

American soil, we tread on ground made safer for us through the invaluable sacrifices of our servicemembers and their families.”

While we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude we owe our military families, we can do everything possible to lessen their burden and provide for their needs.

I encourage all Americans to take time this month and all year round to recognize and honor our military families for the countless contributions they make each and every day for our great Nation.

REMEMBERING CASEY RIBICOFF

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Casey Ribicoff, an inspiration, role model and friend to me and so many others.

Casey Ribicoff was a living legend. She and Abe shared a love that was heartfelt and moving, and obvious to all who knew them. She brought laughter and elegance to every friendship, most especially to her partnership with Abe. Together they traveled the world and country, making new friendships and visiting old ones, all the while creating enough memories to last a lifetime.

Having served on the Abe Ribicoff Senate staff, I can attest to their extraordinary partnership in public service, her deep caring for the people of Connecticut, and her commitment to social justice. She regarded the Senate as a platform for advocacy and hard work on behalf of Connecticut and the public interest. She and Abe were truly a team.

Casey had an impressive energy and strength. She was constantly involved in good causes, leading to her appointment by Jimmy Carter to the board of the Kennedy Center, a position she proudly held for 20 years. A founder of the AIDS Care Center at the New York Presbyterian Hospital, Casey always found new ways to give back and help the community.

As a personal friend, which she was to Cynthia and me, she was endlessly loyal and generous, and she leaves a legacy of good work that will be remembered for decades to come. Casey was kind, generous and loving. She will live on in the friendships and family that she cherished. She will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NEW MEXICO

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 70th anniversary of Goodwill Industries of New Mexico. Working in New Mexico communities since 1941, the organization has helped find work and provided training and development for countless needy New Mexicans.

The nonprofit organization provides essential skill development, career-building services, and work opportunities to residents facing serious employment barriers. This is an especially important service they provide considering the continuing difficulties facing many applicants in today’s job market.

Despite high unemployment and a struggling economy, Goodwill Industries of New Mexico placed nearly 850 clients in public and private sector jobs last year. Many of these clients face challenges with various disabilities, homelessness, drug addiction, and traumatic brain injuries, among other barriers. And the impact of the organization’s activities has been felt throughout the entire State. In 2010, Goodwill Industries served nearly 10,000 residents through 8 programs reaching all 33 counties. That is a tenfold increase from a decade ago.

Much of its funding is derived through its retail stores, with 87 cents of every dollar spent on programs and services. But last year alone, in addition to its retail sales, Goodwill Industries of New Mexico salvaged nearly 1,700 tons of textiles, 188 tons of shoes, recycled 536 tons of cardboard and paper, and kept nearly 35 tons of used electronics out of New Mexico landfills. The environmental impact of Goodwill’s initiatives is making a positive difference as well.

The education and training programs provide intensified training to those in need at six training centers across the State. Their programs also help low-income seniors to market themselves and acquire skills to compete in today’s job market and place individuals in subsidized jobs with a host agency with the goal of moving that employee into a permanent position within the community.

Its Pathways programs assist the near homeless and chronically homeless in obtaining access to housing and the opportunity to begin a new life through the power of work. Goodwill Industries’ GoodGuides Mentoring Program pairs adults with at risk teens. Mentors provide structure and a supportive relationship with middle and high school-aged students. Goodwill volunteers work with teens to establish goals, build career plans, and work toward high school graduation to prepare for postsecondary training or college.

Traumatic brain injuries often leave patients confused and bewildered, struggling with simple day-to-day tasks. The caring staff in the TBI case management program assisted over 500 clients in crisis last year from imminent risk to their safety and health. I was also pleased to announce in July that this highly respected organization received over a \$½ million grant from the VA to prevent homelessness among New Mexican veterans and their families.

Mr. President, I join Goodwill Industries of New Mexico in celebrating its 70th anniversary, and I congratulate them on being one of my State’s pre-

mier service providers advocating for the disabled, homeless, and unemployed.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AND MARGARET PATRICELLI

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to commend Robert and Margaret Patricelli, of Simsbury, CT, for their immense generosity and vision in establishing an institute that will promote and support important public service activities.

Public policy and service have played a central role in the Patricelli’s careers and lives. Graduating from Wesleyan in 1961 and Harvard Law in 1965, Bob was selected as one of 15 people for the first White House Fellows Program. His participation helped shape him as someone who understands the value of public policy and government service. Both he and Margaret are always looking for ways to give back and inspire others.

Their passion for giving back and helping others is what moved them to start the Robert and Margaret Patricelli Family Foundation to bring a tangible reality to programs and projects that serve the greater good. What Bob and Margaret have done through their family’s foundation is inspiring and moving—and will continue to serve the country, and the world, for generations to come. Their philanthropic and service activities have touched countless lives across the State, from the arts to science, hospitals to schools, and programs assisting low-income neighborhoods.

In May of this year, the foundation contributed substantially to Wesleyan University, establishing the Patricelli Center for Social Entrepreneurship. This center will support students seeking to establish programs and organizations, providing workshops, speakers and networking opportunities for students. It will help encourage and embolden students who are focused on becoming social entrepreneurs, as well as award grants to undergraduate students engaged in specific projects. The foundation’s most recent contribution to Wesleyan is one more example of great caring and commitment that lead me to recognize Bob and Margaret for all that they have done for our State and country.

A role model and inspiration to all who value public service, I commend and thank Bob and Margaret Patricelli for their legacy of great work for Connecticut and the country.●

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN M. TOPODAS

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish today to pay tribute to Jonathan M. Topodas, who will be retiring this month after a spectacular 38-year-career with Aetna, one of Connecticut’s leading corporate citizens.

Jonathan joined Aetna’s law department after graduating from Southern

Methodist University Law School in 1974. Throughout his tenure with the company, he has provided sound legal advice to many of the firm's clients. More recently, Jonathan joined Aetna's Federal relations team, where he currently serves as the vice president and counsel responsible for Federal health legislative and regulatory matters. In this position, Jonathan has been an important voice in debates about critical health care issues, such as Medicare and patient safety.

In addition to his work with Aetna, Jonathan also earned a congressional fellowship through the Brookings Institution in 1979. Through this program, he worked as a counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also serves on the board of directors of the American Benefits Council, and has worked together with respected business organizations such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Jonathan's wife Elaine, an accomplished dancer and teacher, shares his commitment to community service. Elaine is affiliated with several community groups and theaters as a choreographer and director. She is passionate about her work, so much so that she returns to Connecticut during the summer to work with local dance troupes in a variety of settings. I thank Elaine for her contributions to Connecticut's vibrant artistic culture.

In his off-work hours, Jonathan enjoys spending time with his three children and two grandchildren. He also loves to explore his deep Greek heritage. Jonathan's ancestors made their living as divers in the Aegean Sea, and Jonathan is known to regale his friends and colleagues with fascinating anecdotes about Greek history and culture, such as the history of the Hippocratic Oath.

I wish Jonathan Topodas, and his family, nothing but the best as he gets ready to begin a well-deserved retirement.●

BANGOR HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the Bangor High School Girls Soccer Team, which on November 5, 2011, clinched the programs first-ever Maine Class A State Championship, and in doing so achieved the remarkable feat of a perfect season! I applaud Coach Johnson and each and every member of the team on their milestone accomplishment!

Indeed, the story of the Bangor Girls Soccer Team is truly inspiring, characterized by an extraordinary strength of character and conviction that could not be more emblematic of our great State of Maine. The team embarked upon this season imbued with the distinct recollection of its heartbreaking loss in last years championship match, but under the steadfast leadership of 12 seniors who have been lifelong friends

and teammates, the team admirably transformed that defeat into an indefatigable drive to seize the gold ball.

From that point forward, the team demonstrated an awe-inspiring, unmatched fortitude and tenacity that propelled them to victory after victory. As senior Liz Hintz stated in a Bangor Daily News article, We took every game seriously. We knew we couldn't afford to let down for even ten minutes because we knew it could cost us. That undeterred, laser beam focus was reflected in their statistics as well. In the regular season alone, the team incredibly outscored their opponents 98-8, and in the postseason, an even more impressive 18-0.

The teams unwavering motivation led them all the way to their second consecutive championship game where, in a rematch of the previous years title contest, they again confronted the reigning champion. Undaunted, the team played with the unflagging passion and willpower that had become its hallmark characteristic, working tirelessly on both offense and defense and never relenting to a challenge. That irreversible tide of momentum as the opposing coach called it carried Bangor to a convincing 4-0 victory and its first Class A Championship.

The legendary Mia Hamm once astutely observed, The backbone of success is usually found in old-fashioned, basic concepts like hard work, determination, good planning and perseverance. If any team epitomizes that belief, its the Bangor Girls Soccer Team, which overcame the heart-wrenching loss of last year to become the best team in Class A soccer this year.

Again, I congratulate and commend the Bangor High School Girls Soccer Team on their well-deserved victory as well as their extraordinary efforts. What a wonderful success story they are for Bangor and our great State of Maine!●

TRIBUTE TO MARVIN BREWSTER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor Marvin Brewster, a veteran of the Vietnam war. And a familiar volunteer in the community of Great Falls, MT. For years, Marv has been very active in Toys for Tots, and the Marine Corps League, and the Great Falls Farmers Market.

Marv Brewster is also an artist. He sculpted the 13-foot angel that graces the Montana Veterans' Memorial. Anyone who has visited that memorial has no doubt been uplifted by the power and comfort of Marv's statue.

Through all of his work in this community, Marv never asked for recognition. He just did as all Marines do—the very best he could on behalf of his fellow citizens.

Forty-six years ago, Marv joined the Navy. He served with M Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines as a combat corpsman in Vietnam.

I would like to read what COL C.H. Bodley, the commander of the 3rd

Battalion, said to Marv in 1966. And this is a direct quote:

You have performed your duties as Platoon Corpsman in an outstanding manner . . . Your potential was more fully exploited as you participated in eight major operations and numerous small unit activities. On Operation Mallard' the company sustained 13 casualties from Viet Cong small arms and mortar fire. Without hesitation, you moved through the area administering aid and comforting those in need of your assistance . . . Your performance on Operation Mallard' is indicative of the consistently fine work you have been doing. Your eagerness to serve, unswerving loyalty and professional ability have earned you the respect and confidence of all who have been associated with you. It is indeed a pleasure to have men of your caliber in my command and I highly commend you for a job well done.

On April 21, 1966, Marv was wounded in combat during "Operation Hot Springs." For his sacrifice, he received a Purple Heart.

Marv got the medal. But his Purple Heart was never recorded in his official records. The Navy said it was the Marines' job. The Marines said it was the Navy's job.

Decades later, Marv Brewster reached out to my office to fix his record once and for all so he could access the health benefits he earned as he faces another tough challenge: cancer, related to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam.

Yesterday, it was my honor to present Marv with the Purple Heart Award Certificate he should have received nearly 50 years ago, and with it a corrected "DD 215" discharge form.

History shows us that Marv is an honored recipient of the Purple Heart, and all the benefits that come with it.

In researching Marv's records, we learned that Marv never received several other decorations he earned years ago. Yesterday, I also had the honor of presenting to Marv, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. It was also my honor to present the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. Yesterday I also presented to Marv the Combat Action Ribbon and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device. These decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism—sacrifice and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation that wishes you and your family, Marv, the very best in the future.●

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