

we passed through the Senate last week includes the livestock disaster programs and a new commodity program to supplement crop insurance, the House has not given any indication that it will move the reauthorization process forward. As such, we introduced this standalone disaster assistance bill as another option for ensuring assistance is available for our producers.

There are a lot of things in the House farm bill that I do not like, but that is why we have a process in place to work out differences between the House and Senate versions. Ideally, the House should just bring up and pass the Senate bill, which passed last month with wide bipartisan support, so we can give our producers some certainty and the assistance they need.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL A. SHIPP TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 663, which is the nomination of Michael A. Shipp of New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, the clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael A. Shipp, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I sent a cloture motion to the desk with respect to the Shipp nomination. In fact, it may already be there.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael A. Shipp, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Jeff Merkley, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Udall, Joseph I. Lieberman, Tom Harkin, Bernard Sanders, Debbie Stabenow, John F. Kerry, Barbara A. Mikulski, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin, Al Franken.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business and that Senators be allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN LANDRETH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I recognize and honor Kathryn E. Landreth for her distinguished service from 2005 to 2012 as the State Director of the Nevada Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Under Kathryn's leadership, The Nature Conservancy—Nevada Chapter has maintained its focus on its core mission to conserve lands and waters on which all life depends. Kathryn was first drawn to The Nature Conservancy for its commitment to science-based information to reach collaborative outcomes for conservation. She was instrumental in working with important partners to establish the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and protect the desert tortoise habitat. Kathryn's vision and leadership also helped the Chapter acquire Independence Lake—one of the most pristine alpine lakes—complete the Whit Hall Interpretive Center and complete restoration work at the McCarran Ranch and Lower Truckee River. In Western Nevada, the Chapter completed the restoration of the Carson and Truckee Rivers to improve wildlife habitats and water quality.

I have had the good fortune of working with Kathryn and The Nature Conservancy in Nevada and nationally on legislation that impacts our Federal wild lands heritage. She and The Nature Conservancy have been important partners in successful efforts to protect Nevada's unique landscapes; their advocacy has led to the protection of over 1 million acres across the Silver State.

Prior to her work with The Nature Conservancy, she was appointed by President Clinton in October of 1993 to serve as United States Attorney for the District of Nevada. Kathryn served as a tough and effective prosecutor and established a fine legal reputation.

Due to her impressive and dedicated work, her efforts have not gone unacknowledged. The Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers previously recognized her as Public Advocate of the Year, the State Bar of Nevada named her Public Lawyer of the Year, and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce recognized her as a Woman of Distinction in Government.

I am tremendously proud of the legacy that she has imprinted on the State of Nevada. Thank you, Kathryn, for your extraordinary service as a

leader and advocate for conservation and justice.

RECOGNIZING ST. BERNARD HOSPITAL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for the past several years much of the conversation about health care in Washington has been a war of words. Today I would like to talk about a hospital in my home State that is seeking to better the lives of the women in its community, not simply with words but with action.

This month, St. Bernard Hospital in the Englewood neighborhood in Chicago, announced it would provide 150 free mammograms for women. The mammograms will be for women who are over the age of 40 and do not have health insurance.

For those who may not know, Englewood is a neighborhood in Chicago that struggles with high levels of crime and unemployment.

The mammograms will be offered as part of the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force's "Screen to Live" initiative. The Task Force was created in 2007, after a landmark study by the Sinai Urban Health Institute found that the mortality rate from breast cancer for African American women in Chicago was 68 percent higher than white women.

That startling statistic is not unique to Chicago.

According to the American Cancer Society, African American women nationally have the lowest survival rate from breast cancer of any racial or ethnic group. Not surprisingly, the study found poverty and a lack of health insurance are also associated with lower breast cancer survival.

It is this disparity that led St. Bernard President and CEO, Sister Elizabeth Van Straten, to offer the mammograms. St. Bernard Hospital is not a wealthy hospital. But this gift of 150 free mammograms to the community will save lives. And this partnership between St. Bernard's and the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force should be applauded.

This brings me to the Affordable Care Act.

The lesson to learn from St. Bernard's effort is that preventive care matters. Because survival often hinges on early detection, the Affordable Care Act has made preventive services free. In fact 54 million Americans, including 2.4 million in Illinois have received preventive services from their insurance company at no cost. In 2011, 1.3 million people on Medicare in Illinois received free preventive services. And starting next year, States will receive an increased share from the Federal Government to cover preventive services for people on Medicaid.

This effort to bring preventive services to millions of Americans across the country will no doubt save lives.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding people at St. Bernard's and

the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force who made this happen. I am proud to be their Senator.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM RASPBERRY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, my State of Mississippi and the American journalism community have suffered a great loss with the death of William Raspberry. As a widely respected writer, his articles were refreshing in their depth of understanding and even handed reporting of the perils and triumphs of politics and government.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from the Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Mississippi, written by Sid Salter.

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

[From the Clarion-Ledger, July 18, 2012]

RASPBERRY'S AMAZING LEGACY REACHES BEYOND JOURNALISM

(By Sid Salter)

When I learned of the death of longtime Washington Post columnist William Raspberry, I was immediately reminded of a conversation I'd had with him in 2005 in his hometown of Okolona. Raspberry, who logged 40 years writing commentary for the Post and saw his work syndicated nationally in over 200 newspapers, died at age 76 at his Washington home of prostate cancer on July 17.

Raspberry won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for commentary and was then only the second African-American writer afforded that honor.

I had met Raspberry several times over the years at conferences, but never spent much time with him until 2000 when he became the first African-American journalist inducted into the Mississippi Press Association's Hall of Fame. In 2005, after learning of the early childhood education/intervention effort he was personally funding in Okolona, I asked him to meet me there and to tell me about his vision for changing the game for disadvantaged children in a town with a poor track record in public education.

Prior to the interview, I asked him if it bothered him that in 2000 he had been the first black MPA Hall of Fame inductee and that coming some six years after winning the Pulitzer. He reflected on the question, then said: "No, not really. One thing one learns growing up in the segregated South is patience. I was pleasantly surprised when the honor came and I was glad that my mother lived to see it, but my career had taught me that change comes ever so slowly."

One area in which Raspberry lost his patience was early childhood education. Raspberry's solution was program he funded and founded called Baby Steps in Okolona. The Baby Steps Program has been a partnership between columnist William Raspberry, the Okolona Area Chamber of Commerce, the University of Mississippi and the Barksdale Reading Institute. Other key community partners include a number of Okolona and Tupelo churches and local volunteers. "The (Baby Steps) basic idea is that all parents, no matter how unsuccessful they might have been in school, want their children to succeed academically—even if many of them don't know how to make that happen," Raspberry wrote in his nationally syndicated Nov. 17, 2003, column in The Washington Post.

"We propose to teach them. The text for the effort is Dorothy Rich's "MegaSkills"—a set of 11 attitudes and competencies that she believes lead to success in school and in life . . . the idea is to train the parents themselves, as they children's most effective teachers, to pass these MegaSkills along to their children."

On that day in 2005 in Okolona, I joined Raspberry at the Hazel Ivy Child Care Center—Ground Zero for the Baby Steps program in Okolona—along with two of the city's other day care centers. Raspberry arrived at Ivy's center and was greeted not as one of the nation's premier journalists, but as a neighbor and friend called "Bill."

Raspberry cut his journalistic teeth covering the Watts Riots in Los Angeles in 1965 and wrote passionately about the violence that gripped Washington, D.C., for a time. But in many ways, Raspberry never forgot his Mississippi upbringing and the inspiration of his schoolteacher parents. He was an advocate of self-reliance and hard work.

In 2005, I asked Raspberry to define his legacy in journalism: "I'm at an age where legacy becomes important. I'd like to leave something behind other than yellowing newspaper columns, something that people can carry forward. At the end of the day, I'd like to be remembered as someone who always tried to make clear the things that were pulling us apart and tried to ameliorate it, to point out that we're not as far apart as folks would have us to believe."

Bill Raspberry's place in American journalism is assured, but Mississippians would be wise to claim our part of this good man's distinguished personal and professional legacy.

HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS AND CARING FOR CAMP LEJEUNE FAMILIES ACT

Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. President, it has been 31 years since Camp Lejeune officials became aware that toxic compounds were found in the drinking water at the North Carolina base. It has taken 31 years for countless water tests, analyses, investigations, studies, and reports to be conducted so we can finally vote on H.R. 1627, a bill that will give thousands of Marine veterans and their families the health care they deserve after suffering from illnesses caused by this water contamination.

Almost 1 million people at Camp Lejeune were exposed to drinking water that was poisoned with cancer-causing industrial compounds, including trichloroethylene—a metal degreaser, tetrachloroethylene—a dry cleaning solvent, benzene and vinyl chloride. For almost 3 decades people who lived and worked at the base were drinking, cooking, and bathing in water with these toxic chemicals, which medical experts have linked to birth defects, childhood leukemia and a variety of other cancers.

There are over 181,000 people currently registered on the Camp Lejeune water contamination website registry, which is the critical information link for the Camp Lejeune veterans, civilians, and their families who may have been exposed to water contaminants. Next to North Carolina, Florida has the second highest number of reg-

istrants with over 15,000. Every single State has residents registered on the Camp Lejeune website, and every Member of the Senate has constituents who have been affected by this water contamination.

Some scientists have been calling this one of the worst public drinking-water contaminations in our Nation's history. Some of the most vocal supporters of the Camp Lejeune victims are from my State of Florida. I am happy to tell them that we are finally doing right by those harmed while serving our country. Thanks to the dedication of these folks, the full impact of the contamination is being exposed.

I have pressed the Navy for all the facts surrounding the incident, and have advocated for conducting the right studies so those affected and their families can get more information on the possible association between their exposures and current and future health effects. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has been assessing the effects of exposure to drinking water containing volatile organic compounds since 1993. This Agency is also conducting an investigation, at the request of Congress, to determine the health effects of exposure to this drinking water. And the Department of Veterans Affairs already employs mechanisms to prevent fraudulent claims.

We are finally fulfilling our duty to protect our Nation's veterans and families who have sacrificed so much. After 55 years, they will finally get the medical coverage they are owed.

Finally, I would like to applaud my colleagues in the Judiciary Committee Senators LEAHY and GRASSLEY, for shedding some light on this water contamination issue.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased that Chairman LEAHY and I were able to help with the effort to look at the issue of water contamination at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. In particular, in June, we sent a letter to the Department of Defense, which has resulted in it producing more than 8,500 documents to the Judiciary Committee.

I know that Senator BURR and others have been leaders with the effort to look into the situation at Camp Lejeune.

Every member of the Senate should be aware of the situation at Camp Lejeune.

The drinking water contamination that took place over several decades at the base was one of the worst environmental disasters in American history.

Camp Lejeune was designated a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1988 after inspections confirmed contamination of the ground water due to the migration of hazardous chemicals from outside the base and inadequate procedures to contain and dispose of hazardous chemicals on the base.