

other. They listen closely while others shine as well as play as an ensemble, producing thrilling fortissimos that echo in audiences' hearts long after the final note.

While maintaining a high level of musicianship through competitive auditions, the GBYO provides an invaluable experience—an alternative to joining a sports team—for students who love music. Its members can feel camaraderie, learn teamwork, and come to understand the value of weekly group rehearsals and daily practice.

I applaud the GBYO for its goal of providing a supportive environment where lifelong friendships are formed, mentorship thrives, and students feel safe to express their emotions and connect through passionate music. This sensitivity is rare and precious. GBYO combines the development of emotional intelligence and social skills with the principles of hard work and diligence. These young musicians are talented, smart, well-rounded, and, best of all, excited.

In March, the GBYO celebrated its landmark anniversary with a gala alumni concert at the University of Bridgeport, conducted by GBYO's music director, Christopher Hisey, who is an alumnus of the orchestra. He led a stirring and inspiring alumni ensemble piece to finish the tremendous concert. I congratulate executive director Barbara Upton and music director Christopher Hisey, for their leadership.

I wish the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestras continued success and hope this well-regarded organization can serve as a role model, inspiring others to preserve and perpetuate the long tradition of the arts and the importance it holds for our culture and society.

2011 CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 2011 Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame inductees and their contributions to the recent history of the State of Connecticut and our Nation.

In the spirit of preserving the often untold accomplishments of impactful leaders from Connecticut, each year the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame publicly honors several women, living or deceased, to share their stories, preserve their legacies, and update and equalize the history that is taught to our children. The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame has created and maintained a remarkable space, free of charge, where the utmost respect can be paid to women who have made immeasurable impacts to our daily lives.

On October 25, 2011, at the 18th Annual Induction Ceremony and Celebration "Women of Influence: Creating Social Change"—Isabelle M. Kelley, Denise Lynn Nappier, and Patricia Wald were inducted. These three women are trailblazers, taking on various leadership positions in govern-

ment while breaking through stagnant stereotypes and archaic traditions.

Isabelle M. Kelley devoted her passion for societal transformation, drive to accomplish, and energetic entrepreneurship to the problem of food shortages faced by our country's most impoverished families. Ms. Kelley was born in Connecticut in 1917 and remained there throughout her high school and college years, attending Simsbury High School and the University of Connecticut. Upon graduation in 1938 with an economics degree, she was asked to join the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an economist to examine food purchasing trends, which inspired a life-long interest in our country's food supply. In this capacity, she was the first to publicly link malnourishment in children to limited school achievement. She was asked by President Kennedy to serve on a task force to realize a national food stamp program. In 1964, she authored the Food Stamp Act and was appointed as the first Director of the Food Stamp Division of the USDA. It was the first time any woman directed a national social program at the USDA and led any type of consumer affairs or marketing division in any Federal agency.

Ms. Kelley passed away in 1997, but students of public health and nutrition can listen to and read transcripts of her oral history project by Harvard University's Schlesinger Library, whose aim was to capture the voices of 38 women "who had achieved positions of high rank in the federal government during the middle decades of the twentieth century." In 2011, she was invited into the USDA's Hall of Heroes.

The Honorable Denise Lynn Nappier, now serving her fourth term as Connecticut's first female State treasurer and first elected statewide official, and the country's first African American female State treasurer, can serve as a role model to women around the country who strive to impact the field of financial regulation. Born in 1951 in Hartford, Treasurer Nappier ran for city treasurer in 1989. After working 10 years to engender Hartford's financial development, she won the position of State treasurer. She made visits to schools around the State, teaching students how to save and budget—paving the way for success in their finances as adults. The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame joins other esteemed organizations that have honored Treasurer Nappier, including the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, the Hartford College for Women, the National Association of Minority and Women Law Firms, the Government Finance Officers Association, and the National Political Congress of Black Women.

The Honorable Patricia Wald has dedicated her career to public service and the law, retiring from her seat as the first female judge for the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to serve on the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. Born in 1928 in the city of

Torrington, she went on to attend law school at Yale University as one of only 11 women in her graduating class. Judge Wald was motivated to go into government service by the possibilities of social reform, especially addressing issues concerning poverty and criminal justice. In 1964, she was nominated by President Johnson to the President's Commission on Crime in Washington, DC. After serving the Carter administration as Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, she was appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia in 1979, where she served for 20 years, eventually as chief judge. Since her retirement from the bench, she has been asked to join several commissions and task forces, including President Bush's Commission on Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Constitution Project's Guantanamo Task Force. Most recently, she has served on the advisory board of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. I join those who have honored Judge Wald, including members of the International Human Rights Law Group, the American Lawyer Hall of Fame, and the American Bar Association, in celebrating her commitment to the law, especially in protecting our country's most vulnerable.

I know my colleagues will join me in honoring these remarkable women, who weathered criticism and risked public failure to inspire current and upcoming public servants and to better the lives of future generations.

2011 CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 2011 inductees of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, a nonprofit organization that honors men and women from Connecticut who have served their communities in commendable ways since retiring from the military. Starting in 2005, when established by Executive Order, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame has selected at least 10 inductees each year: men and women from Connecticut who, even after their great sacrifices as Active members of our military, have chosen to continue their service in innovative ways to contribute to the lives of current enlistees, fellow veterans, and civilians.

These local heroes were celebrated at an induction ceremony surrounded by their family and friends this past December attended by Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz. I would like to join Lieutenant Governor Wyman and Commissioner Schwartz and formally recognize Samuel Beamon, Sr., Rev. Dr. G. Kenneth Carpenter, Richard Rampone, Ronald Catania, Burke Ross, John Chiarella, Phillip Kraft, Ronald Perry, Dr. Madelon Baranoski, and Harold Farrington, Jr.

Several of these 2011 inductees are well-loved for touching their communities through a wide range of public leadership initiatives. Samuel Beamon, Sr., Rev. Dr. G. Kenneth Carpenter, and Richard Rampone served in Vietnam in the U.S. Marine Corps. Samuel Beamon, Sr. was honored for his exceptional work with the Young Marines Program in Waterbury, CT and as past commandant of the Department of Connecticut Marine Corps League, as well as his esteemed legacy as lieutenant of the Waterbury Police Department. Rev. Dr. G. Kenneth Carpenter has been recognized as a constant source of spiritual guidance as pastor of the Union Baptist Church in Mystic; in addition, he is founder and president of the Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality, MASH, which gives temporary shelter and counseling to families—especially those with children—who are struggling in this tough economy. Richard Rampone, who worked to protect his community as Patrolman for the Berlin Police Department, is the State commandant of the Marine Corps League Department of Connecticut, whose mission is to assist marines entering civilian life.

Many of our honorees participate in more than one organization, dedicating a vast amount of time to helping servicemembers and veterans. Ronald Catania, who served in the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam, has given countless hours to numerous groups, including the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, Connecticut Veterans Memorial, Connecticut National Guard during the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the American Red Cross, and the Special Olympics. On September 11, he worked the day after the attacks to transport donated goods to Ground Zero for emergency responders. Burke Ross, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, has been a fervent supporter and participant of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, MOPH, volunteers at the West Haven VA Medical Facility, and for the past 25 years has planned the annual Memorial Day Services and Parade in the Derby-Shelton area; in 2001, he was selected as the Disabled American Veteran, DAV, of the Year for his more than 30 years as an officer and then chaplain to his local DAV chapter.

The civic dedication of a number of these inductees spans decades. John Chiarella, who served in the U.S. Army in Korea and Vietnam, has spent 10 years ensuring that Waterbury-area students have an education in our patriotic traditions, including developing a program called Forever Wave, whose mission is to instruct on the flag salute. He is also known for his role as chairman of the Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee. U.S. Army veteran Phillip Kraft has been a voice for veterans' benefits as an instructor at the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW, annual conference. Also, for many

years, Mr. Kraft has watched over burial services and maintained the upkeep of the Spring Grove Cemetery in Darien, where approximately 1,500 veterans have been laid to rest, and also takes the lead as CEO of the National Veterans Services Fund. Honoree Ronald Perry, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam, has been a solid support system for the Meriden, CT, Marine community, speaking out on behalf of several veterans associations, including the Marine Corps League of Meriden, and arranging the birthday celebrations of Meriden-area Marine Corps veterans.

The remaining two Connecticut veterans honored in 2011, Dr. Madelon Baranoski and Harold Farrington, have used the skills and experiences they developed in a professional capacity to positively affect the military and veterans communities of Connecticut. After serving in Vietnam in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, Dr. Baranoski has compiled research on the physiological consequences of stress to foster greater understanding about the mental conditions of veterans in our communities and to help reform the criminal justice system. She is currently an associate professor of psychiatry and the vice chair of the Human Investigation Committee at Yale University School of Medicine. Harold Farrington, Jr., has spent 30 years helping veterans and their families navigate the bureaucracy and reap the benefits of government programs as an employee of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In an article for New London's The Day, Mr. Farrington candidly captured the emotions he felt as a 2011 Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee: Having dedicated his life to service, he acknowledged that "to know my work is being recognized is very rewarding."

I hope this honor from the State of Connecticut will start to reflect and manifest the pride felt by the family, friends, and fellow veterans of these inductees. It gives me great pride to laud these courageous and selfless individuals who have not hesitated to serve and sacrifice in and out of uniform. To them, I say with gratitude: Today, your country publicly recognizes your contributions and deep, heartfelt commitment to our U.S. veterans.

NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, building a family is an exciting milestone in the lives of millions of American families. Unfortunately, the road towards conceiving a child is often difficult and painful for the nearly 7 million Americans diagnosed with the disease of infertility.

This week, men and women across the country will share their stories during National Infertility Awareness Week. This movement, organized by RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, brings attention to the dis-

ease of infertility and encourages the public to take charge of their reproductive health. Let me take this opportunity to commend RESOLVE for its work providing community and giving voice to women and men experiencing infertility.

Over the last few decades, significant medical advancements, such as in vitro fertilization, have provided a solution for some would be parents. However, the high cost to undergo infertility care often poses an additional barrier for couples to overcome. It costs more than \$12,000 for a couple to undergo one cycle of infertility treatment, and insurance coverage is often dismal. For some patients, multiple cycles are required to achieve a successful pregnancy outcome. Federal Government insurance plans do not specifically cover infertility treatments, and only 15 States offer any level of coverage.

I have introduced a bill that would alleviate some of the costs associated with infertility care. The Family Act, S. 965 creates a Federal tax credit for individuals who are diagnosed with infertility by a licensed physician. A tax credit will help make this vital patient care more accessible and affordable to those who lack insurance coverage for these services.

I hope you will join me during National Infertility Awareness Week and become a cosponsor of the Family Act. This is a necessary step towards ensuring that all of our citizens have the ability to raise a family, without compromising their financial future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOST AT SEA

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I speak in memory of five extraordinary sailors who recently died at sea during a boat race off the coast of California.

On Saturday, April 15, the sailing vessel *Low Speed Chase* was one of 49 boats participating in the Full Crew Farallones Race, which has been run annually from San Francisco to the Farallon Islands and back since 1907. As the yacht rounded an island, it was broadsided by huge waves and crashed onto the rocks.

Three sailors survived and were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard. Tragically, the lives of five others—Alexis Busch, Alan Cahill, Jordan Fromm, Marc Kasanin, and Elmer Morrissey—were lost.

Alexis Busch, who as a teenager had been a beloved batgirl for the San Francisco Giants, managed the Ross Valley Swim and Tennis Club and crewed in sailing races from San Francisco Bay to Australia. Her longtime boyfriend and sailing partner, Nick Vos, was one of the survivors on the *Low Speed Chase*.

Alan Cahill was a married father of two children and a master marine craftsman who served as caretaker for