

Many of us have read Mr. Sendak's phrases to loved ones and puzzled over his intended meaning. Stories like "Chicken Soup with Rice," "Pierre: A Cautionary Tale," "In the Night Kitchen," "Seven Little Monsters," and "Outside Over There" are now legendary.

He committed himself to being an artist, beginning as a window designer at FAO Schwartz, and from there adding illustrator, author, producer, animator, and costume and set designer to his repertoire. He collaborated with many famed creators, including Jim Henson, Carole King, the Pacific Northwest Ballet, the Houston Grand Opera, the Los Angeles Music Center, the New York City Opera, the Chicago Opera Theatre, and Tony Kushner. Most recently, Mr. Sendak teamed with the Yale Repertory Theatre, in conjunction with the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and the New Victory Theater in New York, to produce a contemporary English version of a 1938 Czech children's opera about the Holocaust called "Brundibar."

Mr. Sendak's emotional intelligence, visual expertise, and way with words have produced over 100 works, some of which have been celebrated with several prestigious literary awards. In 1964, "Where the Wild Things Are" was given the Caldecott Medal from the American Library Association. In addition, Mr. Sendak received the Hans Christian Andersen award for Illustration in 1970, National Book Award in 1982, Laura Ingalls Wilder Award in 1993, and was presented with a National Medal for the Arts by President Bill Clinton in 1996. The New York Times has selected 22 of his titles as best illustrated books of the year, and an elementary school in North Hollywood, CA was even named in his honor.

Mr. Sendak was a lover of life and forever faithful to the artistic process. In a public and deeply personal National Public Radio interview in 2011, he shared vulnerable emotions, ending simply, but profoundly and quite tellingly with mantralike poetry: "live your life, live your life, live your life."

SUPPORTING JERRY KRAMER

• Mr. CRAPO: Mr. President, my colleague, Senator JIM RISCH, joins me today in highlighting the career of one of Idaho's most distinguished football players, Jerry Kramer.

Jerry graduated from Sandpoint High School, in the northern part of our State, and attended college at the University of Idaho on a football scholarship. He was a standout player there, garnering selections to both the East-West Shrine Game and College All-Star Game.

After being drafted 39th, he signed on to play for the Green Bay Packers in 1958, and as football fans know, was part of a championship dynasty during his 11 playing years. He was an integral part of the famous "Packer Sweep" as

the lead blocker for a running back going around the end.

Jerry Kramer is perhaps most famously known for "The Block" where he led quarterback Bart Starr into the end zone as time ran out in the 1967 NFL Championship game, defeating the Dallas Cowboys in what is known as the "Ice Bowl."

Jerry Kramer was a five-time All-Pro, a member of five championship teams, including the first two Super Bowls, and a member of the NFL's 50th Anniversary All-Time team. He was named to the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1960s at offensive guard and led the NFL in field goal percentage in 1962.

Surprisingly, Jerry Kramer is the only player selected to the NFL's 50th Anniversary team who has not been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, OH.

It is time for this oversight to be corrected. Jerry Kramer is highly regarded. Sixteen current members of the NFL Hall of Fame, many who played against Kramer, have endorsed his nomination and election to the Hall. That list of players includes such greats as Roger Staubach, Frank Gifford, Alan Page, Bob Lilly, Jan Stenerud, Gino Marchetti and Coach Joe Gibbs, to name just a few.

There is no doubt in my mind, and certainly not in the mind of my colleague, Senator RISCH, who highly favors his native State's Green Bay Packers, that Jerry Kramer's NFL career clearly qualifies him for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Besides his contributions on the football field, Jerry is a highly regarded citizen of Idaho who gives his time to worthy causes. Idahoans are very proud of his accomplishments and football fans throughout the state support his induction.

As Idaho's U.S. Senators, we support Jerry Kramer's selection to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. •

RECOGNIZING THE DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, as co-chair of both the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth, I wish to congratulate the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

The foundation was established in 1992 by Dave Thomas as a public charity with one primary goal: to help every child in foster care find a loving, permanent family. Throughout its history, the foundation has set forth on a mission of dramatically increasing the number of adoptions of waiting children.

For 20 years, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has committed itself to finding permanent families for the more than 100,000 children waiting in the United States foster care system.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption awards grants to public and

private adoption agencies all across the country. Last year, these grants totaled more than \$8 million and focused on supporting adoption professionals who implement proactive, child-focused recruitment programs targeted exclusively on moving the longest waiting children from foster care into adoptive families. This signature program is called Wendy's Wonderful Kids, WWK, and today exists in all 50 States, DC, and four Canadian provinces.

The results from an empirical 5-year case study on WWK were released in October 2011. The research showed that children in the program are up to three times more likely to be adopted.

The foundation also supports employers through the Adoption-Friendly Workplace Program, is a founding member of National Adoption Day, and is a proud partner of the annual television special, "A Home for the Holidays."

The foundation is an accredited charity of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, Standards for Excellence certified, and has received the highest possible rating on Charity Navigator. The foundation has helped more than 3,000 children find their forever families and provided information and support to tens of thousands of potential adoptive families.

For these reasons, I am proud to applaud the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and its dedicated staff for their extraordinary contributions to the people of my district and throughout the United States for the last 20 years. •

RECOGNIZING FIFE LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as they have for generations, libraries across our Nation and my home State of Michigan enable people to gain access to a sea of information and facts. They serve as a gateway for exploration. Libraries allow young people to journey back in time with great authors and experience the world as it was for past generations. They allow them to travel across the globe and experience life in other areas of the world, and they allow them to dream and imagine ways to make our collective future better. These are places where the only limitation is your imagination and your willingness to read and learn.

For the past 125 years, one such library in Fife Lake has played this unmistakably important role, and it is with great pride that I pay tribute to the Fife Lake Public Library on its Quasiquicentennial. This wonderful institution has surely helped to cultivate and nurture the interests of individuals seeking to broaden and deepen their understanding of a variety of pursuits.

The Fife Lake Public Library was established in 1887 with a \$17 grant from Grand Traverse County. Since then, this library has been a mainstay of the community and has met the diverse and growing needs of residents of Fife

Lake. The library's quaint but much-cherished building was outgrown in 2006. To accommodate this growth, the library's resources were moved to a newer, more modern building. Impressively, the Library's circulation has quadrupled in the last decade. In addition to books, its patrons now have access to DVDs, albums, audiobooks and the Internet by way of several public computers.

In our increasingly technologically advanced world where information and answers are but a click away and devices such as computers and smart phones are a part of many of our lives, it could be easy to undervalue the importance and impact of libraries. The opposite is true. Fife Lake Public Library has transformed with the digital age and continues to hold a central yet evolving role in the lives of residents. One resident aptly stated, "The library is not a quiet place anymore but a social gathering place for the community." Residents come to access the Internet and learn computer skills, and through partnerships with local organizations they enjoy activities ranging from fitness classes to grief support to tot-time. There is something for residents from all walks of life.

I am delighted to commend all those affiliated with the Fife Lake Public Library on its 125th anniversary. Through the hard work, collaboration, and financial generosity of many within the Fife Lake community, this library has served the needs of Fife Lake residents for a century and a quarter. With commitment and sustained effort, this piece of living history in Fife Lake will continue to inspire and educate for many years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KEN FREIBERG

● Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. Kenneth Freiberg, Deputy General Counsel at the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Mr. Freiberg is retiring from USTR after more than 24 years of extraordinary service to our country.

Since 1988, Ken Freiberg has passionately promoted US trade interests around the world. His service has improved the lives of countless Americans. During his tenure, Ken served as the chief U.S. lawyer in charge of negotiations on several important trade negotiations. Further, he was the chief negotiator for the General Agreement on Trade in Services during the Uruguay Round.

Ken has worked under eight US Trade Representatives and five Presidential administrations. Ambassador Kirk and several former U.S. Trade Representatives, including myself, recently sent Ken a letter to recognize his achievements. Let me read an excerpt and I quote "each of us benefitted greatly from your tireless work ethic, immense knowledge, wise counsel and excellent judgment." I was proud to have Ken on my team at USTR. He was a source of tremendous institutional

knowledge at USTR, and was a terrific mentor to many young attorneys on the USTR staff.

Mr. President, I would like to recognize Ken Freiberg, my former colleague, on his retirement from public service and I would like to wish him well in all of his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO POMERLEAU

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate Antonio Pomerleau of Burlington, VT, for his remarkable generosity and for his lifetime of service to the people of Vermont. My wife Jane and I have known Tony for over 30 years, since we all worked together when I was Mayor of Burlington, and he is clearly one of the remarkable people in our State.

Last year, Vermont was badly hit by Tropical Storm Irene, the most damaging storm in a half century. Torrential rains, in combination with Vermont's steep hills and narrow valleys, brought flooding on a vast scale to town after town, wiping out roads and bridges, downtowns and mobile home parks, homes, schools and businesses.

Many brave and generous people, from communities across the State, helped those whose lives were uprooted to deal with their losses. The Vermont National Guard, along with the Guards of other States and private contractors, rapidly repaired and rebuilt washed-out roads and bridges. State officials and Federal officials were quick to provide relief and aid.

There are Federal funds available to help rebuild highways, to assist farmers as they cope with damage to their fields, to help many homeowners. But, as the Governor's "Irene Recovery Report" indicates, mobile home owners are in a category by themselves. Irene particularly devastated mobile home parks, many of which were built close to rivers that endured major flooding. Sixteen mobile home parks in many regions of Vermont were seriously affected by Irene. Hundreds of mobile homes were badly damaged or completely destroyed. As the "Irene Recovery Report" made clear, while mobile homes provide an important affordable ownership option to Vermonters, their construction, location and low resistance to water damage can create additional obstacles to recovery following a disaster. Few of the Vermonters affected had significant discretionary resources with which to secure replacement housing.

Owners and residents of mobile homes faced enormous challenges. Into the breach stepped Antonio Pomerleau.

Tony, who grew up on a small dairy farm in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, has never forgotten the working families of Vermont. It should be no surprise, though it is nevertheless remarkable, that in the aftermath of the flooding last year Tony would generously look out for those who live in affordable housing and cannot afford to rebuild when catastrophe strikes.

Today, I want celebrate Tony for his act of enormous generosity in creating the Pomerleau Cornerstone Fund and giving it \$1 million. This fund has one purpose: to provide direct funding to residents of mobile homes whose residences were destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene.

The Pomerleau Cornerstone Fund will help displaced mobile residents either with full replacement of their homes, or with downpayment assistance for another home. It will provide grants up to \$25,000 so that at least 40 families can move into safe and affordable housing.

Throughout his entire adult life, Tony has been a model of what a good corporate citizen should be. He has been an excellent employer, and he has devoted a good part of his life and considerable skills toward public service—without remuneration. For many years he served as Police Commissioner of Burlington and did an outstanding job in that role. He has also been extremely generous in donating funds to a wide variety of very worthy causes.

Since I was Mayor of Burlington, and this is going back 31 years, Tony Pomerleau has paid for a holiday party each year for Burlington's low income children and their parents. He also sponsors an annual party for the Vermont National Guard. He was the major contributor of funds to the Pomerleau Alumni Center at St. Michael's College—two of his sons and a granddaughter attended college there. He has provided scholarships to Rice High School and funded renovations to Christ the King School. Tony donated the North Avenue building that became our city's police headquarters, and continues to contribute financial support for policemen and policewomen. And this really is just a very small part of Tony's philanthropic work.

But facts tell only part of the story of Tony Pomerleau. His generosity is matched by his energy, and even though his 94th birthday is in his rear-view mirror, he has the energy of a man half his age. His mind has always been sharp, and time has not dulled it. His deep love for his wife Rita and their children is the rock on which he has built his life. His understanding of Vermont—where it has been, where it is, where it can be going—is, in my view, remarkable.

Tony Pomerleau stands as one of Vermont's outstanding citizens. Today, I celebrate his generosity—it is the habit of lifetime, and a habit we can all learn from.●

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