American Recovery Act, the Satellite Home View Act, the SGR, and poverty provisions.

All these are extremely important, especially to those people who are unemployed, and those people who on midnight Sunday night will lose the ability—1.5 million people in rural America—to watch local television.

RECOGNIZING THE CABBAGE PATCH SETTLEMENT HOUSE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, when the great-great granddaughter of U.S. Chief Justice John Marshall estab-

lished a safe place for Louisville's troubled and indigent children in 1910, few perhaps could have imagined the impact her actions would make a century later. Yet as The Cabbage Patch Settlement House celebrates its centennial year, the contributions of its alumni to our community and Nation will stand as Louise Marshall's legacy for another 100 years.

Named after the 1901 best-selling novel, "Mrs. Wiggs and the Cabbage Patch," which was written by fellow Louisvillian Alice Hegan Rice, The Patch now serves 1,100 children and their families through a variety of education and counseling programs. Included among its alumni are: an NFL Super Bowl coach, public officials and community leaders, military officers, teachers, coaches, firefighters, and police officers. Thousands of alumni credit their involvement with The Cabbage Patch as a critical factor in their development of strong values and strong faith.

The Louisville Courier-Journal recently recounted the impact this institution has had on my home city, and I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal,
Feb. 15, 2010]

THE CABBAGE PATCH: A BEACON FOR 100 YEARS

(By Larry Muhammad)

Sherman Lewis won Super Bowl rings coaching for the San Francisco 49ers and Green Bay Packers, was a college football All-American at Michigan State University and finished third in the balloting for the Heisman Trophy in 1963.

The duPont Manual High School graduate partly credits his career success to the character-building sportsmanship he learned as a teenager at Cabbage Patch Settlement House, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

"My first year there, in the ninth grade, I even won a turkey trot," said Lewis, most

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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recently an offensive consultant for the Washington Redskins. "They had a big turkey in a crate, and you had to run to get it, but I won that race going away. I had never run that fast in my life, but we had a lot of mouths to feed in our family and nobody was going to catch me.

"And Cabbage Patch was the first time I ever played on an integrated team," he said. "They had great coaches there, great role models, and I think that's part of the reason I went into coaching. I owe that place a lot."

Founded in 1910 to help troubled and indigent children, the nonprofit Christian agency now serves 1,100 children and their families through recreation, education and counseling programs. It recently launched a year-long birthday observance that includes an alumni reunion (date and place yet to be announced).

"We are having a series of birthday parties with some of our partner churches this spring," said Cabbage Patch spokeswoman Angela Hagan. "We had one at Highland Presbyterian Jan. 10. We will be at Southeast Christian Feb. 21, and several others are scheduled. Our golf fundraiser at Valhalla (Golf Club) on July 12 will have a 1910 twist—think attire, for one example—and our auction event Sept. 23 at the Muhammad Ali Center will be a big birthday party. On Sept. 25 we celebrate in our own neighborhood (1413 S. Sixth St., Old Louisville) as a beneficiary of the St. James Art Show Gala."

A function of the art show's philanthropic arm, the St. James Court Charitable Foundation, the gala previously has benefited Kosair Charities and the Louisville Orchestra.

"This year, we decided to do the Cabbage Patch," said Don Keeling, the Louisville businessman and president of the St. James Court Association who, as a youth, played after-school sports there. "They raised a substantial amount of money for their renovation, but they still have more to go so we're going to help them retire some of that debt."

The centennial year of The Patch, as it has become known over the years, happily coincides with completion of the \$7.5-million structural upgrade to its Sixth Street facilities, including a renovated gymnasium, kitchen and classrooms, plus 19,000 square feet of new construction adding a glass breezeway between buildings and a two-story carriage house.

Also, starting Friday, Blue Sky Kentucky, the nonprofit group promoting appreciation of American roots music, is launching an education component that ties into ongoing music instruction at The Patch. "Our objective is to bring the art and business end of music directly to the kids," said Greg Handy, a Blue Sky Kentucky founder. "Once a month, artists will come give a brief performance, talk to the kids about what it means to be a professional, working musician, and how they got where they are now. We've developed a syllabus that covers the art of songwriting and also the business of music."

Formerly an 8th Ward alderman who grew up in Old Louisville, Handy remembers hanging out at The Patch, he says, "probably starting at 8 or 9 years old until the time I got my driver's license. I would meet friends there after school, and actually played a little softball for them. Our family was a lot more fortunate than others in the neighborhood. And The Patch was a place where children could go, be safe and learn life's lessons—just a great place."

For as long as anyone can remember, Cabbage Patch Settlement House has been a beacon of hope to inner-city kids and their families.

During the 1937 flood, when the Ohio River submerged 70 percent of Louisville and

forced 175,000 people from their homes, The Patch, which was situated on the edge of an irregularly shaped dry area, became a refuge for dislocated residents and a clearinghouse for food, clothes and other necessities. It underwent a major program expansion after World War II, adding a game room, various athletic programs, adult activities, and dances. During the 1950s it began one of Louisville's first private desegregation initiatives that by 1963 encompassed the entire operation.

During its early years, founder Louise Marshall often scoured the surrounding neighborhood for troubled and less fortunate children, promoting the value of education and inviting them to the Patch. Although from a well-to-do family—her great-great grandfather was U.S. Chief Justice John Marshall—Marshall as a young woman taught a neighborhood Bible school class, felt compelled to help the poor and was influenced by the success of places like Chicago's Hull House to help the less fortunate. She based Cabbage Patch's founding principles on the biblical injunction for charity in the Book of Matthew: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in; I was naked and you clothed me."

The agency was named for a neighborhood running along tracks of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, inhabited by L&N workers and truck gardeners growing cabbages—thus the Cabbage Patch. The area was immortalized in a sentimental best-selling 1901 novel, "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," by Louisville writer Alice Hegan Rice.

Today, it has the legacy of Marshall, who died in 1981, and the example of dedication set by the late Roosevelt Chin, longtime family services director, whose ashes are buried at center court in the renovated gym named in his honor.

It has programs like the vegetable-growing and cooking initiative From Seed to Table, begun by Kathy Cary, chef/owner of Lilly's Bistro. It consistently turns out winning produce at the Kentucky State Fair, taking second place last year for Roma tomatoes, cabbage and corn, and 10 first-place ribbons in 2000, including best hot pepper collection.

It has volunteers extraordinaire such as Lea Fischbach, who in 2007 received the President's Volunteer Service Award from President George W. Bush for her 11 years and more than 4,000 hours of charity work.

"Those who participated in our programs tell the story of our mission," the agency's executive director, the Rev. Tracy Holladay, said in a statement. "When we celebrate 100 years of service, we're celebrating the hope and potential of all those who have come through our doors, past and present, and those who will come in the next 100 years."

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last night a number of Senators stayed on

the floor until almost midnight—I thank the staff and pages for their endurance and patience.

This was over an issue that was critically important to our Nation. It is an issue which relates to this recession we are in and the fact that literally millions of Americans in every State across America are out of work and doing their very best to find jobs. It is not easy. There are as many as four unemployed workers for every available job. People are taking jobs that pay substantially less than what they are used to earning in the hopes of keeping their family together and weathering this economic storm.

Some of the sacrifices that are being made will literally change lives and families forever. People are losing their homes because of the loss of jobs. Folks are finding their kids have to drop out of college and come home because the families can no longer help them afford to pay for tuition and the expense of higher education. So many families in desperate straits are turning to the food banks in cities across America. As I visit these food banks, they tell me there is a dramatic increase in the number of people who come in looking for the basic food they need to put on the table to keep their families together.

Some of these families have lost their health insurance. It is one of the first casualties of losing a job. Unless you have lived as a father of a sick child without health insurance, you cannot imagine what goes through his mind in that circumstance. It happened to me when I was first married and did not have health insurance. I had a sick baby. My wife and I just prayed we could find the care she needed when we did not have health insurance to cover it.

For millions of Americans, that is not only a threat, it is a reality. When you look at this hardship many Americans are facing, through no fault of their own and despite their heroic efforts to put their lives back on track, I believe it is unthinkable, unforgivable that we would cut off unemployment insurance payments to these people; that we would cut off COBRA payments which help them to pay for their health insurance while they are unemployed.

Yet that is what is going to happen Sunday night. It is because the Senator from Kentucky has objected to extending unemployment insurance payments and COBRA health insurance payments for 30 days. In my State, there are 15,000 people who do not realize this morning but will come to realize Monday morning that their lives have dramatically changed. They are not only out of work and they are struggling to survive, but that one lifeline, that unemployment check that keeps them together, that provides \$250 a week so they can get on with life and try to turn the corner, is going to disappear.

You say: Well, why? What is it that has brought us to the point where we