

of us now is to find ways to act together in common purpose, when and where possible.

For instance, on Afghanistan, we need to make our goals and strategy absolutely clear. Pakistan has a constructive role to play in forging a durable political settlement that will bring an end to this war. And while we have often been frustrated by the divergence of policies on Afghanistan, it remains important that we work together to further a reconciliation process that is Afghan led and supported by the region's key players. This is a time for us to be careful, to be thoughtful, and to proceed deliberately but determinately—as I believe we are—to strengthen our relationship and confront our common challenges.

Moreover, I want to emphasize that this relationship is not only about the threats we face. It is not only about defeating militant extremists who threaten the security of both our countries. It is also about building a deeper, broader, and long term strategic engagement with the people of Pakistan. As I have said before, Pakistan's prosperity and its security—as well as our own—depend on it. And I am determined to make sure that the kinds of projects supported by Kerry-Lugar-Berman funds remain on track and demonstrate our long term commitment to the stability of Pakistan and to the region itself.

Make no mistake: our ability to influence events in Pakistan is limited, and we should be realistic about what we can achieve. But we cannot allow events that might divide us in a small way to distract from the shared interests that unite us in a big way. Mohammad Ali Jinnah said it best in his address to Pakistan's Constituent Assembly in 1947. His words are as relevant in today's context as they were then:

If you will work in cooperation, forgetting the past, burying the hatchet, you are bound to succeed.

The road ahead will be difficult no doubt. But I look forward to working with Ambassador Rehman as a partner in these efforts in the months and years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE SALT LAKE COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Salt Lake Council of Women on the upcoming 100th anniversary of its founding.

In the ranks of those who greatly admire this wonderful organization and its exemplary members, I stand front and center today to salute them for their accomplishments and outstanding public service. As I do so, I am humbled by the magnitude of the task. It is difficult to find the right words that will do justice to their extraordinary contributions to Utah.

A century after its founding, this remarkable group has more than lived up to its motto: "Community Service for Civic Improvement." Evidence of its

good works is found throughout the Wasatch Front, including the International Peace Gardens the group was instrumental in making a reality in 1947 and has helped preside over ever since.

That alone is sufficient to ensure that the Salt Lake Council of Women's legacy will long endure in the heads and hearts of its legions of admirers. But this service organization's legacy neither begins nor ends there.

Its service began on February 26, 1912, when it organized with the aim of bettering the "social, civic and moral" environment of the Salt Lake City area, and that service has continued unabated and on an ever-increasing scale ever since.

Over the years, members of the Council have been a tireless advocate for Utah's youth, supporting child labor laws, visiting nurse and teacher programs for children who are ill, respect for the American flag, and the installation of the first drinking fountains in public schools.

They have further assisted with the Boy and Girl Scouts programs and helped found a home for troubled girls, which has evolved into what is now known as the Utah Youth Village. The organization has also helped the Utah State Development Center, Alcoholics Anonymous, Ronald McDonald House, and numerous hospitals, nursing homes, and homeless shelters and animal shelters, just to name a few.

And Utahns have not been the only beneficiaries. During World War I, the group provided relief to the embattled and starving Finnish people. When World War II erupted, the council gave generously to the USO, American Red Cross, and War Bond Drives. The council also has been a strong advocate for the arts, supporting the Utah Symphony, Ballet West and the Days of '47, Utah's annual July celebration to commemorate the 1847 arrival of the Mormon Pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley.

Today, as the Salt Lake Council of Women's centennial anniversary nears, its 200 members—representing 40 organizations and 5,000 women—are as engaging and anxiously engaged in the community as ever. Along with their continued commitment to the International Peace Gardens and Utah Youth Village, council members are involved with the YWCA, University Hospital Project, Wasatch Youth Center, and with an ever-widening variety of special projects. This month, for instance, the council will award a college scholarship to a victim of domestic violence, who will be chosen from mothers in the YWCA's long-term transitional housing program.

No matter what they do or who they serve, members of the Salt Lake Council of Women are the embodiment of what Mahatma Gandhi called "the spirit of service and sacrifice." As the council gathers February 25th to celebrate its 100th anniversary, I add my voice to the chorus of praise in saluting its visionary and selfless members,

both past and present, who have done so much for so many to make Utah the great place it is today.

REMEMBERING WHITNEY ELIZABETH HOUSTON

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on Saturday, February 11, 2012, New Jersey lost one of its proudest daughters and our country lost one of its brightest stars when Whitney Houston died at the untimely age of 48.

Whitney Houston's New Jersey roots run deep. She was born in Newark in 1963. She moved to East Orange at age 4 and attended high school at Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell.

The daughter of noted gospel singer Cissy Houston, Whitney spent her young life singing in the choir of the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark. She never forgot her roots, and even after she became a star, she sometimes returned to New Hope Baptist Church to sing on Easter Sunday. Fittingly, it is at New Hope Baptist Church that Whitney's family and friends will mourn her loss and celebrate her life this Saturday, February 18.

Virtually from the moment of the release of her debut album, "Whitney Houston," Whitney was an international superstar. The album spent a record 14 weeks at the top of the Billboard charts, and it was the first album by a female artist to yield three No. 1 hits. One of those hits, "The Greatest Love of All," became an anthem and a symbol of hope. For all of us who work to make a better world for our children and grandchildren, the song's opening line, "I believe the children are our future," is a constant reminder of our mission.

Much more than just a great singer and performer, Whitney was a great patriot and humanitarian. Her performance of the "Star Spangled Banner" for Super Bowl XXV in 1991—during the first gulf war—has been hailed as the yardstick for other singers performing our national anthem. Whitney donated her proceeds from that performance to the American Red Cross Gulf Crisis Fund. When her rendition was rereleased in the wake of the September 11 attacks, Whitney donated those proceeds to firefighters and victims of the attacks.

For her many accomplishments, Whitney received numerous awards, including 6 Grammys, 2 Emmys, and 22 American Music Awards. But no achievement meant more to Whitney than the birth of her daughter Bobbi Kristina in 1993.

Though her loss will be felt far and wide, Whitney's powerful words—"I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way"—live on in New Jersey, across the country, and around the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF DONALD F. CONLEY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate chief of police Donald F. Conley of the Nashua, NH, Police Department for his 32 years of dedicated service to the law enforcement profession, the City of Nashua, and the State of New Hampshire.

After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, Chief Conley began his law enforcement career with the U.S. Capitol Police and then joined the Nashua Police Department in 1980. He was promoted to sergeant in 1988, lieutenant in 1995, captain in 1998, and deputy chief of police in 2002. He was named the chief of police in 2007.

During his long tenure as a police chief, Donald Conley has been a leader in promoting community-oriented policing, improving public safety within the State of New Hampshire, and promoting sound public policies and practices that have helped keep New Hampshire one of the safest States in the Nation. Chief Conley has worked tirelessly with his peers and with other public safety officials to better the administration of justice.

As Donald Conley celebrates his retirement, I want to commend him on a job well done and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him and his wife Tricia well in all future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BALTIMORE

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Junior League of Baltimore. Mary Goodwillie founded the Junior League of Baltimore in 1912 with the goal of engaging educated young ladies to help alleviate the ills of the city. The league members began working with underprivileged women and children in Baltimore. Their early advocacy efforts helped bring about reduced work hours for women and better living conditions for children. Throughout its 100-year history, the league has harnessed the spirit of volunteerism to help countless families in Baltimore with projects ranging from a nursery school for blind and deaf children in the 1940s, a drug abuse education program in the 1970s, and the Kids in the Kitchen nutrition education program today.

Once, the league was a volunteer activity for well-to-do women; today, it is a training ground where women interested in nonprofit management, social work, and public service professions receive hands-on experience. Volunteer activities are designed to empower diverse women from all walks of life to make a difference in their community.

The Junior League of Baltimore is part of the Association of Junior Leagues International and continues

its foremothers' legacy of service and advocacy, emphasizing collaboration, coalition building, and responsiveness to community needs. The Junior League of Baltimore's recent projects include art programs, family support services, and partnerships with various organizations such as Read Across America, in addition to its innovative nutrition education program designed to fight childhood obesity.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Junior League of Baltimore on 100 years of service to Baltimore, and in thanking league members past and present for all that they have done and are doing to enrich the lives of the citizens of Baltimore and Maryland.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH HALL

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I would like to commend the extraordinary career of Buckner International CEO Dr. Kenneth Hall, who will soon be retiring from the Dallas-based organization after 19 years of dedicated service. Throughout his tenure, he has promoted founder R.C. Buckner's mission of bringing unconditional Christian love to needy children. Hall has been instrumental in expanding the scope of Buckner's activities, which are inspired by the biblical principles of James 1:27: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

A Baptist minister by training, R.C. Buckner devoted his life to helping children whose families had been displaced or broken by war, poverty, and other hardships. The mustard seed of Buckner International was planted on a hot July day in 1877, when Dr. Buckner gathered concerned citizens around an old oak tree in Paris, TX, and asked for their assistance in building a home for orphans. From a humble collection that day of \$27, Dr. Buckner created Buckner Orphans' Home in Dallas in 1879. Now known as Buckner Children's Home, it is one of the oldest orphanages west of the Mississippi River.

One hundred and thirty-five years after the famous oak tree meeting, Buckner International is aiding more than 400,000 people in countries across the world. Dr. Hall became its fifth President and CEO in 1994. Under his leadership, the endowment surpassed \$200 million, and the organization established a new global ministry program. It now does charitable work in China, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Korea, and Vietnam. Buckner also runs several retirement communities in Texas, and provides an extensive array of services to assist and empower families in crisis.

I am grateful for all that Dr. Hall has done to improve the lives of the vulner-

able and underprivileged, both at home and abroad. I join my colleagues in saluting him for his tireless efforts, which have brought joy and comfort to so many. He deserves recognition as a true humanitarian and a true American patriot.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN E. FRAMPTON

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing John E. Frampton on the occasion of his retirement as director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, SCDNR.

John has dedicated the past 35 years to advancing and improving the State of South Carolina's natural resources and quality of life. He has been a tireless advocate of wildlife preservation in South Carolina and across the United States. As director of SCDNR, he served as the chief administrator for natural resources in the State and was responsible for management and supervision of the agency's five divisions.

Leading with passion, determination, and humility, John has worked to protect and promote South Carolina's natural resources at every level around the State. John joined SCDNR in 1974 as an assistant district biologist. Prior to his appointment as director, he served as a regional wildlife biologist, chief of wildlife, and assistant director for development and national affairs. On April 2, 2003, Mr. Frampton was selected as the agency's director by the SCDNR Board.

John is an active member of multiple regional, national, and international wildlife organizations and served as a past president of both the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Because of his dedicated leadership and commitment to conservation, John was appointed to the National Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee by the Secretary of Commerce and appointed to the prestigious Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council by the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture in 2010.

John's well-deserved acknowledgments and recognitions highlight the impact he has had on the conservation community at the State and national level. John has received numerous honors and awards over his career, including the International Canvasback Award from the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee, the Clarence W. Watson Award from the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trades', SHOT, Business Person of the Year Award, the Henry S. Mosby Award from the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Captain David Hart Award by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Seth Gordon Award by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Additionally, John is recognized for initiating South Carolina's