

most of whom are women—can use a diversity of simple practices to stave off hunger, earn an income and, ultimately, improve their lives, and the lives of those around them. And for Janet, the benefits have been life-changing. Now, she said her children's overall nutrition is better. Meanwhile, the extra income Janet earns from selling products in local markets means she can pay her children's school fees.

If we ignore the reality and the influence of empowering women, the results will undoubtedly be negative. When development programs fail to consider gender differences, women are the ones that are left behind. The World Bank states that, at the macroeconomic level, there is evidence that removing gender disparities spurs growth. According to one estimate, growth rates in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East would have been 30–45 percent higher had these regions closed the gender gaps as East Asia did during the school years of 1960 and 1992. In Kenya, if women farmers were given the same level of agricultural inputs and education as men, they could increase their yields by more than 20 percent.

Therefore, if we open women's access to the means of agricultural production such as: farming land, fertilizers, farm labor, credit and technical skills—the end results are crucial to guaranteeing food security and enhancing the nutritional status of children. When we invest in women and they have the opportunity to augment their own incomes, their families and communities thrive.

As we in Congress and in the administration move forward with the vital process of revamping and modernizing our foreign assistance, we have an opportunity to make women's empowerment a central focus of U.S. foreign policy. We must all remember the lesson that an investment in the empowerment of women is an investment in the future. As chairman of the International Development and Foreign Assistance Subcommittee at Foreign Relations, I vow to make that the case. Investing in women is the best way to secure stronger communities and economies around the world.

Today, let us reaffirm the commitment to end gender-based discrimination in all forms, to end violence against women and girls worldwide, as we encourage the people of the United States to observe March 8 as International Women's Day.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TRACY VALENTINE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding Arkansas educator, Tracy Valentine.

A teacher at Bragg Elementary School in West Memphis, Tracy is a recipient of the 2010 Milken Educator Award.

This prestigious award is the Nation's preeminent teacher recognition

program that has honored 2,500 teachers, principals and specialists with \$25,000 awards. The criteria for selection of this award is exceptional educational talent as evidenced by outstanding instructional practices in the classroom, school and professional and policy leadership, and an engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community. Tracy surpassed these criteria. Her outstanding contributions and commitment to education have been noticed by her students, their parents as well as her colleagues.

Tracy's passion for educating not only helps students, but also inspires those who work with her to do their best to encourage further development in the classroom. This truly is a major accomplishment in her career and something of which to be very proud.

I would like to offer my appreciation for Tracy Valentine's determination and devotion to provide a quality educational experience for students as we continue to shape the eager, young minds of West Memphis and work to keep America globally competitive.●

TRIBUTE TO NANCY WILSON COOK

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I recognize the Honorable Nancy Wilson Cook of Kenton, DE. A legislator, stateswoman, sister, mother, grandmother and friend, I have known Nancy for many years and on many levels. I am very proud to be honoring her today.

Born in Philadelphia, Nancy grew up in New Castle County and attended public school in the Colonial School District, graduating from William Penn High School. Nancy also attended the University of Delaware before marrying her beloved husband, the Honorable Allen J. Cook, and starting their family.

Always curious about the political process, Nancy got her first taste of the political world when she worked as an attaché to the late State Senator Calvin McCullough. For the next 20 years Nancy worked in Legislative Hall, in the Capital City of Dover, taking in the democratic process. Following the passing of her husband, Nancy was elected to the 15th District Senate seat held by Allen, during a special election.

A role model of integrity and service, Nancy served not only as a State senator, but as a leader within the Democratic caucus. Nancy served as chairwoman and vice-chairwoman of the prestigious Joint Finance Committee, and is the longest-serving Joint Finance Committee cochair in Delaware history. As the first Democratic woman to be elected to the Delaware State Senate, Nancy held other leadership roles during her tenure including serving as senate majority whip, chairwoman of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee, and chairwoman of the Joint Capital Bond Bill Committee. She also served as a mem-

ber of the Senate Committees on Agriculture; Adult & Juvenile Corrections; Children, Youth & Families; Insurance & Elections; and, Revenue & Taxation.

An icon in the Delaware General Assembly, Nancy's legislative accomplishments are vast. During my terms as both Delaware's treasurer and Governor, Nancy and I worked closely together on many financial issues facing the State of Delaware. Known for her immense knowledge of and experience with Delaware financial matters, I valued her input on many major decisions.

Throughout my 8 years as Delaware's Governor, Nancy's leadership helped my administration pursue a common-sense agenda that led to eight balanced budgets, tax cuts in 7 of those 8 years, and major increases in employment allowing Delaware to achieve a AAA bond rating for the first time in its history. Nancy has been a strong ally for me on many occasions including creating Delaware's 21st Century Fund, the unprecedented State long-term infrastructure investment fund. In 1996, she was a very strong supporter of the purchase of the Port of Wilmington, which began the port's rejuvenation into one of the world's top ports.

Another of her many noteworthy accomplishments was in the late 1970s and early 1980s with the enacting of the constitutional amendments and related legislation to establish Delaware's balanced budget amendment—creating the State's "Rainy Day Fund" and a formula for reducing bond indebtedness. Nancy was also very active with the Legislative Council leading the way for the conversion and renovation of both Legislative Hall and the Tatnall Building allowing for better public access to the General Assembly and the Governor. She has also been a strong supporter of the Wilmington Riverfront, serving on the board of directors of the Riverfront Development Corporation, as well as information technology, historical and cultural affairs and the Delaware Heritage Commission's Delaware Oral History Project.

Nancy leaves a legacy of commitment to public service for her family and the rest of us to follow. I join her friends and family, son Tommy, his wife Beth and their daughter Morgan; stepson Allen, his wife Judy and their children Allen III, Dale, and Shawn and their wives and children in congratulating Nancy for her dedication and service.

On behalf of all Delawareans, I applaud Nancy W. Cook for her outstanding commitment to the State of Delaware and extend to her my very best wishes for every success in the future.●

2010 ALFRED P. SLOAN AWARD WINNERS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I congratulate the 2010 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility. This award recognizes employers that have

created a culture of workplace flexibility in policy and practice. The Sloan Awards are presented nationally by the When Work Works initiative, an effort of the Families and Work Institute in partnership with the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Twiga Foundation Inc. The When Work Works initiative is sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

I draw your attention to the Sloan Award winners because I think these companies are to be commended for their commitment to implementing workplace flexibility practices which benefit both employees and employers. Integrating various workplace flexibility options is instrumental to creating a healthy work environment for today's dynamic and changing workforce.

Businesses in the following 28 communities were eligible for recognition in the 2010 Sloan Awards: Arizona, statewide; Aurora, CO; Boise, ID; Charleston, SC; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Dayton, OH; Durham, NC; Georgia, statewide; Houston, TX; Kentucky, statewide; Long Beach, CA; Long Island, NY; Louisville, KY; Melbourne-Palm Bay, FL; Michigan, statewide; Milwaukee, WI; Morris County, NJ; New Hampshire, statewide; Providence, RI; Richmond, VA; Rochester, MN; Salt Lake City, UT; San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA; Spokane, WA; Twin Cities, MN; and Winona, MN. In addition, there are several winners recognized in the at-large category. The Chamber of Commerce or other lead organization in each city hosted an interactive business forum to share research on workplace flexibility as an important component of workplace effectiveness. In these same communities, businesses applied for, and winners were selected for, the Sloan Awards through a process that included employees' views as well as employer practices.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the 2010 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility. These businesses are to be commended for their excellence in providing workplace flexibility.

In Arizona the winners are Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education; Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System; Arizona Small Business Association; Barich Inc; BDO USA, LLP; Chandler Chamber of Commerce; Chandler-Gilbert Community College; Clifton Gunderson LLP; Custom Accounting & Tax; Henry & Horne, LLP; Infincom; Intel Corporation; Johnson Bank; Keats, Connelly and Associates, LLC; McGladrey; Microchip Technology, Inc.; Morrison & Associates CPAs; Motorola, Inc.; Omega Legal Systems, Inc.; Orchard Medical Consulting; Point B; Raytheon Missile Systems; Ryan, Inc.; Scottsdale Healthcare; Southwest Institute of Natural Aesthetics; Verde Valley Sanctuary; Western International University—Peoria; Wist Office Products; and WorldatWork.

In Aurora, CO, the winners are Arapahoe/Douglas Works!; Aurora Mental Health Center; E-470 Public Highway Authority; and McGladrey.

In Boise, ID, the winners are American Geotechnics; Givens Pursley LLP; and Idaho Emergency Physicians.

In Charleston, SC, the winners are Booz Allen Hamilton; Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce; Community Management Group; Dixon Hughes PLLC; Go To Team; KFR Services, Inc.; Morris Financial Concepts, Inc.; Santee Cooper; Scientific Research Corporation; and South Carolina Aquarium.

In Chicago, IL, the winners are Deloitte, LLP; Draftb; Ernst & Young; Falkor Group, LLC; Frost, Rutenberg & Rothblatt, P.C.; KPMG LLP; McGladrey; Microsoft Corporation; Ryan, Inc.; Turner Construction Company—Chicago; and Wellbuilt Equipment Inc.

In Dallas, TX, the winners are Abernethy Media Professionals, Inc.; Aguirre Roden, Inc.; BDO USA, LLP; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Capital One Financial Corporation; Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau; Deloitte LLP; Ernst & Young LLP; KPMG LLP; Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control; McQueary Henry Bowles Troy LLP; Medical City Dallas Hospital; Ryan, Inc.; and The North Highland Company.

In Dayton, OH, the winners are Azimuth Corporation; Cornerstone Research Group; Deloitte; MacAulay-Brown Inc.; and Sebaly Shillito + Dyer.

In Durham, NC, the winners are Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau; Durham's Partnership for Children; McKinney; Mount Olive College at Research Triangle; and U.S. EPA—Research Triangle Park.

In Georgia the winners are BDO USA, LLP; Booz Allen Hamilton; Deloitte LLP; Gas South, LLC; Hancock Askew & Co., LLP; KPMG LLP; Merrick & Company; Ryan, Inc.; and WellStar Health System.

In Houston, TX, the winners are Access Sciences Corporation; BDO USA, LLP; Binkley & Barfield, Inc.; Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc.; CenterPoint Energy; City of Houston/E.B. Cape Center; ContentActive LLC; Deloitte LLP; El Paso Corporation; Ernst & Young LLP; HBL Architects; Houston-Galveston Area Council; Klotz Associates, Inc.; KPMG LLP; Memorial Hermann Healthcare System; Pannell Kerr Forster of Texas, P.C.; Ryan, Inc.; The Dow Chemical Company; The VIA Group; Traffic Engineers, Inc.; and University of Phoenix Houston Campus.

In Kentucky, the winners are AASHE; Alexander & Company, PSC; Anneken, Huey & Moser PLLC; Benefit Insurance Marketing; Employee Resource Group, LLC; Fowler Measle & Bell PLLC; Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance; Lexington Habitat for Humanity; Lexmark International, Inc.; Riney Hancock CPAs, PSC; Software Information Systems, LLC; and Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney PLLC.

In Long Beach, CA, the winners are AES Alamitos, LLC; BDO USA, LLP; Bryson Financial Group; Deloitte LLP—Costa Mesa; Deloitte LLP—Los Angeles; KPMG LLP; Long Beach Rescue Mission; and P2S Engineering, Inc.

In Long Island, NY, the winners are BDO USA, LLP; Cerini & Associates LLP; Creative Plan Designs, Ltd.; Deloitte LLP; KPMG LLP; Margolin, Winer, & Evens LLP; SilvermanAcampora LLP; and YES Community Counseling Center.

In Louisville, KY, the winners are A Speaker For You; Big Brother Big Sisters of Kentuckiana; Center for Accessible Living, Inc.; Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C); Deloitte LLP; DMLO; Frankfort Regional Medical Center; Greater Louisville Inc.; JC Malone Associates; KiZAN Technologies LLC; KPMG LLP; Louis T. Roth & Co.; McCauley, Nicolas & Company, LLC; Next Wave Systems LLC; Prestige Health Care; and The CMOOR Group.

In Melbourne-Palm Bay, FL, the winners are Courtyard by Marriott Melbourne-West Palm Bay; Craig Technologies; McGladrey; and Space Coast Business, LLC.

In Michigan the statewide winners are Amerisure Insurance; Atomic Object LLC; BDO USA, LLP; Brown & Brown of Detroit; Educational Data Systems, Inc.; E-IT Professionals Corp.; Ernst & Young Detroit; Ernst & Young Grand Rapids; Farbank Group; Kapnick Insurance Group; KPMG LLP; Menlo Innovations LLC; Michigan Health & Hospital Association; Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration; National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter; Peckham Inc.; Plex Systems; Public Policy Associates, Inc.; Ryan, Inc.; Service Express, Inc. (SEI); Sphinx Organization; Visteon Corporation; and Warner Norcross & Judd LLP.

In Milwaukee, WI, the winners are BDO USA, LLP; Clifton Gunderson LLP; Deloitte LLP; Ernst & Young, LLP; Herzing University; Kolb+Co SC; KPMG LLP; Laughlin/Constable; Manpower, Inc.; McGladrey; Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce; Microsoft Corporation; Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation; Robert W. Baird & Co.; and The Novo Group.

In Morris County, NJ, the winners are DMC Athletics and Rehabilitation; Family Service of Morris County; KPMG LLP; NJ Foundation for the Blind; and Solix Inc.

In New Hampshire the winners are MeetingMatrix International, Inc.; Northeast Delta Dental; and Student Conservation Association.

In Providence, RI, the winners are KPMG LLP; Rhode Island Housing; Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc.; and Sansiveri, Kimball, and Company, LLP.

In Richmond, VA, the winners are BDO USA, LLP; Bon Secours Richmond Health System; Capital One Financial Corporation, Rink and Vaco Richmond, LLC.

In Rochester, MN, the winners are Cardinal of Minnesota, Ltd.; Custom

Alarm/Custom Communications; First Alliance Credit Union; Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association; market; McGladrey; Rochester Area Family Y; Southeast Service Cooperative; Stanley Jones & Associates; University of Minnesota Rochester; and Winona State University Rochester.

In Salt Lake City, UT, the winners are 1-800 CONTACTS, Inc.; Café Rio Mexican Grill; Christopherson Business Travel; CRSA; Deloitte LLP; Employer Solutions Group; Futura Industries; Intermountain Financial Group, LLC; Intermountain Healthcare; McKinnon-Mulherin, Inc.; Nelson Labs, Inc.; Software Technology Group; and Utah Food Services.

In San Francisco, CA the winners are BDO USA, LLP and KPMG LLP.

In Seattle, WA, the winners are Bader Martin, P.S.; BECU; Blue Gecko; Cascadia Consulting Group, Inc.; Deloitte LLP; EdLab Group; National CASA Association; nrg::seattle; People For Puget Sound; Peterson Sullivan LLP; Prolumina; Senior Services; SH Worldwide, LLC; Snohomish County Human Resources; Talaris Institute; Technology Services Company, Inc.; Washington State Hospital Association; and WithinReach.

In Spokane, WA, the winners are Associated Industries of the Inland Northwest; CHRM Hill—Spokane; and Humanix Staffing and Recruiting.

In the Twin Cities the winners are Carlson; Deloitte LLP; Dorsey & Whitney LLP; Ernst & Young; Health Dimensions Group; KPMG LLP; Mahoney, Ulbrich, Christiansen Russ PA; McGladrey; MRM Minneapolis; Spanlink Communications; and Western National Mutual Insurance Company.

In Winona, MN, the winners are Catholic Charities of the Diocese on Winona; Mediascope, Inc.; Merchants Bank; Sport & Spine Physical Therapy of Winona Inc.; Thern Inc; and Winona Workforce Center.

The At-large winners are BioPharm Systems, San Mateo, CA; Bon Secours Hampton Roads, Norfolk, VA; Center for Seabees & Facilities Engineering, Port Hueneme, CA; Cisco Systems Inc., San Jose, CA; cSubs, Ramsey, NJ; Executive Transport Detachment, Sigonella, Sigonella, Italy; FeatureTel LLC, Apex, NC; George Mason University—Fairfax campus, Fairfax, VA; J.A. Counter & Associates, Inc., New Richmond, WI; Machen, McChesney & Chastain, LLP, Auburn, AL; Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, San Diego, CA; Merrick & Company, Albuquerque, NM; Merrick & Company, Oakridge, TN; Naval Aviation Forecast Detachment Sembach, Sembach, Germany; Naval Education and Training Command, Pensacola, FL; Naval Submarine Support Command Pearl Harbor, Pearl Harbor, HI; Pride Inc., Bismarck, ND; SiteCrafting, Inc., Tacoma, WA; State Farm Insurance, Austin, TX; Technomics, Inc., Arlington, VA; and USN Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training and Evaluation Unit TWO, Virginia Beach, VA.

Companies with at-large winners in multiple cities are BDO USA, LLP; KPMG LLP; McGladrey; and Ryan, Inc.

Again, I congratulate the 2010 winners of the Sloan awards and look forward to the ongoing recognition of this worthwhile initiative.●

BOB LEVINSON'S DISAPPEARANCE

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, 4 years ago yesterday, a man who had spent more than 28 years serving the United States of America disappeared from Kish Island in the Persian Gulf. His name is Bob Levinson, and he is a dedicated husband and father, a retired FBI agent, and one of my constituents.

Today Bob Levinson remains missing, and we must bring him home.

On March 8, 2007, Bob traveled to Kish, an Iranian free trade zone, on a business trip. From what we know, he checked into his hotel, checked out on March 9, got into a taxi, and then disappeared.

In the 4 years since then, I have worked closely with the State Department and the Swiss government to lodge a number of requests for information with the Iranian government. Bob's wife Christine has traveled to Iran and visited Kish on a fact-finding mission. She and her children have remained steadfast and determined in their mission to bring Bob home.

Just last week, Secretary Clinton offered a glimmer of hope: we now have recent indications that Bob is alive and being held somewhere in Southwest Asia. Secretary Clinton also asked the Government of Iran to undertake humanitarian efforts to return him home safely.

Today, on the fourth anniversary of Bob's disappearance, I join Secretary Clinton's call for the Government of Iran to do all it can to reunite Bob Levinson with his family. The Iranians have long offered their assistance, and now it's time for them to make good on that commitment.

Christine Levinson and her children have waited 4 long years for Bob to come home. It is time to grant their wish.●

RECOGNIZING PORTAGE WOODS PRODUCTS, LLC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, since settlers first occupied the vast forest areas found in my home State of Maine, the logging industry has been a vital part of the state's economy. Last year, approximately 2,600 were employed by the forestry and logging industry, and over 4,000 were employed in wood product manufacturing. Maine loggers have constantly been at the forefront of advances in their industry, including inventing the Peavey hook and the Lombard log hauler. Despite these great advancements, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA, considers logging to be one of the most dangerous industries in the

United States. Today I commend and recognize Portage Woods Products LLC, a logging company in my home State of Maine, for receiving the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program, SHARP, award, OSHA's highest honor for small businesses that show an exemplary commitment to workplace safety and health.

Portage Woods Products LLC, a division of Maine Woods Company LLC, located in the northern Maine town of Portage, knows what it takes to be a successful small business without compromising safety and integrity. The Pingree family has been invested in logging since 1841. Currently their small business employs 63 individuals and distributes \$2.6 million in payroll. In 2006, the Pingrees acquired and integrated Portage Woods Products, or PWP, into Maine Woods Company. The Portage Woods site is the only fully integrated hardwood manufacturing complex in the Northeast.

Throughout its history, PWP has strived to uphold its mission, "to manufacture quality hardwood lumber at the lowest cost while providing for a safe work environment." To do so, the firm incorporates accident prevention into its training of employees, and asks workers to remember that, "no job is more important than your safety!"

Clearly, Portage Woods Products makes safety a priority, and in December 2010 OSHA recognized this aspect of the business by honoring the company with the SHARP award. This is truly distinctive, as less than 1,600 small worksites currently possess this honor. I commend the company's high achievement and its laudable commitment to safety. I know firsthand that small businesses face unparalleled burdens in complying with all types of regulations, which only makes this accomplishment all the more impressive.

Portage Woods Products has demonstrated that when a company sets goals and prides itself on safety, it is possible to attain excellence. I thank everyone at PWP and Maine Woods Company for their dedication and commitment to a safe and productive work environment, and offer my best wishes for another 150 years of success.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "CHUCK" WIELGUS

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Charles "Chuck" Wielgus of Colorado Springs, a recipient of the 2010 Great Comebacks Award for the Western Region. This award honors 12 individuals throughout the United States who have struggled with a chronic intestinal condition and have exhibited extraordinary strength and courage in fighting to ensure that this condition does not affect their ability to live life on their terms.

Chuck was serving as executive director of USA Swimming in 2006 when he was diagnosed with stage III colorectal cancer. His diagnosis required radiation and chemotherapy therapy, as