

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT DAM

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, the story of human settlement in Arizona is in many respects the story of the extraordinary efforts people have made to harness water supplies for their use and benefit. Early Arizonans were keenly aware of the importance of the State's many rivers. Recognizing the immense power and unpredictability of those river flows, settlers devised an ambitious water system known as the Salt River Project, SRP. The keystone of their efforts, the Theodore Roosevelt Dam, celebrates its centennial this month.

More than a century ago, Arizonans understood that water reclamation is crucial to life in the Salt River Valley. Arizona farmers organized to lobby the U.S. Congress for a Federal reclamation law that would throw the weight of the Federal Government behind local projects. Together with the vision of President Theodore Roosevelt and the persuasive power of private citizens, Congress passed the National Reclamation Act in 1902. The Salt River Valley Water Users' Association was incorporated the following year.

SRP was the first major undertaking authorized by the National Reclamation Act, and Roosevelt Dam was a critical component of SRP's development. Upon its completion on March 18, 1911, the Roosevelt Dam was the largest masonry structure in the world. The dam captured the Salt River's flows, providing a secure water supply, flood control, and irrigation to communities in central Arizona. In addition to water management, the Roosevelt Dam generated power for mining, agriculture, and Arizona's growing population.

Today, economic growth in the region continues to depend on Roosevelt Dam and its ability to provide a reliable water storage and delivery system, as well as power. The dam is still in operation and provides 70 percent of the surface water available to SRP water shareholders and customers in and around Phoenix. While SRP's mission has evolved with Arizona's population growth, its core function has remained constant to provide a sustainable water resource for central Arizona.

As Arizona continues to develop, we will need the same foresight and entrepreneurial spirit to serve the water needs of a new generation of Arizonans. Mr. President, that is why today I honor those who made SRP and the Roosevelt Dam a reality 100 years ago.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I voted in favor of the continuing resolution to keep our government and all its essential services open and operating for the next 2 weeks. I cast this vote because I believe a government shutdown is in no one's interests, but I am deeply dis-

appointed in the political process that has put us in this position and my patience is nearly exhausted with yet another short-term solution and band-aid approach. A 2-week extension that merely defers tough decisions on funding the fiscal year that started more than 5 months ago is hardly progress. A 2-week extension is preferable to a government shutdown, but it does not provide the certainty that is needed. The American people deserve better than a stalled process which delays important decisions of how we can reduce our Federal budget deficit while maintaining our important investments in infrastructure, research, education, technology, and clean energy which will result in new jobs and will bolster our long-term competitiveness.

The American people deserve a serious dialogue and adult conversation within the Congress about our fiscal situation, discretionary spending, entitlements, and revenues. We need to work towards a long-term solution to reduce both our current budget deficit and our staggering debt. We will need to reduce Federal spending and make appropriate changes to our entitlement programs to meet the fiscal challenges facing our country. To do this appropriately, everything—revenue, tax reform, spending and entitlements—needs to be on the table.

As we make these difficult decisions, we must keep in mind that this cannot be done by just eliminating programs which protect vulnerable citizens or simply by increasing taxes on our wealthiest citizens. Instead, we must find a way to share the sacrifices necessary to bring our budget into balance over the long-term while continuing to invest in scientific and medical research, education, infrastructure and energy that will help create new industries and jobs in the future.

I want to be crystal clear about what is wrong with today's dialogue. For the last months we have heard the sound bites. We have heard elected officials say they are for small government, lower taxes, and more freedom. But what do they really mean?

Do they want a government too limited to have invented the Internet, now a vital part of our commerce and communications? A government too small to give America's auto industry and all its workers a second chance to fight for their survival? Taxes too low to invest in the research that creates jobs and industries and fills the Treasury with the revenue that educates our children, cures disease, and defends our country? We have to get past slogans and sound bites, reason together, and talk in real terms about how America can do its best.

If we are going to balance the budget and create jobs, we can't pretend that we can do it by just eliminating earmarks and government waste. We have to look at the plain facts of how we did it before, and by the way, you don't have to look far. In the early 1990s, our economy was faltering because deficits

and debt were freezing capital. We had to send a signal to the market that we were capable of being fiscally responsible. We did just that and as a result we saw the longest economic expansion in history, created over 22 million jobs, and generated unprecedented wealth in America, with every income bracket rising. But we did it by making tough choices. The Clinton economic plan committed the country to a path of discipline that helped unleash the productive potential of the American people. We invested in the workforce, in research, in development. We helped new industries. Then, working with Republicans, we came up with a budget framework that put our nation on track to be debt free by 2012 for the first time since Andrew Jackson's administration.

How we got off track is a story that doesn't require retelling. But the truth of how we generated the 1990s economic boom does need to be told. We didn't just cut our way to a balanced budget; we grew our way there. The question now is, What are the tough decisions we are going to make today? What are the issues we are going to wrestle with together at a moment of enormous challenge?

This process cannot be done in two weeks, but it should have already begun—and it needs to begin today. The American people deserve no less.

THANKING THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, on the morning of March 7, the Prime Minister of Australia, Julia Gillard, will take the stage in front of the Lincoln Memorial to announce a \$3 million donation on behalf of the Australian Government to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to help build the Education Center at the Vietnam Wall. This generous contribution is a testament to the strength of the United States' relationship with the Australian people and is critical to our continuing efforts to honor the men and women who served in Vietnam.

As one who strongly supported legislation to establish the Education Center, I want to recognize and commend the Prime Minister, the legislature and the Australian people for their deep commitment to helping it come to fruition. Australian soldiers made terrible sacrifices during the Vietnam war. More than 500 Australian servicemen lost their lives, and some 3,000 were wounded, injured, or struck ill.

For years, Australia has been a steadfast ally and friend of the United States. Besides Vietnam, Australian soldiers fought alongside Americans during many of our struggles in the 20th century, including World War I, World War II, the Korean war, and more recently in Iraq. Currently, over 1500 Australian troops are fighting alongside our Armed Forces in Afghanistan, working to train Afghan troops.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial bears the names of the more than 58,000

brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our great country during the Vietnam war. It is a memorial, built by the American people, designed to ensure that names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice would never be lost to history.

By telling the stories of the men and women who fought and died in Vietnam, the Education Center will help visitors understand their courage, sacrifice and devotion.

And through interactive exhibits and primary source materials, visitors will be able to better understand the profound impact the Vietnam war had on their family members, their home towns, their communities and the Nation. Visitors will understand the importance of The Wall and the role it continues to play in healing the wounds left by the war.

The Vietnam Memorial has always been profoundly meaningful to me, both as a moving way to honor those who died and a remarkably effective means of healing the terrible national wounds from that war. The Education Center will be an important complement for both of those efforts. I hope to continue to play a role in making the Education Center a reality and look forward to the day that the United States can share the rich stories there with all visitors. When that time comes, I will be grateful to the Australian people and mindful of their kind generosity.

I wish to thank the Prime Minister, the government of Australia, and the Australian people for their strong support for this worthy endeavor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING FORT LUPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the students and staff at Fort Lupton Middle School, whose relentless hard work and dedication to improving student achievement and setting students on the course toward success has earned the school the title of National Middle School of the Year.

The award is presented by the National Association of Middle School Principals to schools that go the extra mile to address the needs of students at the middle school level through academics and activities. And Fort Lupton Middle School's teachers and students are willing to go that extra mile and then some.

In a story published earlier this year in the Fort Lupton Press, sixth-grade language arts teacher Liz McCachren said that most people assume that her job as a middle school teacher isn't very fun. "I want people to know that it's not scary," she said. "There's nothing scary about these kids or this building. It's a really good middle school. . . . The students just make my day brighter. Every day, I can't wait to be here. That's why this school is

unique. Because we like each other. We work together."

By working together, the teachers at Fort Lupton created Power Hour, giving students time to do their homework while teachers are available to assist. And it is not just teachers working together. Students are taking ownership of their education and helping one another succeed. Through the program "Where Everybody Belongs," Fort Lupton eighth graders serve as mentors for incoming sixth graders, so they adjust to their new school and surroundings and are better equipped for success.

Programs like these help lay the groundwork for student success, and they have built a sense of pride and community at Fort Lupton Middle School. These kids are excited and eager to learn, and they are setting a wonderful example for their peers across the state of Colorado and the country.

As we continue to push forward to do the important work of improving public education and make sure our public schools prepare our kids to be leaders in the 21st century economy, we must continue to listen to the voices, ideas and aspirations of principals, parents and students, like those at Fort Lupton Middle School.

I join all members of the Fort Lupton community and the State of Colorado in congratulating these bright kids and their teachers for a job well done and look forward to their continued success.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, PARKERSBURG

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of West Virginia University at Parkersburg. For five decades now, West Virginia University at Parkersburg has provided affordable and accessible higher education opportunities to the citizens of the Mid-Ohio Valley and the State of West Virginia.

West Virginia University at Parkersburg began with humble roots. In 1961, the college opened in an abandoned elementary school as the Parkersburg Branch of West Virginia University. One hundred and four students enrolled that fall.

West Virginians believed in the ability of West Virginia University at Parkersburg to grow and succeed. In 1965, the citizens of Wood County passed a bond levy to build the college's campus at its present location, making it the only state-supported school to be funded by a local initiative. Truly, West Virginia University at Parkersburg is a college built by its community.

In 1971, it became one of the State's first freestanding community colleges. It developed a solid reputation—which continues today for—its quality technical programs and transfer degrees. In 1989, when the State legislature re-

structured higher education in West Virginia, it was reestablished as a regional campus of West Virginia University.

Today, West Virginia University at Parkersburg is a WVU-affiliated institution, and is the only community college in West Virginia accredited to offer bachelor's degrees. Growing from its modest beginnings with 104 students, the commuter campus now has more than 4,500 area residents enrolled in classes, making it the fourth-largest public college in West Virginia.

Its students are a blend of traditional and nontraditional students pursuing more than 40 programs of study. Most are the first in their family to attend college. Many juggle classes, work, and often families as well. They may "stop out," and later return. Throughout the campus, you can see pride in pursuing the dream and the reality of completing a college degree.

And, throughout its growth and many changes, the college has stayed true to its mission and reinvented itself to serve changing educational needs and deliver workforce-ready graduates prepared to excel in a global economy. As it marks its 50th anniversary, West Virginia University at Parkersburg remains committed to serving the Mid-Ohio Valley region as an accessible, student-centered learning community that is recognized as an exceptional place to learn.

Thousands of West Virginians have started or resumed their college educations at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. It truly is "the community's college." I salute Dr. Marie Gnage and the past presidents at West Virginia University at Parkersburg for a half century of excellence in education, training, and community engagement.●

RECOGNIZING LOST VALLEY SKI AREA

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, outdoor recreational activities are a staple of Maine's winter, past and present. From skiing to snowmobiling, visitors have flocked to Maine for decades to get a chance to enjoy the mounds of fresh snow our State enjoys every year. I rise today to recognize Lost Valley Ski Area, located in the city of Auburn, which this year is celebrating its 50th year of operation.

Lost Valley has been an Auburn staple since it was founded by Otto Wallingford and Dr. Camille Gardner in 1961, when it first began enticing people from the Twin Cities and the surrounding areas to its slopes to learn how to ski. It was then that a 700-foot tow rope was installed in a little known area named Perkins Ridge, where children used to navigate through the trees to a clearing, or "The Lost Valley," as it was called. That clearing now holds "the Lodge," where after a long day on the slopes, newly minted skiers can enjoy a hot cup of cocoa by the stone hearth. Additionally, the 55 acres of trails are now