

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 lighting 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

continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared 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 and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 17, 2011.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2193. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the annual audit of the American Red Cross; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2194. A communication from the Deputy to the Chairman, Legal Office, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Securities of Nonmember Insured Banks" (RIN3064-AD67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2195. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking and Importing Marine Mammals: U.S. Navy Training in the Virginia Capes Range Complex and Jacksonville Range Complex" (RIN0648-BB03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2196. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish Retention Standard; Emergency Rule Extension" (RIN0648-BA29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2197. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries" (RIN0648-XA393) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2198. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Gag Grouper Management Measures" (RIN0648-BA94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2199. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department

of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Closure of the Nantucket Lightship Access Area" (RIN0648-BB05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2200. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Priorities and Allocations System Regulations" (RIN1901-AB28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2201. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Race to the Top Fund" (RIN1810-AB10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2202. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Division of Freedom of Information; Change of Office Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Fax Number; Technical Amendments" (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0318) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2203. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers from the Linde Ceramics Plant in Tonawanda, New York, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2204. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers from the Wah Chang facility in Albany, Oregon, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2205. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to imported foods; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2206. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; Implementation of Information Technology Security Provision" (RIN3090-AJ15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-37. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas memorializing its support for the conservation of Castner Range; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 306

Whereas, the Castner Range in El Paso is one of the most rugged pristine landscapes in

Texas, encompassing 7,000 acres of undeveloped desert and foothills; and

Whereas, the land was previously known as the Castner Range Complex at Fort Bliss and was used as a United States Army artillery range, but the Department of Defense ceased operations there in 1971; unexploded ordnance remained behind, rendering the land unsuitable for development, and under the stewardship of the army, it has been allowed to rest in its natural state; and

Whereas, since 1995, the army has been clearing old artillery rounds from the surface of the land; surface clearance, as opposed to subsurface clearance, was found to offer the best risk-reduction-to-cost ratio and is most compatible with a minimal-disturbance future land use, such as passive recreation on protected parkland; and

Whereas, although the Castner Range is off-limits to the public, El Pasoans have long cherished the area for its surpassing beauty; bordering Franklin Mountains State Park on the west, the range contains some of the most geologically complex and visually striking parts of the Franklins and is prized for its Mexican gold poppy, which carpets the lower slopes in brilliant color in the spring; and

Whereas, also remarkable for its biodiversity, Castner Range provides a number of distinctive animal habitats, and its unique soils and location combine to make this the only known site in Texas where several rare plants can be found; moreover, the range holds the greatest concentration of springs in the Franklins, supporting unexpectedly lush pockets of vegetation; and

Whereas, Castner Range is further distinguished by military history and archaeological sites; and

Whereas, in 1981, the Texas Legislature provided for the adjustment of the boundaries of Franklin Mountains State Park in anticipation of the future addition of Castner Range lands, an idea strongly favored by area residents; both the El Paso City Council and the El Paso County Commissioners Court unanimously passed resolutions in recent years advocating that the Castner Range be left undeveloped and be conserved for recreational use; furthermore, the Franklin Mountains State Park management plan takes the range into account, envisioning a network of trails in the canyons and lower elevations, and the U.S. Department of Defense recently made a \$300,000 grant to the Frontera Land Alliance to collect data concerning a conservation conveyance for the area; and

Whereas, the Castner Range is one of the Lone Star State's unequaled treasures, and its conservation will provide enormous benefits to future generations of Texans; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby express its support for the conservation of Castner Range; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the commanding general of Fort Bliss, to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-38. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas congratulating President Obama on his proven and successful policies in the war on terrorism and in homeland security; to the Committee on Armed Services.