

# FOOD SAFETY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one year ago, the Senate unanimously passed the Food Safety Accountability Act. This week, the Food and Drug Administration announced that raw tuna from a California supplier has sickened more than 100 people in 20 States with salmonella poisoning. We do not yet know the cause of the current outbreak, but if enacted, the Food Safety Accountability Act would help stop outbreaks of illness related to food safety. It is time for the House to pass this noncontroversial legislation.

The Food Safety Accountability Act promotes more accountability for food suppliers by increasing the sentences that prosecutors can seek for people who violate our food safety laws in those cases where there is conscious or reckless disregard of a risk of death or serious bodily injury. Current statutes do not provide sufficient criminal sanctions for those who knowingly violate our food safety laws.

Knowingly distributing adulterated food is already illegal, but it is in most cases merely a misdemeanor, and the Sentencing Commission has found that perpetrators generally do not serve jail time. The alternative, fines and recalls, fall short in protecting the public from harmful products. Too often, those who are willing to endanger our American citizens in pursuit of profits view such fines or recalls as merely the cost of doing business.

Salmonella poisoning is all too common and sometimes results from inexcusable, knowing conduct such as that carefully targeted by the Food Safety Accountability Act. The company responsible for a salmonella outbreak last summer had a long history of environmental, immigration, labor, and food safety violations. It is clear that fines are not enough to protect the public and effectively deter this unacceptable conduct. We need to make sure that those who knowingly poison the food supply will go to jail. This bill will significantly increase the chances that those who commit serious food safety crimes will face jail time rather than merely a slap on the wrist.

Food safety received considerable attention in the last Congress, and I was pleased that we finally passed comprehensive food safety reforms, but our work is not done. A provision almost identical to the Food Safety Accountability Act has previously passed the House with strong, bipartisan support. Now that the Senate has unanimously passed this bill, it is long overdue for the House to act.

The American people should be confident that the food they buy for their families is safe. The uncertainty and fear caused by the current salmonella outbreak only reinforces the need to pass the common sense Food Safety Accountability Act. I urge the House to quickly pass the Senate bill and join us in taking this important step toward protecting our food supply.

# TRIBUTE TO IRENE DAVEY

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Irene Davey of Attleboro, MA, who on January 26, 2012, turned 104 years of age. It is a privilege for me to join her family, friends and veterans everywhere in extending warm wishes to Irene.

In March of 1943, Irene joined the U.S. Army and served until November 1945. Irene had a distinguished military career where she earned the rank of staff sergeant. She was part of a force of about 351,000 women who served in World War II. Irene served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and was assigned to motor transport.

While serving in the Army, Irene directly contributed to the success of the motor corps by training the other women in the auxiliary corps to drive trucks and provide vehicle maintenance. One of her duties while serving in the motor corps included transporting sick and injured soldiers home by ambulance. She even became a recruiter, using what she had learned in the Army to bring in the next generation of soldiers.

Irene understood the true meaning of shared sacrifice. The motto of the time was "release a man to help your man." According to Irene it meant that if a woman could take a man's job, that man was released to join the armed forces. That made the armed forces stronger, helping your man who was in the armed forces be that much safer.

After World War II, Irene continued her service by becoming a warden at the election polls in her hometown of Attleboro. Irene is an exceptional woman who has served her country and community in many ways. Irene has been a champion for veterans all her life and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts owes her its deepest gratitude.

There is nothing Irene likes more than hearing someone thanking a veteran for their service. Today, however, the Senate recognizes Irene Davey the poet, songwriter, and lifelong public servant.

Irene has witnessed many wonderful events during her long and distinguished life. Throughout her years, she has demonstrated that one person can make a difference. It is people as dedicated as Irene who continue to make a difference in this world. Others should take notice and become inspired by the example that she has set.

I would like to thank Irene for her tremendous service to our country and our communities. I know that her family and friends, as well as the people of Massachusetts are extremely proud of her selfless service.

# ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO BOWEN FLOWERS

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Bowen Flowers of Clarksdale, MS, for his service and con-

tributions to the State of Mississippi while serving as the 77th President of Delta Council. The Delta Council was formed in 1935 and has grown into a widely respected economic development organization representing the business, professional, and agricultural leadership of the alluvial floodplain commonly known as the Mississippi Delta. I am grateful to Delta Council for its continuous role in meeting the economic and quality of life challenges which have historically confronted this part of my State.

Bowen Flowers' tenure as president of Delta Council has coincided with the development of a new farm bill, the primary legislation for establishing Federal agriculture and food policies. Mr. Flowers has used his insight and judgment to lead the Delta Council in effectively working with Congress to help ensure that the priorities of those living and working in rural America are met. He is also recognized for his dedication to conservation and wildlife as part of his ongoing service to Mississippi.

In addition to his role as president of Delta Council, Mr. Flowers is a director of Staplecoth Producer Cooperative and the Covenant Bank, and is a commissioner on the Coahoma County Soil and Water Commission. Some of his previous leadership positions include director of the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts, president of the Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, producer director of the National Cotton Council, president of Delta Wildlife, and chairman of the Delta Council Soil and Water Committee.

Bowen Flowers is well respected in Mississippi and his performance as president of the Delta Council will add to his well-earned reputation of working to improve the quality of life of rural America. His dedication to the future of the Mississippi Delta and those who live there speaks highly of him as a person. In Mississippi, we appreciate Bowen Flowers, as well as his wife Susan and their daughter Anderson, for their service and commitment to Mississippi.●

## TRIBUTE TO ALFRED RANKINS, SR.

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Alfred Rankins, Sr., of Greenville, MS, for his tireless and effective leadership while serving on the Washington County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Rankins recently retired from the board following a long career dedicated to protecting and enhancing the lives of the residents of Greenville and Washington County, and people throughout the Mississippi Delta. Washington County has historically faced a unique set of challenges, and I am grateful for the board's consistent leadership in willingly addressing these challenges on a daily basis.

Al Rankins has served Washington County long enough to understand the

dynamics of the local economy and the needs of the region. Mr. Rankins served on the Board of Supervisors since 1990 and served as its president. His tenure was characterized by consistent focus on retaining and recruiting new businesses and industries to the area. During his career, Al Rankins has also been a member of the Mississippi Water Management Advisory Board and the Allied Enterprise Advisory Board. On the Delta Council, he served as the longtime chairman of the Council's Flood Control Committee and as chairman of the Development Department Board of Directors.

Prior to serving in these important jobs, Al Rankins worked almost 21 years as a police officer for the city of Greenville, retiring in 1990 as deputy chief. He also served his country honorably during a tour of duty in Vietnam with the U.S. Air Force.

Related to his career as a civic leader and business owner, Al Rankins has received many accolades and honors, including the Lifetime Achievement Award for Civil Service to the Community, the Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award, and the Outstanding Service to the Community Award. These awards are examples of the recognition extended to Mr. Rankins for his public service and community volunteer contributions to the Mississippi Delta Region.

Al Rankins and his wife Mary are a credit to my great State. In conjunction with the end of his long service with the Washington County Board of Supervisors, I join many Mississippians in commending Alfred Rankins, Sr., for his dedication and service to the people of Mississippi.●

#### REMEMBERING BRUNO BENNA

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a Nevadan who spent his life working to strengthen his local community and enrich the lives of its residents. After a courageous 9-year battle with cancer, Bruno Benna passed on April 1, 2012. Our State has lost a selfless and giving Nevadan. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family.

From starting a small concrete company that would later become a staple in Reno to his patronage for the fine arts, Bruno was involved in nearly every facet of Northern Nevada's community. In 1958, he co-founded C.B. Concrete Company, which literally laid the foundations for modern Reno. For the next 50 years, Bruno contributed to the construction of Reno's major infrastructure projects. Generations of Reno residents have become familiar with C. B. Concrete Company's iconic yellow trucks emblazoned with the bumble bee logo.

C. B. Concrete Company exemplifies the vital role small businesses play in both our economy and local community. As the backbone of our economy, they must continue to remain vibrant and healthy in order to create jobs at a

time when Nevadans need them the most. I am saddened that Reno has lost such a passionate entrepreneur who was responsible for employing hundreds of Nevadans. Northern Nevada was fortunate to have such a talented businessman who was continuously striving to improve the business community while serving on the Reno Chamber of Commerce Board, the U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission, and as an advisor to the U.S. Small Business Administration.

In 1997, Bruno and his wife, Edna, started the Benna Family Foundation to give back to their community. Through the foundation, the couple were avid supporters of the University of Nevada, the Nevada Discovery Museum, the Nevada Opera, the Nevada Art Museum, and the Reno Little Theater. In 2002, Governor Kenny Guinn awarded the Bennas with the Governor's Arts Award for their decades of service for arts in Northern Nevada.

Bruno's extensive philanthropic endeavors and generous contributions to our State continue to be inspiring to those within the Reno and larger northern Nevada community. I am both grateful for and humbled by his commitment to the Silver State. I ask my colleagues to join me today in remembering the life of a great Nevadan.●

#### RECOGNIZING WEST BRANCH HERITAGE TIMBER, LLC

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, my home State of Maine, with its vast acres of trees, has traditionally been a hub for the lumber industry since the advent of wood pulp in paper making. In recent years, the lumber industry has suffered due to the economic downturn, and the resulting decline in the housing market has reduced the need for wood products to build homes such as hardwood flooring and cabinet construction. Despite this, there are companies that persevere in the face of such hardships, confronting economic challenges with innovation and creativity. Today, I rise to commend and recognize one such company, West Branch Heritage Timber, for helping to revive the lumber industry while creating a beautiful and artistic product inscribed with Maine's rich history.

Since 2010, West Branch Heritage Timber located in Millinocket, ME, has harvested 20,000 tons of wood from Quakish Lake—part of the Penobscot River system—which became a repository for thousands of tons of lost timber cut by river-driving loggers over a century ago. The extensive wood inventory remained preserved under the water for over 100 years, until coowners Steve Saunders and Tom Shafer developed an idea to retrieve the unique and magnificent lumber. To put it simply, these two innovators have been "fishing" this timber from the bottom of the lake for the commercial value it holds today.

Currently, West Branch Heritage Timber is in the process of reclaiming

an estimated 1 million cord of timber at the bottom of the West Branch of the Penobscot River, making it the largest timber reclamation project ever conducted in New England. The quality of their product has not gone unnoticed as this small firm was recently selected by another local business, Shaw & Tenney of Orono, as the primary wood supplier for the paddles they are producing for L.L. Bean's 100-year anniversary. Lake wood contains aesthetically impressive designs which develop and evolve as minerals from the lake's water seeps deep into the wood over many years, creating rich earth tones. Shaw & Tenney saw an opportunity to utilize this niche-commodity offered by West Branch Heritage Timber to demonstrate the beauty of Maine in L.L. Bean's commemorative paddles.

However, the artistic preservation of history is only one purpose that the wood of Quakish Lake serves. Steve hopes that the business will soon obtain a paper mill contract as West Branch would be able to provide pulping wood at a substantially less cost than competitors. Steve has attested to the feasibility and value of such a venture by estimating the potential to produce 40,000 tons of wood annually for the next 20 years. While the company currently employs nine full-time employees, obtaining a pulp contract would allow for expansion and job creation.

The ingenuity and creativity of the West Branch Heritage Timber team embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of our country's history and serves as an exemplary small business that so ardently comprises the backbone of the American economy. I am proud to extend my congratulations to Steve and Tom, as well as everyone at West Branch Heritage Timber, for their hard work in providing a product that is both beautiful and vital to the resurgence of Maine's lumber industry.●

#### 2012 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—PM 46

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit the 2012 *National Drug Control Strategy*, which follows through on the commitment made by my Administration to chart a new course in our efforts to reduce illicit drug use and its consequences in the United States. The balanced approach outlined in the Administration's inaugural *National Drug Control Strategy* has yielded significant results, which are detailed in the following pages.

Our Nation still faces serious drug-related challenges, however. Too many Americans need treatment for substance use disorders but do not receive