

evidence, according to the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington.

Use of the death penalty has been steadily declining, and 17 states no longer have it on the books, with 5 of them abolishing it since 2007, said Richard C. Dieter, the center's executive director. Executions dropped to 43 last year from 98 in 1999.

"These innocence cases are the biggest single factor, because it has spread doubt throughout the system," Mr. Dieter said.

Mr. Bloodworth, a tireless public speaker who has visited state after state to lobby for repeal, handing out a 2004 book on his case, called "Bloodworth," has used his own experience to promote those doubts. "I think no single individual has changed as many minds as Kirk," said Jane Henderson, the director of Maryland Citizens Against State Executions, a lobbying group. "He's articulate, patient, and he's got a huge heart."

His homespun eloquence has unmistakable appeal, but his own tale is his most powerful argument. Prosecutors and jurors ignored glaring problems with witnesses—two were boys who did not pick Mr. Bloodworth out of a lineup—and dismissed five alibi witnesses who testified that he was home at the time of the murder.

"The adversarial system doesn't know who's guilty or who's innocent," Mr. Bloodworth said. "The millstone does not know who's under it."

At the Maryland Penitentiary in Baltimore, he could stretch out his arms and touch the sides of his cell. He stuffed paper in his ears at night to keep the cockroaches out. His skull was cracked by another inmate who swung a sock stuffed with batteries. He was still locked up when his mother died.

After his release, he was pardoned and was paid \$300,000 in compensation by the state. But even as he worked for death penalty abolition in other states, he became a regular visitor to Annapolis, pressing legislators to learn from his case. "I'm a walking reminder for them," he said.

Delegate Barbara A. Frush, a Maryland legislator for 19 years, said a visit from Mr. Bloodworth two years ago changed her mind about capital punishment, which she had long favored. "I sat across the desk from him and looked in his eyes and listened to his story," she said. "It sent shivers down my spine. I thought, I can't take the chance that I might send an innocent man to death."

This week, for the first time, he had a private visit with the longtime president of the State Senate, Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., who has decided to allow a floor vote on the repeal bill. Mr. Bloodworth left the meeting more optimistic than ever.

From time to time, he has heard from the people who sent him to prison. A juror got in touch to apologize. One of the two lead homicide detectives sought him out; "it seemed like he wanted absolution," Mr. Bloodworth said. One of the prosecutors, S. Ann Brobst, who had called him "a monster" at trial, insisted on driving to the Eastern Shore to give him in person the news of the DNA hit on the actual murderer.

At the church hall, he turned from his own story to the prospects for action in Maryland.

"What do you smell?" he bellowed.

"Victory!" the advocates yelled back.

"It's time to close the case," Mr. Bloodworth declared, raising his arms in anticipation.

REMEMBERING ROBERT S. TELLALIAN

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert

Tellalian—an attorney, community advocate, and beloved family member and friend, who brought joy to many in Connecticut. He was a true community leader in a very timeless, enduring way—wisely guiding civic organizations, unstintingly contributing time and energy, and enthusiastically giving of his great spirit and good humor.

After helping the Goodwill of Western and Northern Connecticut to incorporate in 1951, Mr. Tellalian served on its board for many years. He also connected with Goodwill's clients and staff personally on the frontlines in quite another way. Donning a red suit and beard for the annual Goodwill Christmas party, he shared his good energy and holiday spirit with those who needed it the most—the poor and suffering and the Bridgeport employees who had seen it all. He was given Goodwill's Leadership Award in 2011. And, as if he had planned it, he passed away this past year on Christmas Day at age 91.

He earned a Soldier's Medal for Valor in World War II, fighting at the Battle of the Bulge in the Army's 10th Armored Division, but instead, chose to be remembered through seemingly minor but extremely meaningful gestures of kindness and personal connection.

Mr. Tellalian was born in New Haven and raised in Bridgeport. After attending Yale University and the University of Connecticut School of Law, he along with his brother, Judge Aram H. Tellalian, Jr., founded the firm, Tellalian & Tellalian. The Tellalian's firm was a fixture in Bridgeport, and Robert practiced family and estate law for his entire career. The firm later moved to Trumbull, where Mr. Tellalian continued his involvement. This fact and many others demonstrate his uncommon dedication to tradition, intense loyalty for his community and the practice of law, and strong, authentic relationship with his brother and countless loved ones.

Throughout his life, he was intensely involved in a number of charities and local organizations throughout Connecticut, especially in Bridgeport and Easton. In addition to the Goodwill of Western and Northern Connecticut, he was an active member of the Yale Club of Eastern Fairfield County, the Bridgeport Area Foundation, and the United Way. He also served as the secretary of the Easton Senior Center Board of Directors and the president of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport.

Aside from his tremendous contributions to charity and community, Mr. Tellalian would most like to be remembered, I believe, for his love of music. He had great pride for the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and the joy it added to Connecticut. He was a man who, in his role of chairman of the board, would greet patrons in the lobby of the concert hall for decades. One time, when interviewed by the Connecticut Post, he commented that the opportunity to guest-conduct the Sym-

phony was "the biggest thrill of [his] life." Additionally, he was an avid acapella singer, and treasured the memories he made with his barbershop quartet—the Eastonaires—with whom he performed throughout the State and country, even on the White House lawn during a Fourth of July picnic hosted by President and Nancy Reagan. And, for more than 50 years, he sang in the church choir—most recently for the United Congregational Church in Bridgeport—where he and his wife, Jean, who died this past November, were longtime congregants and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Last month, the United Congregational Church hosted a musical memorial service for Mr. Tellalian. Almost 100 singers and instrumentalists gathered from around the region to volunteer their time in tribute to a man they loved.

Robert Tellalian was generous of spirit and filled with compassion, dedicating much of his life to the happiness of others. He loved life, and lifted others up.

Today, I invite my colleagues to honor the life of a man who will be deeply missed, but whose spirit of kinship will live on in all he touched.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING KONNER ROBINSON AND ANTHONY SCHRECENGOST

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize two of Nevada's finest, Konner Robinson and Anthony Schrecengost, for being named Nevada's top two youth volunteers of 2013 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. For 18 years, this nationwide award program has partnered with the National Association of Secondary School Principals to honor outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Konner is a junior at Sage Ridge School in Reno, NV. He created a fund to provide grants to local schools to enable them to offer technology-based learning tools to financially disadvantaged students. Konner was inspired to start this project when he discovered one of his classmates could not complete her physics homework because she could not afford to buy a graphing calculator. I commend his commitment to providing access to technology for all students. All Americans should follow Konner's lead and work to ensure our schools have the resources they need to provide our children with the best education possible.

Anthony, an eighth grader at Sig Rogich Middle School in Las Vegas, NV, has been a committed volunteer for the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, FAAN, for the past 3 years. He has been raising both money and awareness to help those who, like him, suffer from food allergies. Anthony's motivation to work on behalf of others who share his condition is inspiring.

On behalf of the residents of the Silver State, I am proud to recognize Konner and Anthony for their accomplishments and contributions to our State. As Nevada's top two youth volunteers of 2013, my hope is that Konner and Anthony will help serve as an example of the importance of volunteer work and service in our community. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these two exceptional young Nevadans.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 643(c) of the American Taxpayer Relief Act (Public Law 112-240), the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Long-Term Care: Ms. Judy Brachman of Bexly, Ohio, Mr. Stephen Guillard of Chat-ham, Massachusetts, and Ms. Grace-Marie Turner of Alexandria, Virginia.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-294. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Proposed Obligations for Cooperative Threat Reduction, February 2013"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-295. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the Department in the position of Assistant Secretary for Housing/Federal Housing Commissioner, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-296. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-297. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-298. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Turkey; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-299. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import

Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Luxembourg; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-300. A communication from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "High-Cost Mortgage and Homeownership Counseling Amendments to the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) and Homeownership Counseling Amendments to the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Regulation X)" ((RIN3170-AA12) (Docket No. CFPB-2012-0029)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-301. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Congenital Disorders That Affect Multiple Body Systems" (RIN0960-AH04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-302. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2013-0007–2013-0013); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-303. A communication from the Chief of the Policy Division, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of International Settlements Policy Reform; Joint Petition for Rulemaking of AT and T Inc., Sprint Nextel Corporation and Verizon; Modifying the Commission's Process to Avert Harm to U.S. Competition and U.S. Customers Caused by Anticompetitive Conduct" (FCC 12-145) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-304. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Policy Division, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Parts 2 and 25 of the Commission's Rules to Govern the Use of Earth Stations Aboard Aircraft Communicating with Fixed-Satellite Service Geostationary-Orbit Space Stations Operating in the 10.95-11.2 GHz, 11.45-11.7 GHz, 11.7-12.2 GHz and 14.0-14.5 GHz Frequency Bands" (FCC 12-161) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-305. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" (FCC 13-13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-306. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; On the Waters in Kailua Bay, Oahu, HI" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No.

USCG-2012-1038)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-307. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; 25th Annual North American International Auto Show" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2012-1077)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-308. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Grain-Shipments Vessels, Columbia and Willamette Rivers" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-1028)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-309. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone for Recovery Operations for East Jefferson Street Train Derailment, Mantua Creek; Paulsboro, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-1060)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-310. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; New Year's Eve Fireworks Displays within the Captain of the Port Miami Zone, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-1041)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-311. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Bone Island Triathlon, Atlantic Ocean; Key West, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0956)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-312. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; TEMCO Grain Facilities; Columbia and Willamette Rivers" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-1068)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-313. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Hampton Harbor Channel Obstruction, Hampton Harbor; Hampton, NH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-1055)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-314. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled