

now, most deservedly, the national chair for disaster services.

While giving on a national scale, Mr. Ogden maintains his regional allegiance to the Connecticut area, currently a member of the board of directors for the Red Cross' blood services in the metro north region. He is passionate about maintaining a plentiful blood supply for Americans in critical need, working as a blood volunteer for Greenwich's emergency blood coverage team.

Over the past years, Mr. Ogden has been formally recognized through two significant lifetime achievement awards, including the Clara Barton Award and the Harriman Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service, which is the most highly regarded, national recognition given by the Red Cross. Appropriately, Mr. Ogden received this high honor on the anniversary of his 50 years of service to the Red Cross. A mentor to young volunteers and passionate about inspiring citizens and communities to volunteer for the first time, he is unwaveringly committed to the future of the American Red Cross.

Mr. Ogden is a role model for all who give back. I welcome my colleagues in the Senate to join me in commending Mr. Ross Ogden for his tremendous personal service.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED WAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize United Way of Connecticut as they celebrate their 125th anniversary and over a century of mobilizing local communities to achieve positive change.

Founded in 1887 by community leaders in Denver, CO, United Way Worldwide is now the world's largest privately supported nonprofit organization. This invaluable national network—rooted in our country's history but ever-attuned to the present—brings together a diverse collection of community stakeholders for a common purpose. Schools, government agencies, businesses, labor groups, the faith community, and many others have combined to promote academic achievement, financial stability, and healthy living. Connecticut is lucky to have 15 local United Way chapters serving communities all across the State. Remarkably, United Way of Connecticut has enhanced the quality of life for countless citizens. Almost everyone benefits from programs supported by United Way. Almost every community has critical organizations whose good work is supported by United Way.

Connecticut's United Way pioneered use of an informational database for citizens. While many States and major cities have developed an information hotline in the last few years, United Way of Connecticut had already created its "2-1-1" system in 1976. Connecticut's system quickly gained national recognition for its efficiency and effectiveness, and by the middle of the

1980s, it had become a model emulated by the rest of the country. In 2012 alone, this hotline was used over 550,000 times by constituents of all ages to find assistance on topics ranging from health and early childcare to crisis intervention and disaster response. This information is offered in a streamlined and user-friendly manner, and in this way, United Way and United Way of Connecticut help constituents help themselves. These excellent communication methods and this attention to accessibility at State and local levels have enabled the incredible influence of United Way throughout the Nation and world.

Sensitive to the rise of unemployment, United Way of Connecticut has also developed crucial resources that help constituents get back to work. After losing a job, many are unaware of the Federal, State, and local resources at their disposal. Thankfully, local United Way chapters can offer support, such as assistance with unemployment compensation, job training services, foreclosure prevention aid, and utility assistance programs. Every day, these United Way chapters are helping Connecticut citizens get back on their feet.

Additionally, despite challenging economic times and thanks to a robust partnership with local labor organizations, United Way has made significant contributions to alleviating hunger. Annually, on the second Saturday in May, the National Association of Letter Carriers and United Way of Connecticut team up with the Connecticut Food Bank for the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. In 2012, this invaluable initiative, which has become the world's largest 1-day food drive, collected over 70 million pounds of nonperishable food items.

When a citizen is struggling to comprehend a complex health insurance program, searching for answers about their child's development, or simply looking for a helping hand, they know that they can count on their local United Way. The Connecticut chapters have done extraordinary work in educating citizens, making accessible important community resources, and serving as a constant source of hope. I applaud the wonderful work of United Way in local communities over the last 125 years and look forward to supporting and celebrating their accomplishments in the years ahead.

2011 and 2012 CONNECTICUT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I proudly celebrate two of Connecticut's most outstanding teachers, who have been recognized as Connecticut Teachers of the Year. Kristen Record, physics teacher at Frank Scott Bunnell High School in Stratford, was awarded in 2011, and David Bosso, social studies teacher at Berlin High School, was honored in 2012.

Since 1952, the Connecticut Teacher of the Year program has highlighted

educators who make significant impacts in Connecticut classrooms and schools. Sponsored yearly by the Connecticut State Department of Education, one teacher in each local district is nominated. These district educators of the year have the opportunity to exchange advice and strategies and partake in advisory committees, workshops, conferences, and forums, serving as changemakers for public education on a national level. A teacher from each State is selected yearly from this pool and considered for the title of National Teacher of the Year.

I applaud Ms. Record and Mr. Bosso for earning this very well deserved distinction. This yearly award highlights the vital importance of teachers in our States who can show our future leaders how to embrace accountability, self-assessment, and motivation for years to come. They demonstrate that the quest to learn does not end at school, inspire exceptional teaching, and encourage all members of a community to become involved as teachers, mentors, and coaches.

Kristen Record has been central to the Bunnell High School community for 12 years as a physics teacher, mentor to colleagues, and adviser on education policy. Community participation and lifelong learning are key principles of her successful teaching methodology. In addition to her daily responsibilities, Ms. Record is able to take a larger view of her classroom, developing updated curriculum and achievement assessments while ensuring that every student is learning effectively. She has worked with her school district and throughout the State to improve the physics curriculum, institute electronic grading methods, create digital databases, and develop more effective ways of evaluating teachers and forming professional standards. Additionally, she has volunteered as senior class adviser, supported fellow teachers as a TEAM mentor, and volunteered on the Stratford Education Association's executive board. Ms. Record is regarded as a leader throughout the State in roles to include science education consultant for the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund and the Connecticut Science Center and high school director for the Connecticut Science Teachers' Association, demonstrating that opportunities to bring about positive change as a teacher are vast and exciting. Last year, she was appointed by the Connecticut Commissioner of Education to the Legislative Task Force for Secondary School Reform. And, recognized nationally in 2009 with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, she serves as a model of engaged teaching around the country. Growing up in a family of teachers, Ms. Record has continued her legacy, sharing this wisdom and experience with our future leaders.

David Bosso earned degrees from Eastern Connecticut State University and the University of Hartford, and has

given back to the State as a social studies teacher at Berlin High School since 1998. Beloved by students, he has inspired proficiency in communication skills, analysis, and reading comprehension by comparing current events with historical patterns. Mr. Bosso has also advised student government and coached basketball. He is a national leader for social studies, serving on the board of directors of the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies, as cochair of the Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies in 2012, and a participant of this year's National Council for the Social Studies' annual national conference. He has been published in Connecticut History and is currently working towards a doctorate in education.

When named 2011 Connecticut Teacher of the Year, Ms. Record eloquently described her role and the important job of educators around the world, recognizing that "tonight, we celebrate the fact that, as a teacher, you never truly know where your influence will end." Mr. Bosso similarly proclaimed the significant, multifaceted role of teachers, while speaking at the Connecticut Education Association's Representative Assembly this year, urging fellow teachers to "never, never, again use the phrase, 'I am just a teacher.'" I invite my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Ms. Record and Mr. Bosso, and ask for their continued support of our concerned, courageous teachers.

CONGRATULATING DOUGLAS HUTTON

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Douglas Hutton, recipient of the 2011 Milken Educator Award. He is the first teacher from Glastonbury High School to have ever received this prestigious award and the only educator from Connecticut to be awarded last year by the Milken Family Foundation.

Since 1985, the Milken Family Foundation—under the leadership of education visionary Lowell Milken and his family—has given thousands of Milken Educator Awards to top innovators of elementary and secondary education across the country. Whether teachers, principals, or specialists, these honorees are an exclusive group of experts who contribute every day to the critical debate on how we can make our Nation's schools better spaces for learning, growth, and the sparking of lifelong interests. One of the Milken Family Foundation's initiatives—through the Lowell Milken Center—is distinguishing "unsung heroes that have changed the course of history." And so with the Milken Educator Award, we acknowledge our Nation's dedicated educators who are not usually spotlighted but conscientiously work to help turn ideas, thoughts, and questions into interests, passions, and projects.

Mr. Hutton has taught physics for 19 years, serving 17 of them at Glaston-

bury High School in Glastonbury, CT. He illuminates abstract concepts that are difficult to grasp, sharing his love of Stephen Hawkins, science, and math with his students. Through practical demonstrations, group projects, and experiments, he shows that problem-solving is challenging but rewarding. Mr. Hutton has said that teaching "all comes down to seeing [the students'] eyes light up when they understand a new idea."

Mr. Hutton did not apply for this award but was selected by a panel of education experts who, each year, seek out unsung teachers who demonstrate potential for and proven success in the classroom, engage in national discourse on academia, and convey an "engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues, and the community."

The Milken Family Foundation makes education a shared national agenda, connecting educators with other sectors of our society. The foundation's multifaceted and interdisciplinary approach brings business, government, and philanthropic leaders together in the quest for innovative, realistic, and well-tested teaching methodology. Through programs administered by the Milken Family Foundation's National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, NIET, such as the System for Teacher and Student Advancement and the NIET Best Practices Center, the Milken Educator Award regards our Nation's best early to mid-level teachers as policy figures who can contribute their practical knowledge on a national stage.

The Milken Family Foundation and especially Douglas Hutton, now a member of the Milken community, deserve thanks for restoring faith in our educational system. I invite my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Hutton, who has contributed to the lives of our young people in lasting, significant ways.

REMEMBERING ZEV WOLFSON

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise in a tribute to Zev Wolfson, an extraordinary philanthropist and humanitarian whose great deeds are unknown to most people because he never sought to make them known. Throughout his remarkable career, Mr. Wolfson offered millions of people—of all ages all around the world—the opportunity to experience Jewish education and give back to their families, religion, and communities with dignity and pride. He dedicated his life to supporting and advocating for Jewish outreach projects, tirelessly devoted to the power and importance of faith for future generations.

Throughout his life, Mr. Wolfson constantly aided communities wherever Jewish education was endangered. He began as an advocate for the Jewish nation. Walking the halls of Congress, he vigorously and expertly supported programs and institutions in Israel,

such as schools and other educational centers—many helping Jewish refugees and their children who had escaped from Arab countries. Committed to providing assistance on a global scale, he focused on a particular project and, once it was sustainable and self-sufficient, moved to the next one.

Mr. Wolfson donated millions of dollars to underprivileged areas of the United States and underserved areas of the world. He drew from the personal pain of exile to Siberia in wartime—where he carried his father's body to a place where he could have a proper Jewish funeral in the freezing tundra—and then served as a father figure to millions. He helped young people, students, and families to stay connected with the Jewish nation, in lands stretching from the former Soviet Union and Israel to France and the United States.

As deliberately and tirelessly as he advanced his good deeds, he consistently avoided public recognition for them. He gave without any expectation of praise or acclaim, and his anonymity was purposeful and persistent. His diverse and numerous initiatives—birthright programs in colleges around the country, vocational and religious education activities around the globe, and many other programs—made Mr. Wolfson one of his generation's most influential leaders, but he remained virtually unknown. Now, I invite my colleagues to join me in according Mr. Wolfson this measure of recognition for the millions of people whose lives he touched and enhanced.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Cleveland Catholic Charities and its mission to serve people in need throughout the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

Catholic Charities was established in Cleveland in 1912 under the direction of Bishop John Farrelly during a time when there were few organized charities in the United States. It was founded in response to challenging economic conditions that existed for the poor and orphaned of the day. Throughout the organization's 100-year history, its work, programs and family centers have touched the lives of many people throughout northeast Ohio.

Over the years, Catholic Charities' leaders, employees, supporters and volunteers have cared for their neighbors and provided guidance to address the social needs of our community. Their charitable mission is inspirational and their generous work has had great impact, helping millions of people. Their efforts provide meals, shelter, emergency assistance, counseling services, training and employment for many throughout the 8 northeast Ohio counties in the diocese.

On this occasion I would like to congratulate Bishop Richard Lennon,