

system largely unequipped to handle the unique dynamics of sexual predation. Ally's killer should never have been free, let alone work around the general public.

In less than a decade, The ALLY Foundation has had a profound impact on public policy. It is impossible to know how many lives have been saved or how many were spared the physical and emotional scars of sexual abuse and violence. But the fact remains that thanks to The ALLY Foundation, public officials and employers are far better educated and equipped to enact laws and adjust policies to reflect the unique nature of sexual violence. I commend Andrea and Steve for all they do.

ROONEY NOMINATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in March, I was compelled to place a hold on the nomination of Jo Ann Rooney to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, when I was not satisfied that the military had properly investigated the mistreatment of some members of the Oregon National Guard who were demobilizing at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, JBLM.

I am pleased to say that today I am lifting that hold.

I have had meetings and exchanged letters with Secretary of the Army John McHugh, Army Vice Chief of Staff General Peter Chiarelli, Major General Philip Volpe, Jo Ann Rooney, and Dr. Clifford Stanley, who will be Dr. Rooney's supervisor if she is confirmed. I have also received several documents related to the investigations, and written answers to more than 60 questions about the investigations.

I am satisfied that the actions taken by the Army put them on the right path to ensuring that future National Guard soldiers receive all of the care and benefits to which they are entitled.

I will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the changes the Army is making. However, I believe that Dr. Rooney would, if confirmed, work to ensure that all servicemembers get appropriate medical care, and improve the demobilization process.

I would urge the Senate to quickly and positively act on Dr. Rooney's nomination.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. PAMPERIN

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Mr. Thomas J. Pamperin of the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA. After nearly four decades of public service, beginning with the U.S. Army and now as the VA's Deputy Under Secretary for Disability Assistance, Tom

is retiring. From his days as a VA claims examiner in Milwaukee to his present leadership position, he has ably served our Nation's veterans.

Tom has earned an excellent reputation with Members of Congress and their staff, especially with that of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, of which I was proud to serve as chairman during the 109th and 110th Congresses. He also receives high praise from leaders of veterans service organizations, the Department of Defense, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Justice. He has represented the VA with distinction before the Congress, other Federal agencies, and foreign delegations.

During my chairmanship of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Tom was the "go to person" for matters of critical importance to veterans, especially those seeking compensation for their war wounds. When time was of the essence, he cut through the red tape and personally saw to it that the veteran got the benefits that were due. More broadly, he has led efforts to improve the delivery of benefits to all veterans, including initiatives to ease the burden of proof for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, to enable veterans to begin the claims process before discharge from military service, to better coordinate the delivery of military and VA benefits, and to automate claims for higher education benefits under the new G.I. bill.

In particular, I thank Tom for the work he did in improving VA's evaluation of and ratings for veterans with traumatic brain injuries, TBI. Soon after becoming chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I asked former VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Daniel L. Cooper, about limitations on TBI ratings to 10 percent "and no more." Tom played a significant role in VA's response: He developed temporary guidance so that VA could promptly address cases where the limitation should not be applied and developed final regulations to ensure more appropriate ratings in subsequent claims. Tom's actions had an immediate and sustained impact on the lives of veterans who were injured in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nearly 40 years of service to the Nation demonstrates a commitment to public service matched by few. Tom has worked tirelessly to ensure that veterans receive the benefits that they deserve, a goal that has become ever more challenging with increases in the number of servicemembers returning from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan who have serious injuries, the demand for G.I. bill benefits, and the number of compensable illnesses. Over the course of his career, Tom has devoted himself to delivering on the Nation's promise to care for the veteran and his widow. I applaud his dedication, hard work, and countless achievements, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his many years

of service to the country and to the many veterans whose lives he has improved in such crucial ways. His record is an example of public service at its best, and I deeply appreciate his long commitment to those who have worn the nation's uniform. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors and know that all of us who have counted on him over the years will miss him.●

WORLD WAR II HEROES FLIGHT

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge and honor a very special group of veterans. In appreciation for their selfless service to our country, Brookshire's Grocery Store and Super 1 Foods have sponsored a World War II Heroes Flight that has brought 33 World War II veterans to Washington, DC, free of charge.

I want to take a moment to thank these brave veterans visiting our Nation's Capital, including six that are from Texas: John Connolly, Longview, TX; Gene Germaine, Longview, TX; Glen Kernohan, Longview, TX; Hugh Neeld, Jacksonville, TX; Dale Whitton, Tyler, TX; and Jim David Woolverton, Tyler, TX.

During this trip, these veterans will tour Arlington National cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the United States Capitol, and other sites. This program provides many veterans with their only opportunity to see the great memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice.

Thus, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their devotion and service to our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERT A. WILD, S.J.

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I wish to honor Reverend Robert A. Wild, S.J., president of Marquette University in Milwaukee. Father Wild began his duties as president of Marquette University on June 17, 1996, with a pledge that he would "spare no effort in keeping Marquette on a strong and clear path into the future." As he enters retirement on July 31, 2011, it is my belief that my friend has not strayed from his pledge.

As a Catholic, Jesuit institution, Marquette promotes an academically rigorous, values-centered curriculum. Throughout his presidency, Father Wild has encouraged the practical preparation of students for work in an increasingly complex and diverse world, advocating for the formation of individuals as ethical and informed leaders in their religious, cultural, professional, and civic communities. Through this work, Father Wild has demonstrated a deep care and understanding of the development of young people.

Early in his career as president, Father Wild oversaw the rewriting of Marquette's mission statement in an effort to clearly define what all people,

young and old, should strive toward on a daily basis. The mission statement was reorganized under the key values of excellence, faith, leadership and service. These values have permeated all aspects of Father Wild's tenure as he has constantly inspired the Marquette community in the fostering of personal and professional excellence, the promotion of a life of faith, and the development of leadership expressed in service to others.

Father Wild has boldly committed Marquette to making higher education accessible to all students, regardless of financial means. To accomplish this, Marquette became the first university in the country to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America to offer full-tuition scholarships. This program and others have helped many first-generation students attend college, so much so that 20 percent of Marquette's students are the first in their families to attend college.

The more than 36,000 students who have received a Marquette degree under Father Wild's tenure have had the advantage of learning from renowned faculty members who work to advance knowledge and improve the world around them. Over Father Wild's career, faculty members and students have seen a 130-percent increase in total research and sponsored project dollars.

Beyond research and academics, Father Wild has placed an emphasis on community interaction that has made Marquette a focal point for discussion of the region's most important and complex societal issues. Thanks to these interactions, Marquette's presence in southeast Wisconsin is stronger than ever before. Father Wild has expanded the university's outreach through service and faculty research, and currently more than 85 percent of Marquette students serve their community.

The physical growth of the Marquette campus is one of the most obvious indicators of Father Wild's commitment to the university. Father Wild oversaw the financing, construction and completion of a new facility for the Marquette University School of Dentistry, training the State's future dentists and promoting oral health through outreach programs that target underserved patients in six clinical sites throughout the State, making Marquette one of the largest Medicaid providers in the State. All of this growth has been fueled by unprecedented fundraising led by Father Wild.

In addition to promoting academics and service, Father Wild was strategic in helping Marquette enter the Big East Athletic Conference in 2005. In 6 short years, the school has enjoyed success in many of its athletic programs, most prominently a Sweet 16 run in the 2011 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

I offer my gratitude and sincerest thanks to my friend Father Wild on his retirement from Marquette University.

His presidency, based in the values of excellence, faith, leadership and service, has inspired countless individuals not only in the Marquette community but in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin that will be felt for years to come.●

HOOSIER ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I wish today to take the opportunity to express my congratulations to the winners of the 2010-2011 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

In 1985, I joined with the Indiana Farm Bureau to sponsor an essay contest for 8th grade students in my home State. The purpose of this contest is to encourage young Hoosiers to recognize and appreciate the importance of Indiana agriculture in their lives and subsequently craft an essay responding to the assigned theme. The theme chosen for this year was "Agriculture: Then and Now."

Along with my friends at the Indiana Farm Bureau and Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, I am pleased with the annual response to this contest and the quality of the essays received over the years. I applaud each of this year's participants on their thoughtful work and wish, especially, to highlight the submissions of the 2010-2011 contest winners Alexis J. Carmony of Falmouth, Indiana, and Collin Bowlin of Jasper, Indiana. I submit for the RECORD the complete text of Alexis's and Collin's respective essays. I am pleased, also, to include the names of the many district and county winners of the contest.

The essays and winners follow.

AGRICULTURE: THEN AND NOW

(By Alexis J. Carmony)

Indiana agriculture is important to me because of the basic values it instills in my life. Agriculture is about hard work, appreciation for life and living things, the importance of our soil and water conservation, perseverance, ability to overcome hardships, and being creative in dealing with factors beyond man's control.

Indiana agriculture has an amazing responsibility. Years ago, Indiana farmers were proud to feed their families from the farm; today Indiana farmers are proud to feed the world from their farms. The heart of Indiana agriculture has not changed from decades ago. Past generations had to physically work hard to produce their product, whereas the present generations have to work as hard for the skill it takes to market their product.

From the time I went with my great grandfather to feed his cattle and sensed his love for those animals, I was hooked on agriculture. Even when those animals did not cooperate, grandpa still loved them. He has cared for livestock for years, and he enjoys it today as he did years ago. My great grandfather continues to be active in Indiana agriculture today and models what agriculture is all about: hard work, appreciation for livestock and plants, and good stewardship of our earth.

In closing, I will leave you with a quote from William Jennings Bryan, "American

Politician and Orator"; 1860-1925, that summarizes my thoughts on Indiana agriculture. "Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again by magic; but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country." I believe agriculture was the foundation of our country then and still is today.

AGRICULTURE: THEN AND NOW

(By Collin Bowlin)

Slowly standing up from the seat of his Case-IH tractor in which he has been sitting for the past two hours, he wears a smile that turns into a grimace until the shooting pain eases and his knee pops back into place. The pain in his knee is the result of the many years of hard work he has put into farming this land. Steadily stepping down from the tractor, he points to where he stopped making the windrows of hay and now I climb onto the tractor. It is my turn to take over, where he left off.

He has made his livelihood from farming these rolling hills in southern Indiana, growing crops of corn, soybeans, and hay, and raising livestock which include beef cattle, swine, and poultry. He is my grandfather. He has instilled in me to take good care of these blessings, land and livestock. As a young boy, Grandpa worked the land with a team of horses. Now we have horsepower to more efficiently produce the food that people rely upon every day. After his eighth grade year in school, Grandpa had no choice but to end his schooling early in order to help out on his family's farm. As an eighth grade student today, I have many choices, and I know I will attend college in the future.

My love for raising, showing, and judging beef cattle and pigs has given me many opportunities. Agriculture will always play a huge role in my life. I am proud to be one voice supporting the agricultural industry which provides food, fiber, and fuel to the world. The economic and environmental issues facing farmers today need to be addressed by knowledgeable people. So now, it is my turn to take over, where Grandpa left off.

2010-2011 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

DISTRICT 1

Gabrielle Carlson, Quinn McGovern.

DISTRICT 2

Katie Lopshire, William Joseph Rockey.

DISTRICT 3

Shelbi Perry, Dakota Burghardt.

DISTRICT 4

Rachel Girod, Nathan Chou.

DISTRICT 5

Shane Slaven, Kiersten Mundy.

DISTRICT 6

Katie Pfaff, Max Keller.

DISTRICT 7

Easton Booe, Whitney Halfhill.

DISTRICT 8

Josh Orschell, Alexis J. Carmony.

DISTRICT 9

Anna Hagedorn, Collin Bowlin.

DISTRICT 10

Amber Moore, Clayton Pottschmidt.

2010-2011 COUNTY ESSAY WINNERS

ADAMS

Eli Hill, Adams Central Middle School; Rachel Girod, Belmont Middle School.

ALLEN

Robert Ottenweller and Aubrey Fespel, Saint Joseph Hesse Cassel School.

BARTHOLOMEW

Mark Buffo and Meredith Dickerson, Central Middle School.