

dares to speak up and open their mind and heart. It is more than an oral history project. It ties the past with our present, inspiring proactive, positive transformation in our daily lives. We recall that the brave individuals whose stories we bring to light were acting out of loyalty to their neighbors. Small communities held each other tightly. Each year, we come together at a national ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda, but this collective power is also felt through smaller groups, including State and local governments, civic organizations, places of worship, schools, offices, and military bases.

Organizations such as the Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut document the personal histories of living survivors—children of the Holocaust. Sadly, as time goes on, our future generations will not have the privilege of hearing from them. We must work to perpetuate their messages beyond words. We must teach our Nation's children the lessons we have learned—about human betrayal, war crimes, and genocide, about heroes, hope, and honor—through our own activism.

This Wednesday, the Holocaust Memorial Museum is awarding Aung San Suu Kyi the Elie Wiesel Award at their 2012 National Tribute Dinner for “her exceptional courage in resisting tyranny and advancing the dignity and freedom of the Burmese people.” By honoring a woman who is a living hero for victims of a present-day dictatorship, the Holocaust Memorial Museum seamlessly unites history with the persecutions of today to create a new space of memory and action for generations to come.

As we soberly recall those who were not rescued, we can remain hopeful through the memory of the rescuers—those who followed their heart, beliefs, or religion to help victims in desperate need. This compassion is inspirational for me, and I hope for all those who witness human suffering and confront feelings of helplessness. As we gather this week to remember, we are choosing to be actively compassionate. Memories of the Holocaust inspire us to live today and every day with kindness, generosity, and an undying commitment to strengthening our bonds as human beings.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I join my fellow Senators in paying tribute to my dear colleague and friend Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI for the tremendous landmark she has reached as of March 17, 2012. She is now the longest serving female Member of our Congress. But the number of years is inadequate as a measure or metric. More telling are her monumental accomplishments and record of successfully tackling tough problems and making a real difference in lives. Senator MIKULSKI is unquestionably one of the most dedicated, inspiring, and in-

fluential public servants in our Nation's history.

Her generous spirit, flair, and eloquence as a speaker make her both loved and powerful as an advocate. Her standard of intellect and integrity has motivated me and inspired countless others. Like Senator MIKULSKI, I am humbled and driven by the legacy of members of my family who emigrated from Europe, striving for the American dream with a strong work ethic and a firm belief in progress. I am especially drawn to Senator MIKULSKI's determination to fight for her constituents and her deep sense of caring. She is an excellent role model for women and girls around the globe—and for anyone, whether a freshman Senator such as myself or a veteran legislator—devoted to a life of public service.

I am proud to work with Senator MIKULSKI on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, joining her, for example, as a cosponsor of her Paycheck Fairness Act to continue the civil rights debate that started decades ago and is unfortunately still unresolved. We must, once and for all, secure protections for women in the workforce, reaching pay equity and ending all instances of sex discrimination.

I respect Senator MIKULSKI's efforts to reduce costs while furthering innovation and am a strong supporter of her focus on research and drug development for chronic conditions, as laid out in her SPRINT Act. Her advocacy for America's seniors and success leading immigration reform are equally inspiring, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of her Visa Waiver Program Enhanced Security and Reform Act.

I especially enjoyed partnering with Senator MIKULSKI to advance the education we provide to our Nation's students. We offered an amendment together in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to increase funding and research to meet the unique needs of gifted and talented students.

Special recognition is past due for Senator MIKULSKI, who makes the time to recognize others, most recently sponsoring S. Res. 310, designating 2012 as “Year of the Girl” and congratulating the Girl Scouts for its centennial.

Senator MIKULSKI has been an extraordinary mentor and model for countless men and women who emulate her dedication and drive, her commitment and common sense. She leads by her example, particularly for women who endeavor to hold public office. When considering the opportunity to run, they can look to the legacy she has built and the path she has traveled from social worker to city council member to a national figure in the Halls of Congress.

I look forward with pleasure and pride to serving alongside Senator MIKULSKI for years to come. I congratulate her on making history and giving her colleagues, fellow public servants, constituents, and the American people

the opportunity to engage in history-making for the good of our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BEA ABRAMS COHEN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I salute the life and achievements of Bea Abrams Cohen, who at 102 years old is California's oldest living woman veteran. Still active in veterans and community affairs, Mrs. Cohen was recently the guest of honor at a California Department of Veterans Affairs, CalVet, reception honoring the achievements of women in the military during Women's Military History Week.

As CalVet noted, “Women have contributed to the rich military history of our country even before they were officially allowed to serve. The first known American woman soldier was Deborah Sampson of Massachusetts who, disguised as a man, served in the Revolutionary War. Throughout the history of our country, women have consistently shown themselves as dedicated patriots, willing to put their lives on the line in order to protect our nation and the freedoms of our people.”

The life of Bea Cohen is a living testament to the incredible contributions our service women make each and every day. Born in Romania in 1910, Bea Abrams came to America through Ellis Island in 1920 with her mother, brother, and sister. When the United States entered World War II, Bea vowed to do all she could to help her adopted country. She went to school to learn the machinist trade and then worked at Douglas Aircraft Company in Santa Monica as a real-life Rosie the Riveter.

Though she loved this work, Bea wanted to do more. In 1942, at age 33, she joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, WAAC, turning down a salary increase at Douglas. After going through basic training in Iowa, she did administrative work for the WAAC in Utah and Colorado.

By 1943, Bea took a second oath to become part of the new Women's Army Corps, WAC, which unlike the WAAC was now a part of the Regular Army. She was soon shipped overseas. Crossing the Atlantic Ocean on a ship that zigzagged to avoid enemy submarines, Bea arrived in England just in time for D-day. There, she worked in Army headquarters producing documents and operating a low-cost printing machine called a mimeograph. After 2 years of service, Bea was honorably discharged and returned to Los Angeles.

In late 1945, Bea met Marine MSgt Ray Cohen through family friends. Ray Cohen had served in the Pacific and had been a prisoner of War on the Philippine island of Corregidor for 3½ years. Bea and Ray were married the following year and had two daughters, Janiece and Susan. Later, during the Korean war, Ray was deployed for over

a year while Bea raised the girls and volunteered with the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

After Ray retired in 1955, the Cohens remained active with the Jewish War Veterans. To this day, Bea volunteers at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Los Angeles. For her 102nd birthday party, Bea displayed her lifelong dedication to troops by asking her guests to bring socks for veterans rather than presents for herself. Bea has dedicated more than 70 years to providing support for American troops and their families. She is an enduring reminder of the contributions of this nation's veterans.

Mr. President, I know all of my colleagues will join me today in honoring Bea Abrams Cohen.●

REMEMBERING MR. JAMES A. BRENNAN, JR.

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I wish to honor one of Florida's great public servants, Mr. James A. Brennan, Jr. Mr. Brennan passed away on December 20, 2011.

Mr. Brennan was a long-time aide to Florida Congressman Claude Pepper. He worked for Mr. Pepper from 1963 to 1989, when Mr. Pepper was in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was Mr. Pepper's closest advisor through the Congressman's chairmanships of the House Aging Committee and House Rules Committee.

Mr. Brennan was devoted to Florida. One of his biggest priorities was helping Florida's seniors, both as Mr. Pepper's aide and later as a board member and advisor to the Claude Pepper Foundation in Tallahassee.

Throughout his years working for Mr. Pepper, Mr. Brennan had the support of his wife Yolanda. They had 12 children and 28 grandchildren.

Florida is lucky to have had a public servant like Mr. Brennan, and his service to the State and the country will not be forgotten.●

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 DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Sec-

retary of the Senate, on March 30, 2012, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives that the House agrees to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 38) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives, without amendment.

The message also announced that, pursuant to section 703(c) of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (50 U.S.C. 435 note), the Minority Leader reappoints the Honorable David E. Skaggs of Longmont, Colorado, to the Public Interest Declassification Board.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 112. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following concurrent resolutions were discharged from the Committee on the Budget, pursuant to section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act, and placed on the calendar:

S. Con. Res. 40. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2012, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2022.

H. Con. Res. 112. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5. An act to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

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. BEGICH:

S. 2284. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide expensing for small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2285. A bill to increase civil penalties for institutions of higher education that fail to comply with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime

Statistics Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. Res. 418. A resolution commending the 80 brave men who became known as the "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders" for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States during the bombing of Tokyo and 5 other targets on the island of Honshu on April 18, 1942, during the Second World War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. LEE):

S. Con. Res. 40. A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2012, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2022; placed on the calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 17

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 17, a bill to repeal the job-killing tax on medical devices to ensure continued access to life-saving medical devices for patients and maintain the standing of United States as the world leader in medical device innovation.

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 17, supra.

S. 154

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 154, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support early college high schools and other dual enrollment programs.

S. 219

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 219, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to establish a commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and to designate memorials to the service of men and women of the United States in World War I.

S. 274

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to medication therapy management services under the Medicare prescription drug program.