

and foster increasing religious intolerance and sectarian violence.

I have joined Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ on a resolution condemning the New Year's Day attack in Egypt and expressing condolences to all Egyptians who have suffered from terrorist attacks in the past.

Egypt has a reputation as a peaceful, moderate Arab state, where, as provided under its laws, all faiths are free to practice their religion without fear of retribution or violence. Egypt is a leader in the region and a close friend of the United States. But there is no place in Egyptian society for the kind of extremists who attacked and killed peaceful churchgoers on New Year's Day.

I again express my deepest condolences to the members of Saints Church and join all of America in prayers for the victims of this tragedy.

REMEMBERING SARGENT SHRIVER

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a hero of mine, Robert Sargent Shriver. He was a man of real courage, extraordinary idealism, committed to serving this country, and a dear friend.

As a veteran of World War II, the founding director of the Peace Corps, and the driving force behind Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty, Sarge believed in the good things government can do for people. Among his many accomplishments, he gave us the Head Start program, the Job Corps and Legal Services for the Poor, and the Volunteers in Service to America. Later in life he became the U.S. Ambassador to France, and then president of the Special Olympics, an organization founded by his remarkable wife Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

Sargent Shriver's impact on American life was profound. Through the many programs he championed, Sarge had a direct and lasting effect on the lives of millions of Americans. He was wholly committed to helping people and to the ideals he believed our country ought to stand for, and he was tireless and unrelenting in his pursuit of those goals.

The Peace Corps, one of Sarge's most important and long-lasting accomplishments, enables young Americans to serve their country by building understanding between cultures and working to improve the lives of others in developing countries. Shriver's spirit lives on through the Peace Corps, and it is incumbent on all of us to ensure that the agency fulfills his vision, and the vision of President Kennedy.

My friend Bono, a committed advocate in the fight against global poverty, was himself inspired by President Kennedy's call to action and by Sargent Shriver's work to put it into effect. He recently wrote an op-ed which appeared in the New York Times entitled, "What I Learned From Sargent Shriver." In honor of Sarge, I ask

unanimous consent that a copy be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 19, 2011]

WHAT I LEARNED FROM SARGENT SHRIVER

(By Bono)

The Irish are still mesmerized by the mythical place that is America, but in the '60s our fascination got out of hand. I was not old enough to remember the sacrifices of the great generation who saved Europe in the Second World War, or to quite comprehend what was going on in Vietnam. But what I do remember, and cannot forget, is watching a man walk on the moon in 1969 and thinking here is a nation that finds joy in the impossible.

The Irish saw the Kennedys as our own royal family out on loan to America. A million of them turned out on J.F.K.'s homecoming to see these patrician public servants who, despite their station, had no patience for the status quo. (They also loved that the Kennedys looked more WASP than any "Prod," our familiar term for Protestant.)

I remember Bobby's rolled-up sleeves, Jack's juttied jaw and the message—a call to action—that the world didn't have to be the way it was. Science and faith had found a perfect rhyme.

In the background, but hardly in the shadows, was Robert Sargent Shriver. A diamond intelligence, too bright to keep in the darkness. He was not Robert or Bob, he was Sarge, and for all the love in him, he knew that love was a tough word. Easy to say, tough to see it through. Love, yes, and peace, too, in no small measure; this was the '60s but you wouldn't know it just by looking at him. No long hair in the Shriver house, or rock 'n' roll. He and his beautiful bride, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, would go to Mass every day—as much an act of rebellion against brutal modernity as it was an act of worship. Love, yes, but love as a brave act, a bold act, requiring toughness and sacrifice.

His faith demanded action, from him, from all of us. For the Word to become flesh, we had to become the eyes, the ears, the hands of a just God. Injustice could, in the words of the old spiritual, "Be Overcome." Robert Sargent sang, "Make me a channel of your peace," and became the song.

Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Oh, Master grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

The Peace Corps was Jack Kennedy's creation but embodied Sargent Shriver's spirit. Lyndon Johnson declared war on poverty but Sarge led the charge. These, and the Special Olympics, were as dramatic an incarnation of the ideas at the heart of America as the space program.

Robert Sargent Shriver changed the world more than a few times and, I am happy to say, changed my world forever. In the late '90s, when the Jubilee 2000 campaign—which aimed to cancel the debts that the poorest nations owed to the richest—asked me to help in the United States, I called on the Shriver clan for help and advice. What I got were those things in spades, and a call to arms like a thump in the back.

In the years since, Bobby Shriver—Sarge's oldest son and—I co-founded three fighting units in the war against global poverty: DATA, ONE and (RED). We may not yet know what it will take to finish the fight and silence suffering in our time, but we are flat out trying to live up to Sarge's drill.

I have beautiful memories of Bobby and me sitting with his father and mother at the Shriver's kitchen table—the same team that gazed over J.F.K.'s shoulder—looking over our paltry attempts at speechifying, prodding and pushing us toward comprehensibility and credibility, a challenge when your son starts hanging round with a bleeding-heart Irish rock star.

Toward the end, when I visited Sarge as a frail man, I was astonished by his good spirits and good humor. He had the room around him laughing out loud. I thought it a fitting final victory in a life that embodied service and transcended, so often, grave duty, that he had a certain weightlessness about him. Even then, his job nearly done, his light shone undiminished, and brightened us all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BRUCE RANDOLPH SCHOOL

• Mr. BENNET. Madam President, today I congratulate Bruce Randolph School in Denver, which President Obama recognized in the State of the Union Address for its remarkable turnaround.

Just 3 years ago, Bruce Randolph was one of the lowest performing schools in my home State of Colorado, but last May, 97 percent of the seniors graduated, including many who will be the first in their families to go to college.

I remember as superintendent working with the principal at the time, Kristin Waters, to get these turnaround efforts off the ground, and it is tremendous to see all the progress that has been made on behalf of the students at Bruce Randolph.

The Bruce Randolph community has seen firsthand that school turnarounds are possible, and with hard work and flexibility, we can improve our schools to better prepare our kids for success in college and the 21st century job market. We truly can improve the lives of our kids when teachers, parents, principals and communities come together.

And now we need to work together to bring similar turnaround efforts to other low-performing schools in Colorado and across the country. To build on successes like these, we need to put politics aside, listen to the ideas and aspirations of those closest to our kids, and work together to reform our public schools in a way that supports talented teaching, closes the achievement gap and equips our kids with the skills they are going to need to compete for the jobs of the 21st century.

On a more personal note, for me, for one moment, in a place that sometimes feels so removed from the work being done in classrooms across the country, having the children and teachers of Bruce Randolph invoked as an example of what is possible in public education was very powerful.

Congratulations again to teachers, parents, students and the principal at Bruce Randolph School. This is a great honor for all those involved in the turnaround effort and the continued success at Bruce Randolph School.●

WELLS WOOD TURNING & FINISHING, INC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have the privilege of hearing countless small business success stories from hard-working entrepreneurs across the country. And these stories are all the more gratifying when they involve companies located in my home State of Maine. Today I recognize the extraordinary achievements of Wells Wood Turning & Finishing, Inc., a small firm which recently celebrated several major milestones in the company's history.

Wells Wood Turning, located in the western Maine town of Buckfield, specializes in turning, finishing, and manufacturing a variety of custom wood products. Wells fashions a number of traditional wooden handles, knobs, and table legs, in addition to all manner of custom craft turnings, like bird houses, salt and pepper shakers, and napkin rings. The company also produces wooden toy parts, and miniature and promotional baseball bats. Wells Wood Turning primarily uses white birch in the construction of its products, but also utilizes other species of wood, such as ash, maple, and hickory.

In December, Wells Wood Turning marked two significant milestones. First was the company's 25th anniversary, which is a major accomplishment in any industry, much less Maine's competitive wood products industry. And December 24 marked the company's 18th year without a lost time accident at its plant, a truly remarkable feat. These milestones are a testament to the company's skilled workforce and their diligent efforts to promote a strong and safe working environment. I congratulate Tom Wallace, the company's president, and everyone at Wells Wood Turning for their dedicated service and impeccable record of quality and safety over the past quarter century.

A member of the Maine Wood Products Association and the Wood Products Manufacturers Association, Wells Wood Turning & Finishing has proven itself to be an exemplary small business. With a commitment to serving the customer by providing striking wood products, designed to the customers' specifications and in a timely manner, Wells Wood Turning has earned a reputation for fine craftsmanship. I again thank Tom Wallace and everyone at Wells Wood Turning for their strong work ethic and extraordinary safety record, and wish them continued success.●

REMEMBERING GENERAL VANG PAO

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, today I commemorate the recent passing of an iconic figure from a bygone era—a man who, with the help of his loyal Hmong people, kept what some estimate to be as many as 70,000 North Vietnamese soldiers from deploying through Laos to kill Americans during the Vietnam war.

General Vang Pao, the military leader of the mountain-dwelling Laotian Hmong during this era, was already at war with Pathet-Lao communist forces in Laos when the United States began working with him. The goal of the U.S. in Laos at the time was to prevent North Vietnamese from using Laos as a supply line for their attacks on South Vietnam along what was known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Unfortunately for the Hmong, who lived in the mountainous jungles between Laos and North Vietnam, their homes were located along this trail.

Vang Pao told the New York Times in 2008 that "There were three missions that were very important that were given to us and to me . . . One was stopping the flow of the North Vietnamese troops through the Ho Chi Minh Trail to go to the south through Laos. Second was to rescue any American pilots during the Vietnam War. Third, to protect the Americans that navigated the B-52s and the jets to bomb North Vietnam."

Bill Lair, Vang Pao's contact with the CIA, recounted Vang Pao saying, "You give us the weapons, and we'll fight the communists." And so began a covert war in Laos in which thousands of Vang Pao's Hmong soldiers gave their lives, always persevering despite very heavy casualties.

To his mountain people and even to some of his CIA contacts, Vang Pao had a larger-than-life status. He shared meager food rations with his troops, commanded from the field instead of his headquarters, and led troops on the frontlines of battles, where he suffered bullet wounds to his arm and chest.

Vang Pao was known to have stated, "If we die, we die together. Nobody will be left behind." These words proved tragic as the Vietnam war came to an end. U.S. forces evacuated Vang Pao and his leadership but were unable to mount an evacuation of the majority of his people. Vang Pao and his top associates were forced to leave Laos as over 20,000 of their compatriots stood on an airstrip in the mountains, waiting to be evacuated by their U.S. supporters as the enemy quickly approached. The evacuation never occurred. Thousands were left behind and killed as communist forces completed their invasion.

Today, many Hmong reside in poverty-stricken resettlement villages in Laos. A few thousand still remain in the mountains, where there are allegations that they have been persecuted in recent years. And many have resettled in the United States. Minnesota, Cali-

fornia, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island are proud to have Hmong call our States their home.

In 1997, the Clinton administration authorized a plaque to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery stating that the valor of General Vang Pao's troops would never be forgotten. As my colleague from Minnesota told Minnesota's Star Tribune, there would be a few thousand more names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial were it not for the efforts of the Hmong. Today, we in the Senate and thousands of Hmong throughout the world remember the bravery and dedication Vang Pao and his troops exercised while fighting to uphold democracy and protect the lives of so many young Americans at War in Southeast Asia.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13396 ON FEBRUARY 7, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE—PM 3

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire is to continue in effect beyond February 7, 2011.

The situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire, which has been addressed by the United Nations Security Council