

the first African-American woman elected to office in Colorado. On April 25, 1968, Noel spearheaded a resolution to integrate Denver's public schools. Despite the school board's decision to overturn the resolution in 1969, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed Noel's historic resolution in its 1973 decision, *Keyes v. Denver Public Schools No. 1*.

These exceptional Coloradans changed the way we educate our youth and supported access to opportunity for all. But while we have seen progress, there is still much work to do.

In this rapidly changing world where we increasingly rely on technology, we must provide our youth with the math and science skills they need to become leaders and keep our Nation on the cutting edge of innovation and ingenuity. That is why I stand with President Obama and Gov. Hickenlooper in supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, education programs to provide our youth with viable pathways to academic and professional success. With a strong investment in STEM programs, and by ensuring Colorado's students continue to have access to language and arts education, we will give our students the tools they need to be successful in the 21st century.

From Colorado's earliest days as a western territory to the present, African-American community leaders and public servants have been a driving force in transforming the works and vision of our Founding Fathers into reality. I am humbled and inspired by their commitment to pushing our country to reach its fullest potential. I will continue to do my part to honor African-Americans' legacy of triumph over challenge. I hope you will join me in doing the same.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, please let the record show that I was in Minot, ND, on January 29, 2013, to speak at the funeral and honor the life of Chester Reiten when the confirmation vote on Senator John Kerry to be Secretary of State was held. Chester Reiten was a dedicated public servant who devoted a considerable amount of his time and energy to serving his community and State. His efforts included lengthy tenures as a State senator and mayor of Minot.

#### TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FMLA

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the enactment of The Family and Medical Leave Act, FMLA. For 20 years, this historic law has helped individuals balance their family and work obligations. As a husband, and the father of three daughters, the flexibility to care for your family and children without the fear of losing your job is invaluable.

The passage of the FMLA represented a broad, bipartisan Congressional effort to improve working conditions for American families. Since the FMLA was signed into law by President Clinton in 1993, workers have used it more than 100 million times to take job-protected leave. Under the FMLA, an employee may take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child or placement of a foster child. An employee can also use the FMLA to care for a spouse, child or parent suffering from a serious health condition.

At the core of the FMLA is the concept of flexibility. And that idea—not just flexibility in taking leave, but flexibility across the board, in all facets of the workplace experience—is something we must strive for in today's office environment. We must allow our workers to be productive and commit themselves to their jobs, while also allowing them to be great parents.

In my home State of Colorado, we have expanded the benefits under the FMLA by adopting two additional State leave policies—Domestic Abuse Leave and Colorado Small Necessities Leave. Under Domestic Abuse Leave, employees who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault may take leave in order to seek various medical and legal services. Colorado Small Necessities Leave allows workers to take 18 hours of unpaid annual leave each school year in order to participate in their children's school activities, including attending parent/teacher conferences.

Despite the vast improvements in practices since the enactment of the FMLA, our country still has a ways to go. Most part-time workers and nearly half of full-time workers are not eligible for leave under FMLA. And millions of employees who are eligible cannot afford to take unpaid leave. With this in mind, this law must not be considered an end, but instead a first step in the right direction—there is room for improvement. For example, we should consider expanding the definition of a family to include members of the LGBT community.

But it is a worthwhile start, and so again, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the FMLA. I hope we can use the upcoming session of Congress to look for ways to strengthen this important law.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO VINNIE BAIOCCHETTI

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and congratulate chief of police Vinnie Baiocchetti of the Belmont, NH, Police Department for his 37 years of dedicated service to the firefighting and law enforcement professions, the town of Belmont, and the State of New Hampshire.

Beginning his public safety career as a firefighter and emergency medical

technician in 1976, Vinnie then joined the Laconia, NH, Police Department in 1983 as a part-time police officer, became a full-time officer for the Gilmanton, NH, Police Department in 1984, and was promoted to sergeant in that agency in 1991. He joined the Belmont, NH, Police Department in 2001, where he was promoted to sergeant in 2002, and appointed chief of police in 2003.

During his long career as a public safety professional, Chief Baiocchetti continued to serve with the Laconia NH, Fire Department as a call firefighter and fire investigator. Chief Baiocchetti has been a leader in promoting community-oriented policing, improving public safety within the State of New Hampshire, and promoting sound public policies and practices, which have helped keep New Hampshire one of the safest States in the Nation. Chief Baiocchetti has worked tirelessly with his peers and with other public safety officials to better the administration of justice and to train members of New Hampshire's police and fire communities. He has focused on mentoring young people interested in the law enforcement profession through Law Enforcement Exploring. Chief Baiocchetti served as an adviser, assistant commander, and commander of the New Hampshire Police Cadet Training Academy during his more than 25 years of work with this unique and nationally emulated summer program for teenagers.

As Chief Baiocchetti celebrates his retirement, I want to commend him on a job well done and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him, his wife Tammy, and daughter Ashley, well in all future endeavors.●

##### TRIBUTE TO ELAINE BALSLEY

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Elaine Balsley, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past few months.

Elaine is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Black Hills State University where she is majoring in mass communications. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Elaine for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

##### REMEMBERING RICHARD WALTON

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Rhode Island is mourning the loss of one of our most renowned and accomplished citizens. Richard Walton was an activist, a teacher, a journalist, and a force for good in our State, in our Nation, and indeed in the world.

It would take most of us many lifetimes to achieve as much and to touch as many as Richard did in his 84 years.

Richard organized workers to win collective bargaining rights, and he organized communities to win social justice. He helped build houses for homeless Rhode Islanders, and he helped preserve Rhode Island's historic buildings. He volunteered at and helped lead the State's largest soup kitchen, and he emceed concerts for and helped lead the Stone Soup Folks Arts Foundation. He served in the Navy, and he protested against war.

Richard worked to improve our country, promoting third-party politics. He was the Citizens Party candidate for Vice President in 1984, and was a central figure in the founding of the Green Party. Richard worked to improve our world, documenting movements for independence in Africa and heading up educational and medical initiatives in Central America.

Richard was known for his hospitality. Every year he welcomed hundreds of friends and strangers to his home on Pawtuxet Cove in Warwick for a combination birthday party/folk music jam. And he was known for his generosity. He asked his guests to donate to one of his favorite causes instead of bringing gifts.

One of the many social welfare organizations that benefitted from Richard's passion and brilliance was the George Wiley Center, a grassroots anti-poverty nonprofit. In 2008, the Center asked Richard to compose its statement of philosophy. It begins like this:

The George Wiley Center is, in the short term, "a voice for the voiceless," but our enduring task is to help them find their own voice, to speak out for their own legitimate basic needs and not let those in power treat them as powerless, for they are not powerless once they recognize that their numbers count, that their voices count, that their moral worth as human beings, as residents of the United States, counts.

Richard's allies would attest that this was indeed his own philosophy, lived out each day of his life. Richard will be missed by many, including his children, Cathy and Richard. But his legacy of justice, compassion, and empowerment will be felt by many, for years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the presiding officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:34 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 225. An act to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a National Pediatric Research Network, including with respect to pediatric rare diseases or conditions.

H.R. 297. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 11. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

At 11:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 444. An act to require that, if the President's fiscal year 2014 budget does not achieve balance in a fiscal year covered by such budget, the President shall submit a supplemental unified budget by April 1, 2013, which identifies a fiscal year in which balance is achieved, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 643(c) of The American Taxpayer Relief Act (Public Law 112-240), the Minority Leader appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Long-Term Care: Bruce Allen Chernof of Los Angeles, California, Judith Stein of Storrs, Connecticut, and George Vradenburg of Washington, DC.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 225. An act to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a National Pediatric Research Network, including with respect to pediatric rare diseases or conditions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 297. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 444. An act to require that, if the President's fiscal year 2014 budget does not achieve balance in a fiscal year covered by such budget, the President shall submit a supplemental unified budget by April 1, 2013, which identifies a fiscal year in which balance is achieved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 209. A bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-1. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Luquillo, Puerto Rico relative to urging the President and the Congress of the United States of America to act on the results from the November 6, 2012 plebiscite by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which would assure democratic justice for 3.7 million U.S. citizens; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-2. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Fajardo, Puerto Rico relative to urging the President and the Congress of the United States of America to act on the results from the November 6, 2012 plebiscite by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which would assure democratic justice for 3.7 million U.S. citizens; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-3. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Naranjito, Puerto Rico relative to urging the President and the Congress of the United States of America to act on the results from the November 6, 2012 plebiscite by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which would assure democratic justice for 3.7 million U.S. citizens; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-4. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging the United States Senate and the House of Representatives to pass legislation granting tax relief to individuals and businesses who suffered financial loss due to Hurricane Sandy; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-5. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, forwarding correspondence from the Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam expressing condolences to the Senate on the death of Senator Daniel Inouye; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-6. Communications from the Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic expressing condolences to the Senate on the death of Senator Daniel Inouye and also conveying wishes of continued friendly Kyrgyz-American relations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-7. A resolution adopted by the Township of Edison, New Jersey, urging the President, Governor and Legislators to enact more stringent gun laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 111th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs" (Rept. No. 113-1).