

Dana-Farber. As we waited in a corridor, every doctor who passed greeted the two warmly. One doctor, a Kentuckian himself, joked with Rick about the next bone marrow transplant he might need, saying it would undoubtedly be easy to find a donor of cells "because we know that all Kentuckians are related." ("Oooh, be careful," said Rick. "Mrs. Loomis, here—she's from the press.")

I next saw Corman twice in New York City. On a Monday he unexpectedly dropped by my office to introduce me to the University of Kentucky's famous basketball coach, John Calipari. The two men had flown to New York for the day to shop at Brioni, the upscale tailoring establishment that makes Rick's flamboyant, double-vent red sports jackets. I thanked Calipari for a favor he'd done me. There had been a time, early on, when Rick thought he might not cooperate with this article. But friends had talked him into it, among them Calipari, who argued, "Somebody reading it might be inspired."

In my other New York visit with Rick, he came to breakfast at my office cafeteria in December so I could do a little wind-up reporting. Heads turned to marvel at his jacket as we stood waiting for our bacon and eggs. He was in Manhattan to take 130 people to the Radio City Christmas show and then to dinner at Del Frisco's, an expensive restaurant nearby.

On that Friday morning he had the look of invincibility that appears to have characterized him all his life, but that sometimes, as you've read, is stripped away by sadness. Even so, Rick Corman had made it to that December day and to the others that passed before this story closed some weeks later. He'd "done good," by his way of reckoning. You can't help but feel that he will keep on beating the odds. And, when his luck runs out, the word will go up on the company website, and the world will have lost some of its style.

TIBET

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to express my continuing concern about the current situation in Tibet.

Before I do so, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a recent statement made by His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his political future.

In his March 10 statement marking the 52nd anniversary of the Tibetan uprising, His Holiness announced his intention to propose amendments to the Charter for Tibetans in Exile, handing over his formal authority to an elected leader.

Let me read a portion of his message to the Fourteenth Assembly of the Tibetan People's Deputies:

The essence of a democratic system is, in short, the assumption of political responsibility by elected leaders for the popular good. In order for our process of democratization to be complete, the time has come for me to devolve my formal authority to such an elected leadership.

I applaud His Holiness for this decision and I stand ready to do my part to help the Tibetan community in exile transition to a new political structure.

I take great comfort in the knowledge that His Holiness will continue his role as spiritual leader to the Tibetan people and will work tirelessly to preserve the Tibetan culture both inside and outside of Tibet.

I also support His Holiness' call for fact-finding delegations to Tibet, including representatives of international parliamentarians, to see for themselves the current situation on the ground.

As His Holiness pointed out, similar delegations visited Tibet in the late 1970s and early 1980s and I strongly encourage China to allow them again.

I believe such delegations could increase awareness about the challenges facing Tibetans and Tibetan culture and enhance dialogue and cooperation with China on finding mutually beneficial solutions.

Indeed, as a friend of His Holiness and as a friend of all Tibetan people, I remain deeply concerned about the situation in Tibet.

In 2008, a wave of violence swept across Tibet which was met with violence by the Chinese government.

Reports out of Tibet continue to paint a picture of the suppression the Tibetan culture and people are confronted with.

And despite nine rounds of talks between the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China and envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a comprehensive solution to the Tibetan issue remains out of reach.

As a friend of China and the Dalai Lama, I am saddened to see the situation in Tibet further deteriorate.

The Dalai Lama has been trying to engage the Chinese leadership for more than 50 years.

In the 1990s, I carried three letters to President Jiang Zemin from the Dalai Lama requesting a face-to-face meeting.

In my view, the Dalai Lama's concerns are driven by the fact that the Chinese Government continues to suppress the Tibetan way of life.

Yet he has made it clear that he does not support independence for Tibet, but rather meaningful cultural and religious autonomy for the Tibetan people within the People's Republic of China.

This can only come about through meaningful dialogue and negotiation, not actions that would undermine Tibetan culture.

As such, I urge the administration to support fact-finding delegations to Tibet and work with our friends and allies in the international community to call on the Chinese Government to begin a substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama on national reconciliation, respect for the Tibetan culture, and meaningful autonomy for Tibet.

I have been blessed to call the Dalai Lama a friend for more than 30 years. I first met him during a trip to India and Nepal in the fall of 1978.

During that trip I invited His Holiness to visit San Francisco—where I was mayor at the time—and he accepted. In September 1979, I was delighted to welcome the Dalai Lama to San Francisco to receive his first public recognition in the United States.

During our many conversations, His Holiness often reiterates that, at its

core, Buddhism espouses reaching out to help others, particularly the less fortunate. And it encourages us all to be more kind and compassionate.

His teachings truly cross all religions, cultures, and ethnic lines.

Over the decades, his principled beliefs have never wavered, yet his teachings have become more expansive. His message of peace and understanding has never been more relevant than it is today.

In the midst of war and bloodshed, the Dalai Lama has been a champion for peace and nonviolence. In his quiet but undeniably firm manner, he challenges all of us to look beyond conflict and harmful rhetoric to seek positive change by embracing dialogue, cooperation, and negotiated solutions.

In the face of hatred and intolerance, he has faith in love, compassion, and respect.

He reminds people from all corners of the globe to move beyond our ethnic, religious, and racial divisions and embrace our common humanity. He encourages us to believe in something bigger than ourselves and work together for a better future.

He sets a wonderful example for all of us, and I am proud to call him friend.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Dalai Lama in working toward a humanitarian solution to the problems plaguing Tibet and the Tibetan people.

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, today I applaud the President in declaring March 2011 Irish-American Heritage Month, and I speak in celebration of the rich Irish history, culture, and customs still alive today in the hearts and minds of Irish Americans everywhere.

The association of our two nations began early in our country's history. Irish immigrants arrived in the early colonial days as indentured servants, which was often the only affordable method of passage to the "New World." Close to a quarter of a million Irish immigrated during the colonial era, and many of them to Maryland. Upon their arrival, they set immediately upon the heady things of the time: independence, and the building of a nation. Irish immigrants took up their new national identity with fervor, especially in Maryland, and helped to found lasting institutions. Charles Carroll, his family descendants from the O Cearbhaill lords of Eile, was a member of the second Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. His cousin, John Carroll, born in Upper Marlboro, was elected the first bishop of Baltimore, and was elevated to the first Archbishop of the United States when Pope Pius VII made Baltimore the first American Catholic archdiocese. James Calhoun, of Irish descent, was the first mayor of Baltimore City, and held a commission with the Baltimore militia.

From these auspicious beginnings, those reporting Irish ancestry in Maryland have today grown to over 700,000, according to the 2006 American Community Survey. These sons and daughters of Eire did not grow without tribulation. As famine and hunger gripped the Emerald Isle, nearly 3.5 million Irish immigrants fled to America between 1820 and 1880, engendering discriminatory reactions that often strayed into violence. Signs of "No Irish Need Apply" appeared in business windows, and young Irishmen were often drummed into service on the quayside to fight for the Union Army. Indeed, in my own home town of Baltimore, the mayoral elections of 1856, 1857 and 1858 were marred by violence, political intimidation and well-founded accusations of ballot-box stuffing, fomented by nativist political organizations, such as the Know-Nothing Party.

Irish Americans pushed past these shortsighted prejudices, time and again, and put their shoulders to the wheel of industry in America. They helped settle and farm the breadbasket of America, they took up arms in the defense of freedom and liberty, and they helped build an ever strengthening bond with the island nation of Ireland. They built strong communities around the values of hard work, perseverance, faith, and a shared remembrance of an ancestral home across the sea. Irish Americans have ever understood that great joy is only earned with great hardship, and our 35th President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, showed this ethic. In service to our country, he faced down the threat of worldwide nuclear annihilation, and pushed our Nation to do the impossible: to claim the Moon as the province of man. Irish Americans proudly continue this tradition of service, and serve at every level of public office, including in the Governor's Mansion in Annapolis, MD, where Maryland's favorite Irish-American son, Governor Martin O'Malley, resides.

The millions of Irish that immigrated to the United States, escaping hunger and religious persecution, chasing the elusive American dream, forever knitted Ireland and America together. It is right that we honor this bond, and take this occasion to reflect on the deeply inlaid threads of American history and tradition that sound, look, feel, and are distinctly Irish.

HOUSE HEARINGS ON MUSLIM AMERICANS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today about an issue of grave concern to me. All of us agree that America must be vigilant to stop violent extremists and terrorists who want to attack our Nation. We must do everything possible to fight terrorism and keep our country safe and free.

But as we have seen, the House of Representatives recently held a hearing on the "Extent of Radicalization in the American Muslim Community and

that Community's Response," targeting only Muslim Americans. This approach is the wrong way to fight terrorism.

History has shown us that terrorists can come from anywhere, from any country or from any faith. We sadly know this from the tragedy in Oklahoma City. Focusing only on one group is not only un-American, it also ignores real threats from homegrown terrorists. Unfortunately, there are extremists in every religion. We know that the terrorists who attacked us on September 11, 2001, had perverted the message of Islam just as people have perverted other faiths at times throughout history to justify violent acts.

America is home to millions of hard-working, patriotic Muslim Americans who stand with us in the fight against terrorism. Muslim Americans died in the attack on September 11, 2001, and Muslim-American firefighters and police officers, who rushed into the towers to save people while putting their own lives at risk, were rightly called heroes.

I am proud to represent the great State of Michigan where we benefit every day from the hard work and dedication of Muslim leaders in business, medicine, education, science and many other professions. America was founded on the premise that all of its citizens are free to practice their religion openly, without government interference. We are a country founded on the principles of equality and liberty.

I urge my colleagues to continue to forcefully fight terrorism while respecting the values that our country was built upon.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT JAY FREDERICK SIMPSON

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today in honor of a man who gave his life serving the United States of America in World War II.

LT Jay Frederick Simpson was a pilot with the "Mighty Eighth" Air Force of the U.S. Army Air Corps.

On January 9, 1944, Lieutenant Simpson's mission was to test fly a Thunderbolt P-47 over Moreton, England. But something went wrong. His plane caught fire and flipped over in the air. As the P-47 hurtled to the ground, witnesses say Lieutenant Simpson managed to guide it away from nearby homes, avoiding certain casualties. Instead that P-47 crashed in a nearby field, killing the 27-year-old pilot.

Today, LT Jay Simpson is still celebrated as a hero in England. In fact, you can find a memorial to him in that grassy field.

But for three generations following Lieutenant Simpson's death, his heroism was overlooked by his own country. Until a year and a half ago. That is when a young man in Billings, MT, started doing some research. With help from his father and his grandfather, 14-year-old James Simpson discovered

that his great-grandfather Jay never received the recognition he earned as a fallen American hero.

Young Jim Simpson wrote me a letter, saying proper recognition of his great-grandfather's service and sacrifice would bring about much needed closure for his family.

Indeed, honoring our heroes brings about much needed closure for all Americans. On behalf of a grateful nation, it is my tremendous honor to present LT Jay Simpson's medals to his great-grandson.

To Jim and all the Simpson family: Let these medals be family treasures that remind you—and all of us—that this Nation will never forget Jay's heroism. And we will never forget all Americans—known or unknown, celebrated or overlooked—who paid the ultimate price in service to the United States.

It is said that Lieutenant Simpson was a member of the Greatest Generation. But thanks to people like young Jim Simpson, I am reminded that there is greatness in all generations.

Thank you, Jim, for your hard work in allowing us to honor your great-grandfather. God bless you and your family.

REMEMBERING FRANK BUCKLES

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I was honored to participate in the events at Arlington National Cemetery to pay tribute to Frank Woodruff Buckles, the last surviving American World War I veteran and the representative of the lost generation of our "Doughboys." It was a moving afternoon standing with so many on the knoll and seeing Frank Buckles buried in section 34, in sight of General Pershing's grave and among many other World War I veterans. I also thought about the American flags at half mast in our embassies in the countries of our World War I allies.

Honestly though, the way I want to remember Frank Buckles is in his study, surrounded by books and telling amazing stories about the adventures of his life. Frank Buckles' rich and colorful life is now part of our national history, our national consciousness and our national effort to pay tribute to the men and women who died in the most significant wars of the last century.

Frank's effort to join the Army was a deliberate commitment to join military service and he was eager to get to Europe. He loved the Army and his service in World War I as an ambulance driver which exposed him to some of the worst horrors of that conflict.

After his military service, Frank Buckles continued his efforts to engage the world. His life, a long sweeping arc across the last century, included an exciting and varied life where he traveled the world, working abroad and experiencing things that most of us can only read about. As if he hadn't endured enough suffering in the First World