

life kinder and better for countless others in East St. Louis and St. Clair County.

Besides helping people, Joe's other great joy in life is eating good meals with good friends in small, locally owned restaurants. On Saturday, about 400 of Joe's friends will gather at one of Joe's favorites, Fischer's Restaurant in Belleville, to celebrate his retirement as head of CUP. More than that, they will celebrate Joe's unconditional love and unbreakable faith. I want to add my thanks to theirs.

In closing, I would like to read a short editorial about Joe that ran in this past Sunday's Belleville News-Democrat.

Martin Luther King Jr. would have considered Joe Hubbard a kindred spirit. King and Hubbard both spent their careers championing the cause of social justice. King focused on the spirit while Hubbard helped provide for people's physical needs in East St. Louis and throughout the metro-east. Hubbard is retiring after leading Catholic Urban Programs for 40 years.

King considered service to others to be a measure of greatness: "You don't have to have a college degree to serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

Hubbard has the sort of heart and soul that King envisioned. Even in retirement, we have no doubt that he will continue his life of service to the poor of our area.

Thank you to Hubbard. May the rest of us learn from his example.

#### TRIBUTE TO RUSS SULLIVAN

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Benjamin Franklin once said:

The noblest question in the world is, "What good may I do in it?"

I rise today to honor the service of Russ Sullivan, who was a distinguished member of my staff for more than a decade until his departure earlier this month.

Most of us come to the Senate because it is a place where, despite the many challenges, there remains a capacity to do great good. And too often people forget that. But Russ Sullivan never did. Every day he came to work in the Senate and for the Finance Committee, Russ led by asking our staff how can we do good here? And how can we make this country and the world a better place?

Russ's leadership proves that by working to do good and working together to find solutions we can get things done.

Russ is well known here on Capitol Hill. He has earned the respect and admiration of Senators and staff on both sides of the aisle.

Russ's political career started early. He was twice elected Student Body President—once at McClellan High School and again at Baylor University. He had his sights set on a life of public service in Washington. In 1995, he became tax counsel and Legislative Director to Senator Bob Graham. In 1999, he moved to the Finance Committee staff to serve as Chief Tax Counsel to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Russ stayed on at the committee when I became chairman in 2001. Through his proven abilities, he was promoted to the staff director of my team in 2004.

During the past 8 years, Russ led the Finance Committee staff to pass major bills that give real help to families across the country. We cut taxes for middle-class families and small businesses. We defended Social Security from privatization. We opened new markets to U.S. exports to create more jobs here at home. We passed health reform to bring top-notch, affordable care to millions of Americans. And we are currently at work on a plan to modernize the U.S. tax code to reinvigorate the economy and create jobs.

True to his style, Russ did all this without a hint of partisanship. He maintained a laser-like focus on solutions. That focus made the Finance Committee more productive, and it strengthened the bills we passed.

I know there are many people here—including my colleagues in the Senate—who share my deep respect for Russ. Senator REID once called Russ "instrumental" and a "problem-solver."

Former Senator Blanche Lincoln once said, "We could not do our job without him," and boy, is she right. Russ has earned the trust of his colleagues and the admiration of his staff.

People who meet with Russ are often surprised to see his desk tucked between filing cabinets and boxes right alongside interns, assistants and law clerks. Russ is a true team player.

It would be impossible to honor Russ without recognizing his public service off of Capitol Hill. In his life outside the Senate, Russ truly embodies the question of "What good may I do?" For many years, he has been a mentor to young people, making a difference in hundreds of lives.

Several years ago, Russ became a foster parent and legal guardian to help teenage boys secure a better future. Since then, he has been a legal or designated guardian for 18 teenage boys. Thirteen are currently in college, and several more have already earned degrees. One of Russ's sons, Abu Kamara, spoke to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* when it profiled Russ in 2010. Abu said, "[Russ] kept telling me, keep your head up.' He got people to tutor me because my grades weren't good. He kept me focused and made sure I was doing the right thing. He's the reason I graduated from high school."

Abu is the first person from his family to go to college. And there are several other young men who could tell you similar stories.

Last summer, Russ lost one of his sons in a tragic incident. AJ Hassan, who was a student at the University of West Virginia, was assaulted one night and suffered a brain injury. Russ rushed to be at AJ's side, but AJ soon slipped into a coma.

Washington was in the midst of a contentious deficit reduction debate.

Somehow, Russ spent months juggling work, AJ's medical condition, and the needs of his other boys. I will never know where he found the time and energy to have all these bases covered so well. But AJ's condition wavered, and there were complications. AJ passed away in July.

There was an outpouring of support for Russ and his family. Russ's friends and colleagues wanted to show him the same kind of caring and support he always shows others.

Russ continues to mentor and help young people, and he is still changing lives. He helped found the Capital Area REACH program, an organization dedicated to helping young people find success.

REACH connects students with job training, internships, tutors and scholarships. Some of these kids come from tough backgrounds. But REACH helps them find a pathway toward a stable and successful life.

In the spirit of extending the same opportunities he had early in his career, Russ started a program for interns, law clerks and fellows to serve on the Finance Committee. It now has hundreds of alumni who got their first shot at work in Congress thanks to Russ.

That includes a large number of people who have moved up the ladder on my staff. Russ fostered a culture where hard work gets the recognition it deserves.

Like any great staffer, Russ would not leave me without an ace replacement to take on his role. We have a deep bench on the Finance Committee, and I am thrilled to have Amber Cottle as my new Staff Director. She has been on my staff for 6 years, most recently as my Chief Trade Counsel. Amber is a pro. She is whip-smart. And she is a master negotiator.

Russ leaves some big shoes to fill. But Amber is more than capable and, as she likes to say, her shoes are much more stylish. I know without a doubt that she will do a great job.

There is one more thing I would like to say about Russ. Rule number one in my office is to remember the people we serve. They are hard-working people back in Montana and around the country, and it is our job to help them out. Russ never forgot that. A southern boy, Russ adopted Montana as his home State. He thinks of the people of Montana as his neighbors. And Russ always rolled up his sleeves and got results. I truly appreciate all he has done.

I know I am not alone in saying: thank you, Russ, for all your service all your hard work over the years. You did good, Russ.

#### REMEMBERING THEODORE GARDNER

• Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Theodore "Ted" Harbison Gardner. He was a devoted husband, father, a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy and a consummate

community volunteer whose contributions will have long lasting impacts in the Greater Cincinnati community, and beyond.

Born and raised in Hillsboro, OR, Mr. Gardner was the only child of Vesey Gardner, a prominent community leader and a lumber company owner, and Ruth Gardner, a popular singer. He is a graduate of Oregon State University.

A proud and decorated veteran of World War II, Mr. Gardner withdrew from college to serve in the U.S. Navy the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He survived one of the largest and most brutal battles in history—The Battle off Samar—earning his unit aboard the USS Kalinin Bay the Presidential Unit Citation, one of the Navy's highest honors.

Ted was an active member of the U.S. Navy League, The Hornet Foundation, and was a member of the advisory board of the Warbird Museum. He was passionate about the importance of oral history and personally interviewed over 150 World War II veterans and recorded and videotaped their stories for the Cincinnati Public Library and for the U.S. Library of Congress.

Following his graduation from Oregon State University, Mr. Gardner got a job with a lumber distributor in Columbus, OH and then later moved to Cincinnati, where he and his wife, Naomi, raised their three children. Mr. Gardner changed careers in the 1970s and worked as a local art dealer until he retired.

Ted was a 30-year member of the Cincinnati Rotary Club, where he was involved in programs to welcome international students studying at area universities and where he participated in events benefiting children with disabilities and youth in government.

A talented musician, Mr. Gardner shared his vocal talents as a member of the Rotary chorus, the choir of the Church of the Redeemer and the Cincinnati May Festival Chorus, where he served as a board member. For 25 years, he sang all four verses of "Taps" in his rich bass voice on Veterans Day at the public library.

Ted was an historian, a lover of art and literature, a musician and an avid sports enthusiast. He is greatly missed, and his extraordinary legacy and giving spirit will not be forgotten.●

#### PUTTING OUR VETERANS BACK TO WORK

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as incoming chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, one of my top priorities will be to evaluate and improve the training and employment programs afforded to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans.

Every day, far too many young veterans face the harsh realities of unemployment. These are brave men and women who have put their lives on the line defending our country who now struggle to find employment and provide for their families. The Putting Our

Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013 will ensure we provide them with much needed support.

This legislation would reauthorize several of the transition, retraining, and employment services created by the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. That legislation is making a real impact in the lives of countless veterans by providing them with the training opportunities they need in order to secure meaningful employment.

Too often I hear from veterans that the government provides great resources for them to find training and employment opportunities, but they are not sure where to start in order to tap into those resources. Those Departments charged with helping to provide veterans with employment assistance must make certain that they are conducting appropriate outreach so that veterans know where to turn when they need help.

Assisting in this effort, the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act would also provide veterans with a new, unified, online employment portal for veterans seeking information regarding employment and job training resources. This online portal would make it easier for veterans to take advantage of the services and opportunities available to them.

At a time when 85 percent of law enforcement agencies were forced to reduce their budget, according to a 2011 survey by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, answering the Nation's public safety needs is also a priority. That is why this legislation would provide potential employers with additional grants for first responder hiring and re-hiring needs.

This legislation would also direct agency heads to favorably consider contractors that employ a significant number of veterans for all contracts over \$25 million. This provision would ensure that contractors, who are doing their part to help veterans find good paying jobs, have a competitive advantage when doing business with the Federal government.

Finally, the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act would strengthen our commitment to protecting the employment rights of servicemembers and veterans. These commonsense provisions would build upon existing law by providing the government with additional tools to carry out its obligation to safeguard veterans' employment rights. This legislation would enable the Attorney General to investigate and file suit against a pattern or practice in violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and to issue limited civil investigative demands for relevant documentary material. It would also allow Federal agencies to suspend and debar contractors who repeatedly violate the employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services. Finally, it would provide the Special Counsel with authority to subpoena attendance, testimony,

and documents from Federal employees and agencies in order to carry out investigations related to USERRA.

Mr. President, there are a number of great training and employment programs available to veterans. This legislation would strengthen such programs and make certain that veterans have and maintain access to those programs. That is what our veterans are entitled to and that is what we must deliver.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING MARILYN AND ALAN BERGMAN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the great song lyricists Alan and Marilyn Bergman are being honored by the New West Symphony with its Bravo Award for their extraordinary leadership, their contributions to the Visions of America multimedia project, and their deep and longstanding commitment to music education and the performing arts. I look forward to paying tribute to them at the New West Symphony's event in Los Angeles.

Alan and Marilyn Bergman are two of the world's best-known and best-loved lyricists. From the 1950s calypso hit "Yellow Bird" and Frank Sinatra's "Nice 'n' Easy" to Oscar-winning lyrics for "The Way We Were" and "The Windmills of Your Mind" to themes for many of America's favorite television series, the Bergmans have been contributing to the Great American Songbook for more than 50 years. They have won three Academy Awards (including one for the score of *Yentl*), four Emmys, two Grammys, and two Golden Globe Awards.

They have also worked tirelessly to promote the arts and champion our creative community. Marilyn served for 15 years as President and Chairman of the Board of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), the world's foremost performing rights organization. In 2002, she was appointed the first chairman of the Library of Congress National Sound Recording Preservation Board.

Alan serves as a member of the Library of Congress National Film Preservation Board, the Johnny Mercer Foundation Board, the Artists' Rights Foundation Board, and the Jazz Bakery Board of Directors.

And together, Alan and Marilyn serve on the executive committee of the Music Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

They are also strong supporters of music education, including the New West Symphony's outstanding efforts to provide quality outreach and educational opportunities for our communities and our schools.

Mr. President, I know that you and all our colleagues will join me in saluting two great American artists and this year's Bravo Award winners, Alan and Marilyn Bergman.●