

Every year, Brad would lend many hours of his communications expertise assisting the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race between Whitehorse, British Columbia, Canada, and Fairbanks, AK. Brad assisted with the set up and coordination of trail communication necessary to allow mushers in remote areas to communicate with race officials and emergency responders.

Lastly, but most importantly, Brad was devoted to his wife of 32 years, Drena McIntyre, and his son Tyler, daughter Graehl, and granddaughter Sylvia-Lei.

A final farewell to Brad included a rock n roll wake at Big Daddy's Bar-B-Q in Fairbanks. Many came dressed in Brad's favorite attire: either Carhartts overalls, a Hawaiian Aloha shirt or and a tie-dye Tee shirt. His many friends and loved ones maintained the ideals of fun and companionship which Brad Brooks exemplified throughout his whole life.

Condolences go out to his family and to all others who were close to him.●

#### REMEMBERING REBECCA WOOD WATKIN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor the life of Rebecca "Becky" Wood Watkin, a dedicated progressive advocate for the environment and affordable housing. Ms. Watkin passed away peacefully on December 19, 2010. She was 97 years old.

Born in 1913 in Portland, OR, to Erskine Wood and Rebecca Biddle Wood, Becky earned a bachelor of arts from Bryn Mawr College in 1933. Four years later, she earned a bachelor of architecture from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Architecture. At the time, Penn did not admit women to its Architecture School, so Becky and two other women blazed a trail—they took all the courses required for an architecture degree, and then insisted that the school confer a bachelor of architecture degree. They became the first women to receive that degree from the University of Pennsylvania's Architecture School.

After receiving her degree in architecture, Becky moved to Sausalito, CA, where she found work as a draftsman. In 1944, after the required 4 years of drafting work, she received her California architectural license. At the time, there were very few women licensed to practice architecture in California; however, blazing another trail, Becky opened her own architecture practice in 1951.

Becky dedicated herself to helping those less fortunate than she was. In 1968, she helped found the Marin Ecumenical Association for Housing, which has provided hundreds of low-income housing units in Marin County. EAH, as it is now known, has successfully developed, managed and promoted quality affordable housing for 42 years. In addition to her work with EAH, Becky also served on the Marin County Plan-

ning Commission in the 1970s, where she was a leading advocate for environmentally sensitive development and affordable housing.

Becky also believed strongly in civic participation, and was very active with the Marin County Democratic Party. She cochaired Adlai Stevenson's local campaign in 1952 and 1956, and in 1960, she was John Kennedy's precinct chairwoman in Marin. In 1968, Becky cochaired Marin County's Eugene McCarthy for President Committee, and in 1972 she headed George McGovern's local Presidential campaign. Breaking a losing streak, Becky ran Jimmy Carter's primary campaign in 1976, also serving as a delegate to the National Convention.

In fact, Becky was one of the first people to give me a start in local politics: when I went to volunteer at the local Marin County Democratic campaign office in 1968, Becky put me to work typing address labels!

Becky left a deep impression on all who knew her. Whether in Portland, Marin, or San Diego, where she moved in 2003, her life was full of activity. She loved the outdoors, and was an avid hiker and skier. Always a lover of music, she sang with the Marin Chorus until she was in her eighties, and regularly attended and supported the symphony and opera both in San Francisco and in San Diego.

Throughout her life, Becky's commitment to her community was evident in the work she did every day. She was a true trailblazer and progressive advocate, working tirelessly to better her community. Her lifetime of contributions will not soon be forgotten.

Becky is survived by her daughter Lisa; sons Joseph and Peter, and their spouses Ye Wa and Trylla; grandchildren Joseph Scott, Christopher, Milena, Katrina, and Lisl; and five great-grandchildren. I extend my deepest sympathies to her family and I feel blessed that Becky was a mentor, and most important, a dear friend.●

#### REMEMBERING WALTER L. KUBLEY, SR.

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I honor Walter L. Kubley, Sr. On December 14, 2010, Alaska lost this shining star who truly possessed the legendary "Pioneer Alaskan Spirit." Walter, who we called Wally, served Alaska in a long diverse career that ranged from work at the Ketchikan Volunteer Fire Department to the Alaskan Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. When Wally was Commissioner of Commerce under Governor Keith Miller, he worked alongside his good friend and Commissioner of Revenue, George Morrison, and took revenues generated from the first oil lease sale in Prudhoe Bay and invested it to create the seeds of what is now known as the "Permanent Fund." This fund evolved and allowed the citizens of our State to share in the bounty of our natural resources. Wally also made

an indelible mark on the infrastructure and transportation system of Alaska. His tireless efforts as one of the authors of the legislation that created the Alaska Marine Highway System have continued to act as the integral yarn of the socioeconomic fabric of southeast Alaska. I myself have spent many hours on the beautiful "roads" that can be attributed to this caring man. As the "Father of the Alaskan Highway System," Wally often talked of bringing his family along on the maiden voyage of the M/V Malaspina mainline ferry from Seattle to Ketchikan that launched in 1963. Wally also served in the State legislature with Senator Ted Stevens, who he remained close with until his death and served as an honorary pallbearer along with Representative DON YOUNG. Whether his title was as an Alaskan House Representative, Commissioner of Commerce, or Commissioner of Transportation, his lone goal was to help his region, his State, and its people.

Wally was born and raised in Ketchikan in 1921 as the third generation of his family in Alaska. After graduating from high school, he studied at Whitman College but withdrew from school and joined the U.S. Coast Guard after the tragic events at Pearl Harbor. With his extraordinary childhood knowledge of the Alaskan coast, he served as captain of a submarine chaser out of Prince Rupert on the lookout for enemy submarines in the waters of southeast Alaska. After the war, he married his beautiful fiancée and the love of his life, Fern, who served as Mrs. Alaska in 1962. They spent 60 wonderful years of marriage together. At a young age, Wally left a cultural mark in the community as he built the world famous Sourdough Bar, the first bowling alley in Ketchikan, the Billiken Bowl, and the Sportsman Bar and Café in Ward Cove. Wally's grandson, Wally Jr., is now the owner of the Sourdough Bar and has continued the traditional weekly coffee forum held every Thursday morning up until his passing.

As the patriarch of a sixth generation Ketchikan family, Wally will be missed deeply by his loving family and all those who have known his caring nature. Wally's grandfather came to Alaska during the Gold Rush and after a few years prospecting in Hyder moved to Ketchikan in 1904 and set his family's roots. Wally owned a cabin built with hand hewn yellow cedar at Mirror Lake in the Misty Fjords. This later became the Mirror Lake Sportsman's Club where Wally enjoyed relaxing times fishing with his children, grandchildren, and friends. He was never without a smile and his own brand of creative thoughtfulness always shined bright. He is survived by his sons Don and Larry, daughter Kaaren, and his grandchildren.

Wally and I shared a common birthplace in Ketchikan and a love for our homeland of Alaska. Without the work that he has done, the state of Alaska would be a different place. I can easily

say that Wally helped create the Alaska that future generations will happily inherit. He was the driving force for many Alaskan traditions and we owe him immense gratitude. May he rest in peace.●

#### VERMONT ESSAYS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today I wish to share the powerful words of 12 Vermont students. As I toured the schools of Vermont, I encouraged students to write me focusing on issues of concern to young people and to recommend short- and long-term priorities for the President. I received more than 225 State of the Union essays about the declining middle class, climate change, and health care reform. These students truly answered, what is the state of our Union?

It is important to remember that part of our jobs is to represent the young people of our States and not just their parents. We all know that what happens in Washington, DC, impacts every American and all of us, including young people, should be thinking about these issues. Although Vermont is doing a better job than most States, there is certainly a legitimate concern that young people are not learning enough about civics. I think these essays demonstrate that students do understand the role they can play in American democracy.

As President Barack Obama presents his State of the Union Address to a joint session of Congress tonight, I think it is appropriate that the top dozen essays are printed in the RECORD, so that the entire country can see the excellent work that Vermont students are doing. I also want to thank the teachers—Jennie Gartner from Rutland High School; Elizabeth Lebrun, of Poultney High School; Joe Maley of South Burlington High School; and Terri Vest of Twinfield Union High School in Plainfield—who helped me select these essays.

Keenan Villani-Holland from Vermont Commons School was the teachers' top choice. In addition to Keenan, the other finalists, in alphabetical order, are: Iain Axworthy, Essex High School; Emily Berk, South Royalton School; Molly Burke, Champlain Valley Union High School; Jonah Cantor, Champlain Valley Union High School; Molly Cantore, St. Johnsbury Academy; Kristen Donaldson, Champlain Valley Union High School; Susannah Johnson, Vermont Commons School; Ingrid Klinkenberg, Edmunds Middle School; Ezra Mount-Finette, Champlain Valley Union High School; Lisa Ogorzalek of Rutland High School; and Bryn Philibert, Champlain Valley Union High School.

I am pleased the students of Vermont are thinking about these complex issues, which are of critical importance to not only our State but indeed the Nation. The decisions that we make on the Senate floor today will impact generations of Americans to come. That is

why I would like to share with you what these students' wrote. I ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

KEENAN VILLANI-HOLLAND, VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL

The world is changing, and the United States has the opportunity to lead that change. Oil is running out, global warming is reaching or has already passed a significant tipping point and tensions with North Korea and Iran are escalating. On the home front, the middle class is rapidly disappearing due to an economic crisis that has been festering for years, we are losing out in education to China and our people have completely lost touch with the government and vice versa.

In older times, nations would go through major catastrophes often: devastating wars, plagues, bloody revolutions, etc. often enough to keep them new. In this day and age, these enormous crises are largely averted in the western world. Make no mistake, this is a great thing. However, it means we need to take it upon ourselves to renew our Nation, rather than waiting for a catastrophe that won't come.

We need to change quickly on three main fronts: The environment, the economy, and education. It is time to realize that fighting to save the environment is not in the least altruistic. The planet doesn't care about global warming or melting ice caps. We, on the other hand, should. Our current economic model is failing all but the richest of our Nation, as it slowly squeezes the middle class dry to supply the rich. Finally, our educational system clearly isn't working when China is easily surpassing us in education and our students feel more overworked and overstressed every day.

Let me first talk about the environmental front. Once we realize that it is no longer a fight to save polar bears, and that it is a fight to save ourselves, it will be easy. However, that realization will not come quickly. We need a huge-scale public awareness campaign to bring that point home to American people. After that, we need to start with large scale energy reform, focusing on renewables and following a European model.

On the economy, we need to throw away our preconceptions about the free market and start over. Heavy regulation to ensure the economic safety of the American people, and measures to start moving wealth back down the ladder to the middle and lower classes are essential.

Finally, our educational system needs deep reforms to focus on actually teaching children, rather than preparing them to do well on tests. Children want to learn. That's what they are supposed to be doing at that point in their life. It's just a matter of taking the time for each individual and giving them the attention they need and actually being invested in them learning new material.

All of these ideas are fluid and adaptable, as any part of government should be. We should never be afraid to change the course we are taking in favor one that may be more beneficial. The past decade was one about "Staying the course." This next one will be known as the one when we "Changed the course."

IAIN AXWORTHY, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL

Our Nation faces many challenges entering into the new year. A recession has about 9.4 percent of our population out of work, we have a government deficit that must be paid off, and a tarnished image of America abroad must be mended. Though these challenges are great they present us with what I see as an opportunity unparalleled in recent history. Our role as a world leader has come into question as of late and good times pro-

vide little opportunity to change that view. When times are hard real leaders take it upon themselves to set the tone of the moment and show others how to react. It is time for America to lead once again.

Our troubles at home and our troubles abroad are tremendous. Our economy is in a weak phase of recovery, our federal deficit is larger than it ever has been, and our armed forces are engaged in a costly war. Relations have become strained between the United States and much of the world. The policies we enact in the coming months and years, both domestically and overseas, must be exemplary. The US has been the center of world commerce and culture for so long that we almost seem to fear up-and-comers. Instead viewing the coming shift of power as a loss we must view it as a win. In the wake of World War II the US helped set up a system of commerce that allowed many countries to develop into world powers. The fact that countries other than ours are realizing their potential should be seen as a great victory.

As we watch new world powers emerge we must see too that they will look to us as a role model. It is our duty and our privilege to set the right example in all areas, both in and out of the government. The private sector must become more responsible for its actions and create shared value within its partner communities. Our consumers must spend and save responsibly. Finally the people who represent us in Congress and our state legislatures must depolarize and find the mutual respect that has lately been non-existent. Once the correct tone is set and our leaders act as they would have us act, then we can look forward to a better tomorrow.

While our Nation sets an example on the world stage, Vermont has the ability to set an example on a national level. Vermont has powered through this recession with some of the lowest unemployment figures in the Union, and though we face our own issues we must acknowledge that we are much better off than many other states. As such, we ought to make concessions in Congress to aid those states hit hardest by the recession. Though Vermonters may be few in number we can show the rest of the country how citizens ought to act and put the good of the nation before our own comfort.

EMILY BERK, SOUTH ROYALTON SCHOOL

Growing up in rural, Middle Class America in the 21st century hasn't impacted my life or my immediate family's life. The current state of the union is coming out of a recession. Personally, I've been very lucky. Both of my parents are educated professionals that have stable jobs, which they were able to keep through this economic downfall. But it didn't mean that we weren't using more of our disposable income to afford our basic needs, such as food, health insurance, medications, fuel, oil, and utilities. Meaning, we weren't able to go on as many vacations, but we weren't losing our house. But I have family and friends that have been affected by the economic downfall. With the relations that I have with the people whom I know that are being affected by this, I believe that the Presidents ultimate goal should be to stabilize the economy, and support our own.

I believe that in order for the economy to become stabilized, a short-term goal should be that more jobs become available. Jobs will stimulate the economy and let people who are on unemployment to go back to work and earn more money. And to allow people under employed to have better employment for their education and ability. I believe by creating more jobs, people will make more money, and more money will then be spent, going to the government to start getting us more and more out the recession. "Creating jobs in the United States