

as his service in the executive branch, has typified what a dedicated public servant should be: he took pride in his work and faced challenges with determination and tenacity; he recognized what an honor it was to serve the people of this country and my constituents, in particular; and he had a respect for and an unparalleled understanding of the Senate as an institution. Because of these many fine qualities, Rob earned the respect and admiration of so many of his staff colleagues, as well as so many Senators.

Rob got his start in Washington in 1989 working as a research analyst at the Republican National Committee. In 1991 he went to work at the Department of Education, serving in the office of then-Secretary LAMAR ALEXANDER.

Rob began his work in the Senate in 1993 when he served as an adviser for budget, economic, foreign affairs, and defense issues for former Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon. At the time he accepted the position, I am sure he had little inkling that his work would lead to more than a decade of service to the Oregon congressional delegation. In 1994, Rob moved to the Senate Finance Committee, where he continued to work for Senator Packwood as a professional staff member responsible for pensions, benefits, social security, and economic issues. He then worked for the Office of Management and Budget before returning in 1997 to the Senate and Oregon delegation as a senior adviser, and later legislative director, to my friend and former colleague, Senator Gordon Smith.

During his career in public service, Rob left his mark on issues ranging from tax and national security to budget policy. But it was his long fight for the passage of historic civil rights legislation, including the repeal of the don't ask, don't tell law and hate crimes legislation, that gives him the most pride. America now welcomes the service of any qualified individual who is willing to put on the uniform, and we no longer dismiss brave, dedicated, and skilled service men and women simply because they are gay. In addition, those who commit hate crimes against individuals based on their sexual orientation can now be punished under Federal law.

As Rob leaves the Senate after nearly 20 years of hard work and dedicated public service, he also leaves behind an impressive list of accomplishments, and colleagues whose lives he touched because he was such an exceptional role model and mentor. I wish him continued success and every happiness in the years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO MONTFORD POINT MARINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, on the 25th day of June 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 establishing the fair employment practice that began to erase discrimination in the Armed Forces.

In 1942, President Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African Americans an opportunity to be recruited into the Marine Corps. These African Americans, from all States, were not sent to the traditional boot camps of Parris Island, SC and San Diego, CA. Instead, African American Marines were segregated—experiencing basic training at Montford Point—a facility at Camp Lejeune, NC. Approximately 20,000 African American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949.

In July of 1948 President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order No. 9981 negating segregation. In September of 1949, Montford Marine Camp was deactivated, ending 7 years of segregation.

On April 19, 1974, Montford Point Camp was renamed Camp Johnson, in honor of the late Sergeant Major, Gilbert H. "Hashmark" Johnson. Johnson was one of the first African Americans to join the Corps, a Distinguished Montford Point Drill Instructor and a Veteran of WWII and Korea. The Camp remains the only Marine Corps installation named in honor of an African American.

The awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal came to fruition after the signing of H.R. 2447, Public Law 112-59 by President Obama on 23 Nov 11, which is the highest civilian honor for the distinguished achievement. The Congressional Gold Medal was presented to 366 Original Montford Point Marines, 27 June 2012 at the Capital Visitor's Center in Washington, DC. The next day, replicas of this medal were presented to these men at the Commandant of the Marine Corps' residence.

January of 2012 began the keeling of the USNS Montford Point, T-MLP-1, the lead ship of her class of Mobile Landing Platforms, MLP, a ship named in honor of the Original Montford Point Marines. Currently the Montford Point Marine Association Inc is raising funds to build the Montford Point Memorial at Camp Lejeune, NC.

Today, I would like to recognize the following Original Montford Point Marines from Louisiana:

Henry Leonard Bart, New Orleans  
Winston Joseph Burns, Sr., New Orleans  
Cleauthor Sanders, Shreveport  
Otis O'Neal Stewart, Baton Rouge  
Ruffin Dawson, Mandeville  
Joseph Bastian, New Iberia  
Alcee Chriss, Sr., Baton Rouge  
Walter Duhon, Fenton  
William Joseph Brashear, Morgan City

#### RECOGNIZING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Junior League of Washington, JLW, as this organization honors 100 years of community service and dedication to the greater Washington, DC, area. The Junior League has approximately 300 organizations across the world, including eight leagues in my home State of Lou-

isiana. I know that the women in these organizations make a profound impact on their communities, and in particular, I recognize the positive impact the women of the Junior League of Washington have made in communities throughout our Nation's Capital since 1912.

The Junior League of Washington, JLW, is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. Throughout their history, the JLW has provided millions of volunteer hours and more than \$5.4 million to the community.

It was one woman, Miss Elizabeth Noyes, and her sewing circle, that started the JLW in 1912. The League quickly grew to over 100 women working for the welfare of children and serving the helpless and sick. One hundred years later, the league is still going strong with over 2,300 members still striving to improve the lives of children and the poor.

The league continues this mission and in the late 1990s chose to focus its energies on literacy-related programs. The ability to read, write, and communicate affects far more than a person's knowledge of literacy masterpieces. It changes their access to jobs, health care, and transportation, and the way they raise their children. The JLW has adopted a broad approach to solving the literacy challenges their community faces by addressing the issue from many angles: adult, child, and cultural. The league is proud to partner with over 23 organizations throughout the area to achieve this laudable goal.

In addition, the league honors and celebrates diversity while focusing on shared values, and it strives to create an environment in which any woman committed to improving her community, regardless of race, religion, or national origin, will feel welcome and be encouraged to be part of the organization. The JLW is a vibrant presence in the lives of the women and children in the greater metropolitan area of the District of Columbia, serving as a resource throughout the community to effect positive change, seek common ground, and inspire hope.

In honor of their centennial year, the women of the JLW have created the Resolution Read Program, committing themselves to purchasing and distributing 100,000 new books to needy children in the greater Washington, DC, community. This is no small undertaking for a small group of women, but by meeting this goal, many children throughout the area will get a book to call their own. As such, JLW will continue to make a lasting impact in their community by fostering a passion for books and reading where it otherwise might not exist.

I would like to sincerely thank the volunteers of the Junior League of

Washington for their commitment to volunteerism, their community, and the District of Columbia. Their efforts are extraordinary and greatly appreciated. I congratulate the league on their 100 years of success and look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things the league will accomplish by their Bicentennial.

#### FEDERAL LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, 10 years have passed since the first consumer enrolled in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program, an insurance option for Federal employees, retirees and their loved ones created by the Long-Term Care Security Act. This law set a new standard regarding providing for the unique and important medical needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. Participants in the program are now confident that they will receive help financing the care that they may require. I am pleased to recognize the 10th anniversary of the first enrollment in this important program, and I am proud that its administration is handled by Long Term Care Partners, LLC, which is located in my home State of New Hampshire.

Today, 1 in 10 Americans aged 55 and older carries a long-term care insurance policy; however, it is estimated that 70 percent of people over age 65 will eventually require long-term care. Our Nation's changing demographics and significant medical advances have contributed to an aging population, and addressing the issue of how best to care for seniors and individuals with disabilities should be part of our national discourse on how we support ourselves and our families. These services are critical for so many Americans who need assistance to continue living independently and actively in their communities.

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program was the first benefit offered to the Federal workforce that was completely employee-funded, coming at no cost to the taxpayer. The program is unique in that, at the time of its inception, it was the first benefit offered uniformly to all Federal employees, including military personnel and staff of the U.S. Postal Service. It is also the Nation's first successful large-scale, long-term care insurance program with consistent benefits, regardless of where the recipient lives.

With nearly 270,000 enrollees, the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program has made a difference in the lives of so many in the Federal workforce. It is the largest group long-term care insurance program in the country and has already paid nearly \$215 million in claims. The program helps its beneficiaries stay where they are most comfortable, with more than 85 percent of these claims going to home and community-based services.

Every family needs to plan for retirement and how to best care for aging loved ones and those with disabilities.

Long-term care insurance is one way that millions of Americans get the support they need to remain independent and active in their communities. For Federal employees, the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is an important option that provides a sense of security and comfort in knowing that family members will be cared for in times of need.

I stand today to recognize the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program's 10th anniversary and to wish the program continued success as it embarks on its second decade of assisting Federal employees and their families in planning for their retirements.

#### TRIBUTE TO PASTOR YUCEF NADARKHANI

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to share a rare piece of good news related to international religious freedom. On October 11 of last year I submitted for the RECORD the story of a Christian pastor in Iran who had been charged with apostasy and sentenced to death. Earlier this month, after almost 3 years of imprisonment, Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani has been released and is at home with his family.

The good news for Pastor Youcef comes after years of struggle, and we can only imagine the joy his own family feels after a long, difficult fight for his freedom. Many organizations and individuals, often risking their own lives, deserve thanks for their enduring commitment to Pastor Youcef's cause. Pastor Youcef's enduring faith in God saw him through this trying time and his experience is an inspiration to people of faith everywhere.

This moment of relief and thanksgiving comes as a reminder that the liberties we enjoy as Americans come at a high price to those who have fought and continue to fight for our freedoms. And too many people in countries like Iran, Iraq, Egypt, and Pakistan, to name a few, still do not enjoy the basic human rights you and I have here at home.

The persecution of religious minorities and Christians like Pastor Youcef abroad is unfortunately nothing new. That's why I introduced the Near East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act in June of last year. The bill came out of coordination with U.S. Congressman FRANK WOLF in the House and my colleague, U.S. Senator CARL LEVIN. It creates a special envoy on religious freedom in the State Department to monitor the status of religious minorities in these particularly vulnerable regions.

We can and we must do more to advance religious freedom abroad. I am sincerely committed to this effort and believe that it is essential to promoting the God-given right to liberty around the world. My colleagues and I are hopeful that the Senate can soon join the House in passing this important legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CITY CLUB OF CLEVELAND

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize The City Club of Cleveland, the oldest continuously operating free speech forum in the country.

Often referred to as a "Citadel of Free Speech," The City Club offers an unbiased setting for dynamic discussions and exchange of ideas on important issues of interest to citizens and communities throughout Ohio and the United States. The City Club has succeeded in its mission to inform, educate and inspire citizens by presenting significant ideas and providing opportunities for dialog in a collegial setting, and has secured its place in history as an impartial, vital center for discussion of diverse topics.

The City Club forums encourage active debate and participation by the audience. Over the years, local, national and international leaders have been featured as speakers and have addressed a wide variety of subjects which have impacted our region, state and Nation. These sessions encourage nonpartisan, spirited debate and discussion about important topics. I have been honored to speak at the City Club on several occasions and have enjoyed the robust dialog.

I would like to congratulate The City Club of Cleveland on 100 years of success.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING JON HOLDER

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to pay tribute to Mr. Jon Frederick Holder, a man who was instrumental in helping my staff prepare for a hearing the Senate Finance Committee held on private long-term disability benefits in September 2010.

Jon died unexpectedly last spring at the youthful age of 71. The world has lost a dedicated attorney, a civil rights activist who took part in the Selma-Montgomery march, and an advocate who specialized in disability law. Jon spent the last 30 years working alongside his wife Kathleen at their small law firm in Maine defending people whose voices are muffled in a process that can become mired in duplicative forms, draconian due dates, and burdensome record collection.

Jon worked with my staff as the Committee's hearing date neared, staying late into the evening to distill with witty anecdotes and a razor sharp understanding, ERISA's complex statutory law, its legislative history and the seminal judicial interpretations that dramatically changed it. He described the insurance industry's corporate structure and its goal to reduce the benefit ratio percentage. Then he put flesh on that structure as he described what achieving that reduction goal means to the individual whose disability check suddenly stops arriving.

A philosophy major-turned-lawyer, an avid bicyclist who loved the ocean,