

communities such as Bowdle are part of the backbone of our great State, and help to preserve our rich frontier history and deep-seated character. Bowdle exemplifies what it means to be a great South Dakota community.●

#### BRYANT, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the community of Bryant, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. Bryant is a community-oriented town located in Hamlin County and will be celebrating its quasiquintennial the weekend of June 24 to 26.

Founded in 1887 upon the completion of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroads, the small town embraced its origins and was named after the local railroad official. Bryant prides itself on its fire preparedness and is home to a dedicated volunteer fire department.

The importance of community to the town is evident in the presence of their well-maintained auditorium and parks which host town gatherings, baseball games, dances, craft fairs, and suppers. Bryant will celebrate this milestone with many activities including a car and tractor show, a parade, and even fireman's games.

South Dakota is built on the values and spirit of small communities like Bryant. It is because of our small tight-knit communities that many choose to call South Dakota home. I congratulate the citizens of Bryant on their accomplishments over the last 125 years and look forward to seeing their future endeavors.●

#### CONDE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the community of Conde, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. Located in Spink County, this small, close-knit community will be celebrating its quasiquintennial the weekend of June 24 to 26.

The building of railroad branches in South Dakota by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad created growth for numerous towns. Amongst the newly established area, the town of Conde was founded in 1886. This railroad town was formerly known as Coral until April 15, 1882. A railroad official's wife selected the name in honor of the Conde family of France and the French town of Conde.

Conde, SD, "The Place to Call Home," is known for its beautiful scenery and outdoor activities. Conde is settled in the rolling Coteau Hills and is an excellent area for Ring Neck Pheasant and White Tail Deer hunting. The city of Conde still has a variety of businesses located in this community. Conde will commemorate its anniversary with a weekend of events. The community has planned to host live music bands, an all-school reunion, a

5K "Roll and Stroll" through the beautiful town of Conde, and plenty of food vendors.

Conde exemplifies the hometown community spirit of South Dakota. After 125 years, the community of Conde is still thriving, and it is my honor to publicly congratulate the citizens of Conde on reaching this commendable milestone.●

#### HECLA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the town of Hecla, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. This small town in Brown County has flourished from its humble pioneer origins to a vibrant South Dakotan community.

The completion of the Dakota Central Railroad, known later as the Chicago Northwestern, breathed life into this region of Brown County, and the community of Hecla was born in 1886. The railroad was essential to the progress of the town as it provided a means to get supplies, export harvests, and transport mail. Mystery surrounds the naming of Hecla as the railroad crew decided to name the town after the volcano, Mt. Hekla, in Iceland for unknown reasons.

Today, Hecla is a progressive small town community. It features several local businesses, including grain elevators, lodging sites, banks, restaurants, meat processors, and insurance agencies, and is home to several churches. Hecla will be commemorating its anniversary with a celebration on the weekend of June 25th-26th. The town plans to celebrate with many events including a parade and a dance to be held on Hecla's Main Street. The events of the weekend promise to provide great opportunities to celebrate such a historic milestone.

Most South Dakotans call small towns like Hecla home. Even 125 years after its founding, Hecla still exemplifies what it means to be a great South Dakota community. I am proud to publicly honor Hecla on this memorable occasion and congratulate the people of Hecla on their achievements.●

#### LANGFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of Langford, SD. Langford served historically as a city born from the railroads, and for many residents was the first stop to a new life on the prairie.

Founded in 1886, Langford was settled as the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company continued to lay their track across the prairie. Sam Denton originally surveyed the 190-acre plot overlooking the South Dakota countryside. John A. Edmunds' hardware store was the first business established in Langford. The store was delivered prebuilt as a shanty. The very next day a blacksmith shop was opened with several churches soon to follow.

From its earliest days, Langford has been marked by a strong sense of community with residents gathering frequently in the Langford Opera House, now the Legion Hall. Langford at one time boasted five schoolhouses, and still continues this commitment to education with the Langford Area School District.

Residents plan to celebrate the 125th with many activities, including a parade, car show, softball tournament, and a Sunday service. Main Street in Langford will be filled with the pride of all the residents from the area, past and present.

A hundred twenty five years after its founding, Langford continues to be a vibrant community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Langford on this memorable occasion.●

#### TURTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of Turton, SD. This small town in Spink County embodies the very values that South Dakota was founded upon.

Named after Joseph Turton, one of the town's first settlers from England, the town was founded in 1886 and formally incorporated in 1907. Situated along the Groton branch of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad, Turton was originally established as a railroad town. The railroad was essential to the development of the vibrant town as it provided necessary supplies and a means to transport goods. Today, Turton is best known for their beautiful Catholic church, which was built in 1893, and is still in use today.

Residents of Turton will kick off the town's quasiquintennial celebration and their annual St. John's Day with the Turton Community Golf Tournament, street dances, games, and banquets. To wrap up a fun filled weekend, Turton has planned a Sunday morning mass and breakfast.

Small towns like Turton symbolize what it means to be a South Dakotan community. I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Turton, and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the town on this historic milestone.●

#### TEEN VOICES

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD the remarks of my friend Donna Brazile at the 20th anniversary celebration for Teen Voices. Teen Voices is a journalism mentoring and leadership development program for teen girls which was founded in Cambridge, MA, and creates publications which reach hundreds of thousands of young women across the world. Donna's words do great justice to what a terrific program Teen Voices is as they celebrate an important milestone, and I believe this occasion deserves special recognition in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The information follows.

REMARKS OF DONNA BRAZILE, APRIL 14, 2011

Now, Karen, I noticed that as soon as I started speaking you turned the music off. It reminded me of a few weeks ago when I was at the White House—let me start by bringing greetings from President Obama, who's in Chicago tonight. President Obama is having a rally tonight and he wanted to know why I couldn't come to Chicago to introduce him. I said, "I'm going to be hanging out with Teen Voices and trust me, I want to be in Boston tonight, Mr. President." But I was invited a few weeks ago and some of you who are young enough to remember the Motown sounds, the President invited me, and it was one of those weekends when I wanted to see my sisters. I have five sisters. So I said, "I really need three tickets." And he looked at me and said, "Donna, this is Motown. Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, John Legend, Arthur Rees," and the list went on and on and on. So I said, "Well, alright, then give me four tickets!" And he said, "Well I'm only going to give you one ticket. One for yourself, and one for a guest."

Well, I have six sisters. I mean five of us and you know, my brothers. I said, "Please give me a couple extra tickets."

He said, "Sorry, you know, we have rules. And you cannot get but one ticket."

So I waited, I called the next week. And they said this was the public liaison office so they gave me one ticket. So I called the political engagement office. I thought, clearly they must have an extra ticket. And they gave me another ticket! So I called my sister, Lisa, and I said, "Lisa, you can come." I already told my older sister she could come. And then I have another sister. She's number—Sheryl, Sheila, Donna—she's number seven! So I said, "Dmitri, guess what, you can come!" So there were four Brazile women in the house. So of course, we got there right before the performances. And then they said, "Well, you all have to go back there." And I'm like, "No, no, no. That's not right. We don't care. Because we're going to dance." And of course, they seated us way in the back. But the performers had to come out. So as John Legend came out my sisters were blowing kisses. They didn't want autographs (we're not into autographs from Louisiana). We want hugs. So the Jonas Brothers came out, and I whisper, "That's Nick Jonas!"

"What! What! My daughter loves him! Hey baby!"

I said, "No, this is the White House, you don't do that. This is a dignified place, this place has been here for 200 years." And so the night went on and on. And you know, back in the day, for those of you who are a little young, every time a new song came out—we had to twists and we did the jerks. And then with Jackson 5—I want you back, I want you back. So we knew all of the songs. Well, one song came on and of course, this was a rendition of "Dancing in the Street" and my sister decided this was her moment to do a dance that I had never seen. And a dance the Secret Service had never seen. So, the reason why, when the music started playing, I just wanted to give you all a warning, if my sisters were here, they would have come up with a song. So it's now like midnight, and I say "Girls, the President has gone up. I know Stevie Wonder is still here, but we've got to go home, so come on, let's go."

And my sister goes, "Ain't no party like a White House party, like a White House party don't stop."

I said, "Where'd you all get that?" And then the Marine Band, who knew the Marine band could actually play jazz tunes, and then she's teaching the Marine Band—"Ain't no party like a White House party, like a White House party don't stop."

The next day I saw the President, I was at a meeting and I was trying to pretend I didn't know those women. I said, "I know Mr. President was taped so hopefully you can edit my sisters out." Of course, when it was on PBS, they didn't edit us out. Alright, my sisters—I just wanted to let you all know if you go to the White House and decide to hang out for a party or an event just remember—"Ain't no party like a White House party, like a White House party don't stop." But . . . I'm chair of the Democratic Party. My dad is 80 years old. I called him and I said, "Guess what. I'm chair of the Democratic party, one of the oldest political parties in the country."

He said, "It's a job."

I said, "Well, but it doesn't pay."

He said, "Well, that's like most jobs."

There are some perks and I took advantage of one of them just a night ago. I just want to let everyone know a little bit about it. And you know, some people want a car to drive. Not me. First of all, I want a man dropping me off. So it's bad enough I live one block from the head of the CIA and I have to explain to people who visit me why the cops are outside. I say, "No, nothing's going on at the house. It's the CI—wait, never mind—it's okay, just come on in, it's alright." So no, I don't want a car to drive. That's too tacky, that's not me. I mean, I'm a girl from New Orleans. I can roll.

So they say, "Well, do you want a phone?"

I mean, well, I worked for Al Gore. He created the Internet; of course I want a phone. "So what do you have?"

"AT&T."

"No, no, no. Dropped service. I'll stick with Verizon." And so they start listing all these other things, and I say no letterhead, no business card, no office, no secretary, no assistant.

They say, "Donna, what do you want?"

I say, "I hear you have tickets for the Easter egg roll." And, I want to tell you this story because when I worked for Bill Clinton and Al Gore back in the 1990s, I was involved with the inaugural as well as the campaign. I went into the office one day and they said, "Donna, what do you want?"

I said, "All of the leftover tickets." Some people didn't make it; they didn't sell all the seats, and so on. So here you have rows of all the dignitaries all in the diplomatic core, all these people from the government, all these people looking good. And then you have rows of little kids. Rows and rows. And that was me. I said, "Absolutely. I'm going across the bridge to Southeast, Washington D.C., and I am going to give tickets out to kids, who like myself, their parents are not rich. They don't have connections. But one day, one of these kids, one, maybe one, will grow up and become President of the United States." And I want to say that I gave them a ticket. I gave them an opportunity. So when President Obama won, and you all know I'm one for tickets—This is not my speech, I'm going to get to my speech. But I just wanted to let everyone know how I roll.

And so, this is why, at my age of 51, I have 300 children, don't ask me how I did it. I did it, I got 300, they are really well taken care of, different daddies; it's a long story. But when you've worked on as many campaigns—Karen mentioned my 7 presidential, my 58 congressional, and my 19 state and local campaigns, I worked on campaigns in 48 states. I've lived here twice in my life, 2 more states and I will become Miss USA. I've done a lot of work in my life, okay? I mean, I've worked in Alaska, I was up there. I was in Juneau. I've been to Utah, I've seen the mountains. So I've been all over the place, but I still keep it real. I'm still that little girl, that little girl who grew up poor. To a mother who was a maid, a father who was a

janitor. And I was proud of my parents, my parents worked very hard. They wanted us to have everything; they wanted us to have the best of life. Sometimes, they couldn't afford it. But often times, they would put a little away. That's why I tell people I can wait. My mother used to say, "It's a little away. How fast you need it?"

"Tomorrow."

"Oh, no, no, no. How fast you need it?"

I'd say, "Okay, next month."

She'd say, "Oh, I'll get it out by next month, don't worry." And then, my mother, or my father, would go out and work an additional job or longer hours so that we could get what we needed in order to be the people that we are, or the kids that we wanted to be, the grown-ups that we wanted to be as well.

But, I would get my tickets, so my kids would come in, and I'd say, "Hey B." And by the way, I used to carry a big purse. Whenever you see my carrying a big purse, I'm coming after some tickets. That's not a bag, that's a ticket basket. And I would walk into (something?) headquarters—you heard the song "Ain't too proud of the bag." I need it for my kids. So I had 700 tickets from the President, and let me tell you, everybody, every dignitary was hitting me up. They'd say, "Donna, got tickets?"

I'd say, "No I don't."

Ohhh she's lying! And then I learned how to, for my purple ticket, oh so you want my purple give me 2 of your golds! Why! Because my purple ticket gets you up front but you give me 2 so think about it! I would get those big tickets so I could get 5 smaller tickets so I could get more people in. All I cared about was getting more people in. So I thought about it the other day, because I'm always into tickets. I'm a ticket person—so I said, "How many tickets can I get as the chair of the Democratic Party? I need my tickets." And then I learned I got 10 tickets, I thought, oh thank you, Lord, I got 10. Now you all know I'm starting at 10. Watch me. Now the chair gets 10, how many does the Vice Chair get? I'm still Vice Chair!

And then I'm going to call my congresswoman, and then I'm going to call the congress people from Alaska. Nobody's coming here for an Easter egg hunt. And Washington State; and you know you can always hit up California; you know I'm going to hit up Kansas. I can't hit up Hawaii because that's where the President is from. But I'm going to get my tickets and you know, I'm giving them to the kids, like myself, kids who have grown up poor, kids who need to be able, because they live in Washington, D.C., to say that "I went to the White House. I was at the White House and I saw the President, I saw the First Lady, I saw his two little daughters, and I met Bo." That's the dog, for those of you who don't know.

But I'm honored to be here with you, I had to tell my tickets stories. Everyone who knows me back in DC calls me the ticket lady. And I love tickets—not parking tickets—but tickets. But it is an honor to join you tonight as you celebrate 20 years. I've had some time to read up on Jenny and all of the work that you all have done and have committed to do. You are an inspiration. You have empowered millions of young girls who not only read your magazine but those who also contribute to it and those who want to be a part of it. You are a source of inspiration and extortion of empowerment and I want to thank the Board. I'd like to thank Lisa. I'd like to thank all the sponsors and of

course Denise and Seema. And yeah, I've been checking out your shoes. They come in size 11, baby?

But I also want to thank you for helping young girls find their voices and helping them amplify their message and lifting them up. Your message is one of hope and change. I want to say, I remember what it's like to be young—it was just 2 weeks ago—the grey hair may throw you off a little bit, but the truth is, I'm still 15 at heart. Now, notice I said 15, not 18. Fifteen not 13. Because, I believe at 15, I had a life-changing, what I call, experience.

My grandmother, who took time to raise most of us, because my parents were busy working, she got sick that year. And throughout our childhood, Grandma was the rock; she was the foundation in our house. My grandmother was from Mississippi. She was the daughter of former slaves. And though she had lived to see so many changes take place in her lifetime, she had 12 kids. In fact, my daddy was number 12. My grandmother had my father when at the age of 48—yeah I guess that's made him the way he is.

But my grandmother, in my judgment, was my role model. She was my rock. She was my inspiration. I wanted to be just like Ramon, because she knew everything. I would get up in the morning at 4 o'clock—“Ramon, what are you doing?”

She'd say, “I'm soaking the clothes.”

“Well, okay.”

“We going to go hang them up outside.”

“Well, okay.” I did that. At 5:30, she was in the kitchen making buttermilk biscuits. As you can tell, I ate a couple of them. They were the best buttermilk biscuits in the world. She made her biscuits from scratch. But by 7:00, before we went off for school, Ramon told me that I had to read the newspaper with her. Her eyesight was failing. So I would read the newspaper, from front to back. The classified section, the sports section, and of course, I read the opinion columns. I was excited to know what was going on in the world and Grandma even taught me how to read the comics, and of course, her horoscope—every day.

But when Ramon took sick, it really changed my life. All of a sudden, I had to grow up. All of a sudden, I had to learn how to take care of her. Along with two of my other siblings, we took turns watching over her, bringing her soup, bringing her water, helping her get up, and of course, helping her put on her petticoat and slippers so that she could sit in her rocking chair. A few months before we were to return back to school, Ramon took a turn for the worst. And my mother and father sat down along with Dr. Beam and said “Ramon Frances has to go into a nursing home. We can't afford to take care of her—you're going back to school, and she will need help.” And so I talked to my baby sister, Lisa, and I said, “Lisa, you like to comb hair. I can help bathe her. Sheryl can make sure that her clothes—my grandmother liked all her clothes ironed, we could not just put on anything. After all, she did make our slippers.” She made everything but our underwear.

She was the most important person in my life because she taught me responsibility at a very young age. But, she also taught me to pursue my dreams, and not to be afraid of what was out of our homes. Ramon was one who believed in the future; she was one who taught us not to be fearful of anyone. One of the best pieces of advice I've ever received, and God knows if it comes in handy now, is she said, “Donna, it's not what they call you. It's what you answer to.” And so, as a cable call girl on CNN, when they call, I go! I got called last night—MSNBC—for three weeks, I can go on MSNBC and Fox, so I'm having fun. Anderson called me last night, “I miss you!”

“Baby, I know you're my boo, but I'm going to see what's going on at MSNBC and Lawrence O'Donnell and Debbi Gregory, and George Will-Karen.” I told George the other day, “I wanna see you in jeans before you retire.” I want to tell you all something about conservative men. If any of you all are in the room, I know your secret—it is Victoria, it's out. George Will, George Will has a soft spot. His soft spot is that he is really a baseball fan, he loves sports. And George Will loves anyone who knows sports. And so I often bring in my baseball metaphors and my football metaphors and that's how I get George to really warm up to me. And then I do my zingas.

But my grandmother taught me another important lesson. And at a very early age, she taught me that lesson. She taught me to listen. She taught me to listen to what other people were saying. So I know what it's like to grow up in a household where people don't talk to you, or listen to you. I know what it's like to grow up and not know what it is you wish to do with your life. I know what it's like to be silenced, even when I'm screaming my head off sometimes to get people to listen—I know what it's like to have people think that you have nothing to say. And I know what it's like, because I experienced it also as a child growing up down in the segregated deep South.

I can remember when I was often the youngest person because I was so active in politics back in my native state of Louisiana. So often they would invite young people in the room just so the picture would look right but they really didn't want us to say a word. They didn't want us to even give our input. And it used to drive me crazy when I was growing up, to just be out in the world not knowing if I could make a difference, not knowing what the sound of my voice would do if I was able to contribute. But it was my grandmother who kept pushing me and others out the door. And she gave me all of the courage I needed to go out there and to try to make change in the world.

So I want to first of all say to all the teens in the room, and those who still, like myself, are young at heart—you have so much to give. The world is waiting for you. The world needs you. And why you? Because there's no one better. And why now? Because tomorrow is not soon enough. This is your moment. This is your time. This is a time that not only can you find your voice but you can find it in ways that will allow you to soar and to make a difference.

I didn't wait until I was 18 before I decided to find my voice. I started writing poems at an early age hoping that someone would discover me. Perhaps I didn't know the rhymes at the time but I had a story. I had something to say and I wanted to share it. I wanted someone to listen to me. Then again, my mother bought a tape recorder one year for Christmas. She said, “What do you want Donna?” I said, “Donna wants a tape recorder.” And so my nickname became “Tape Recorder.” And I recorded every conversation and then I put music to it and made it a soap opera for everyone to listen to.

And so I wanted to be in the world, I wanted my voice heard. And so this is your moment to begin the dream about your future. And what kind of future are you looking to have? And what do you want to do with your life?

You have to begin thinking about all of these questions early because the world is not going to wait for you to catch up with it. You have to begin to hurry history and catch up with the world, especially now with all of the technology at our disposal. We can talk to someone on Skype all the way across the world. We can text right now and reach out

to people standing in line waiting for a (something). And yes, we can find out with our own Twitter accounts and Facebook that we can be part of a revolution taking place thousands and thousands of miles away from here. So you are the future, and it's time that you learn that “the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” The First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, when she said that, she could not envision that we would live to see so many changes in this country, yet we still have a long way to go.

So I want to leave you with some ingredients, and I want to pour them into you right now. Because this is the moment for you, many of you, who are ready to enter the world, ready to make a difference, ready to use your voice, out there to try to stir things up. When I was a young girl, I used to tell my grandmother, “Ramon, I want to be like Harriet Tubman.” Harriet Tubman was one of my favorites. I figured anyone who ran away from slavery was a good role model to have.

So I said to Ramon I wanted to be a leader. I wanted to be a leader like Harriet Tubman. So some of you are probably thinking, “Wow, how can I become a leader?” So this is what I knew about being a leader. A leader is defined as someone who is in command, as someone who guides, a person in a position of influence or importance, a role model. Now let me say, I'm a leader. Not only am I elected to an office that allows me to help guide the oldest political party in the country, I'm also a party leader that helps devise political strategy, a campaign consultant who has also helped to organize and manage campaigns at every level. But I'm also an owner of a small business that employs staff, consultants, and interns, I also teach at a major college. So the foundation of good leadership is being honest and fair. A leader is someone who listens as well as asks questions. A leader has courage and a leader treats others with respect and dignity. A leader admits to mistakes and takes responsibility for his or her actions. And a leader has integrity and can be trusted. A leader also inspires and motivates others to take action in the pursuit of the common good. Now, there are more traits; leaders are often problem-solvers because they seek solutions and leaders are also visionaries because they help to set long-term goals.

So it's important to learn how to use your voice to become a leader, and that you begin to see yourself as a leader and as someone who can become successful because you are important and because we need you. We need more young women, more young women willing to serve in public office. We need more young women willing to write news articles, tweet, posting blogs and stories on Facebook, and not just that stuff that makes your friends happy. But the stuff that can really make other people think. And so, here are my other ingredients.

Believe in the power of your dreams. If you don't, no one else will.

Second, be true to yourself. I've done a lot in my life because someone else wanted me to do it or I thought about it. Sometimes it turned out well, sometimes of course it hasn't, but I have never ever given up on any of my dreams. I keep working toward them. And when I finished writing that first book, I will see a minority or woman as president and four years later, we have our first bi-racial president. And if I continue to work hard, one day, you all will be invited to the White House as we inaugurate our first female president, or Hispanic, Asian-American, person of color, and so on.

So you have to live your dreams, you just can't dream and then walk out of the room and expect someone to stir up all the ingredients. You gotta go into the arena and stir

it up. Sometimes, you have to bring your own pot and sometimes you have to bring your own fire. It's called Tabasco, for those of you who don't know.

Number three: Never accept no as a final answer. I've been told "no, no, no;" I know "no" in just about every language. I often tell people after they say no, "That's a yes, isn't it?" Nah, figure out a way. Go around it, go beneath it, go above it, go below it, just find a way. Find a way, find a path. If you really want to do something, go for it. You can't stop at no. A friend used to tell me that no is just a prelude to yes. Now, when I hear no, I think "Good, now I'm just one step closer to yes."

Now number four: When you stumble get back up. I have stumbled a lot. My knees are good, my elbows are even better, sometimes I've had to work my way up, because I've had some hits. I have fallen. But you get back up, it's as simple as that. You're gonna fall, you're gonna fall, you're gonna make mistakes, people will not always listen to you—I've got three minutes left, I am not Baptist—I am Catholic; I need five, and I'll wrap it up in four.

Number five: Keep a little spice handy. Life gets boring. It is really boring sometimes. But never be afraid to spice it up. Were all unique, no two of us are exactly alike—but think about your limits. And then push them a bit. What makes you uncomfortable? Sometimes you gotta know that so you can just add those missing ingredients that might give you some spice. For me, I was scared of horses. I had to spice up my life and I had to ask myself—why? What's keeping me from embracing something that I'm scared of? It was fear. Took me until I was in my mid-40s, but I conquered that fear. I had that horse following me, and I didn't even have an apple.

And let me tell you number six. Courage isn't the absence of fear; courage is facing your fear and overcoming it. Sometimes, you know what you're scared of before you even know what you like! Don't let your fears stand in the way of your success.

And then there's number seven. This is about faith. Because when I was a little girl I had so many people invest what I would call and consider now a lot of energy into me. They'd say, "Donna, you gotta do this." I'd respond, "Okay!" They'd say, "Donna, can you make this happen?" I'd say, "Yes!" And they would run off, and I'd be thinking—AHH! I would freak. But I remember when Dr. Martin Luther King, who inspired me as a little girl, said "Faith is taking one step, even when you cannot see the entire staircase." And for me, I often have to just take that one step, and then it comes right there. It just, it appears.

And Mrs. King, his wife, I was just over 21 when I met her and worked for her as a young girl. And Mrs. King said, "Donna, we want to make the birthday a national holiday." And I said, "Okay!" Everybody else, from the time Dr. King died in 1968 'til 1981, they just said, "We'll, maybe," and then Ronald Reagan was elected and they'd say, "Well that'll never happen." And a bunch of us, we were all young, were just out of college, we said, "We have time." We'll do it." And within 18 months, we had a holiday because we had faith.

And so, let me close up a little bit by saying that I learned growing up, with a large family, with brothers and sisters, with parents, grandparents and others, with neighbors who loved us, and with friends who would always stand by our side—I learned that I could really go to the next step. That I could move beyond the limitations placed on me simply because of where I was born. I knew that when I was a kid that no matter what people said about my skin color, what

they said about my hair, what my sisters continue to say about my hair. I'm like, "Will you all stop?" They say, "Donna, it looked like (something) last night." And I say, "Your TV, maybe you should get HDTV. Maybe you should get rid of that box." But I know they're telling me with love to get myself to the beauty parlor. But I learned as a little kid, it's not what people say, and it's not what people see about you. My grandmother was right. It's what you believe in. It's not what they call you, it's what you answer to.

So let me close with a poem that continues to inspire me every time I read it. It's Maya Angelou, called "Still I Rise." And I close with her words:

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise . . .  
Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.

To my friends, to the young ladies, to the sponsors, to all the supporters of this great organization, it's now your turn to let these young women rise, to give them the wings that they need so that they will soar and make a difference. To rise up to your full potential, to rise until you feel the air surrounding you. Rise up, rise high, and make us all proud. Thank you and God bless you.●

#### WDEV RADIO

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as one born in Montpelier, VT, I grew up listening to WDEV in Waterbury. My mother and father were friends of the owners of the station and I still remember days as a child going to visit.

Living now in Middlesex, VT, I—like everyone else in our area listen to WDEV to find out what is happening throughout central Vermont. At a time when more and more radio stations nationwide go to a canned format, WDEV is one that has not forgotten over the decades that it is a mainstay of the community.

Recently when we were facing horrible flooding and storms in Vermont, the lifeline for all of us was WDEV. Only there could we find out what was happening on the weather, what was happening on road conditions, and what we would face. Stefan Hard of the Times Argus wrote an excellent story about Chris Bouchard and Roger Hill and what they did to keep us all safe and informed. I talked with my friend Ken Sauier, about what they had done and said I intended to speak on the Senate Floor, and now, Mr. President, I ask that the article by Stephan Hard be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Times Argus, June 6, 2011]

STORM-CENTERED

(By Stefan Hard)

For weather forecasters Chris Bouchard and Roger Hill, who were on duty May 27, the historic storms of that day quickly pushed their workdays into overdrive and overtime and gave them a first-hand taste of the crazy weather they were reporting on. Looking back, they are both in awe at the level of destruction caused by the storms' related flooding, but are grateful that no one was killed.

Hill prepares forecasts for Radio Vermont, WDEV, for utility companies, and for his WeatheringHeights.com website; Bouchard is a staff meteorologist at the Fairbanks Museums Eye on the Sky forecast center.

Both men knew from early in the day, May 27, that the weather could be turning severe.

"It was clear to us for several days that there was a possibility for severe weather on Thursday-Friday," said Bouchard. "On the day of the event in the morning, it looked pretty clear that we were going to get supercell thunderstorms, large hail, damaging winds and possibly even tornadoes." Bouchard reported as such during his 12:55 p.m. weather report on Vermont Public Radio. The first supercell of the day passed just north of Burlington at about 3p.m. and left large hail on the ground as it passed over Lowell. Bouchard continued his warnings through the afternoon.

By 6:30 p.m., storms were beginning to hit central Vermont, and power was knocked out at Hill's home and forecast center in Worcester. Hearing tornado warnings on the radio for Caledonia County and without power to run his phalanx of computers, Hill decided to head to the WDEV studios in Waterbury, where the station had back-up power and where Hill could get his own evaluations and warnings directly on the air in the midst of what he had already determined could be life-threatening conditions due to the continued risk of tornadoes, dangerous lightning, and with already-saturated ground from recent rains, a real possibility of catastrophic flash floods. He hopped in his car and headed for Waterbury.

"I felt a need and a responsibility to do this," said Hill. "I've haven't had anybody die on my watch and I didn't want that to happen this time," he said.

Hill forgot to take his cell phone charger and didn't leave a note for his wife, Michelle, as to where he was going. "My wife is very upset with me," he said. "She didn't know where I was until she heard me on the air."

Driving through Middlesex, Hill encountered a downed tree across the road and had to reroute and rain and hail fell and tornado warnings continued come across on the crackling radio. When he got to the station offices in Waterbury, the door was locked (after business hours) and his cell battery was dead, so he couldn't call on-air host Lee Kittell to let him inside, and Kittell was unable to check and see emails that Hill was sending from his netbook, which still had a charge. Kittell was very busy and lightning temporarily knocked out the station's computer system. Hill resorted to running down the street to use the phone at a convenience store to call Kittell to let him in. Once inside, Hill and Kittell reported on the storm continuously, except for a half-hour break for the audio track of WCAX-TV news at 11, until 1:45 a.m.

Callers kept the phone lines lit up all evening with reports of continuous lightning, ball lightning, hail the size of golf balls, trees down, power outages, and worst of all, flash flooding in Barre and Montpelier. Hill, stunned, kept seeing a line of "training echo" thunderstorms streaming