

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

into central Vermont all night and his on-air voice became increasingly ominous.

"I felt stupid, but I got to the point where I was just saying, Oh, my God!"

Meanwhile, Bouchard had finished his forecasting shift at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, and had taken to the road, storm chasing, and didn't have the need to let anyone know where he was going. "I went to Barnet, because that's where it looked like the action was going to be," he said. Bouchard stopped in several locations, setting up his tripod just outside his car to get pictures of clouds that might produce tornadoes, and lots of lightning. Bouchard said at one point, he grabbed his tripod and camera and jumped in his car just as lightning bolts crashed to the ground uncomfortably close. Bouchard never saw a tornado, and none were confirmed from that storm outbreak, but he got some striking lightning photos, some of those will part of a show of 32 of his best lightning images at the Fairbanks Museum at the end of the month.

Hill, his cell battery dead, his netbook battery now dead, and his own batteries running low, headed home from WDEV at about 2 a.m. after receiving, along with Kittell, countless calls from listeners praising the duo for staying on the air with information. Of course, on his way home, Hill couldn't update his wife on his progress through the continuing storms, so, when he finally made it home, he faced a storm of another kind.

Happily, Hill and his wife, Michelle on Sunday were beginning a belated celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary, taking a few days off, including a little travel. Hill has planned a small detour in their travels to see, first-hand, the level of destruction in Springfield, Mass., where, last week, two tornadoes struck in another example of powerful, training echo thunderstorms.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS MAXIM

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Strength does not come from physical capacity, it comes from an indomitable will." Today, I recognize and pay tribute to Nicholas Maxim, an extraordinary young man from Readfield, ME, and the living embodiment of Gandhi's words. Nicholas, a fifth grade student at Readfield Elementary School, was recently presented with a national award for his outstanding penmanship. He earned the award when, unbeknownst to him, his principal submitted a sample of his handwriting to Zaner-Bloser, an Ohio-based company that holds an annual handwriting contest.

While this national honor would, in and of itself, merit the high praise and recognition of this esteemed institution, this accomplishment is even more compelling and impressive when one considers that Nicholas was born without lower arms or hands. His writing sample, which stood out among the estimated 200,000 entries, was executed by balancing the writing utensil between his two upper arms—the manner in which he routinely writes, given that he rarely uses his prosthetic devices for such purposes.

Nicholas' sample was so outstanding, and his story so compelling and inspirational, that Zaner-Bloser created a new award category in his honor—the "Nicholas Maxim Special Award for Excellent Penmanship." Fittingly,

Nicholas was the first recipient of this special award earlier this year. His story caught the attention of many of the national media outlets but, despite all the attention and accolades, Nicholas retained his humility and unassuming style. Preferring to stay out of the limelight and seemingly content to allow others to talk about his myriad accomplishments, Nicholas represents Maine and our Nation with unwavering modesty that speaks volumes about his character and personality.

During my congressional career, I have often spoken about the primacy of maintaining one's values and integrity, setting high expectations and goals, and believing in one's self. I further contend that there are certain constants that are timeless, and one of them is that the greatest limits that will be placed on our lives are the ones which we place upon ourselves. A courageous and persistent young man, Nicholas is truly an inspiration to us all, as he has never allowed his circumstances to limit what he can achieve. As a testament to this fact, one of Nicholas' favorite pastimes is writing and drawing comic strips. Delightful and humble, Nicholas innately possesses an unconquerable resolve that is hidden beneath an unpretentious exterior. His sister captured the essence of these character traits when, to the *Kennebec Journal*, she said about him, "He is who he is and does what he does not to get attention . . . It's for me to see him being who he is that's an inspiration."

Undeniably, Nicholas Maxim stands as a shining testament to the power of the human spirit. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to him for demonstrating to children and adults alike, across the State of Maine and, indeed, our Nation, that by placing no restrictions on your horizons, you broaden the range of possibilities that exist for you and the trajectory you envision for yourself.●

#### COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTH LOUISIANA

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Community Foundation of North Louisiana on the occasion of its 50th anniversary on June 26, 2011.

The Community Foundation of North Louisiana has had a widespread impact in our State, and I applaud its exceptional efforts to enrich Louisiana communities.

Since 1961, the Community Foundation has been committed to providing emergency aid during disasters, strengthening communities and non-profit organizations through programs like the Endowment Challenge Program, and establishing partnerships such as the Aspen Ideas Mini-Festival that bring citizens and local leaders together.

Endeavors such as the Genius Fund, the Women's Philanthropy Network, and the Northwest Louisiana Vol-

untary Organizations Active in Disaster are further examples of how the Community Foundation's generosity has successfully improved the community and the lives of so many Louisianans.

Under the leadership of COL James Hellums Tucker, Jr., the foundation has grown from an organization with a modest \$21,000 to one that has endowed more than \$75 million. And through its goodwill and philanthropy, has awarded more than \$40 million for more than 4,000 grants and scholarships so that organizations and students can achieve their goals and realize their dreams.

Again, I am proud to honor and applaud the Community Foundation of North Louisiana, the oldest in the State, on 50 years of charitable giving and congratulate them for their many contributions to our State.●

#### REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13159 OF JUNE 21, 2000, WITH RESPECT TO THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION CREATED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF WEAPONS-USABLE FISSILE MATERIAL IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AS RECEIVED DURING RECESS OF THE SENATE ON JUNE 17, 2011—PM 11

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 emergency declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000, with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2011.

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation