

RECOGNIZING THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in the aftermath of September 11, Americans found strength in each other and in our common values. At a time when polarization and division seem to characterize the public debate on many of the important issues confronting our Nation, including terrorism and border security, the 10th anniversary of September 11 has been an occasion for us to reflect and refocus on the core values that unite us as Americans, including the belief that each person should be free to live without persecution, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.

It is in that spirit that I wish today to recognize the work of the Anti-Defamation League; which has carried out important work in opposition to the anti-Semitic sentiments of those promoting September 11 conspiracy theories. As we mark the 10th anniversary of September 11, we must strongly condemn the anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that blame Jews or Israel for carrying out the September 11 terrorist attacks that continue to this day.

The ADL also plays an important role in addressing the consequences of hate and fostering a dialog through its recent work with a broad coalition of groups. In its retrospective, "9/11 Ten Years Later: The Changing Face of Hate, Terrorism and Democracy in America," the ADL assesses the proliferation of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories related to the September 11 terrorist attacks, the nature and magnitude of homegrown extremism and terrorism, the growing problem of anti-Muslim bigotry, and the recalibration of the balance between security and individual rights. The ADL also has been a leader in promoting police-community partnerships and expanding training for law enforcement.

We face serious challenges in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. In meeting those challenges, we as lawmakers should be inspired by efforts like those of the ADL to transcend division and differences.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of September 11, it is an honor for me to recognize the work of the ADL and underscore the importance of their message.

RECOGNIZING THE FREEPORT FLAG LADIES

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to three truly remarkable Mainers—Elaine Greene, Carmen Footer and JoAnn Miller, affectionately known as, The Freeport Flag Ladies. It has been said that great things come in threes. That adage applies many, many times over for my friends and phenomenal Mainers, all retired and residing together in Elaine's home on School Street in Freeport. I am in awe of them and their story which is one of unabashed patriotism, limitless inspiration, and a

love of country that makes us all inex-pressibly proud.

Every Tuesday morning from 8 to 9 a.m., regardless of weather and irrespective of season, these renowned Flag Ladies have stood not far from another icon in Maine, L.L. Bean, with the presence and exuberance of not one, but three Statues of Liberty having come to life for the single purpose of paying rightful homage to those who have sacrificed for all of us—our brave service men and women and our first responders.

And incredibly, they have never, ever missed a Tuesday—not once. They have given up vacations and used the money they saved for this and other endeavors, including sending care packages to those fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. They travel to Bangor International Airport two to three times a week to join the Maine Troop Greeters, or to Pease International in New Hampshire, they attend numerous troop send-off or welcome-home ceremonies, and Elaine estimates she has taken 1 million photos of the troops when they greet them at various locations.

These women project the inescapable belief that our strength and resolve as a State and a nation have always emanated not from Augusta, not from Washington, but from the people themselves—from tireless patriots of their own volition performing the most extraordinary of deeds. I well recall when we stood shoulder to shoulder as the steel beams from the Twin Towers—bequeathed by officials at Ground Zero to the town of Freeport—journeyed this past May from their hallowed home in New York to be enshrined in a 9/11 Memorial. Elaine, Carmen, and JoAnn's leadership in bringing the steel to Maine was instrumental.

How fitting it is that this massive steel beam that once undergirded the World Trade Center now undergird our spirits, our hearts, and our memories in Freeport. After all, there are only a finite number of steel pieces that remain from the Twin Towers, and the requests for them within America and around the world far exceed what is available. To have the proud distinction of displaying this beam—in which so much meaning is infused—defies description. But behind Maine's selection was the knowledge that we would be more than custodians of this patriotic emblem—that we would in fact be its steward. What better stewards than the Freeport Flag Ladies.

The words are difficult to find to adequately convey the height of my admiration, not to mention the sense of privilege I have felt when joining them on Main Street to wave American flags. People honk as they drive by, they wave, they stop and thank them—it really is something. Let me just say, it was the highest of honors to join Elaine, Carmen, and JoAnn on the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks in Freeport.

Ever since I learned of their exceptional response to the horrific events of

9/11, Tuesdays have never been the same for me, for my staff, and for the countless individuals who have encountered them in Freeport or heard about them in the news. Indeed, after the heinous acts that occurred that Tuesday morning on September 11, 2001, when President Bush asked us all, as Americans, to walk outside and light a candle in remembrance of those individuals taken tragically from us too soon, Elaine, Carmen, and JoAnn did just that. But they also kindled a deeper flame in all of us by bringing American flags with them to wave on Main Street in Freeport. And for that we are so very grateful.

It is fitting that these three women with backgrounds in health care have taken it upon themselves—one Tuesday at a time, one greeting at a time, one photo at a time, and one good word at a time—to help heal our Nation by harnessing the best of who we are and what we stand for, whether in the best of times or when facing adversity.

When considering their stalwart dedication to our country and those who serve her, I cannot help but recall one of Maine's giants and America's military heroes, GEN Joshua Chamberlain, who once said, "I long to be in the field again, doing my part to keep the old flag up, with all its stars." The Freeport Flag Ladies, by being civilian sentinels of freedom have indeed been doing their part for 10 years. Thank you Elaine, Carmen, and JoAnn.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. C. PAT TAYLOR

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Dr. C. Pat Taylor, who has served as president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO, for the last 15 years, making him the longest serving president in the 133-year history of the school. Dr. Taylor already had an impressive record in higher education before coming to SBU in 1996. In the last 15 years he has added to that record of accomplishment and earned respect for his leadership and dedication to the students and community at Southwest Baptist University.

Southwest Baptist University is a very special place to me. I earned my undergraduate degree there and 20 years later served 4 years as its President. Dr. Taylor is my successor, and I have enjoyed watching the university grow and get even better under his leadership.

During his remarkable tenure at SBU:

Dr. Taylor has presented a record 11,881 degrees since 1996.

SBU has Missouri's third largest nursing degree program on its Springfield campus.

The number of student missionaries sent out in North American has doubled to more than 400 in the last decade, and Dr. Taylor hopes to see that continue to increase.

Student enrollment peaked at more than 3700 in the fall of 2009 and remains at 3,576 this semester.

The Partner in Excellence campaign between 1999 and 2005 raised a record \$62 million to fund 13 major building projects for the arts, instructional technology and extended learning, sports and athletics, religious education, and campus parking.

The SBU endowment more than doubled during the last decade to over \$19 million.

The school's first doctoral program was launched, and the number of physical therapy applications has grown each year.

"It's all God's blessing," Dr. Taylor has explained. "We've worked hard, but God has blessed it. It's not what we've done, but it's what God has done through us. When I really look at our success, it's because God has ordained that we will be successful."

I could not agree with Dr. Taylor more. I would add that Dr. Taylor is a blessing to Southwest Baptist University and the community. It is my hope that Southwest Baptist University continues to meet its mission as a "Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society." It is a bold calling, and I am certain SBU has the leadership and dedication in Dr. Taylor to see it fulfilled.●

TRIBUTE TO GLENN VANSELOW

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize and honor Glenn Vanselow and wish him well upon his upcoming retirement from his position as executive director of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association of Portland, OR.

Glenn has served as the executive director of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association since 1989. His 22 years of service to Oregonians and all the residents of the Northwest have been invaluable. His advocacy on behalf of infrastructure projects in the region has been key to ensuring that Oregon's ports remain a vital component of our economy and laid a foundation for them to grow and flourish in the future.

He has been critical to helping build and maintain the locks, dams, hydropower and irrigation projects on the Columbia/Snake River system that have been so important to commerce in our region. He brought experience, know-how, leadership, and vision to critical navigation projects like the Columbia River Channel Deepening and the lock gate replacements just this past winter. And a few years ago, we were able to celebrate the completion of repairs to the Tillamook north jetty together.

Glenn has made many stops along the way in serving the Northwest. He is on the board of the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, he co-chaired the Bi-State Water Quality Study for the Lower Columbia and

served as chair of the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program in developing a management plan for ecosystem restoration. Past board memberships have included the Oregon Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, Regional Maritime Security Coalition-Columbia River, and University of Idaho College of Mines Advisory Board.

The legacy of Glenn's time with PNWA will be the permanent and long-term investments in Oregon that he helped move forward, the jobs those projects helped to create, and the families who have benefited from the great work the PNWA has done during his tenure. I know my home State of Oregon owes Glenn a great debt.

I congratulate Glenn on his significant contributions to the growth and development of the economy of the Pacific Northwest, and I wish him well in retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on today, September 26, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2646. An act to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2883. An act to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2943. An act to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through December 31, 2011.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the enrolled bills were signed on today, September 26, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2401. An act to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2401. An act to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1633. A bill to amend chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, to modify the basis utilized for annual adjustments in amounts of educational assistance for members of the Selected Reserve; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1634. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the approval and disapproval of programs of education for purposes of educational benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1635. A bill to designate certain lands in San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan Counties, Colorado, as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. Res. 283. A resolution designating the year of 2011 as the "International Year of Chemistry"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 284. A resolution designating September 23, 2011, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 268

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 268, a bill to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other