

commitment and obligation to openness and transparency, while his kind and helpful character has been a benefit to everyone in the Senate community.

Raymond first worked for the Architect of the Capitol where he was tasked with jobs from busing tables at lunchtime to flying flags over the Capitol Building. He was soon hired as a clerk by the Secretary of the Senate and would go on to serve in the Office of Public Records taking on responsibilities ranging from lobbying registration to campaign finance disclosure.

During his many years of service, Raymond always put customer service first. Candidates who filed a Senate campaign report, and Senators and staff members who filed a financial disclosure report or other Senate report, encountered Raymond's efficient and very capable assistance. Over the years, he also assisted those filing lobbying registrations and reports. The public, the press and researchers have all benefitted from his knowledge and guidance in the Office of Public Records.

Raymond is known throughout the Senate community, to those who frequent his office and to those who look forward to his cheerful greeting each day in the halls, as a friendly and welcoming colleague. An avid sportsman, Raymond was a slugger for the Senate Document Room softball team and a regular at Senate coed football and Capitol Hill touch football league games.

Through his deft knowledge and faithful customer service, Raymond has significantly contributed to the functioning of this institution. He has been an important mentor to others, helping to train staff and pass on the knowledge he gained in four decades of work.

The Senate can be proud of Raymond Davis' legacy of public service. We are grateful for his many contributions, and we wish him well in retirement and all his future endeavors.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, due to unexpected family commitments, I was unable to cast a vote relative to rollcall vote Nos. 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, and 30. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: yea on the nomination of Robert E. Bacharach to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth District, yea on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Charles T. Hagel to be Secretary of Defense, yea on the nomination of Jacob L. Lew to be Secretary of the Treasury, yea on the nomination of Katherine Failla to be U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York, nay on Senate amendment No. 25 related to elimination of funding for the National Security Working Group, and yea on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Caitlin Joan Halligan to be U.S. Cir-

cuit Judge for the District of Columbia Court.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, this year marks 65 years since the State of Israel was born, and I wish to speak today about the importance of that occasion and the celebration that will take place in communities all across the world.

Our country has a deep friendship with Israel, dating back to just 11 minutes after its creation on May 14, 1948, when President Harry Truman became one of the first world leaders to recognize Israel's independence.

Our two nations have always been friends and allies in our struggle to make the world a safer place. I am proud of our long friendship and our shared values.

When Israel was founded, the Jewish people finally had a home. The new State provided not only a refuge to Jews who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust, but also a place to begin anew. Even in such a tough and unforgiving climate, the Jewish people knew they could build a country that could help change the world.

The Walk the Land 65 project is the perfect way to celebrate Israel's anniversary. The theme of this year's walk is to celebrate life, and people all across the world will join together and walk through their communities by honoring Israel's gifts to the world, especially those regarding life: creating life, sustaining life, saving life, preserving life, enhancing life, protecting life, improving life, cherishing life, nurturing life and beautifying life.

As a collaboration between the Afikim Foundation, the World Zionist Organization and the Israel Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, Walk the Land 65 is showing the world just how important Israel's contributions to the world really are.

I am pleased to see walks taking place across my home State of Michigan: in Flint, Grand Rapids and Metro Detroit.

Every religious, cultural and ethnic group across the State is an important thread in Michigan's rich cultural fabric. We in Michigan are proud of our Jewish communities and their contributions to our State.

One important attribute that the people of Israel share with the people of the United States is our system of values. Both countries are lands of freedom and democracy. While these two countries were formed at very different times, they both uphold and honor critical freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

This foundation has led to a country that truly celebrates life and works to improve life across the world. Israel

began in a desert, but today, it is a fountain of culture, innovation and industry.

This didn't happen overnight, though. David Ben-Gurion and the founders of Israel had a great vision for their country. They built Israel from scratch, turning the arid land into fertile farms and thriving cities.

Israel is a leader in innovation for creating, sustaining, preserving and saving lives through its work in agriculture and health care. It is also enhancing life through its innovation in technology, alternative energy and so many other fields.

Today, Israel is among the top three countries in the world in terms of patents per capita, and number one in terms of startup businesses per capita. Israel is also a leader in clean energy research and development, and is helping to create the power the world needs.

The Israeli people are leaders in celebrating life, as evidenced by their humanitarian works and their pioneering medical advances that will save and improve people's lives, and they are making a real difference throughout the world.

Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values, and an important presence in the region; it shows the world that democracy can survive—and—thrive anywhere people wish to be free.

I am proud of our friendship, and I am proud to help celebrate Israel's 65th Anniversary with the Walk the Land 65 Project.

Congratulations to the people Israel and everyone involved in this wonderful project.

OBSERVING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about International Women's Day. International Women's Day is an occasion to honor and praise women for their accomplishments and to celebrate women who are making a difference, both here in America and around the world. Already this year, we have seen advances for women in the United States. In January, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced that women in the military can now join their male colleagues on the front line. America's military is the greatest in the world and it has been made stronger with the promise of equal opportunity for women and men. Last month, we reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, which provides victims of domestic violence with the services they desperately need.

We need to ensure that women across the world, not just in the United States, have the same liberty to determine the scope of their own lives and futures. Unfortunately, in far too many nations women face extraordinary obstacles. A woman's ability to earn a sustained income is severely limited by

cultural norms and lack of opportunity, which explains why women represent nearly 70 percent of the world's poor. And if extreme poverty and destitution weren't enough, women around the world are under attack. Worldwide, 1 in 3 women will experience some form of violence in her lifetime. Women and girls in emergencies, conflict settings, and natural disasters often face extreme violence. The World Health Organization has reported that up to 70 percent of women in some countries describe having been victims of domestic violence at some stage in their lives.

When we discuss the issues of poverty and violence against women, we cannot think of them in isolation. They work in tandem, feeding off of one another. Violence against women and girls is both a major consequence and cause of poverty; the two go hand-in-hand. Violence prevents women and girls from getting an education, going to work, and earning the income they need to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

I believe in the power of women to change the world, and empowering women is one of the most critical tools in our tool box to fight poverty and injustice. Integrating the unique needs of women into our domestic and international policies is critical. Decades of research and experience prove that when women are able to be fully engaged in society and hold decision-making power, they are more likely to invest their income in food, clean water, education, and health care for their children. Investment in women creates a positive cycle of change that lifts women, families, and entire communities out of poverty.

In January, President Obama issued a memorandum on the coordination of policies and programs to promote gender equality and empower women globally. This memo recognizes that coordinating gender equality and empowering women is critical to effective international assistance across all sectors such as food security, health care, governance, climate change, and science and technology.

Our Nation has the potential to be a true leader in empowering women across the globe, ending gender-based discrimination in all forms, and ending violence against women and girls worldwide. And on this International Women's Day, let us join together to continue to fight for the rights of women both at home and abroad.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUDGE LEONARD L. WILLIAMS

• Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute Judge Leonard L. Williams, a great Delawarean who passed away this past weekend at the age of 78. Judge Williams was a respected attorney and judge in Wil-

ilmington, as well as a pioneer for civil rights and racial equality in our State. It is a fitting tribute the flags in Wilmington were lowered to half-staff in his honor.

Judge Williams was a towering figure in Delaware history, but to my wife, Annie, and me, he was first and foremost a beloved neighbor. Judge Williams lived down the street from us on Woodlawn Avenue and was always quick with a honk and a wave when he drove by in his truck. We will miss his fellowship and his kindness.

When he passed away this weekend, I was in Alabama attending the Faith and Politics Institute's Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage led by Representative JOHN LEWIS. There is poetry in the timing, as Judge Williams' lifetime commitment to the civil rights movement continually reminded me that our country's great promise cannot be truly realized until full equality is achieved.

In his youth, Judge Williams worked as a clerk at a store on Market Street in Wilmington. One day he witnessed a robbery and needed to appear in municipal court to give his testimony. When he entered, he was told "Coloreds" could not sit on the left side of the room, that area was reserved for whites. Years later, Leonard Williams would become a judge, presiding over that very courtroom.

Judge Williams not only lived through the civil rights movement, he helped shape it.

He grew up in a large family in Wilmington and attended primary and secondary school before Brown v. Board of Education and the desegregation of the Wilmington public school system. Before 1950, black students could not attend the University of Delaware. A landmark civil rights lawsuit changed that and enabled Judge Williams to attend UD on a football scholarship. He became one of the first black students to graduate from the University of Delaware and entered law school at Georgetown University. When he was admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1959, he was only the fifth African American attorney in Delaware's history.

As a young lawyer, Judge Williams partnered with Louis Redding, Delaware's first black attorney and the very lawyer who argued Parker v. University of Delaware, the case which opened UD to black students. At the time, African Americans were denied access to restaurants, theaters, and other places of public accommodation in Delaware and around the country. One day in 1958, William Burton, a member of the Wilmington City Council, entered the Eagle Coffee Shoppe but was refused service. The restaurant, like many in Wilmington at the time, would not serve African-Americans. Because the restaurant leased space from the Wilmington Parking Authority, Burton filed suit in the Delaware Court of Chancery against the restaurant and the parking authority. Judge Williams and Louis

Redding took the case, ultimately winning a judgment in the Supreme Court that private discrimination on State owned property violated the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Judge Williams' involvement in that case changed the course of Delaware history. Yet he never saw himself as a hero, just as somebody trying to serve his community. All of us will miss him deeply. We will keep Judge Williams' wife, Andrea, and his three children, Leonard Jr., Dena, and Garrett, in our prayers as we grieve.●

REMEMBERING ZORA BROWN

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life, legacy and service of Zora Brown. Zora, who passed away March 3, 2013 at the age of 63, was a forceful advocate for cancer research and breast cancer awareness. As a three-time breast and ovarian cancer survivor, Ms. Brown turned her experience into a lifetime of tireless work to help others affected by cancer.

I had the honor and pleasure of meeting Zora last summer when she participated in a Senate Cancer Coalition forum focused on breast cancer. At the forum, she spoke poignantly and clearly about the impact of breast and ovarian cancer on her family, and on the African-American community. Zora's message was not one of despair, but rather one of hope and perseverance. She compared her own experience with cancer to that of her grandmother and great-grandmother, and highlighted how recent advances in cancer research gave her knowledge and treatment options that the other women in her family never had.

Throughout her career, Zora founded and was associated with countless organizations dedicated to the fight against cancer. After her first diagnosis with breast cancer in 1981, Zora founded the Breast Cancer Resource Committee, an organization dedicated to lowering the breast cancer mortality rate among African Americans. She later founded and served as Chairperson of Cancer Awareness Program Services, CAPS, providing comprehensive educational and prevention programs focusing on cancers affecting women. In 1991, President Bush appointed her to the National Cancer Advisory Board of the National Cancer Institute, which helps steer the institute's policy. She served on the board until 1998. Due in part to Zora's influence and persistent advocacy, Congress appropriated \$500,000 for breast and cervical screening for low-income, uninsured inner city women. In addition, she has been a part of the American Association for Cancer Research, the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Cancer Awareness Campaign, and the Board of Health in her hometown of Oklahoma City.

With Zora's passing we have lost a great leader and advocate in the fight against cancer. Her passion, grace, and ability to connect with others were