

With that in mind, I want to alert my colleagues to an extraordinarily good-news story from right in my home State of Michigan. There, experts at the University of Michigan's CS Mott Children's Hospital, recently broke important new ground in treating a rare but life-threatening condition, and made an enormous difference in the lives of one little boy and his family.

At just 3 months old, Kaiba Gionfriddo's life was in danger. The Ohio baby was threatened by an unusual weakening of the wall of his bronchus, the passage leading to his lungs. His condition caused him to stop breathing, and his physicians worried that the condition would prove fatal. But they knew that doctors and engineers at the University of Michigan were working to develop a new treatment that offered hope.

At UM, pediatrician Dr. Glenn Green and biomechanical engineering professor Scott Hollister were working on a groundbreaking procedure. Alerted to young Kaiba's condition, they went to work. Kaiba was airlifted from his Ohio hospital to Ann Arbor, and the UM team went to work.

Their ingenious idea combined several important technologies. They used high-resolution imaging to create a detailed picture of Kaiba's airway. Through computer-aided design techniques and the use of a three-dimensional printer, they created a customized tracheal splint to support the weakened walls of his bronchus and allow him to breathe. And they fashioned this device out of a bioresorbable polymer that will be absorbed by Kaiba's body by the age of four, after it has given his body time to form a stronger breathing passage.

There are many heroes in this story: Kaiba's parents, who moved heaven and earth for their son while dealing with the fear that they might lose him; the Ohio physicians who searched for solutions to a difficult case; of course, Dr. Green and Professor Hollister and their team at UM; and, not to be forgotten, the countless researchers, engineers, and developers who put remarkable technological tools such as high-resolution imaging, computer-aided design, and 3D printing in the hands of the UM experts. A year after his procedure, Kaiba's mother April says her son is doing well. "He's getting himself into trouble nowadays," she said in a newspaper interview. "He scoots across the floor and gets into everything."

It's a remarkable story—but every day, countless Americans are engaged in similar efforts to help loved ones, neighbors, patients, even total strangers they will never know or meet. The combination of remarkable ingenuity and public spirit are defining characteristics of our Nation, and so long as they remain, there is nothing Americans cannot accomplish. As we focus on the problems we need to solve and the challenges we face and the flood of negative and discouraging news, I hope we will also keep in mind the remarkable

good news that also happens every day and take inspiration from it.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an exceptional library advocate and public servant in Rhode Island, Howard Boksenbaum, who is retiring from his position as the State's chief library officer after a long and distinguished career.

Howard graduated with a linguistics degree from Washington University in St. Louis and Waseda University in Tokyo, earned a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh, and started his career working at various library positions in Pennsylvania before moving to Rhode Island.

His service to Rhode Island libraries began nearly 34 years ago at the Island Interrelated Library System, which, at the time, was one of five regional library systems in the State. In 1988, he joined the State's Department of State Library Services, which later became the Office of Library and Information Services, OLIS. After serving in various capacities within these agencies, and as assistant director for Central Information Management Services at the Rhode Island Division of Information Technology, Howard became the state's chief library officer in 2007.

During his more than three decades working for Rhode Island libraries and the State's library agency, Howard helped improve Rhode Island's libraries in many important ways. His focus on and passion for technology brought our State's libraries further into the digital age. He worked to consolidate Rhode Island's regional library networks into a single statewide system and created Ocean State Free-Net, a public access computer network. He also played a major role in other statewide technology initiatives, including working on the state's website launch and helping to establish the statewide public safety communication network, RISCON. Howard was also part of the Rhode Island Library Association and the Coalition for Library Advocates.

His view of the importance of libraries to our citizens, to our communities, and to our Nation can be found in a quote of his soon after he became chief library officer:

A library is bigger than the web because it includes it, bigger than its users because they grow there. Unlike a school, a library is elective, unlike a store, a library belongs to its users, unlike the World Wide Web, a library is people, is history, is culture, is connection. A library is the past and the present and will be changing again to be the future.

Rhode Islanders have been fortunate to have Howard devote more than three decades of service to the state and its libraries, and especially for the past 6 years he served as chief library officer. I have also had the benefit of his knowledge and insights about libraries, and worked with him on legislative ini-

tiatives to enhance federal support for libraries.

I would also like to recognize Howard's wife Judith Stokes and his three daughters Anna, Martha, and Emily. I join many others in the State in thanking Howard for his dedication and service to our State's libraries, and I ask my colleagues to join us in commending Howard Boksenbaum on his long and accomplished career. I wish him fulfillment and continued success in his future endeavors.

COMMENDING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Congressman JOHN ROBERT LEWIS of Georgia, and recognize the 50th anniversary of his chairmanship of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

JOHN LEWIS grew up during the heart of segregation, born as the son of sharecroppers and attending segregated schools in Pike County, AL. At a young age, he became inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, and decided that he too, would fight for equal rights guaranteed to all by the Constitution of the United States.

JOHN attended Fisk University, where he began his civil rights activism by organizing a sit-in at segregated lunch counters in Nashville, TN. He later became one of the original 13 Freedom Riders, bravely challenging segregation at interstate bus terminals throughout the South.

In 1963, JOHN LEWIS was elected as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which we are here to recognize today. He helped found this organization, which encouraged students to get involved in the civil rights movement and played a key role in the struggle to end legalized racial discrimination and segregation.

By the age of 23, he was recognized as one of the "Big Six" leaders of the civil rights movement, planning and participating as the youngest speaker at the historic March on Washington in August 1963.

He remains the last remaining speaker from this march.

He continued his work, organizing the Mississippi Freedom Summer, a campaign to register black voters and expose students around the country to the perils and conditions in the South. Knowing what lay ahead, he risked his life to lead over 600 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, only to be brutally attacked by Selma police officers. This massacre became known as Bloody Sunday, during which JOHN's skull was fractured.

He still bears the scars today.

JOHN remained chairman of the SNCC until 1966, and then continued his commitment to the civil rights movement as associate director of the Field Foundation and in various voter registration programs. Even after more than 40 arrests during his peaceful protests, JOHN LEWIS never gave up on his cause.

He still remains devoted to non-violence and equality for all.

In 1986, JOHN was elected to serve as the U.S. Representative for Georgia's Fifth Congressional District, where he continues to serve his constituency and do remarkable work for the State of Georgia.

He has been a loyal colleague and friend, and an invaluable member of the Georgia Congressional Delegation. JOHN LEWIS's unwavering ethical and moral principles have garnered admiration and respect from his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I am honored to have known him.

Today, let us honor Mr. LEWIS, who stood boldly against those who resisted racial equality. JOHN's legacy will be remembered as one of great importance in American history.

Like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, JOHN continues to inspire those of us around him to fight for what we believe in.

I hope we can all learn from the remarkable life of Congressman JOHN ROBERT LEWIS of Georgia.

THE ARMY'S 238TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, tomorrow—June 14—marks the Army's 238th birthday. For 238 years, the Nation has entrusted the Army with preserving its peace and freedom, and defending its democracy. Since its beginnings as the Continental Army during our Revolutionary War, to its instrumental role in the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army has always served America admirably and I have every confidence that it will continue in this proud mission.

The United States Army existed before there even was a United States to speak of. The Continental Army was established on June 14, 1775. It was composed of rebellious colonists who had little or no experience in soldiering. Despite these humble beginnings, General George Washington led the Continental Army and against overwhelming odds they defeated the more seasoned and well-equipped British ground forces. Following the end of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Army was disbanded but that action was followed by the official creation of the U.S. Army on June 3, 1784. Since then, our Army has become the model against which all other nations' armies are measured.

The Army's birthday coincides with Flag Day, a holiday that commemorates our Nation's adoption of the U.S. flag. I believe this is fitting as our Nation's flag would not exist were it not for the bravery and sacrifice of our Army; and since its adoption, the Army has always carried our Nation's flag into battle.

With the withdrawal of our military forces in Iraq and the drawdown of those forces in Afghanistan, I am concerned that our soldiers who have recently entered—or are about to enter—civilian life will not be provided with

the tools to adapt to their new lives. Veteran unemployment, post-traumatic stress, and active duty military/veteran suicides continue to be serious issues and they must be addressed. If a soldier is able to excel on the battlefield, then I see no reason why that same soldier should not be able to excel in the classroom, in a hospital, or in the boardroom. We have to provide our servicemen and women with the tools to help them achieve these goals. Doing so is not a hand-out, but rather a "hand up" that strengthens our Nation, since it redounds to the benefit of all Americans. Ultimately, we have to continue to give these men and women a stake in their own country.

Since 1775, American soldiers have been the strength and sinew of our Nation. Our soldiers are driven by the ideals of the Warrior Ethos and commit themselves to succeed in any mission our Nation asks of them. Our soldiers believe that our Constitution and the freedom it guarantees are worth fighting for. They sacrifice their personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling: service in the cause of freedom, both here at home for Americans, but also abroad for foreign peoples.

I am awed by our servicemen and women's ability to adapt and succeed in a mission that at various stages has called upon them to be scholars, teachers, policemen, farmers, bankers, engineers, social workers, and, of course, warriors—often all at the same time. Above all, I am perpetually thankful for their willingness to serve, and have the greatest of faith in their ability to face the difficult and dangerous missions that lie ahead. These patriots have always been the strength of the Nation. The unwavering dedication to duty, to our country, and to all Americans is embodied in the Army motto, which is inscribed on top of the Department of the Army's official emblem "This we'll defend." For 238 years, our Army has lived by these words, protecting us so that our society may be free. Let us remember our Army soldiers for this achievement today, and wish them a happy 238th birthday.

FLAG DAY

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, as do all West Virginians, I feel a special surge of emotion every time I see the American flag. After all, Old Glory is the most enduring symbol of our country, representing the unity of our people and the cause of liberty and justice for all.

But the Star Spangled Banner is also the most recognized symbol of freedom wherever it flies in the world, a powerful inspiration to people everywhere who are "yearning to breathe free," as it is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty.

Every day, Americans all across this great land pledge their allegiance to the flag of the United States. We salute it; we fight for it; we cherish it; we honor it.

But one day a year, we pay special honor to our flag. We set aside every

June 14th as Flag Day, commemorating the date in 1777 when the Continental Congress officially made the Stars and Stripes the symbol of America.

Tomorrow, my office is planning special events in West Virginia commemorating Flag Day. Members of my staff will be presenting American flags to selected organizations all across the State that have requested flags:

To veterans in Logan at the "Spirit of the Doughboy" statue, which honors the victorious American soldiers of World War One.

To the Veterans Museum of Mid-Ohio Valley in Parkersburg, which pays tribute to West Virginians who have fought to preserve this country's freedom.

To Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, in conjunction with its Team River Runner program which includes kayaking programs for wounded warriors and their families.

To American Legion Post 33, in Sutton, honoring them for conducting memorial services for veterans in Braxton County.

To the City Council of Wardensville, to be displayed at the Wardensville Town Office.

To the "Here and There" Transit of Philippi, as part of the dedication of its new operations facilities.

And to the West Virginia Northern Community College in Wheeling, which only last month opened its Applied Technology Center to veterans and other students.

Flag Day has a special significance to West Virginia. Our State was born out of the fiery conflict of the Civil War, and next week we will celebrate our 150th birthday.

In that terrible war, West Virginians had a choice of two flags. We chose to follow the Stars and Stripes and in doing so, West Virginia became the 35th star on that Grand Old Flag.

So as we prepare for our State's 150th birthday celebration, I urge all West Virginians to join me in celebrating Flag Day—by displaying the flag that from the first days of America came to symbolize a "new constellation" of hope and freedom and from the first days of West Virginia came to represent an allegiance to our remarkable Constitution.

In doing so, we honor not only our flag, but also the ideals on which America was founded as well as the generations of Americans who have defended those ideals in battle, always ensuring at the end of the fight that "our flag was still there."

The Star Spangled Banner is a symbol of their sacrifice and our faith.

Not long after Congress officially adopted the Stars and Stripes as the flag of the United States, George Washington said, "We take the stars from Heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."