

So tonight we do that, not only for those killed in action that I have read from Pennsylvania, but for those who have lost their lives from States across the country, including the State of Colorado that our Presiding Officer represents.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING CHARLES BENJAMIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to note the passing last December of a singular Nevadan, Charles Benjamin, who worked to promote clean energy. While he lived in Nevada for only 4 short years, his efforts will pay positive dividends long into the future.

He passed away on December 13, 2010, after a valiant battle with cancer, at the young age of 60.

Before Charles moved to Nevada in 2006, he was a lobbyist and attorney for the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club. His career in environmental law included a law practice representing more than 25 neighborhood associations across Kansas on a variety of land use and zoning issues. He was also a political science professor at Bethel College in Kansas where he taught courses in environmental studies, American government, and international relations, and served 16 years as a county commissioner in Harvey County, KS. Charles earned a B.A., an M.A., and a Ph.D. from the School of International Relations at the University of Southern California, and a J.D. from the School of Law at the University of Kansas.

During his time in Nevada, Charles worked tirelessly to promote clean energy by developing and strengthening relationships with key Nevada stakeholders, including utilities, the State's consumer advocate, legislators, the governor, business interests, and the environmental community. He was quite helpful to me in my efforts to diversify Nevada's economy through development of our State's vast renewable energy resources and to make Nevada energy independent.

Charles was a feisty advocate for environmental justice and came to Nevada to help drive our State and the Nation toward a cleaner energy future.

To me, he was always courteous, honest and expressed his love for the environment. Nevada and the Nation need more people like Charles who are willing to work hard to tap into the limitless resources of the Sun, the wind and the Earth, and energy efficiency, to build a stronger, cleaner and more sustainable world. He will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARGARET T. BURROUGHS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Margaret T. Burroughs, an artist, writer, and cofounder of the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago, IL.

Although she was born in Louisiana, Dr. Burroughs moved to Chicago to pursue a career in education and the arts. She spent her life documenting and preserving the history and culture of people of African descent and encouraging fair representation of African Americans. Dr. Burroughs made the first of her many contributions to African-American arts and culture at the age of 22 when she founded the South Side Community Arts Center, a community organization that serves as a gallery and workshop studio for artists and students.

She later went on to establish the DuSable Museum of African American History in 1961, the first museum in the country developed to preserve and interpret the experiences and achievements of people of African descent. The museum is recognized internationally as an educational resource for African-American art and history, with a collection of over 15,000 pieces, including paintings, sculptures, and historical memorabilia.

Dr. Burroughs' many contributions to art and history have been honored nationally. Her literary works and painting have traveled throughout the country—from my home State of Illinois to Washington, DC—and they serve as an inspiration to students and collectors of art. In 1975, Dr. Burroughs was honored for her service to the arts with the President's Humanitarian Award by President Gerald Ford.

Dr. Burroughs' passing in November of 2010 reminds us of the importance of history and the arts and our responsibility to preserve it. Her presence in Chicago and at the DuSable Museum will be greatly missed. As the city of Chicago recognizes the achievements of African Americans and the DuSable Museum during Black History Month, we in Congress honor the life of the DuSable Museum's founder, Margaret Burroughs. It is my hope that her legacy will live on through aspiring artists, historians, and philanthropists.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007—the act—calls for the Se-

lect Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report not later than January 31 of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the committee's activities in 2010 in the categories set forth in the act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 84. (In addition, 9 alleged violations from the previous year were carried into 2010.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 56. (This figure includes 1 matter that was carried into 2010.)

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 25.

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 12. (This figure includes 6 matters from the previous calendar year carried into 2010.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 00.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit: 08. (This figure includes 4 matters carried into 2010.)

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 00.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 00.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2010, the Committee staff conducted 4 new Member ethics training sessions; 14 employee code of conduct training sessions; 21 Member and committee office campaign briefings; 43 ethics seminars for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; 2 private sector ethics briefings; and 10 international ethics briefings.

In 2010, the Committee staff handled approximately 11,137 telephone inquiries and 1,227 inquiries by email for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2010, the Committee wrote 769 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 540 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 134 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2010, the Committee issued 3,527 letters concerning financial disclosure filings by Senators, Senate staff and Senate candidates and reviewed 1,727 reports.

THE AFGHAN CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a minute to call the Senate's attention to a small U.S. aid program in Afghanistan that has a big impact, which I suspect few people here know about.

Shortly after 9/11 and the U.S. invasion to topple the Taliban, a young Californian woman named Marla

Ruzicka traveled alone to Afghanistan where she soon learned about incidents where U.S. bombs had missed their targets and killed civilians. The international press ran stories about those tragedies but nothing was being done to take responsibility for what had happened or help the families of the victims.

Marla decided to do something about it, and she organized protests at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, rallied the media, and not long after was in Washington urging Congress to help the families and show that the United States does not turn its back on innocent victims of our own mistakes.

It was because of Marla that we started a new program, now known as the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program, ACAP, which is managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented by the Afghan staff of the International Organization for Migration. Over the past 8 years, ACAP has provided millions of dollars in small grants to families and communities that have suffered losses as a result of the military operations. The funds have been used for such things as to rebuild a house that was damaged or destroyed, buy a herd of sheep, start a small grocery or weaving business, or provide medical care or vocational training.

After the invasion of Iraq, Marla moved on to Baghdad and, to make a long story short, again thanks to her advocacy we started a similar program there. Tragically, on April 16, 2005, she too became an innocent victim, and died, along with her Iraqi colleague Faiz Ali Salim, in a car bombing. That program is now known as the Marla Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund, and it has helped the families of thousands of innocent Iraqi victims rebuild their lives.

Earlier this week I received from USAID some descriptions of recent ACAP assistance to Afghan families. While they describe exceedingly tragic losses of innocent life, they also illustrate the difference a program like this makes and why it is so important to our larger goals in that country. I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NORTHERN REGION

DAWRI RABAT VILLAGE, CHARDARA DISTRICT, KUNDUZ

School teacher Ghulam Sakhi was shot dead during a firefight between international military forces and the Taliban. The incident happened in the village of Nahri Suf, Chardara District, in February 2010. Ghulam Sakhi was the breadwinner for his family. He left behind his wife, four daughters and five sons.

His eldest son Zabihullah is 20 years old and a student. After the death of his father, Zabihullah was forced to take responsibility for his family. He decided to leave school in search of work. He was unsure how he would be able to support his family.

ACAP provided Ghulam Sakhi's family with a livestock business, together with the

full range of standard kits, plus a livestock kit.

Zabihullah said: "After my father was killed, life was very hard for us. We asked for help from Allah. We were very happy when a worker from ACAP came to interview us and offered help. We were told we would be given help setting up our own small business. We chose a livestock business because my mother, sisters and brothers could take care of the animals, leaving me with the time to resume my education. We sell the milk from the cows to a dairy and make enough money not to be worried. Without this help, my family would find it very difficult to live. Now we can earn a living for ourselves."

WESTERN REGION

ESHAQ SULEIMAN VILLAGE, INJIL DISTRICT, HERAT

Widow Zubaida lost her son during an air strike on her village in October 2001. A total of 26 civilians were killed and 62 injured in the incident. Fourteen families suffered serious damage to their property.

ACAP was informed of the incident several years later and recently completed a monitoring report in order to measure the impact of assistance on one widow's life.

Zubaida had received a small livestock business. Her children and grandchildren received educational lessons. ACAP also provided Zubaida with the full range of the program's standard kits, which include household goods, as well as educational, tailoring, and livestock items.

She told the ACAP monitoring assistant: "After the death of my husband in an IED explosion in late 2000, my son Abdullah was the only supporter of our family. He was running a shop and we could handle the difficulties of life. Abdullah and I were living in a small rented house happily but it did not last long.

"One year later there was a conflict in Eshaq Suleiman, where I am originally from. We were bombarded due to the presence of Taliban fighters in the area. In the morning Abdullah left the house to work but he did not come back again. After the death of Abdullah I not only lost my son but my only supporter."

She added: "I was not able to pay the rent any more so I left the house and went to live in my daughter's house. I tried to find a job. I did everything I could. I worked as a housemaid—cooking, cleaning, and washing. Life was passing with difficulties but then your colleague came to meet me six months ago.

"I received the livestock through which I now earn my living. Before I felt that I was a burden on my daughter and resting on her husband's shoulder but now I have a source of income that pays for the house expenditures. Farzana and Khalil Ahmad, my granddaughter and son, are enjoying the education assistances of your office. They are both attending an English course. I received all the needed equipment for keeping my livestock. Receiving the assistance from ACAP has changed my life and that is why I am really grateful for this program."

Another victim of the incident whom ACAP has helped is mother-of-three Rezagul. She lost her husband in the fierce bombardment. Rezagul has two sons and one daughter. After her husband died, her eldest son Gul Ahmad, who was 13 at the time, was forced to abandon school to become the breadwinner for the family. He tried his best to continue his education in his spare time but it proved too difficult for him.

He was responsible for financially supporting his mother as well as his younger brother Basir Ahmad and sister Sima Gul. He knew that if he did not work full-time then his family would face severe hardship.

An ACAP field assistant assessed the family's requirements. A small business grant

was approved which was used to set up a grocery shop. Rezagul's daughter Sima Gul received English lessons. ACAP also provided standard kits.

Sima now helps her brother run their family grocery business. She packs the dry fruit which is sold to export companies. Rezagul told how she no longer has money worries. She said: "My husband was the only financial supporter of the family. Losing him was extremely difficult. My son did not have a fixed job." She added: "We always wanted to have a family business where my younger son and I could help in the absence of my eldest son. But we could not afford that. But we have been given that opportunity through your generosity."

NORTHERN REGION

OMARKHIL VILLAGE, ALI ABAD DISTRICT, KUNDUZ

An ISAF air-strike on two oil tankers captured by the Taliban resulted in a high civilian death toll. It is estimated that 70 civilians were killed and dozens injured. ACAP has helped 59 families affected by the incident. One beneficiary said that assistance from ACAP helped prevent up to 600 men from joining the Taliban. The air-strikes took place in September 2009 in Kunduz province. The Taliban had hijacked two NATO oil tankers but one of the vehicles became stuck in mud at a riverbank. German forces called in air support and a U.S. Air Force F-15E was dispatched to destroy the tankers. Local villagers had flocked to the abandoned tankers in order to siphon off fuel. They were mistaken for insurgents.

One of the affected families which ACAP helped is that of widow Lailoma. When her husband was killed in the air-strike, she was left unable to financially support her five children.

Lailoma had to rely on friends' charity until ACAP stepped in. Lailoma received the full range of standard kits, which include household goods, as well as educational, tailoring, and livestock items. Lailoma decided to use her ACAP small business grant to buy a pick-up truck. She teamed up with a business partner and now the business generates enough money so that she can comfortably support her family.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise in celebration of Black History Month and to acknowledge the unique contributions of Colorado's African-American communities to my home State and our Nation.

The history of Colorado's African-American communities is long, rich and diverse; it spans from our earliest days as a territory to modern times. I think it safe to say that all Coloradans have benefited tremendously from African-American communities' hard work and dedication to continuously making Colorado a better place to live.

Last year in my remarks on Black History Month, I made special note of the diversity of settlers who moved west during the expansion of the United States. Like other settlers, African Americans moved west in search of new opportunity—some to be free, others to become entrepreneurs, traders, and leaders, but all played an active role in the formation of Colorado as a territory and then a State.

A watercolor painting hangs in my Senate office to remind me of the early