

first met in 1969 during his State representative campaign. The Ambassador's friendship with Pope John Paul II led him to author two books: "The Accidental Pope," a novel cowritten with Robin Moore, and a memoir titled "Pope John Paul II: A Personal Portrait of the Pope and the Man."

Today, I am proud to salute Ambassador Raymond L. Flynn's accomplishments as a collegiate student-athlete in addition to his achievements as a public servant, diplomat, and devoted husband and father. I am also proud to call him my friend. When Ambassador Flynn sees his jersey hanging high above the court for the first time on Saturday night, I am sure the crowd will give this accomplished son of Massachusetts a standing ovation.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL BAILEY

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, every day in the Senate we owe an enormous amount of gratitude to our staff and to the staff here on the floor which work long hours—often behind the scenes and away from the headlines—to make possible the smooth functioning of this institution.

Today I would like to offer particular gratitude for one of the Senate pages who was among the youngest members of that extraordinary and unheralded team—a page I was privileged to sponsor here, 16-year-old Rachel Bailey from Glendale, MD.

Rachel found herself serving as a page during last year's lameduck session—one of a pair of the only Senate pages, in fact, on hand during that historically busy period.

As we know, typically, the Senate has 30 pages working at any given time. And with 100 Senators, the pace can get pretty hectic.

So imagine how hectic it became for Rachel when the rest of her page class went home for the holidays, leaving her and one fellow page to handle all the page duties in what proved to be an extremely productive and busy session.

Together they handled it all with a smile, carrying the workload of 30 pages and never missing a beat, even though it meant no days off and working up to 14 hours each day. And Rachel did so in a manner that was calm, professional and bipartisan, working with both the Democratic and Republican cloakrooms.

Pages play an important role in the daily operation of the Senate. They deliver correspondence and legislative material throughout the Capitol. They take messages for Senators or call them to the phone. They prepare the Chamber for Senate sessions, and they carry bills and amendments to the desk. All of this is in addition to their regular school work.

But as demanding as it is, being a page also gives a student a rare opportunity to learn about—and contribute—to the legislative branch of our government and to witness firsthand the debates in the U.S. Senate,

often described as the "greatest deliberative body in the world." And in the lameduck session, Rachel had an up close look at a flurry of major legislation, including the Senate's bipartisan ratification of the New START Treaty, a long-sought arms reduction agreement with Russia.

Serving as a page has inspired numerous young Americans to pursue careers in public service, even in politics and in the Senate. My friend Chris Dodd, who just retired after more than three decades in Congress, once served as a Senate page. So did one of my current colleagues, MARK PRYOR of Arkansas. So perhaps someday we will see Rachel in the Senate again, in some role other than page.

But in the meantime, let me thank Rachel's parents, Susan and Karl, for sharing her with the Senate during the Christmas holiday, and sustaining her in her first foray in public service—and please also allow me to thank Rachel for her extra special efforts and to express my admiration for the way she conducted herself throughout our lameduck session. She has set the bar high for herself—and for all the Senate pages who will follow.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID M. PITTEMBER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today, I honor the career and contributions of David M. Pittenger, who is retiring after 30 years with the National Aquarium, 15 years as executive director. Dave joined the National Aquarium as director of education in 1979 and implemented award-winning conservation education programs in Baltimore City public schools 2 years before the aquarium officially opened its doors in 1981. Now, each year, 70,000 Maryland schoolchildren, on average, visit the National Aquarium for free as part of their curriculum and Aquarium educators give curriculum training to more than 1,000 teachers.

Through programs that are onsite, in schools and hands-on in the field, the National Aquarium engages children of all ages in raising young terrapins and releasing them into the Bay, taking water and soil samples, growing plants, and going on nature hikes. Children paddle canoes and kayaks, wade in creeks, count birds in wetlands, snorkel in Florida coral reefs, and patrol sea turtle nesting areas in Georgia. For some children, these programs offer their first encounter with an environment outside their neighborhood.

During Dave Pittenger's tenure as director, the National Aquarium has expanded its footprint in Baltimore's Inner Harbor to three buildings, adding an engaging dolphin amphitheater and the award-winning Australia exhibit. The aquarium has also moved beyond its Inner Harbor location, acquiring 12.5 acres of once-contaminated waterfront land in South Baltimore and re-

mediating this "brownfield" to make way for a publicly accessible waterfront park.

Dave has fostered Baltimore's alliance with the National Aquarium in Washington, DC, creating a venue that now showcases 70 exhibits featuring America's Aquatic Treasures, highlighting the animals and habitats of freshwater ecosystems in the United States and other conservation hot spots through the National Marine Sanctuaries Program. Under Dave's leadership, however, the National Aquarium has taken on a role greater than its exhibits. He is committed to using the National Aquarium as a stage to educate parents and their children about the importance of aquatic conservation. Dave's priorities of conservation and education are firmly rooted in the conviction that zoos and aquariums have both the capacity and the responsibility to increase public awareness of environmental issues and to implement conservation action programs.

Dave has provided the leadership to make the National Aquarium a true conservation organization with programs around the Chesapeake Bay and the world that restore habitats, rebuild tidal wetlands, strengthen eroding shorelines, reestablish islands, rehabilitate endangered sea turtles, and research lionfish and coral reefs. When the BP oilspill occurred, for instance, scientists from the National Aquarium were available to provide expertise to government and conservation officials trying to ameliorate the damage to the ecosystem in the Gulf of Mexico, work they continue today.

In 2010, building on the aquarium's strong legacy of service to the environment, the National Aquarium Conservation Center was established to research aquatic species and environments and provide advocacy and programs that tackle pressing conservation issues that affect the aquatic environment.

Under Dave's leadership, the National Aquarium has been an economic engine for the city of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, welcoming some 1.5 million visitors annually. The National Aquarium is a world-class entertainment attraction and Maryland's No. 1 tourist attraction. The aquarium generates millions in tax dollars and tourism revenue while employing more than 450 staff and engaging local businesses to support its operations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dave Pittenger for his steadfast contributions to our aquatic environment in Maryland and throughout the Nation and the world. The foundation he has laid will produce benefits for all of us as we continue to work to educate and advocate for clean water and a clean environment for all the inhabitants of this Earth.●

LAUNCH OF FIRST RADIOLOGIC-
PATHOLOGY CORRELATION
COURSE

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the launch of the first Radiologic-Pathology Correlation Course presented by the American Institute for Radiologic Pathology, AIRP, at its new Silver Spring, MD, venue. The American College of Radiology created the AIRP to allow radiology resident training to move forward uninterrupted by the Defense Department's closure of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, AFIP, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission plan. The launch of the AIRP provides an excellent example of the private sector stepping up to help ameliorate the impact that BRAC changes can have on a community.

I am especially pleased that AIRP chose to locate in the newly revitalized historic American Film Institute Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, approximately 2 miles from the former AFIP site. The AFI Silver Theatre is a state-of-the-art education and cultural center anchored by the restoration of noted architect John Ebersson's historic 1938 Silver Theatre. Once slated for the wrecker's ball, AFI was saved through the efforts of the local community and reopened in 2003. Its revitalization represents a unique public-private partnership between Montgomery County, MD, and the American Film Institute.

The launch of the AIRP at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center demonstrates the role the theatre is playing as a major anchor of a redevelopment effort in Montgomery County. Approximately 2,000 physicians annually from around the world are expected to convene in Silver Spring for 4 weeks at a time to participate in AIRP. With courses developed and presented by world-renowned faculty from the most prestigious radiology programs in the country, AIRP will further contribute to Montgomery County's reputation as a leader in medical research and education. I applaud the launch of the AIRP, and I look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship between AIRP and the Montgomery County community.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. DENNIS

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize the retirement this week of Robert A. Dennis, CBO's Assistant Director for Macroeconomic Analysis. Mr. Dennis is retiring after more than 30 years of service at CBO.

He began his career at CBO in 1979, working as a Principal Analyst in CBO's Macroeconomic Division. He was promoted to the position of Deputy Assistant Director of the Division in 1988 and then to the position of Assistant Director of the Division in 1992, where he has served since.

As the head of CBO's Macroeconomic Analysis Division, Mr. Dennis has been

one of the leading economists at CBO and has helped drive the agency's outstanding work. His skills as an economist have been highlighted in the diverse issues he has worked on while at CBO, ranging from macroeconomic effects of tax policy, to the impact of flu epidemics and terrorist disruptions at U.S. ports.

Mr. Dennis has also played a critical role at CBO by developing many of the procedures the Macroeconomic Analysis Division has used to prepare its economic forecasts. He even wrote the computer software that the division used for many years to analyze current economic developments and prepare charts for CBO publications.

Mr. Dennis's excellent work has been recognized throughout his career. In the 1980s, as a principal analyst, he received a CBO Director's Award for outstanding performance. And he has since received a number of awards recognizing his outstanding management at CBO.

Mr. Dennis has exemplified CBO's high standard of professionalism, objectivity, and nonpartisanship. He has worked tirelessly to ensure Congress was given accurate and timely information on the key policy issues of the day.

I thank Robert Dennis and commend him for his many years of dedicated, faithful, and outstanding service to CBO, to Congress, and to the American people. I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.●

REMEMBERING CLIFFORD R.
PHILLIPS

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to offer a tribute to Clifford R. Phillips. He passed away on December 3, 2010, at his home in Surprise, AZ. He was an Alaskan fishing legend and a true hero who fought bravely in the European Theater during World War II.

Cliff was born on December 7, 1919, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. His parents, who had originally been involved in the fishing industry in England, had immigrated to British Columbia where they managed a herring saltery. They later moved to Ketchikan where he would, as a very young man, begin his career in Alaskan fisheries. This was the age of "mild cure" salmon, and starting at the age of seven Cliff began learning the family business and the importance of producing a high quality product. He continued to work with his father in the family business through the 1930s.

After seeing the devastation and heartache of the beginning of World War II, Cliff joined the Alaska National Guard. He trained at Chilkoot Barracks in Haines, AK, and was assigned to duties in the Aleutian Islands. He was one of the first to fly into the new military airfield built in the Pribilof Islands, which is located nearly 500 miles off the Siberian coast. The rugged winter saw the Islands iced in. The

base did not receive supplies by ship for some 9 months, but Cliff and his comrades held their ground.

In September 1944, he transferred to the European Theater and joined the Third Army. He participated in the landing at Normandy, and his unit later helped to repel the German offensive in "The Battle of the Bulge." Cliff managed to make it through combat unscathed, and his distinguished service led to his being awarded the Silver Star.

Upon discharge after World War II, Cliff felt the urge to return to Alaska and to his family heritage in the fishing industry. He naturally gravitated back to Ketchikan in southeast Alaska so that he could work in the waters he knew best.

In 1950, the Phillips father-son duo built the E.C. Phillips cold storage plant on Tongass Narrows in Ketchikan. Cliff and his father excelled at increasing capacity, efficiency, and quality. As time went by, the E.C. Phillips product became known for its high quality around the world, and today it is still known as a premier quality product.

After the death of his father, Cliff took charge, but he was no desk bound executive, and standard working hours did not apply to him. During the fishing season he could always be found in the processing area of his plant inspecting the fish and supervising operations. Cliff sold his product by phone and fax from his Alaskan office to the entire United States and around the world. But nothing left the plant until he was satisfied that the fish met the E.C. Phillips quality standard.

Before there was an Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Cliff was Alaska's ambassador for seafood, and he traveled far and wide promoting Alaskan seafood products. Cliff remained active in the business well into his eighties, but even after he retired from daily operations and moved to Arizona he maintained frequent contact with the plant and his many friends and customers.

Everyone found Cliff to be a charming man, eloquent and persuasive, but first and foremost he saw it as his mission to insist on high quality for all products which carried the E.C. Phillips brand name. I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife Dixie and his family members. We have all lost a friend, and Alaska's seafood industry has lost a great champion. May he rest in peace.●

REMEMBERING NEVA EGAN

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I honor the passing of the initial first lady of Alaska, Neva Egan. Desdia Neva McKittrick Egan was born in Wilson, KS, on October 3, 1914. The articulate, effervescent Alaskan served on hospital boards, school boards, worked diligently on community commitments, and continued to attend morning meetings of the Commonwealth