

have a different view to see if we can find some common ground, and I think we have.

I have spoken about these amendments which I will submit for the RECORD when possible, and I hope we can get to the bill of Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN. They have worked very hard, and they have built a great coalition.

Again, this is a bill that could create many jobs and opportunities for our people. While there are a lot of Members talking about how so-and-so should focus on jobs and he or she should do this or that, we have a bill whose essence is to create very good jobs in America and to save us energy costs and to reduce costs to taxpayers and consumers.

I believe this bill was voted unanimously out of the energy committee and, if not, it had overwhelming support from Republicans and Democrats. RON WYDEN, the chairman our committee, who was a very able and centrist leader on these matters, has worked very hard. I am very familiar with the benefits of this bill. I am sorry it has become caught up in the politics of health care, but it is important that we get to this Energy bill.

It is most important that the House of Representatives fix a terrible thing for Louisiana which happened just a few hours ago when they stripped, now for the 20th year in a row, a project that has been certified, stamped, sealed, and approved by the Corps of Engineers. For whatever reason they did this, I do not know. I hope they will fix it.

I yield the floor.

REMARKS OF JUDGE CHRISTINA REISS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on August 16, I had the honor of attending a naturalization ceremony at the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum in Burlington, VT, conducted by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Vermont, Christina Reiss. This naturalization ceremony was especially timely as the Senate had in June voted strongly in favor of passing a comprehensive immigration reform bill. I am proud of the Senate's work on that legislation, and especially proud of the thorough process we had in the Judiciary Committee to give that legislation a fair and public hearing.

I have attended many naturalization ceremonies over the years and never fail to come away inspired by the process and by the participants. Judge Reiss' most recent naturalization ceremony was a reminder of how meaningful American citizenship is, and of what an accomplishment it is for those who earn it. Judge Reiss invited me to address the new Americans, but I was particularly moved by her remarks to the 10 new Americans who were naturalized as citizens of the United States that day.

Judge Reiss delivered a positive, uplifting, and powerful message to these men and women about what it means to be an American. Her message to them was one of hope. It was also a challenge to be the transformative force that so many immigrants have been for America throughout our history. Judge Reiss encouraged their civic participation and commitment to our constitutional values. She called upon them to be full participants in our democracy, to exercise their rights and their responsibilities by voting, and to embrace the rule of law. And Judge Reiss' remarks were a warm Vermont welcome to the 10 new citizens who chose to make Vermont their home.

As I listened to Judge Reiss deliver her remarks, I reflected on my own family's history of immigration and the experience of my wife Marcelle's mother and father who became citizens and made Vermont their home. I hope the message they heard when they swore the oath to become citizens was as inspirational as the one Judge Reiss delivered this summer in Vermont. And I hope the 10 new American citizens we welcomed together on August 16 will take her words to heart as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of Judge Reiss' remarks of August 16, 2013, be printed in the RECORD.

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

REMARKS BY UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE CHRISTINA REISS

Delivered at the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum in Burlington, Vermont, August 16, 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my honor as Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Vermont, and as an American citizen, to address you on this special occasion. You are about to undergo an important transformation for which you have carefully and thoughtfully prepared. By the end of this ceremony, you will be a United States citizen.

I am sure that you had many thoughts and feelings as you went through the process of becoming a United States citizen. I want to assure you that you are not alone. Most people here, including me, have had family members who went through this very same process. America is a land of immigrants. With the exception of Native Americans, we all come from other places. Like you, our family members made sacrifices and faced challenges in order to live in this country. We made this country our home. You have made the important decision to make it your home. This is exciting and important for both you and for our country. Your transformation is our country's transformation. Our country gains strength and becomes a better place with the contributions of our new citizens.

You are about to take a solemn oath. In that oath, you will claim the United States as your own country and you will renounce allegiance to all others. You will swear to support and defend the Constitution, and the laws of the United States. And you will promise that you will bear true faith and allegiance to this country. I want to talk with you briefly about what some of those promises mean.

As you know, the United States of America was created through a declaration by its citizens that it would, from now on, be a free and independent nation. The Declaration of Independence also recognizes that we are all created equal, and that we are all entitled to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Those rights are not just something written on a piece of paper. Those rights represent an agreement between us, as fellow citizens, regarding how we will treat each other. Those rights also represent an agreement between us and our Government, regarding what we may expect from our Government, and what it may expect from us in return.

You, too, will be able to enjoy the freedoms guaranteed by the United States Constitution. But as always, with any right comes responsibilities. In accepting the benefits of American citizenship, you likewise accept its responsibilities.

Our society, our freedom, depends on the rule of law. The rule of law requires that every person obey the laws of this country. No person and no organization is above the law. The rule of law is thus an agreement of the citizens of this country to obey the law, to defend it, and to uphold it. The rule of law is what makes our country safe, free, and productive.

If you disagree with a law, you may work to change it. You may vote, you may exercise your freedom of speech, you may seek elected or appointed office, and you may petition the Government. In this country, we encourage citizens to get involved and to work to change the country and its laws for the better.

I know that some of you may come from countries where this opportunity was not available to you. Indeed, you may come from places where by seeking to change a law, you put your life in danger. Here, your right to lawfully seek change will be fully protected.

I urge you to exercise all of your rights and responsibilities as a United States citizen. The right to vote is endangered each time you fail to vote. The freedom of speech is threatened when you do not express your opinions, and stand silent when you should speak up. It is also threatened when you do not tolerate the views of others, or allow their rights to be violated. The rights of all citizens must be protected, if you expect your own rights to be protected.

Before I end my remarks, I want to say a few things about Vermont because I believe that you have chosen to live in a very special place. As you know, Vermont was not one of the original 13 colonies to sign the Declaration of Independence, but it was the first state to forbid slavery in its own constitution in 1777. Vermont has often been at the forefront of this country in protecting human rights. This is a special place. It is a beautiful place. Enjoy it, cherish it, and make it your home. You are welcome here. President Dwight D. Eisenhower said something about Vermonters which I think is very true. In speaking to the people gathered at the State Dairy Festival in Rutland, he said:

"There are certain things I do know about you. I know that Americans everywhere are the same, in their longing for peace, a peace that is characterized by justice, by consideration for others, by decency above all, by its insistence on respect for the individual human being."

It is my hope that your life in the United States is characterized by justice, by consideration for others, by decency, and by insistence on respect for all human beings.

In conclusion, I wish simply to say, "Welcome my fellow American citizens. Welcome, my American brothers and sisters." I wish you success and happiness in pursuing the American dream.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to join my colleagues in commemorating the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Twelve years ago America was dealt a blow, but in the years since, we have continued to rebuke the message of hate that was brought to our doorstep. What is more is that we affirm our core American values that were magnified in the days following those attacks.

We are still “one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” We are still a diverse nation of many races, religions, and ideas united under the same flag. Maybe most important, we are still at our best when we come together.

Every year we are reminded that though we are a strong and determined nation, we are still healing from the wounds we suffered that day 12 years ago. No amount of time can rationalize the senseless violence or bring back a loved one. It is important to note that we have brought many of the terrorists, including Osama bin Laden, to justice, and we have made great strides in ensuring that those who wish to do us harm like they did on 9/11 will be unable to do so.

Our men and women in uniform, the intelligence community, Foreign Service officers, and the people entrusted with safeguarding our borders, bridges, air and seaports and key infrastructure, have made great sacrifices to ensure our continued safety in a post-9/11 world and we owe so much to these men and women, and the families who support them.

Today, we join together to show the world that our Nation is united and firmly resolved to defend our freedom and safeguard our liberty against any enemy.

We also take time to remember those Americans who perished on 9/11 and to remember them and their families with a special prayer. We reflect on the heroism of the firefighters, police officers, medical workers, city officials, and ordinary citizens who gave their own lives trying to save others. Who could ever forget the images of firefighters and other first responders going up the stairs of the World Trade Center as everyone else was heading to safety? Each of us has been affected by 9/11. It is a day seared into the national memory.

We cannot forget 9/11 because the virtues that carried us through the days, weeks, and years have been with us since the beginning: 9/11 did not teach firefighters and police to sacrifice, nor did it teach unity among neighbors. It did not teach empathy toward strangers or compassion toward friends.

Rather, these quintessential American virtues were with us all along; 9/11 just put them under a spotlight for all to see. On 9/11 we showed the world a brand of resilience, compassion, and strength that could only be “made in America”.

And so, 12 years after the most heinous attacks in our Nation’s history,

we stand tall. We stand tall, not weighed down by the gravity of 9/11 but made stronger by it. We remain united in our diversity like no other nation on Earth, “one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Mr. CHIESA. Mr. President, I vividly recall, as do most Americans, exactly where I was 12 years ago this morning. My son, Al, who had only recently celebrated his third birthday, was beginning his very first day at preschool. It was a big day for my wife Jenny and me, filled with that mixture of excitement and trepidation that is familiar to all young parents.

Shortly after waving goodbye to Al, we heard the shocking news—an airplane had hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

As a native New Jerseyan, raised in the shadow of the Twin Towers, I could picture the scene in my mind’s eye.

My first assumption was that a small plane—perhaps one of the sightseeing planes that provided visitors with a bird’s-eye view of the wonders of Lower Manhattan and the harbor—had somehow flown off course into the building.

Less than 20 minutes later, however, when the second plane hit, I knew, as we all did, that this was no accident. America was under attack. And as the morning unfolded and the horror increased—the Pentagon was hit, the towers fell, United flight 93 was brought to the ground near Shanksville, PA—my thoughts turned to faith and family.

I thought of my son—young and innocent, starting his very first day in school—and I realized the world that existed when we dropped him off that morning had changed.

I thought of so many friends and neighbors who might very well have been on the plane that flew out of Newark that morning or in those proud buildings that had been reduced to rubble. I hoped and prayed that they were safe.

I thought of the people who had surely lost their lives in the attacks—in numbers more than any of us could bear, as Mayor Giuliani so eloquently put it—and prayed for them and their families.

And as the day drew to its awful conclusion, I knew that for so many, the terrible anguish of this day was just beginning, and the reminders of that were everywhere: the children whose parents would never arrive to pick their children up from school, the empty place at the dinner table, the gaping hole in the hearts of those who loved those who perished.

Twelve years later, the passage of time has, for many, helped to bring some measure of healing. But the scars remain, and they will never completely fade away.

So today we remember, as we do every year and as we should every day, all those who lost their lives, both in the terrorist attacks themselves and also on foreign fields of battle in the

defense of our freedom and our way of life.

We remember today, as we do every year and as we should every day, all those who were injured in the attacks and on the battlefield.

We remember today, as we do every year and as we should every day, all those who responded to the attacks with bravery and determination and many of whom still struggle with the aftermath of their courageous actions.

And we remember today, as we do every year and should every day, all those who lost friends, colleagues, and family members in the attacks and in the years since. Their suffering is our suffering and we must never forget that.

Today is also a day for renewal, for renewing the sense of purpose that united our nation in the aftermath of the attacks, for renewing the spirit of cooperation that made it possible for our country to move forward, both through individual acts of courage, kindness, and compassion and through acts of governance that helped us meet the challenges we faced, and for renewing our determination to keep America safe while also safeguarding our liberties.

Twelve years ago today, when Jenny and I dropped off our son for his very first day of school—he is, by the way, now a high school freshman—we could never have imagined how much the world would change before he had even settled in to his new preschool routine.

But although so much has changed, one thing remains constant: America, is, as she always had been, a beacon of hope to the world. No act of terror—no matter how brutal—will ever diminish the bright, shining light of the American spirit.

REMEMBERING NICOLAE GHEORGHE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on August 8, Nicolae Gheorghe, one of the leading figures of the Romani civil rights movement, passed away. He was devoted to improving the situation of Roma, ultimately playing a pivotal role on the international stage and especially within the OSCE. Gheorghe lived an extraordinary life and will be long remembered for his singular contribution to the advancement of human rights.

Nicolae Gheorghe was born in 1946 in Romania during the aftermath of the fascist regime led by Marshall Ion Antonescu. His mother had narrowly escaped the mass deportations of 25,000 Roma planned and implemented by the Antonescu regime.

Members of the Helsinki Commission first met Nicolae Gheorghe when Senator Dennis DeConcini and Representative STENY HOYER, then-Chairman and Cochairman, led a delegation to Romania in April 1990. At that time, Gheorghe was emerging as one of the clearest and most compelling voices sounding the alarm about the deplorable situation of Roma. Although the