

plebiscite disregarding the procedural and substantive consensuses required to legitimize any plebiscite held.

The Party that supported the Commonwealth option, which was the political opposition at the time, objected this process. It also argued that the process was contrary to the provisions of H.R. 2499, as amended, approved by the United States House of Representatives, which included the Commonwealth among the options in the second question. Moreover, it stated that the process had been criticized by the White House because it was designed with the intent to conceal the true expression of the people of Puerto Rico.

Commonwealth supporters employed two methods to express their opposition. On the one hand, the Governing Board of the Party supporting the Commonwealth option adopted a resolution asking voters to protest the process by casting a blank ballot. On the other hand, a significant number of pro-Commonwealth leaders openly conducted campaigns in favor of the Sovereign Free Associated State option.

There is no doubt that the voters who wish to express their dissatisfaction with the proposals or the candidates in the ballot, traditionally do so by spoiling their ballots, casting a blank ballot, or voting for a fictional character.

If the United States Congress wishes to know the amount of Puerto Rican voters against statehood for Puerto Rico, the blank ballots should be taken into account because such votes clearly express the intent of voters against statehood. Thus, it should be understood that votes cast in favor of statehood did not exceed forty-four point four percent (44.4%), which shows a two percent (2%) decrease in the historical peak it achieved in 1998. In other words, fifty-five point six percent (55.6%) of Puerto Rican voters rejected statehood in the 2012 plebiscite.

Previously, in 1998, the pro-statehood party had also designed a unilateral and exclusionary plebiscite; nonetheless, voters had the option to vote for "None of the Above." The "None of the Above" option received fifty point three percent (50.3%) of the votes cast, followed by Statehood and Independence, which received forty-six point five percent (46.5%) and two point five percent (2.5%) of the votes cast, respectively. The results of the 1998 plebiscite were consistent with those of the 1993 plebiscite, in which the Commonwealth option received forty-eight point six percent (48.6%) of the votes cast, whereas Statehood and Independence received forty-six point three percent (46.3%) and four point four percent (4.4%) of the votes cast, respectively. The only other event of this kind held since the establishment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in 1952, took place in 1967. In the 1967 plebiscite, the Commonwealth received sixty point three percent (60.3%) of the votes cast, while Statehood received thirty-nine percent (39%).

Unfortunately, the preceding government administration in Puerto Rico, whose term ended in December 2012, failed to sponsor a process that would include the recommendations of the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status appointed by President Barack Obama. Such Task Force proposed—on a Report released in March 2011—various methods to ask Puerto Ricans about their political status in a manner that is fair for the supporters of all options. Furthermore, it also failed to address the issue of Puerto Rico's political status in an inclusive and responsible manner.

On April 10, 2013, President Barack Obama included in the budget proposal for the fiscal year 2014, an appropriation of \$2.5 million to the State Elections Commission in order to

conduct a voter education campaign and a plebiscite which would include all constitutionally viable status options. The action taken by the President of the United States shows that the plebiscite designed by the preceding government administration lacks legitimacy or credibility before the government of the United States of America.

In light of the history of imposed and exclusionary plebiscites that only attest to our people's division with regard to this issue, it is necessary to inform the President and the Congress of the United States about the true results of the plebiscite held on November 6, 2012.

Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—To inform the President and the Congress of the United States about the results of the plebiscite held on November 6, 2012, and support the request of the President of the United States of America for the Congress to appropriate \$2.5 million to the State Elections Commission for a federally-sponsored plebiscite, after conducting the appropriate voter education campaign, which incorporates all options, including the enhanced Commonwealth, based on the principles of fairness and equality; to authorize the disbursement of funds; and for other purposes.

Section 2.—The results of the 2012 plebiscite were the following: in the first question, which asked voters whether or not Puerto Rico should continue to have its current form of political status, the "NO" option received fifty-three point nine percent (53.9%) of the votes cast, whereas the "YES" option received forty-six point four percent (46%). The results of the second question, which asked voters to choose from the options that did not include the current status, were the following: the statehood option received forty-four point four percent (44.4%) of the votes cast (834,191); the "sovereign free associated state" received twenty-four point three percent (24.3%) of the votes cast (454,768); the independence option received four percent (4%) of the votes cast (74,895), and blank ballots accounted for twenty-six point five percent (26.5%) of the votes cast (498,604).

Section 3.—The foregoing shows that the representations made before the United States Congress stating that the statehood option was favored by the majority of Puerto Ricans, does not accurately reflect the results of the plebiscite on Puerto Rico's status held on November 6, 2012.

Section 4.—A copy of this Concurrent Resolution shall be delivered to the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of State of the United States, to all the Members of the 113th United States Congress, as well as to all pertinent government and non-governmental organizations, human rights organizations, and the local, national, and international media, among others.

Section 5.—A certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution shall be translated into English and delivered by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico to the members of the United States Congress.

Section 6.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.

In witness whereof we hereunto sign and affix the Seal of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico. Issued this Tuesday, 14th of May of 2013, at our offices at the Capitol Building, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

EDUARDO BHATIA-GAUTIER,

President of Senate.

JAIME R. PERELLÓ-BORRÁS,

Speaker of House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE W. SCOTT

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to take a few minutes to recognize a true American hero from my home State of Illinois. George W. Scott of Williamsville, IL, was an airman in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and is a survivor of a group of airmen who were imprisoned at the Buchenwald Concentration Camp by the Nazi government.

Many people have heard of Buchenwald, one of the first and one of the largest concentration camps in Germany. But few people have heard the story of the Lost Airmen of Buchenwald, of which George was one.

In 1944, George was flying a Douglas A-20 Havoc aircraft barely 500 feet off the ground over France when he was shot down by German anti-aircraft guns. He was able to escape the aircraft before it crashed, and he escaped capture for a short time. George hid in bushes and in barns. He even milked a few cows for nourishment. He was fortunate to be taken in by a French family who provided food and shelter. But soon after, he was discovered by the Nazi patrols scouring France for resistance fighters or Allied soldiers and airmen.

George was transported to Buchenwald Concentration Camp in Germany, where he joined 168 Allied airmen from six countries. These airmen were not afforded the Prisoner of War protections outlined in The Hague and Geneva Conventions. Instead, they were classified as "Terrorflieger," or terror flyers, considered criminals and spies, and were not given a trial.

At Buchenwald, the conditions were unimaginable. Many prisoners starved to death within 3 months of imprisonment. Prisoners were beaten, scarcely fed, and forced to work grueling shifts. But the Allied airmen organized themselves into units based on their nationality, appointed commanding officers, and instilled discipline and order. This self-imposed military hierarchy helped them to build morale, work as a team, and increase their chances of survival.

But those chances remained low. George and his fellow airmen were scheduled to be executed at Buchenwald on the orders of Adolf Hitler. Facing their impending execution, the airmen managed to pass a note detailing their captivity in the camp to the nearby Luftwaffe. After visiting the camp, German Luftwaffe officers demanded that the airmen be transferred to their custody. George and his fellow airmen were transferred to a POW camp and liberated when the Russian Army reached the camp in 1945.

It is a remarkable story and one that the U.S. Government kept quiet after the war. Yet George and his fellow airmen deserve immense credit and long-overdue recognition for their immeasurable contribution to the Allied war effort and their unimaginable pain and suffering.

When asked how George managed, at 19 years old, to survive in the unbearable conditions of Buchenwald, he says

that he thought often of his mother and maintained the resolve that "every time they hit you, you just get back up."

Now, some 69 years later, George lives just outside of my hometown of Springfield, in Williamsville, IL. He is blessed with a wonderful family, who is steeped in pride and loves him deeply.

I am particularly impressed by George's dedication to our nation, and I hope to express the thanks of a grateful Nation for his service. George is a shining example of the American ideal, fighting for what is right in the face of immense adversity.

REMEMBERING ANNE G. MURPHY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Ms. Anne G. Murphy.

Ms. Murphy, a Rhode Islander by birth and a strong advocate for the arts, passed away in April at the age of 74.

Throughout her distinguished lifetime and career, Ms. Murphy worked to defend Federal investments in the arts. After graduating from Rhode Island College in 1959, she volunteered on the presidential campaign of Senator John F. Kennedy and taught elementary school in Rhode Island before relocating to Washington, DC to work on the staffs of two Representatives from Rhode Island, Congressmen John Fogarty and Robert Tiernan. While in Congressman Fogarty's office, she helped contribute to legislation that led to the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA.

After leaving Capitol Hill, Ms. Murphy continued serving in the arts arena. She worked at both the NEA and the Public Broadcasting Service, and then joined the American Arts Alliance, where she served as executive director in the 1980s and early 1990s. As the leader of this major arts advocacy group, now known as the Performing Arts Alliance, Ms. Murphy defended arts programs from budget cuts and other attacks.

Ms. Murphy also served on the board of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and was a co-chair of the annual Washington Project for the Arts Gala. During the 2000s, she served as the director and co-chair of the nonprofit digital technologies research organization, Digital Promise.

I know how proud Congressman Tiernan remains of the important work that Anne did while working in his office and in her endeavors that followed in the arts community, and I want to share and echo his sentiments. We remember and thank Anne for her tireless efforts to support and protect federal investment in the arts. We are all beneficiaries of her advocacy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. WELCH

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Charles E.

Welch, who I have had the privilege of knowing for more than three decades. Known to his many friends as Chuck, he is a World War II veteran, humanitarian, lawyer and leader in the business community in the State of Delaware.

Born in 1925, Chuck is a native of Columbus, OH. He graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration in 1949 from The Ohio State University, 19 years ahead of me, and went on to receive his Juris Doctor in 1951 from the same institution. He served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946 as a rifle platoon leader and later served as a company commander in the Judge Advocate General Corps from 1952 to 1955. During this time, he was also employed by the Ohio Tax Department as Chief Counsel from 1951 to 1958.

Chuck later moved to Delaware to work for the DuPont Company. There, he rose through the ranks and held the position of General Counsel until 1979 when he was appointed by DuPont CEO Irving S. Shapiro to the newly created position of Vice President for External Affairs. After a distinguished 26-year career with DuPont, Chuck retired from the company. He did not retire from an active life as a husband, father, grandfather and community leader. At an age when a lot of people are ready to slow down, Chuck picked up the pace.

Chuck's commitment to the community and State was demonstrated most clearly through his passion for education and helping the disabled. Chuck and his late wife Charma understood the struggles of special needs children and were the driving forces behind the development of The Mary Campbell Center, a remarkable facility for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Chuck and Charma, who themselves were parents of a special needs child, had the shared vision to develop a safe, loving place for children and young adults, and since its opening in 1976, The Mary Campbell Center has touched the lives of literally thousands of people.

Chuck and Charma were the parents of six children: Ed, Patricia, John, Mary Beth, and the late Jeff and Charmie, the inspiration for The Mary Campbell Center. Chuck is now married to Barbara G. Welch.

In addition to his work with The Mary Campbell Center, Chuck was a member of the Mt. Pleasant Board of Education from 1967-1973, Chair of the Vocational Education Task Force in 1986, Chair of the Delaware Compensation Review Commission, Member of the Judicial Nominating Commission, Chair of the Committee to Reorganize Farmers Bank, Head of the Commission to study New Castle County Government, Director of the Wilmington Medical Center, Past President of the Delaware Foundation for Retarded Children and of United Cerebral Palsy, and was appointed by the Governor as President of the State Board of Edu-

cation in 1986 where he served for 3 years. He was also a member of the committee for the Delaware Justice Center, President of the Rockledge Community Association and Chairman of the Advisory Board of The Mary Campbell Center where he continues to serve to this day.

Over the years, Chuck's guidance to both Democratic and Republican party leaders has proven pivotal to Delaware's success. He served as co-chair of Governor Mike Castle's transition team and a member of my transition team when I was elected Governor. For both Mike and me, Chuck has been an invaluable adviser and a wonderful friend.

Chuck's lifetime of serving others has attracted many prestigious awards and distinctions including The Marvel Cup from the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, The J. Thompson Brown Award for Family Service, The Good Government Award from the Civic League for New Castle County, the Heart Association's Gilliam Award, an award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the First State Distinguished Service Award from the Delaware State Bar Association.

I am proud to congratulate my longtime friend on a lifetime of achievement. He is a role model for us all. The people of Delaware, and especially the many children and adults who have benefitted from his good work, are certainly fortunate to count Chuck as a fellow Delawarean. The First State is a far better place in which to live and work because of his stewardship and his leadership. •

CONGRATULATING STEVE MCGOWAN

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate my friend Steve McGowan for receiving this year's Silver Buffalo Award from the Boy Scouts of America. This is the highest commendation Scouting extends to individuals for their distinguished service to the organization, and I am so proud that the Boy Scouts have honored Steve for his extraordinary efforts on their behalf.

Steve McGowan is a very successful lawyer in Charleston, WV, with the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson. And even though his law practice is demanding, Steve has devoted countless hours to the Boy Scouts of America as a volunteer. This should come as no surprise to anyone who knows Steve. He was, after all, an Eagle Scout long before he ever was a lawyer.

The Boy Scouts of America inaugurated the Silver Buffalo Award in 1926, and in its 87-year history only 732 awards have been presented. This year, Steve is one of 12 Americans chosen to receive the award—and the first ever from West Virginia to be so honored. And in receiving the Silver Buffalo Award, Steve now holds all three of the Boy Scouts highest commendations for