

America out of foster care from 14,000 children a year out of 100,000 15 years ago, and from 500,000 to 700,000 in foster care currently. We have reduced the number of children in foster care which overall is very good but, most importantly, we have substantially increased the number of children adopted from 14,000 to 50,000 a year. So we are moving in the right direction, but we will not rest until we have placed every child with a responsible and loving family to call their own forever.

The sad news—and I have to unfortunately have a little sad point of this speech—is that internationally the numbers are going in the wrong direction. America used to adopt about 20,000 children a year from around the world. We are the largest receiving country on Earth. Americans feel strongly, Americans of all races and backgrounds and religious affiliations feel strongly that children should be raised in families. Americans have such open hearts and room in their hearts and in their homes for children and through many of our faith-based organizations have stepped up to adopt. Unfortunately, policies within our own executive branch of government and decisions that are being made are constricting the number of children who are eligible for adoption or who are being adopted by Americans, and that number has fallen dramatically, unfortunately, from about 20,000 children down to 9,000 children. I am going to redouble my efforts every year to find the problem areas and identify them, whether something has to be changed legislatively or whether some additional funding can be found to increase efforts not just by the Federal Government but States and local governments and nonprofits. We are going to turn the corner and accelerate this situation.

Let me conclude by showing some wonderful examples of families who have stepped up. First, this is the Morrison family. Fran is from Louisiana. She has fostered over 22 children. She is a professional. This is what she does in her professional life. She has fostered 22 children. But these five she has adopted out of the dozens of children whom she has fostered. This one little baby, the latest one whom she adopted, has a very special need. He was shaken as an infant. He was born completely healthy, but because an adult lost their temper and didn't know what to do—adults sometimes may shake infants because they are angry, because children cry when they are hungry or they are cold or they are tired, and sometimes adults don't like to hear that crying. Sometimes babies get shaken or thrown against walls, and that is what happened to this little child. This child is seriously disabled but has now been adopted by Fran Morrison, and she says she has been blessed. The Lord led her to become a foster parent and then, just one step at a time, she became an adoptive mom. As we can see, she has her hands very full, but she has

a great heart and she, similar to so many other Americans, is trying to make a way for these children and give them a place.

The next family is the Roberts family. Former foster youth Marchelle Roberts was one of my interns in my office just last year, so this is such a personal and touching story. She was a former participant in our foster youth intern program. Her parent is Lisa Roberts from Camden, NJ. She is adopted. Marchelle is now 22 years old and is attending Temple University studying broadcast journalism. Besides Marchelle, her mother has adopted four other children out of foster care. What an extraordinary family, built by a mom who just had a great heart, had the will and the opportunity to adopt these four beautiful girls, and they are now a wonderful family, truly loving the children to help them succeed in a world they were born into that had a very sad beginning but a very happy ending.

The third family I wish to share with my colleagues is the Johnson family. This is Senator THUNE's 2012 Angel. The parents are Ryan and Amber Johnson from Sioux Falls, SD. Two boys were adopted out of foster care. They have one biological child, a little girl. These two little boys were adopted out of foster care. What a beautiful family and what a way to build a family. That is what I am saying; that I wish we could eliminate every barrier. There are cultural barriers. There are financial barriers. There are legal barriers. If we could just eliminate those barriers and let Americans do what they do best, which is to love children, we would be a lot better off. So this is a beautiful family from Sioux Falls, SD.

Our next family is the Duhon family. The parents, Troy and Tracy Duhon, are from New Orleans. I know this family well and I am very proud of them. Their little adopted child Annahstasia Grace was born in China last year. They have three biological children, but they traveled to China just last month to pick up this little baby girl. They have waited for her for quite some time. We are very grateful that the Chinese Government has been cooperative. China is placing more children domestically, which is good, because many years ago they didn't have any process for domestic adoption. Of course, with their one-child policy, there were literally millions of children in orphanages, many little girls because they weren't as valued as little boys. But now that is changing. China is doing more domestic adoptions, but there are still children who need to have loving parents and many of them are finding them in the United States.

Then, finally, the last family is Jake and Amy Glover from Hays, KS. They have four adopted children, three from Haiti and one from China. What a cute holiday card this is going to be for all their friends who will receive it. Since adopting three children from Haiti, the Glovers are committed to raising

awareness about the many daily challenges faced by the Haitians postearthquake. So not only did these individuals turn out to be great parents for these children, but they also—I know because I talk to so many of them—help these children understand and appreciate and respect the culture from which they came, and it builds awareness in America about the greatness of our whole planet. Of course, we are proud of America, but there are many other countries where these children come from, and I know the adoptive parents are very respectful of the sending countries.

So on behalf of the children who are still waiting, I hope people who have heard this can respond in some way. There are many opportunities for people to reach out to our national organizations, nonprofits, churches in communities, and people can always go to our Web site and we have some additional information about how to connect if people are thinking about how to adopt or people who want to support the work of adoption and preservation of families such as these.

Again, I urge my colleagues to pass S. Res. 595 as quickly as possible. I thank those colleagues who have joined with me in cosponsoring this. We wish everybody a great day on Saturday for National Adoption Day, and we look forward to the continued work to promote laws and policies that help every child find a forever family.

Thank you. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING CAMPBELLSVILLE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, KY, for what is quite a long list of achievements they have received recently. Campbellsville athletics has taken the country by storm. Recently, four Campbellsville students won national championships in track and field, and the Campbellsville men's tennis team won a national championship. A school would be proud of having any one of these winning student-athletes as part of its number—for Campbellsville University to have them all is quite a feat.

Campbellsville's mascot is the Tigers, and the school is part of the National Christian College Athletic Association. Four students on the Tigers track and field team won five individual national titles this year. P.J. Randles won the triple-jump title at the NCCAA Men's Indoor Track & Field National Championships in February. Tiana Benjamin won the javelin title at the NCCAA Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Championships in May. Nathelie Zetrenne won the 100-meter hurdles title at the NCCAA Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Championships this May. And Tiosha Beasley won both the long-jump and triple-jump titles at the NCCAA Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Championships in May.

P.J. Randles is the first student at Campbellsville to win an indoor track and field national title. Tiana Benjamin is the first women's track and field athlete to win a national title. And Tiosha Beasley was also an NAIA All-American at both the NAIA Indoor National Championships and NAIA Outdoor National Championships.

The four women's national titles are the most individual national titles won in one meet by any sport. They are also the most individual national titles of any sports program at Campbellsville University. Since 2009, Campbellsville's men's and women's track and field has won eight individual NCCAA national titles.

On top of these achievements are the tennis champions. The Campbellsville Tigers men's tennis team are the 2012 National Christian College Athletic Association national champions, and they are the first Tigers' program to win a team national championship, after the school reached the semifinals in 2009 and 2010. They swept through the NCCAA Tournament in Mobile, Ala., with a 5-0 record in the tournament after finishing the 2012 season with a school-record 19 wins and a 19-7 overall record.

In addition to its NCCAA championship, this is the first time Campbellsville University men's tennis qualified for the NAIA Tournament as a team. The team finished runner-up in the Mid-South Conference.

I want to particularly congratulate head coach Kyle Caven, who was honored as the Mid-South Conference Coach of the Year and NCCAA National Coach of the Year. Several tennis team members received honors as well. Carlos Anton was named to the NAIA All-America Second Team and the NCCAA All-America First Team. Pablo Numbela and Sebastian Marot were named to the NCCAA All-America First Team. Pontus Blom, Zac Maylon, and Alberto Diaz were all named to the NCCAA All-America Second Team. John Harbold was named a Mid-South Conference Champion of Character.

The assistant coaches were Kelly Anderson and Phil Carlisle. The team also includes Terry Caven, Austin Colvier, Alfredo Bencid, David Castillo, Tyler

Hyatt, Bradley Jeffries, Chase Padgett, and Austin Spalding.

Campbellsville University is a leading Christian university of more than 3,500 students that is dedicated to educating its students and preparing them to be servant leaders. Their excellence in athletics is only matched by their dedication to instilling character and a love of learning. I want to congratulate Campbellsville University president Dr. Michael V. Carter, the school's faculty and staff, the athletics department, and all these wonderful student athletes for representing the very best of what Kentucky has to offer.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, each November we recognize National Native American Heritage Month to honor the tradition, culture, contributions, achievements, and sacrifices of those that originally inhabited this great Nation. With over five million individuals of Native American descent in the United States, it is important to celebrate the instrumental impact Native American culture has had on American history. National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to focus our attention on the beliefs of tribal sovereignty by ensuring trust responsibilities and strengthening government-to-government relationships with tribes across the Nation.

Representing a State that is home to nine treaty tribes, this month has added significance to me. I would like to personally acknowledge and honor South Dakota's nine treaty tribes: the Cheyenne River Sioux, the Crow Creek Sioux, the Flandreau Santee Sioux, the Lower Brule Sioux, the Oglala Sioux, the Rosebud Sioux, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the Standing Rock Sioux, and the Yankton Sioux. South Dakota greatly benefits from the rich heritage and culture each tribe brings to our State.

It is fitting that President Obama has declared November 23, 2012, the day after Thanksgiving, as Native American Heritage Day in an effort to fully appreciate the legacy American Indian culture has had on our Nation since its infancy. I am pleased we have honored our Native American Indian and Alaska Native people with a day, week, and month of observance every year since 1976.

During this month's commemoration, we must not only celebrate our Native American Indian and Alaska Native's past, but also emphasize where improvements are needed for their future well-being. I am proud the Indian Affairs Committee has recently approved my legislation to reauthorize the Native American Languages Preservation Act, and I hope my colleagues will consider this important measure, as it is critical to preserve Native languages that have long influenced our history and culture. We should pro-

mote diversity rather than suppress it, as the foundation of the United States is built on diverse cultures and backgrounds. While we pause to recognize the strong contributions our tribes have made to this Nation, the Federal government must uphold its responsibilities to our tribal communities.

I hope students around the United States take the opportunity this month to learn about the Thanksgiving story from the American Indian point of view. By observing and celebrating National Native American Heritage Month, we are reaffirming our Nation's respect for American Indian people. I would like to acknowledge and praise the more than 70,000 American Indians in South Dakota who bring a unique and enriching culture to our communities. I urge everyone in America to participate in our celebration of American Indians, not only during the month of November, but through a daily commitment to advancing the quality of life of American Indians, in an effort for our Nation to move forward with strength and resolve.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TAYLOR W. LAWRENCE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Taylor Lawrence, Jr. who, on Friday, October 12, 2012, was honored as one of four "Hometown Heroes" at the City of Montevallo's 2nd Annual Mayor's Breakfast Honoring Hometown Heroes.

Taylor, who grew up in Montevallo, AL, was the keynote speaker at the event and was honored along with former Montevallo Mayor Sharon Anderson, World War II veteran Grady Parker, and former University of Montevallo English professor Dr. Elizabeth "Libbie" Rodgers.

He graduated first in his class from the California Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in physics and from Stanford University with a master's degree and doctorate, both in applied physics.

Taylor has had an accomplished professional career in the defense field and has held positions as vice president of Raytheon's Engineering, Technology and Mission Assurance and a vice president and general manager for the C4ISR and Space Sensors division for Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems. He served as my staff director when I was chairman for the Select Committee on Intelligence and prior to that position, as the deputy director of the Information Systems Office of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Currently, Taylor serves as the president of Raytheon Company's Missile Systems business, the world's leading producer of weapons systems for the United States military as well as allied forces of more than 50 countries.

In 1996, Taylor was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service due to his exemplary work in his field. He is a