

has given him an unique ability to describe our beautiful New England landscape.

I am proud of Sydney Lea and applaud his accomplishments as a distinguished Vermonter and poet. When I called to congratulate him he was characteristically modest, but we are so proud of him, and I join all Vermonters in congratulating him on this appointment.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, September marks the start of a month-long celebration of the Hispanic community's contributions to America's exceptionalism and the strength of the common values that unite our Nation.

We celebrate a community whose accomplishments and stories remind us that the American Dream is as alive today as it has ever been.

During this same time, our Nation faces an unemployment rate of 9.1 percent, and the Hispanic community struggles with a rate over 11 percent. Now more than ever, we must fight for pro-growth policies that will allow my generation to continue the great tradition of leaving our children a stronger and more prosperous America than the one we inherited from our parents.

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the American dream. We celebrate people like my parents, who came from Cuba, worked hard and opened doors for their children that were closed to them. We celebrate a community where the number of young adults enrolling in college has grown by 349,000 in the last year. We salute the many Hispanic men and women fighting for our freedom in our armed forces. We also remember how lucky we are to live in a country where success is not limited by the circumstances of one's birth.

I am proud to be an American of Cuban descent, and today I would like to celebrate the many Hispanic Americans whose talents, accomplishments, and cultures have strengthened America.

CONGRESS CAN LEARN FROM TOM EVANS' DAY

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following op-ed from the Wilmington News Journal be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Delaware News Journal, Aug. 19, 2011]

CONGRESS CAN LEARN FROM TOM EVANS' DAY (By Darryl Carmin)

The wild, turbulent, white-knuckle political ride of the summer of 2011 appears to have caught Americans with their seatbelts unfastened. Many of us seem to have been totally unprepared for the economic uncertainty, largely precipitated by Washington political gridlock and the inability of Congress to get the nation's financial house in order.

As a result, there are a lot of angry people out here. And, as to be expected, our rage is directed at those perceived as the perpetrators of the mess in which we find ourselves, i.e., Congress and the White House.

A recent Washington Post survey indicates that 80 percent of Americans are dissatisfied with how the political system functions, up from 60 percent in November 2009. There appears to be plenty of blame to spread around: 28 percent of those surveyed cited President Obama as making things worse, while 35 percent pointed finger at congressional Republicans.

What this suggests is that, regardless of how disgusted they are about the \$14 trillion debt or how outraged they are at the intransigence of the tea party, most Americans crave government that can address the nation's problems and achieve some sort of solution, no matter how imperfect.

Not too long ago, things were different in Washington. I was privileged to have had a front row seat in a Congress that did get things done. From 1977-1983, I worked on the personal staff of Delaware Congressman Tom Evans. Tom quickly became something of a master at bringing together members with widely divergent politics to accomplish something important to the nation. I was amazed to see liberals join with conservative forerunners of the tea party to support legislation I suspected they would never have supported without Tom serving as a catalyst.

Among several of Tom's key legislative victories were passage of the first Chrysler loan guarantee assistance bill in 1979 and the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, co-authored with Sen. John Chafee.

The Chrysler bill appeared dead on arrival with House Republicans in 1979. But Evans, essentially acting as the Republican floor manager of the measure, persuaded enough conservatives and moderates to go along with President Jimmy Carter's administration and pass the legislation.

The legislation proved to be highly successful. The automaker continued operations, paid off the loans that had been guaranteed by U.S. taxpayers, and repaid \$350 million to the U.S. Treasury, rewarding taxpayers for the risk that was taken.

Another direct benefit for Delawareans was that the Newark assembly plant remained open for 28 years.

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act stopped federal subsidies and assistance for the development of fragile coastal barrier areas. The act was initially opposed by both Democratic and Republican members of Congress, reflecting the opposition of major land developers. But again, Tom persuaded enough House members to vote for the measure, which, since its passage, has been estimated to save U.S. taxpayers several billions while preserving priceless natural resources.

Recently, I asked Tom what made the Congresses in which he served so much different than the Congress of today that took Americans to the precipice of national default.

He mentioned three factors:

A willingness of individual members to put the needs of the nation above their own personal ideologies.

The ability of those members to respect different philosophies, leading to productive dialogue.

A firmly held belief that Congress was elected to address the nation's problems with action rather than intransigence.

The first phase of the debt ceiling debate is now over and the nation's attention is shifting towards the 12-member supercommittee charged with the enormous task of finding \$1.5 trillion in debt reduction.

I hope this panel's deliberations will be substantially different than what we saw in

Congress last month, when it frequently appeared that a parliamentary brawl was about to break out on the U.S. House floor.

It would be great to see the dialogue between the six Republicans and six Democrats guided by the kind of principles that I've mentioned.

Not only would a respectful and productive dialogue between the parties do much to quell the nation's and financial markets' fears about the ability of the political system to see us through this current crisis, there's another more paradoxical outcome that might well result.

What I learned from my time with Tom Evans is that by treating your colleagues with respect, grace, and dignity, you often achieve much greater results than with the ideologically pure, winner-take-all approach that pervades so much of Congress today. There is much to be learned from the recent past.

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, I have the honor and privilege each year to recognize a West Virginia family for efforts to promote adoption. This is an exceptional program that highlights how policies and programs can change a child's life. In 1997, I worked on the bipartisan Adoption and Safe Families Act which sought to increase adoptions and improve foster care. Much work remains, but real progress has been made in encouraging adoptions.

While policy can help, the real angels are the families who open their hearts and homes to vulnerable children. There are many wonderful stories but in 2011 I have nominated Nick and Jorun Picciano as Angels in Adoption.

These caring parents already have teenage children, and they have incredibly hectic, fulfilling lives as paramedics. But they noticed that some of the children they met on the job were victims of abuse or neglect. As paramedics, they sadly saw a parent who was more interested in returning to a party than taking care of her burned child. According to their story, this was a turning point for them. They sought information about foster parenting, and they worked to find a program that would accommodate their challenging schedules.

Nick and Jorun were approved and welcomed a toddler into their home in 2009. They honestly admitted it had been a long time since they had cared for such a young child, and he already had challenging problems of nightmares, being separated from his siblings, and recovering from contact with his biological parents. This 3-year-old had already been placed in four different homes. But kindness, patience and love make a huge difference.

In 2011, after his parents decided to voluntarily relinquish their parental rights, the Picciano family was able to adopt their son, Joshua Nicholas Picciano. Joshua joins his older siblings, Jacob Hively who is 16, Michaela Hively who is 14, Jacynnda Hively who is 13, and Lucia Picciano who is 13. And

this extraordinary family continues to welcome vulnerable children including two foster girls, ages 7 and 9, into their hearts and home. This is a special family, and they deserve our admiration.

I believe their willingness to see the tragedy of abuse and neglect in their challenging work as paramedics and their decision to make a personal difference by opening their own home and family to vulnerable children is a remarkable, inspiring story that has earned them the distinction of Angels in Adoption.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss my strong support for the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act that the Finance Committee approved yesterday. This is an important bipartisan and bicameral bill that deserves to pass and become law. I am proud to be a cosponsor and I congratulate Chairman BAUCUS and Ranking Member HATCH for their leadership on the important issue of adoption and prevention services for vulnerable children.

Over the years, I have been proud of the Finance Committee's bipartisan work to encourage adoption and improve child welfare services for our most vulnerable children, those who are at risk of abuse and neglect in their own homes. It is inspiring to know that, even now, members can come together to work on such critical issues. Bipartisan bills like this one may not attract headlines, but the policies and programs can change the lives of children and families.

This package continues previous investments in children and families, and it makes improvements on what lessons have been learned over the past 5 years. I am proud that the legislation continues to invest in the court improvement program that is making such a difference in West Virginia, and the country. Our judges are an essential partnership in the child welfare system because they decide when a child can return home safely or if adoption is the better permanency plan for a child. It is a difficult decision to make. Judges deserve specialized training in child development and trauma to help in their decision because this is not always provided at law school, but it is a critical factor in such cases. I am proud of our State training on trauma. The bill also continues the competitive grant program to combat substance abuse and to evaluate the grants so we make wise investments in the future. The bill invests in caseworker visits because such visits are the basics of good practice and essential for child safety and care.

As a former Governor, I support providing waiver authority for states to continue to try innovative programs. Under previous waivers, it became clear that kinship care was a good op-

tion for many children in the foster care system. I hope that our States will be creative in using this new opportunity to provide guidance for additional child welfare reform that is truly needed.

RECOGNIZING OHIO'S GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the men and women of NASA Glenn Research Center in my home State of Ohio for their achievements in the design, build, and test of the new space environmental test capability for the Space Power Facility at Plum Brook Station. These new capabilities will advance the human exploration of space, ensure the safety of our astronauts, drive scientific advances and technology development, and enrich the lives of all people and inspire our next generation of explorers throughout the United States and the world.

Seventy years ago, during World War II, the United States sought sites for ordnance facilities to help defeat totalitarianism. In quiet Erie County, OH, between major highways and acres of farmland, the Army Corps of Engineers created Plum Brook, a facility that would first be home to a munitions factory, and for the last 50 years, Plum Brook Station has continued to serve our Nation as a one-of-a-kind facility that has ensured the success of our Nation's space program.

Throughout its history, Plum Brook remained vital to our Nation's security and our Nation's exploration of space. The National Advisory Council for Aeronautics, NACA, the predecessor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, built a facility to test the nuclear power sources for airplanes and spacecraft that would be designed at Lewis Field—later to be NASA Glenn Research Center—in Cleveland, OH.

When President John F. Kennedy announced that the United States would push the boundaries of science and innovation to explore the heavens, Plum Brook Station became a world-class test site for the new spacecraft. A thermal vacuum chamber, called the Space Power Facility, was built to simulate the harsh space environment. At 100 feet wide and 122 feet high, it remains the largest thermal vacuum chamber in the world.

In 2007, as NASA began to develop a new path for human space exploration, the men and women of NASA Glenn at Lewis Field and Plum Brook Station rose to the challenge to develop a test capability that would push the boundaries of spacecraft testing. The new spacecraft will continue the United States' legacy of carrying American pioneers beyond Earth's orbit, but will experience launch and space environments that never before have been experienced. The Space Environmental Test Facility will allow NASA to test its new spacecraft to these new ex-

tremes—ensuring the safety of our Nation's astronauts and the success of our space exploration mission.

To keep our crews safe, the test capabilities of Plum Brook Station were expanded beyond that of the largest thermal vacuum chamber in the world. These include: a state-of-the-art sine-vibration table that has the largest capacity for payload size and weight in the world, the largest electromagnetic reverberant chamber in the world, and the most powerful acoustic facility in the world capable of simulating launch environments for developmental spacecraft. This facility is now the crown jewel of NASA's test capabilities.

I have had the privilege to meet many of the scientists, engineers, and technicians who made this achievement possible. They are dedicated and compassionate, and guided by the scientific patriotism that displays a Nation's pursuit in understanding the world in which we all live.

These pioneers of NASA Glenn will continue to push the boundaries of spaceflight—fueling technology advancements and inspiring our children to follow in the footsteps of great Ohioans like Neil Armstrong and John Glenn. The scientists and engineers of NASA Glenn will ensure the success of the next generation of pioneers.

Our Nation is defined by the spirit of discovery, the pioneers who pushed westward on land, navigated the oceans, and are now sending humankind into what was once a mere vision seen only through Galileo's eye. We are a nation of pioneers. And we all have a responsibility to safeguard that defining American spirit and to inspire a new generation of American explorers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ERNEST HOUSE, SR.

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I honor the life and memory of a prominent tribal leader and dedicated public servant in my home State of Colorado. The Honorable Ernest House Sr. served more than 30 years in tribal leadership, including four terms as tribal chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in southwest Colorado. He was first elected to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council in 1979 and elected chairman in 1982. Throughout his long tenure as a tribal council member and chairman, he actively and effectively worked for the betterment of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Mr. House Sr. was an unassuming, yet forceful leader on many issues important to the people of his tribe, including natural resources development, law enforcement and support for tribal business enterprises. His leadership on water issues helped to complete the critical Dolores and Animas-La Plata water projects in southwest Colorado that benefited not only his tribe, but also the entire region. He was a strong