

program is unsustainable, but particularly the lower income workers pay in less than they will eventually take out over a lifetime. Adding all of these workers into the Social Security and Medicare system, where they pay in, will not place us on a sound path.

Again, we need to be honest about where we are. The numbers do not look good. This Congress needs to wrestle with how to deal compassionately with the people who have been here a long time. We need to do it in a right way, but we have a responsibility, a financial duty to the people who sent us here to manage their money wisely and not make our financial situation worse than it is today. We have an obligation to try to figure out a way to reverse the steady, long-term trend of wage decline for millions of American workers. It needs to be getting better. What this report says is that if this bill is passed, this immigration bill is passed, it will make the long-term wage situation of Americans worse. How wrong a direction could that be?

Look, if we let the labor market get a little tighter, we are going to find businesses that are willing to pay more to get a good worker. That is the free market. These business guys don't mind trying—Walmart seeks the very lowest priced product it can get, whether it is China or the United States. They are ruthless about it. It is free market, we say. We value it. OK, we support free market. But if there is a labor shortage, why shouldn't the laboring man be able to get a little higher wage for a change around here? This large flow of immigration will impact, adversely, their ability to find a job—unemployment will go up, according to the report—and we'll get a decrease in wages.

I yield the floor.

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I would like to indicate support for two amendments I cosponsored and were introduced by Senator THUNE and Senator VITTER.

The first is amendment No. 1197 introduced by Senator THUNE. Border security should be the number one priority in any immigration discussion, and building this fence which is already required by law will help in that endeavor.

The second is Amendment No. 1228 introduced by Senator VITTER. This requires that the biometric border check-in and check-out system be fully implemented prior to any legal status being granted to an illegal alien. Our national and economic security depends on us knowing who is in our country, and this amendment will help achieve that goal.

While I strongly disagree with granting amnesty to those who broke the law, on the chance that this bill passes I want to make sure that amendments like the two of these are included in the final legislation.●

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD LEE WATSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a selfless Kentuckian, Mr. Arnold Lee Watson of Letcher County, KY. Watson voluntarily devotes his time and skills to raise money for the Veterans Program Trust Fund.

Mr. Watson is the father-in-law of Letcher County Clerk Winston Meade. Together they have created a service that is becoming popular among many Kentucky counties. As license plates are dropped off in the Letcher County office, Watson turns the old plates into pieces of art. Meade and Watson build and sell license plate birdhouses statewide in an effort to raise money for veterans' homes in eastern, central, and western Kentucky.

Meade first saw these birdhouses after he purchased two at a meeting with the Kentucky County Clerks Association. Mr. Watson is retired and saw that he could spend time making birdhouses to raise money for H.A.V.E., or Help A Veteran Everyday. His interest in helping veterans is inspired by his brothers, all who have served our country.

Help a Veteran Everyday, or H.A.V.E., is a program that was adopted in 2005 by the County Clerks of Kentucky. Across the Commonwealth, counties are taking actions to collect donations for the organization which helps ensure that Kentucky's 339,000 veterans are provided for.

I ask unanimous consent that an article from a local publication extolling the work of Mr. Watson be printed in the RECORD. Since this article was published, Watson has built more than 7,000 birdhouses and raised \$140,000 in proceeds for Kentucky veterans. In addition, he placed third in an arts-and-crafts competition at the Kentucky State Fair in 2010.

Mr. Arnold Lee Watson's dedication and hard work not only helped Letcher County raise the most funds across the State, but also provided Kentucky veterans with the support and benefits they deserve.

"He loves working on them," Meade said of Watson in regard to building the license plate birdhouses.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Mountain Eagle, Jan. 21, 2009]

TURNING OLD PLATES INTO \$\$\$

(By Sally Barto)

If old newspapers can be used to line birdcages, then old license plates can be used to build birdhouses—about five a day, in the case of one Letcher County man.

Arnold Lee Watson has been building birdhouses using old license plates as a roof, then selling them to raise money for the Veterans Program Trust Fund on behalf of the Letcher County Clerk's Office.

Watson, of McRoberts, is the father-in-law of Letcher County Clerk Winston Meade. He decided to begin building the unique and colorful birdhouses after Meade attended a meeting of the Kentucky County Clerks Association and brought home two similar birdhouses that were made elsewhere.

Watson has made about 50 birdhouses so far and the clerk's office has sold 19, with proceeds going to the Help a Veteran Everyday, or H.A.V.E. program.

Meade said Watson, who has three brothers who are veterans, donates the materials and time used to make the birdhouses.

"He wanted to do something to help veterans and this is his way to help," said Meade.

The birdhouses, which are being sold for \$20 each, are made to resemble a mailbox and have a painted wooden base with an old license plate draped over the top.

Depending on the specialty license plates obtained by Meade, the roofs of the birdhouses have different themes including nature, colleges, and volunteer fire fighting. Meade said the most popular style of birdhouse is made using an old University of Kentucky license plate.

Meade has traveled to several counties looking for unique plates to use for making more birdhouses. People can donate old plates to the clerk's office for the birdhouse project.

Selling license plate birdhouses is the latest effort by Meade's office to raise money for the H.A.V.E. program. All money raised through H.A.V.E., created by the Kentucky County Clerk's Association, goes to the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund. The trust fund, established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1988, helps support projects and programs for Kentucky veterans.

The Homeless Veterans Transitional Treatment program in Lexington was established with funds from the trust. Money from the fund was also used to purchase 10 vans for the Disabled American Veterans organization, to purchase land for a state veterans cemetery, and to enhance state veterans' nursing homes.

"Every penny is spent on the veterans," said Meade. "None of it is spent on salaries or anything like that."

Meade was named 2008 clerk of the year for the H.A.V.E. program for his efforts of raising money for the program.

"This county has raised more money for the H.A.V.E. fund than any other county in the state," said Meade. "I was real honored to receive this. I give the girls in the office the credit for the funds they have raised for H.A.V.E."

The clerk's office hosted a golf scramble at Raven Rock Golf Course in September in which funds raised from the scramble were used to finance a Christmas party for the East Kentucky Veterans' Center in Hazard. During that time, the center served seven residents from Letcher County.

When people purchase the veterans' specialty license plate, \$5 of the cost of the plate goes into the H.A.V.E. fund. The clerk's office also welcomes cash donations to H.A.V.E.

"This is one way to give back and to thank (veterans) for what they have done for us," said Meade.

TRIBUTE TO MARK AND MICHELE PANOZZO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the

Special Olympics once said, "You are the stars and the world is watching you. By your presence, you send a message to every village, every city, and every nation. A message of hope. A message of victory."

Today, I would like to recognize a father and daughter who are sending their own message of hope and victory Mark and Michele Panozzo from Rockford, IL.

Last week, Michele Panozzo was recognized as the 2013 Outstanding Athlete Award by the Special Olympics of Illinois. Earlier this year, Michele and Mark Panozzo were both recognized as the Northern Illinois Special Olympics Athlete and Coach of the Year.

This father-daughter duo started their involvement in the Special Olympics more than 25 years ago when Michele, who has Down syndrome, was 8 years old. Her first sport was basketball. Over the years she has competed in a variety of sports, including softball throw, bowling and bocce.

Her dad, Mark, has been by her side as her coach the whole time. And it is not just Michele who Mark helps. He is also the coach of the Rockford Red Hots, a team of 45 Special Olympics athletes from the Rockford region. Mark and Michele spend nearly every weekend with the Red Hots, whether at a competition, a practice, or at social outings with teammates and their families.

Special Olympics is more than sports and competitions to Mark and Michele. It is a community that has welcomed and befriended them. Mark says he treasures Special Olympics because of the smiles he sees on Michele's face after a competition, whether she won a gold medal or finished last. Mark still proudly shows off a photo of the first time Michele competed in the Special Olympics; she was just 8 years old, her hair was in pigtails and her face was lit with excitement.

Mark has worked for the U.S. Postal Service for more than 30 years. Years ago he switched his schedule to work nights so he could pick up Michele from school every day. Michele volunteers 3 days a week delivering meals to home-bound seniors, helping at the food pantry and sorting clothes at the local donation center.

In July of 1968, the first Special Olympics Summer Games were held at Soldier Field in Chicago. Only one thousand athletes competed. Today, it is a growing, global movement in more than 170 countries, serving nearly 3.5 million athletes with intellectual disabilities. In Illinois, Special Olympics is making a difference in the lives of 21,000 athletes and nearly 40,000 volunteers and by organizing 170 competitions each year.

I join the Special Olympics of Illinois in commending Michele and Mark Panozzo for their dedication to Special Olympics. I am sure that Eunice Kennedy Shriver would be proud of what Michele and Mark have contributed to the Special Olympics community, and I am too.

TRIBUTE TO PIER ODDONE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, next month Piermaria Oddone will retire as the director of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, IL, after 8 years of service in that position. Pier has led Fermilab through some challenging times, but he has also led the lab to many remarkable achievements.

Pier was born in Peru and after earning degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Princeton University, he worked at Caltech, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

Then in 2005, Pier and his wonderful wife, Barbara, moved to Fermilab, giving up the sunny west coast for cold Chicago winters. They arrived to 6,800-acres of former farmland that Pier and the Fermilab team have worked to restore to its native prairie. The laboratory maintains strong ties with the descendants of the farm families that once worked the land where Fermilab now sits, and every summer the families are invited to a picnic the lab hosts for the community.

No other national lab director can boast of barns and a herd of bison.

An avid photographer, Pier has spent many weekends walking the lab's grounds trying to capture its natural beauty through the lens. This is one of the things he has loved most about Fermilab. Whether raising bison or maintaining high-tech facilities, Pier has worked diligently to ensure that Fermilab continues to attract some of the best scientists from around the world.

And it does.

Today, Fermilab is America's premier particle physics laboratory, supporting thousands of scientists as they solve the mysteries of matter, energy, space, and time.

Fermilab's mission is to drive discovery in particle physics by building and operating world-class accelerator and detector facilities, performing pioneering research with global partners, and transforming technologies for science and industry.

It has often been said that physicists build huge, complex machines to study the tiniest, most basic particles. Well, Fermilab physicists build facilities and create new technologies to carry out discovery science and contribute to America's technology base.

During Pier's tenure as director, Fermilab launched a new era of scientific research focused on high-intensity particle beams through its cutting-edge muon and neutrino experiments.

Fermilab also pushed forward the world's understanding of the dark matter and dark energy that constitute 96 percent of the universe with its leadership roles in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey and the state-of-the-art Dark Energy Camera.

While this work was advancing, more than 100,000 students, from kindergarten through high school, were wel-

comed to the laboratory. Fermilab's strong partnership with Illinois schools and teachers helps achieve their shared goal of inspiring young people to learn more about particle physics, environment, ecology, and accelerator science—and ultimately encouraging them to pursue careers in STEM fields.

In addition, Fermilab's Tevatron particle collider laid the groundwork for the discovery of the Higgs particle last year by developing the technologies and analysis tools that helped confirm evidence of the Higgs boson's existence.

And though the Tevatron has ended its extraordinary 28-year run, under Pier's guidance Fermilab has maintained its position at the forefront of scientific research by serving as the U.S. hub for more than 1,000 physicists working at the Large Hadron Collider.

The laboratory contributed large magnets and other components key to the construction of the Large Hadron Collider and its experiments. Pier even created a control room at Fermilab so U.S. scientists can perform experiments at the Collider remotely.

In his last year as director, Fermilab partnered with the State of Illinois to construct the Illinois Accelerator Research Center, or I-ARC, which aims to accelerate the transition of technologies developed for particle physics research to other sectors of society.

I-ARC will also assist small businesses as a test facility, providing technical expertise in accelerator technology and serving as a training ground for the next generation of accelerator scientists and engineers.

Beyond the lab's accomplishments, Pier has been awarded many honors in his own right. He won the Panofsky Award of the American Physical Society for the invention of the Asymmetric B-Factor, a new kind of particle collider designed to study the difference between matter and antimatter. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences. And, in case one was not enough, he also holds an honorary doctorate from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Needless to say, it is likely that Pier's contributions to particle physics and to Fermilab will continue to benefit Illinois and the international research community long after he retires next month.

When asked what he plans to do upon his retirement, Pier talks about making wine on the vineyard he and his wife own in California.

At one point he even thought of this as a field of research at Fermilab. He would try planting grapevines at the lab, hoping that the heat from the beam lines would keep the vines warm enough to survive the winters. This way, the lab could make wine while unlocking the mysteries of the universe. It might not be a bad idea, but unfortunately he never had any time to test the experiment.