

to be associated with Ted Kennedy and then-Governor Romney but with which Stacey was unbelievably engaged: the development of the Massachusetts health reform law in 2006. That law provided the Commonwealth with the highest rates of health care coverage in the Nation and served as the blueprint for national health reform. While the rate of the uninsured grew by millions in our country, today in Massachusetts, 98.1 percent of our residents have health insurance, including 99.8 percent of our children. And if Ted Kennedy were here today, I know he would share with all of us that without Stacey, it wouldn't have gotten across the finish line.

Still, there was more to Stacey than big legislation. She saw government and public service not just with a human face but on a human scale. Despite the breadth of her legislative portfolio, Stacey became most widely known among fellow staffers, constituents, and friends for her ability and willingness to help individual patients identify and secure the personal health care services they desperately needed in times of crisis. She was the person you turned to when someone could not find the right doctor, reach the right specialist, or make an insurance company do the right thing. And whether that person was from Massachusetts or Montana, Stacey fought for them with the same ferocity as she would have for Ted Kennedy or for the most landmark piece of legislation because for Stacey Sachs, it was pretty fundamental—if you were in government to solve big problems for the whole country, why wouldn't you work equally hard to solve those problems for the average person who came to you looking for help?

Mr. President, as so many know, after Senator Kennedy passed away, Stacey continued her Senate service working for Chairman HARKIN on the HELP Committee. She was determined to finish the job of health reform—and finish it she did, even as she went on to, in a tragic irony, fight her own battle for life itself against the same disease which took Ted Kennedy away from us all.

Today, we are all fortunate for Stacey's dedication to public service and the example of her commitment as we continue in the work of her life. Stacey was a member of our extended Senate family, but we should remember what she meant not just to us but to her own family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Stacey's mother, Sandy Sachs, and her two brothers, Bruce and Howard, during this unbelievably difficult time.

OBSERVING ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 26th Alcohol Awareness Month this April, sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc., NCADD. Since 1987,

NCADD has been working to raise public awareness and understanding of alcoholism, specifically to reduce the stigma associated with alcoholism, which too often prevents individuals and families from admitting abuse and finding resources to help.

According to NCADD, more than 18 million individuals, or 8.5 percent of Americans, suffer from alcohol-use disorders. In addition to those directly affected by alcohol, there are millions more who feel the effects of alcohol abuse by a loved one in their everyday lives—spouses, children, other family members, and friends. The prevalence of alcohol abuse in this country is astounding, with one out of every four U.S. children having been exposed to alcohol-use disorders in their family.

One of the most troubling aspects of alcoholism is that it often has severe effects on those closest to the person addicted and their community. It takes an enormous emotional, physical, and financial toll on the family members of those addicted to alcohol. Statistics show that 75 percent of domestic abuse is committed while one or both members are intoxicated, and family members utilize health care twice as much as families without alcohol problems.

This year's theme, "Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities: Prevent Underage Drinking," is meant to draw particular attention to the severe impact that alcohol and alcohol-related problems have on young people, their friends, their families, and as a result, our communities. Underage drinking is quickly becoming a serious concern in my home State of Hawaii, and across the country.

Alcohol is currently the No. 1 drug of choice for America's young people, higher than tobacco, marijuana, or other illicit drugs. Teens who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than their peers who wait until the age of 21. Unfortunately, underage drinking is getting worse with 7,000 kids in the United States under the age of 16 taking their first drink each day, which costs the Nation an estimated \$62 billion annually.

To combat this deepening problem and curb these disturbing trends, education, awareness, and prevention programs, like the events going on this month, are critically important. In addition, parents can help to reduce their children's risk of problem drinking by simply educating their kids and keeping a more watchful eye on them, especially as they enter middle schools and high school.

As we continue to observe this year's Alcohol Awareness Month, I urge everyone to take an active role in reducing the incidence of underage drinking across the country: do not contribute to events where minors and alcohol are involved without supervision, be aware of your influence on the children close to you, and encourage minors to stay alcohol free. Together, we can all help to reverse recent trends in the United

States and keep our children from the harmful, lasting effects of alcohol abuse.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RELLA P. CHRISTENSEN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am honored today to be able to pay tribute to a truly remarkable woman, and world-renowned dental consultant—Dr. Rella P. Christensen. Appropriately, at its 35th Anniversary Celebration in Las Vegas, on May 18, 2012, the Board of Directors of the CR Foundation will honor the life's work of Dr. Christensen.

Born on September 27, 1938, Rella received a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from the University of Southern California in 1960, and practiced dental hygiene for more than 25 years. She established and became the Director of the Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene at the University of Colorado in 1970. Later, in 1986, she earned a PhD in physiology, with an emphasis on microbiology, from Brigham Young University and completed a post-graduate course in anaerobic microbiology at Virginia Polytechnic State University.

Rella co-founded Clinical Research Associates, now known as the CR Foundation, in 1976 with her husband Gordon, a world renowned and respected dentist and educator. For 27 years Rella directed this influential dental products testing institute as a full time volunteer. Her additional responsibilities included being the lead researcher and Editor-in-Chief of the CRA Newsletter which was published in 10 languages under her leadership with a worldwide circulation in 92 countries.

She went on to serve as Chairman of CR's Board of Directors for 2 years. Currently she volunteers as the team leader of Technologies in Restoratives and Caries Research section of CR.

Rella has been a steady, humble, but significant influence in the profession of dentistry, worldwide, for over a third of a century. Helping others in dentistry to find tools and concepts that really work is a passion for Rella. She has presented over one thousand dental continuing education programs, totaling over 5,200 hours, at national and international locations. Guided by her research discoveries, lectures, and writings, dentists are better able to secure their own professional development and understanding of materials, methods, dental products, and their own dental missions.

Dr. Rella Christensen has received numerous honors for her commitment to her field. In 2001 she was selected as the Distinguished Alumnus of Brigham Young University's School of Life Sciences, and now serves on its National Advisory Board.

In 2002 Rella received an Honorary Doctorate from Utah Valley State University. In 2011, Rella was named one of the Dental Products Report "Top 25 Women in Dentistry" and one of the

"30 Leaders in Dentistry" by Takacs Learning Center. In 2012, she was named "Most Influential Researcher" by Dr Bicuspid.com, an online professional publication.

As one of dentistry's great leaders, it is with great respect, gratitude, admiration, and affection that I pay tribute to Dr. Rella P. Christensen.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN CROWLEY MEUB

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Carolyn Meub, Executive Director of Pure Water for the World, a Vermont-based nonprofit organization that brings clean water to thousands of families in Honduras and Haiti.

Last week, the White House honored Carolyn as one of 10 Rotary Club members from across the country who are improving the lives of others through volunteer work. Carolyn has transformed Pure Water for the World from a small Rotary club project into an effective international NGO. Under her leadership, the organization is implementing a sustainable model for clean water programs by building clean water filtration systems, providing hygiene education, and installing latrines to improve sanitation. Twenty-thousand Honduran families now have access to clean drinking water, and 1,200 schools in Haiti have clean water systems and hygiene education curriculums, because of Pure Water for the World. That is no small feat.

As Carolyn points out, clean water is a tap away for most Americans, but for more than three-quarters of a billion of the world's people accessing safe water is a daily struggle. The United Nations reports that 3.5 million people die each year from diseases related to drinking contaminated water.

In February, my wife Marcelle visited Port-au-Prince as part of a delegation I led with five other Members of Congress, where she saw firsthand the simple, inexpensive household water filtration systems being built and donated by Pure Water for the World. Each unit, the size of an office water cooler and made of concrete or plastic, is filled with layers of sand and gravel that trap microorganisms as the water passes through. This process of slow sand filtration is inexpensive and produced from local materials, making it ideally suited for developing countries.

Pure Water for the World is doing important and inspiring work, providing sustainable sources of safe drinking water and promoting habits to improve health and sanitation in poor communities in Honduras and Haiti. I am very proud that Carolyn received this well-deserved recognition at the White House on behalf of her organization. We all appreciate the work they are doing.

I ask unanimous consent that the Rutland Herald article entitled "Hope flows: Vt. nonprofit pours 'Pure Water for the World'" be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Rutland Herald, Mar. 18, 2012]

HOPE FLOWS: VT. NONPROFIT POURS "PURE WATER FOR THE WORLD"

(By Kevin O'Connor)

Rutland resident Carolyn Crowley Meub didn't fret when her hometown turned on its faucets two weeks ago to find, due to a water main break, the usually clean stream down to a dirty trickle. She was flying off to the Caribbean—specifically, to Haiti, where the situation is even worse.

Meub is one of several prominent Vermonters who've recently witnessed the problems of the earthquake ravaged island—and the solutions of the Green Mountains-based nonprofit Pure Water for the World, which is aiming to pour hope across hemispheres to mark United Nations World Water Day on Thursday.

For most Americans, clean water is a tap away. But 1 billion people worldwide drink from contaminated springs and streams, the United Nations reports, while 3.5 million people die each year from related diseases.

State Rep. Margaret Cheney, D-Norwich, joined her husband, U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., in a February tour of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, where, between a congressional delegation's visits with the country's president and actor Sean Penn's relief organization, she saw the water challenge firsthand.

"It's the poorest, most chaotic scene in the world," Cheney says of crowded slums equipped with little more than rain barrels. "The water can be the unknown bearer of terrible diseases. Catch them and you can't work, you can't go to school, you can't really function."

Organizations like the U.S. Agency for International Development are working to help densely populated areas of the globe that report 75 percent of the problem. But that leaves more than 250 million people without potable water in remote rural settings. Enter Vermont's Pure Water, which is installing simple, inexpensive household filters in developing countries in the Caribbean and Central America.

Dr. Noelle Thabault, a Burlington native, graduated from the University of Vermont College of Medicine before practicing in Rutland. After a magnitude 7.0 earthquake decimated Haiti in 2010, she flew to Port-au-Prince as a Pure Water volunteer and now serves as its deputy regional director.

"I recognized the role that lack of clean water plays in illness," Thabault recalls of her knowledge before arriving, "but I had no understanding of the scope of the problem."

Two years in the trenches, Thabault recently hosted Cheney and Marcelle Leahy, wife of U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. The doctor told them that more than 40 percent of Haitians live without clean water, leading to diseases that are the country's second leading cause of death and fill more than half of all hospital beds with patients suffering from bacteria or parasites.

"Clean water is so necessary," says Marcelle Leahy, herself a nurse. "But Haiti unfortunately was lacking a lot of the necessities of everyday life even prior to the earthquake."

Most U.S. municipalities filter water at central reservoirs and then distribute it through pipes. But that doesn't work in Caribbean and Central American villages with more poverty than plumbing. Cheney and Leahy visited a Pure Water plant that manufactures the kind of "slow sand" household filters used in New England for its first 150 years.

Pure Water taps the sand system because it costs as little as \$150 to produce, install and monitor; requires no moving parts or electricity; and can be built with locally available materials. Each unit, shaped of concrete or plastic and sized like an office water cooler, is filled with several layers of sand and gravel. Pour in water, and the mixture traps microorganisms that, in turn, decompose other organic material.

Water that passes through the filter is clear in color, taste and smell. More importantly, it's rid of up to 90 percent of toxins, 97 percent of fecal coliform bacteria and 100 percent of worms and parasites.

"It's such a clever, simple concept, and it works," Leahy says. "You're employing people, they're earning a living and improving their health."

Cheney, for her part, was equally impressed by Pure Water posters written in Creole that explain the importance of proper hand-washing, hygiene and waste disposal.

"They're providing really simple tools and educational efforts—the common-sense Vermont way—to help make this sustainable," Cheney says. "They have a great banner that says, 'Clean water is medicine.' We take it so for granted, but that's the basic key to recovery."

Pure Water bubbled up two decades ago after Brattleboro dentist Peter Abell traveled to El Salvador and saw people drinking dirty water that caused diarrhea, cholera and dysentery. Abell's local Rotary club went on to raise money to provide clean water in El Salvador and later Honduras, then incorporated its volunteer efforts into the Pure Water nonprofit, which Meub has headed from Rutland for the past 10 years.

Pure Water so far has spent at least \$5 million on projects to provide safe drinking water—a comparatively small sum compared with the \$20 billion a year the United Nations estimates it would cost to provide clean water to everyone on the planet. But as Meub notes, helping one family, one school, one community at a time, "many drops of water eventually fill a bucket."

Americans, for their part, annually spend billions on store-bought bottled water. Consider what Rutlanders were willing to pay after the city's recent main break. As Meub was packing for her trip, husband William Meub fielded calls from fellow residents wondering how many hours they'd lack water. He recalled his own travels to Haiti after the earthquake.

"They let me take a shower with a yogurt container full of water," the lawyer says. "It's a whole different experience than anyone here has any familiarity with."

That's why Pure Water is streaming its message (the latest: Gov. Peter Shumlin will promote World Water Day this week with a proclamation) through Facebook, Twitter and the website purewaterfortheworld.org.

Says Carolyn Meub: "Safe drinking water should be a basic human right."

And Thabault: "All other interventions—the rebuilding of roads and schools and hospitals and communities—will not result in a long-term sustainable improvement if people don't have clean water. People need to support organizations that are bringing clean water, hygiene education and sanitation to homes and schools. That's how they can help."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary