

On February 15, 1837, the Illinois Legislature granted a charter to Knox Manual Labor College. Its founder, the Reverend George Washington Gale, a social reformer from New York, came to the Illinois prairie to found a college emphasizing manual labor that would be open to students regardless of their financial means, gender, or race.

This egalitarianism and the strong anti-slavery beliefs of Reverend Gale and his followers gave Knox and Galesburg a unique place in the history of the abolitionist movement in America. Knox is a nationally recognized part of the Underground Railroad network. Its Old Main was the site of the fifth debate between U.S. Senate candidates Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas. It was during the debate at Knox that Lincoln would argue for the first time against slavery on moral grounds.

It seems fitting that President Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, and President Obama, our nation's first African American president, both hold honorary degrees from this institution. Knox was also the alma mater of Barnabas Root, who in 1870 became one of the first African Americans to earn a college degree in Illinois. In that same year, Hiram Revels, who also attended Knox, became the first African American to serve in the United States Senate.

Today, the Knox campus is a vibrant community of world class scholars—teachers, staff, and more than 1,400 students hailing from 48 States and 51 countries. Manual labor may have been dropped from its name and curriculum—much to the relief of its current students to be sure—but Knox's founding commitment to providing a quality education to all persists. Of Knox's students today, more than a quarter are first generation college students, a quarter are U.S. students of color, and nearly one third are low-income students. Approximately two thirds of students receive some form of financial aid, and Knox has been rated by Princeton Review as a "Best Bang for Your Buck."

I congratulate President Teresa Amott and the entire Knox community on this milestone in the proud and storied history of Knox College. Knox is truly one of our nation's great liberal arts institutions—its contributions far surpass its relatively small size. So, as we look back in celebration of Knox's preceding 175 years, we also look to the future in anticipation of the continued contributions this small college on the Illinois prairie will make to our State and our country for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to submit to my colleagues a resolution that is very important to the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the history of our Nation. This resolution, S. Res. 357, sponsored by myself and my friend Senator PAUL,

commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs and recognizes the significance of the great clash of the Civil War that took place there.

On January 19, 1862, the Battle of Mill Springs spilled across Pulaski and Wayne Counties in southeastern Kentucky. It was the second-largest battle to take place in the State, and involved over 10,000 soldiers. More importantly, it was the first significant Union victory to happen in what was then considered the western theater of the Civil War. The Union's victory meant that the main Confederate defense line that had been anchored in eastern Kentucky was broken, freeing Union soldiers to move through Kentucky and into Tennessee.

One hundred fifty years later, this battle is still a vital story in our Nation's history. That is why our resolution also salutes the Mill Springs Battlefield Association, which has worked hard to preserve the historic site and educate the public about what went on there. The Mill Springs Battlefield Association has a visitors' center, provides tours, displays Civil War artifacts and maintains a Civil War library. More than 50,000 visitors have traveled to see the preserved battlefield.

So Mr. President, I am proud to submit this resolution to the United States Senate, and proud of the history we have preserved for posterity in Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO GARY D. REESE

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, every so often, it is my honor as the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations to recognize the outstanding contributions of members of the Senate family. As anyone who has spent a few years in Washington will know, public service may not be the career of choice for those who hope to be appreciated in their own time.

Benjamin Franklin recognized this back in 1772, when he wrote:

We must not in the course of public life expect immediate approbation and immediate grateful acknowledgement of our services. But let us persevere through abuse and even injury. The internal satisfaction of a good conscience is always present, and time will do us justice in the minds of the people . . .

Mr. President, through his 20 years of service in the U.S. Senate, Gary Reese is an exception to Mr. Franklin's rule. His charm, his expertise, and his professionalism have earned Gary the respect and appreciation of Senators, leaders in the executive branch, and his colleagues.

Gary's service in the Senate began in 1987, when he joined the staff of Senator Bennett Johnston as a legislative assistant for military issues. In 6 years of service, Gary demonstrated a great ability to get results for the State of Louisiana and distinguished himself by developing a thorough understanding of the shipbuilding industry. Gary then moved to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in 1993, where he devel-

oped expertise in some of the most technical and important aspects of our national security.

The Committee on Appropriations was extremely fortunate to lure Gary away from that prestigious committee in January 1997. As a professional staff member on the Subcommittee on Defense, Gary excelled in oversight of acquisition programs in each of the military services, as well as classified matters. Gary departed the Senate in 2002, at which time his accomplishments were recognized by the Department of the Navy with the Meritorious Public Service Award and by the National Reconnaissance Office with the Gold Medal for Distinguished Service.

After 5 years with General Electric, Gary once again answered the call to public service. He rejoined the Committee on Appropriations in 2007, where he has applied his skills to the most challenging intelligence issues that our country has faced in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, and the Asia-Pacific. His vision and ingenuity have made substantial contributions to our policies and operations in those regions, for which I hope the full story may someday be told.

Listing Gary Reese's accomplishments during his two decades of service to the U.S. Senate tells only a small part of his story. In an era of partisanship and divisiveness, Gary served both Democrats and Republicans with skill and dedication. I feel just as fortunate to have had Gary's assistance as my friend and former colleague, Ted Stevens, surely did.

In a capital city filled with bluster and ego, Gary's charm, humor, and integrity built trusted relationships in many corners of the Congress, the executive branch, and industry.

In a job where long hours and late nights can overwhelm even the most industrious public servant, Gary has never forgotten his dedication and commitment to his wife Ann, their son Bob, and their daughter Trish.

Mr. President, on behalf of myself and all the staff of the Committee on Appropriations, I wish to offer Gary and his family my appreciation for his 20 years of service to the Senate, and I wish him all the best on his future endeavors.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS 112TH CONGRESS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, the "Act", calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the U.S. 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 2011 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: 77. (In addition, 3 alleged violations from the previous year were carried into 2011.)

(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: 58.

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 14.

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 08. (This figure includes 3 matters from the previous year carried into 2011.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(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: 05. (This figure includes 2 matters from the previous year carried into 2011.)

(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: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

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

In 2011, the Committee continued its preliminary inquiry into the conduct of Senator John Ensign. An outside Special Counsel was appointed to assist the Ethics Committee staff with its fact finding regarding whether Senator John Ensign violated Senate rules and federal law. As noted in the Report of the Preliminary Inquiry into the Matter of Senator John E. Ensign released by the Committee, the Special Counsel determined that there was substantial credible evidence that Senator Ensign engaged in violations of law and Senate rules. The Special Counsel concluded that the evidence that would have been presented in an adjudicatory hearing would have been substantial and sufficient to warrant the consideration of the sanction of expulsion had Senator Ensign not resigned. The Committee lost jurisdiction over Senator Ensign because he resigned his United States Senate seat. The Committee referred the matter to the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Election Commission for further review.

In 2011, the Committee staff conducted 6 new Member ethics training sessions; 14 employee code of conduct training sessions; 15 Member and committee office campaign briefings; 42 ethics seminars for Member DC offices, state offices and Senate committees; 3 private sector ethics briefings; and 8 international ethics briefings.

In 2011, the Committee staff handled approximately 10,918 telephone inquiries and 1,745 inquiries by email for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2011, the Committee wrote approximately 800 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 594 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 104 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2011, the Committee issued 4,130 letters concerning financial disclosure filings by Senators, Senate staff and Senate candidates and reviewed 1,869 reports.

WELCOMING ELIZABETH MACDONOUGH

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the retiring

Parliamentarian of the Senate, Alan Frumin, who has for the past two decades faithfully and honorably served this institution and who will, beginning tomorrow, embark upon a new chapter in his professional life. For 20 years, Alan has advised the Senate and the hundreds who have had the privilege of serving here with a deft understanding of its rules, some of which can be quite arcane, and an abiding passion for this august body that will reverberate for generations to come. As Alan departs this Chamber, I extend my personal gratitude to him, wish him the very best, and hope he knows that this country is deeply indebted to him for his longstanding service.

At the same time, I want to recognize and applaud a milestone moment in the life of this venerable institution as we welcome Alan's successor, Elizabeth MacDonough, the first woman in the history of the Senate to assume the indispensable responsibilities of the Parliamentarian. Elizabeth, who has served as Senior Assistant Parliamentarian since 2002, has proved herself to be not only well-versed in the labyrinthine procedures of this body but fully prepared for the demanding and often unheralded work of ensuring that my colleagues and I remain within the bounds of proper parliamentary procedure, allowing us to focus less on the operation of the Senate and more on fulfilling the Senate's constitutional role.

Since 1931, the Parliamentarian has diligently sat below the President's rostrum, independently advising the Presiding Officer on the often obscure rules and precedents that guide the process and work of the Senate. Tomorrow Elizabeth becomes the first woman in 80 years to answer what can only be deemed a calling, and a noble one at that. There are very few who have amassed the considerable experience, knowledge, and disposition required to serve with distinction in this capacity. Elizabeth is well-equipped to take on this formidable task, and I wish her the very best.

RECOGNIZING UVM PEACE CORPS ALUMNI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to commend the University of Vermont for its close relationship with the Peace Corps. This year, UVM ranked fifth in the Nation among midsized colleges and universities that are the top producers of Peace Corps volunteers. I am proud of the 42 UVM alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps around the world.

UVM has highlighted Eric Smith as one of its current alumni volunteers. Eric, who is stationed in Costa Rica, is applying his business degree by teaching microfinance and helping young women develop small businesses. He says that such efforts "would not have been possible without my education at UVM."

Like Eric, all of the UVM volunteers have devoted 2 years to promoting cul-

tural understanding and improving the lives of people in countries such as Cambodia, El Salvador, Tanzania, and Uganda. Some are employing innovative teaching methods to inspire young people. Some work on small farms, increasing food production in rural villages. Others help provide safe drinking water or combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Yet all of the UVM volunteers display an admirable commitment to civic engagement with the dream of building a better world.

This dream is emblematic of the Vermont spirit. For the second year in a row, in 2011 our State produced the most Peace Corps volunteers per capita in the Nation. The Upper Valley region of Vermont ranks eighth in the Nation among metropolitan areas whose citizens are serving in the Peace Corps. In 2010, the Burlington area ranked second in the same category.

As the Peace Corps continues its 50th year of building understanding between Americans and the citizens of other countries, I want to applaud the contributions of Vermonters and the University of Vermont. These volunteers deserve our appreciation and support.

I ask unanimous consent that a January 25, 2012, Burlington Free Press article entitled "UVM ranks 5th in producing Peace Corps vols." be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Burlington Free Press, Jan. 25, 2012]

UVM RANKS 5TH IN PRODUCING PEACE CORPS
VOLUMES.

(By the Associated Press)

BURLINGTON.—The Peace Corps says the University of Vermont ranks fifth in the country in the number of former students who are serving as volunteers overseas.

The rankings of medium sized universities released Tuesday show that 42 UVM alumni are serving overseas. The figure is up eight over last year and it moved the school from 13th to fifth.

The Vermont alumni work across the globe in programs that include agriculture, education, environment, health and business and youth development.

The top producing medium sized college or university is The George Washington University.

The overall top producing school is the University of Colorado at Boulder.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JOSE BUNDA

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, our veterans protected our country. They have also helped to spread the ideals for which it stands and have made great sacrifices for our Nation throughout its history. We thank these patriots for the selflessness and courage they have exhibited under the most daunting circumstances.

The heroic tales of survival and commitment to service depicted in the history books are a reality for the men and women who served in our Nation's