

CONGRATULATING MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I can finally congratulate everyone at Massachusetts General Hospital, MGH, on a special and well-deserved distinction long in the making: MGH has been named America's Best Hospital by U.S. News & World Report.

I say "finally" because I have been patiently keeping my promise not to publicly share the news now these last 6 days since Dr. Slavin called me to pass along the great news in advance. Now he has confirmation that in a Washington, DC, full of leaks, there is at least one U.S. Senator who still knows how to keep a secret.

Today's public announcement confirms what all of us in Massachusetts have always known—that if you need to find first-rate care for a loved one with a serious and complicated condition, then you go to the Massachusetts General Hospital. It comes as no surprise to us that this revered Massachusetts institution would hold the honor of best hospital in the Nation.

Today's announcement is one two centuries in the making. It started with the dream of Rev. John Bartlett, who in 1810 wanted to establish a state-of-the-art medical facility for the physically and mentally ill which would train the Nation's finest doctors. That dream was carried by Drs. James Jackson and John Collins Warren, who advocated in the Massachusetts Legislature for a charter and collected donations as small as 25 cents and as large as \$20,000 to make the dream a reality. Finally, in 1821, the institution currently known as Mass General opened its doors to patients and became the first teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School.

Since then, MGH has been providing cutting-edge care to patients from all over the world. It was the home to many firsts: the first public demonstration of surgical anesthesia, the identification of appendicitis, the establishment of the first medical social service, and the first replantation of a severed arm by a surgical team.

But more than firsts, Mass General has provided a place of hope for all those who needed help. It is the employees of MGH who have made this possible from generation to generation. I have seen on my visits to the hospital that it is the people—the nurses, doctors, orderlies, administrators, security guards, and medical students—who make MGH the Nation's best.

I know firsthand of MGH's exceptional work particularly well from two people whose insights mean the world to me: my wife Teresa, who has been a patient at MGH as she was treated for breast cancer, and through my daughter Vanessa, who has made MGH her home as a doctor. Both have shared story after story not just about first-rate care but about deeply caring doctors and nurses and skilled professionals who always put patients first. That is the heart of MGH, and it is no

secret that without team members who are constantly looking for the next breakthrough in medicine and a better way to care for patients, tomorrow's innovations would not be possible.

It is even more of a testament to the power of MGH's work that they have become the Nation's best hospital in a State with near universal health coverage. We now have the best health care coverage rate in the Nation with 98.1 percent of residents having health insurance, including 99.8 percent of all children.

We must continue to raise the bar as we implement the Affordable Care Act and provide this guarantee of coverage nationwide. MGH should serve as a model to all hospitals across the country that you can provide universal coverage while still providing the highest quality care to your patients. I know MGH will remain at the top of this list for years to come because they have proven that covering more patients and providing quality outcomes are not mutually exclusive goals.

There is much celebrating to be done in Boston, but there is still much more work to be done to improve the health of all Americans. I am convinced that MGH and our other great institutions in Massachusetts will continue to meet the challenge by setting the standard for delivering the highest quality health care. I congratulate Dr. Peter Slavin, Dr. David Torchiana, and everyone who works at MGH for their efforts in making this hospital the best in the Nation and, I believe, the best in the world.●

REMEMBERING THE LIVES OF HAN BROTHER AND SISTER

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I come before you today to share the news of a profound tragedy and loss of two Alaska Native siblings. Isaac Juneby, a military veteran and former Chief of Eagle, a Han Gwich'in Village in Alaska close to the Canadian border, and his sister Ellen Juneby Rada, who died as a result of domestic violence, were both laid to rest and their lives honored and celebrated with a potlatch in Eagle Village, July 11, 2012.

Ellen Florence Juneby Rada, 58 years old, was the mother of two grown sons. She was found beaten, seriously injured and unconscious in a homeless camp in Fairbanks and was transported to the Alaska Native Medical Center for treatment. Ellen was taken off life support on July 2 and passed away on Sunday, July 8.

Isaac Juneby was born on July 9, 1941, in Eagle Village. He had traveled to Anchorage from Eagle to hold vigil at the bedside of his comatose sister and died in an automobile accident on July 1, 2012. Following Isaac's sudden accidental death another Juneby sibling, Adeline Juneby Potts, flew to Anchorage from Minnesota to join her family and due to emotional stress suffered a heart attack and was hospital-

ized. Fortunately, Adeline is recovering rapidly.

There are no words to describe the grief this family has suffered due to the heartbreaking events that unfolded over such a short period of time. The loss is felt not just by the Juneby family, but by the entire Alaska Native community. Our State may be small in population, but it is large in community spirit. I think I can safely say the entire State of Alaska is touched by this tragedy.

I would like to say a few words about Isaac Juneby, whose loss will have a lasting impact not only to the village of Eagle, but across the entire Native community. Isaac was one of the few remaining speakers of Han, an endangered northern Athabaskan language with only about a handful of remaining speakers left in Alaska and the Yukon, a territory of Canada. He was a man that everyone seemed to know and love. Isaac had an almost tangible joy about him that drew people in and endeared him to many. His nickname "the Senator" was well earned. Isaac was always quick with a joke and had an infectious smile that made everyone around him happy. But most of all he loved life and his people.

Isaac was incredibly proud of his family and his heritage. He exemplified a man who could easily navigate both worlds: the traditional and the modern. He had an easygoing and friendly manner that won him many lifelong friends, but he also had a disciplined and serious side. Isaac was an accomplished man who earned a bachelor's degree in rural development from the University of Alaska in 1987. He wrote poetry, published books and recorded language lessons in Han Gwich'in Athabaskan to preserve the dialect for future generations. Isaac and Sandi, his best friend and wife of 35 years, were planning to move to Fairbanks so Isaac could complete a master's degree in ethnology. He wanted to learn more about the Han.

Over the years Isaac held a number of important positions for Native organizations, the State, and the Federal Government and remained a resident of Eagle Village even through the very challenging times, like during the disaster of 2008, when a major flood devastated the community. Isaac was also instrumental in completing the essential paperwork that helped Eagle Village become the first IRA village in Alaska, one with a federally recognized tribal government.

People will remember Isaac not only for his good humor but for his great strength and determination. Isaac was proud to celebrate over 25 years of sobriety and was known to say that it was God who freed him from alcohol. The Rev. Scott Fisher, pastor at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church got it right when he said "Isaac was the last of the good guys. There was a strength and a gentleness running through him. He knew what was right and what was wrong. He was not a cardboard saint.

He was real. He had a rock solid core of wisdom in him."

Isaac's humor and his positive outlook on life served as an inspiration to so many who had the honor and privilege to know him. With the passing of Isaac Juneby, Alaska has lost a beloved Native elder and chief, a father, a culture bearer, a brother, an honored Army veteran, a husband, an inspirational man, an uncle, and a good friend. On this day I ask that we honor the lives of an extraordinary family and remember them during this time of such profound loss.●

COMMISSIONING OF THE USS "MISSISSIPPI"

● Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, on Saturday, June 2, 2012, I was present at the commissioning of the USS *Mississippi* in Pascagoula, MS. The USS *Mississippi* is a Virginia class submarine, part of the "next generation" of attack subs. The submarine was constructed by General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, CT, as well as Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls in Newport News, VA

This is a mighty submarine that bears a mighty proud name. The citizens of the state of Mississippi enthusiastically embrace the fifth Navy vessel in our Republic's history that bears the name USS *Mississippi*. The naming of the submarine as USS *Mississippi* recognizes our State's long-standing tradition of shipbuilding in support of our Nation's defense. It also honors the spirit of the people of Mississippi who have made great strides in recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

It is appropriate that this ship was completed a full year ahead of schedule. Mississippians have always been early to step forward in the service of their country. It is a fact that volunteers from our State have always been known to step forward quickly and eagerly to serve their country. So for many the words USS *Mississippi* will stand for patriotism and readiness.

For those who remember Katrina and Deep Water Horizon, the words USS *Mississippi* may mean "resilience" or "quiet resolve." Within the ranks of the U.S. Navy, USS *Mississippi* will be associated with the words "state-of-the-art," the best in the world. For them, that is what USS *Mississippi* will mean. And for the Ship's Sponsor Allison Stiller, she will think of the word "tenacity." And no doubt our adversaries, wherever they may be, will hear the words USS *Mississippi* and think "strength" and perhaps they will think the word "freedom."

Within the borders of this traditional "Bible Belt" state, we will think about our Founding Father's reliance on Almighty God. I can assure CPT John McGrath, his Commissioning Crew, and those who will serve on this submarine that you will be prayed for each and every day. These prayers may be a quiet whispered prayer at night or

early in the morning or they may be the majestic words of William Whiting, who wrote this hymn:

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea
Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

With apologies to the author and perhaps to those who know this hymn well, I have attempted to pen an extra verse:

From Pascagoula's shores we send
The finest sailors known to men,
Proud *Mississippi's* name they bear;
Lord, bless and keep them free from care,
Protect them when they call to Thee,
Our sons and daughters now at sea.

Congratulations to Captain McGrath and his Commissioning Crew, God bless the United States, and God bless those who will serve on the USS *Mississippi*.●

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 messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE FORMER LIBERIAN REGIME OF CHARLES TAYLOR THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13348 ON JULY 22, 2004—PM 56

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 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Reg-*

ister for publication stating that the national emergency and related measures dealing with the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor are to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2012.

Although Liberia has made advances to promote democracy, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone recently convicted Charles Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity, the actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and secret- ing of Liberian funds and property, could still challenge Liberia's efforts to strengthen its democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 17, 2012.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3393. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief to middle-class families.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1201. A bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-187).

S. 1324. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-188).

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. KOHL (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3389. A bill to modify chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for theft of trade secrets; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 3390. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Miami-Dade County certain Federal land in the State of Florida for the purpose of building a fire station; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.