

designated facility is located must indicate in writing such Member's support of the proposal to name such facility after such individual.

(C) The pertinent State department or chapter of each Congressionally chartered veterans' organization having a national membership of at least 500,000 must indicate in writing its support of such proposal.

IX. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be changed, modified, amended, or suspended at any time provided, however, that no less than a majority of the entire membership so determine at a regular meeting with due notice or at a meeting specifically called for that purpose. The rules governing quorums for reporting legislative matters shall govern rules changes, modification, amendments, or suspension.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S.47, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. This legislation provides much needed funding and support for law enforcement in our fight against domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

This bill has enjoyed wide bipartisan support over the years. Crimes against women and children will not be tolerated. Tuesday, the Senate once again approved VAWA with a 78-22 overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. I was proud to cosponsor the Violence Against Women Act and I urge my colleagues in the House to stand with America's women and children and quickly pass this critical legislation.

We have an obligation to do our part and protect women and children on the streets and in their homes. And this legislation provides the resources needed to further this very important effort. Reauthorizing this funding is particularly important for my home State of Louisiana, which unfortunately ranks among the top five States in incidences of domestic violence homicides in the Nation.

Last year, Louisiana received \$4.9 million in Violence Against Women Act grants. These dollars helped fund critical programs through organizations like Wellspring Alliance for Family, which provides domestic violence and sexual assault services in Monroe, LA, and the Crescent House program in New Orleans. And these funds don't just supplement established programs. In fact, the vast majority wouldn't be possible in the first place without VAWA grants because many service providers count on more than 90 percent of their funding from the Federal Government.

Last year, Louisiana's 18 shelters provided more than 90,000 shelter nights, answered more than 38,000 crisis calls and despite serving 17,000 clients, the shelters had to turn away almost 2,000 people for lack of resources. In one national survey, 60 percent of the shelters in Louisiana reported that they lacked funding and 25 percent reported that they lacked shelter beds or

housing for victims of domestic violence and their children.

These statistics are troubling. And I think they are an important part of why VAWA is so critical to women and children in communities across Louisiana and throughout our country. But numbers don't tell the whole story. You have to talk to the people on the ground, to the people who have dedicated their lives and careers to helping women and children in need, to truly appreciate the impact of this legislation.

For example, Beth Meeks, executive director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, visited a program in New Orleans. While visiting that program, Beth spoke with a young mother with her baby, only to discover that the baby was 6 days old. The young mother had been at the program for a few weeks and had been terribly abused when she was nearly 9 months pregnant. She and her baby survived but her child was born in shelter care. What would have been the outcome if a shelter had not been available?

The program that Beth visited, like every domestic violence program in Louisiana, was heavily supported by Violence Against Women Act dollars. Additionally, law enforcement officers, advocates, and prosecutors are all supported by funds available under the act. Louisiana's current budget challenges have serious implications for these vital services. In December 2012, Louisiana cut \$1 million from the budget for these programs, jeopardizing their very existence.

Louisiana is not alone. Programs all over the Nation have experienced reductions in grants and losses in donations during the recent economic downturn. That is why we must reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. We have made significant progress in the last 20 years. We must continue to provide support to State and local government and the nonprofit entities that provide critical services.

I congratulate the people who are committed to providing important services to those who need them most. We owe a great deal of gratitude to leaders like Beth Meeks of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, leaders like Mary Claire Landry of the Family Justice Center in New Orleans, and like Valerie Bowman of the Family Justice Center in Monroe, and leaders in the law enforcement community like Tommy Clark, chair of the Louisiana Chiefs of Police Association Domestic Violence Committee.

I am proud that the Senate has taken action on this important piece of legislation and I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to do the same.

BAHRAIN TWO YEARS LATER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, 2 years ago today thousands of Bahrainis took to the streets to call for political reform and an end to ongoing human

rights abuses in their country. The government responded to these peaceful demonstrations not by addressing grievances or offering to work with the aggrieved, but by unleashing its state security forces upon them. The security forces fired on the protesters with tear gas and live ammunition; although many protesters were rounded up, arrested, and tortured, their spirit would not be broken.

I am deeply disappointed that the government of Bahrain continues to stall, to stonewall, and to stymie any progress on addressing the root causes of the protesters' grievances. I shared the initial hopes of many Bahrainis, who viewed the establishment of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, BICI, as a positive step on behalf of the government. I was encouraged when the final BICI report detailed the government's systemic use of intimidation, violence, abuse, and detention that documenting these abuses would lead to real reform. As outlined in the BICI report, over the weeks and months of its initial crackdown, more than 30 protesters were killed, nearly 1,800 were tortured, and 4,500 were fired from their jobs. Religious sites were destroyed and doctors who treated injured protesters were arrested, tortured, and imprisoned.

The Bahraini government has spent considerable time and resources to convince the world that progress has been made, but I am sorry to say that the facts do not bear this out. Banning peaceful protests is not progress. Using tear gas as a weapon is not progress. Shooting teenagers is not progress. There is, quite frankly, little to be optimistic about if one examines the regime's track record over the last 2 years. According to the Project on Middle East Democracy, POMED, the government of Bahrain has only fully implemented three of 26 recommendations in the BICI report. Even worse, POMED found no meaningful progress whatsoever toward six of the BICI recommendations. The Bahrain Center for Human Rights similarly finds that the government of Bahrain has taken only superficial steps "while continuing to commit the same human rights violations."

Although the Bahraini government offered to engage in a national dialogue, my staff and I have read reports that the government may only be planning to moderate a discussion between political parties, rather than act as a full and productive participant in the dialogue. I sincerely hope that is not the case, and I call on the government of Bahrain to live up to its rhetoric, engage in genuine and sustained dialogue, and work to see that real progress is made. As a first step to restoring some of the trust it has lost, the Bahraini government should immediately implement all 26 BICI report recommendations and immediately release all political prisoners in Bahrain.

After 2 years, surely the government of Bahrain is tired of fighting its own

people—people who wish nothing more than to have a greater voice in their political process. The government may be surprised that this fight has lasted 2 years, but I am not. My staff and I have met with some of them and know them to be passionate, devoted to their cause, and willing to face continued persecution for what they believe.

Sometimes folks ask me why I care so much about such a small island country or why America should concern itself with Bahrain's internal politics. I explain to them that Bahrain may be small, but that it is a key ally in a troubled and volatile region. I also explain that the regime's current strategy of violence and repression is bound for failure, and that Bahrain must reform to remain stable. If America has learned anything in the last few decades it is that continuing to support governments that use violence, torture and repression to stifle dissent is short sighted. Washington must instead use what influence it has to push such countries toward more representative forms of government, not just because it is the right thing to do for the citizens of those countries, but because it is the right thing to do for this country. That is why this issue remains so important to me and why I hope that next year, on this date, I can come to the Senate floor and talk about the many new reforms in place instead of the Bahraini government's continued repression of its people.

MADISON COUNTY, IDAHO

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, my colleague Senator MIKE CRAPO joins me today in recognizing Madison County's 100-year anniversary.

Established on February 18, 1913, by the Idaho legislature and named after our Nation's fourth President, James Madison, Madison County has distinguished itself in its contributions to the success of our State.

Five people with connections to Madison County went on to become Governors in the States of Idaho, Michigan, Kansas, and Massachusetts. Two people from the county served in Congress, representing Idaho and Utah. And one man went on to serve as Idaho's Lieutenant Governor, my good friend, Mark Ricks, who served with me during my time as Governor.

The people of this county distinguished themselves for helping their neighbors and strangers when the Teton Dam collapsed on June 5, 1976. The ensuing flood spread throughout the valley, uprooting farms and homes. Due to the resiliency of the residents and people helping one another, they quickly overcame the disaster and carried on with their lives.

Madison County has a rich agricultural history, with the first irrigation system in the State built in this county. It is home to 21 different century farms; places that have been continuously farmed by the same family for 100 or more years. The rich, fertile soil

and abundant water has made the county the eighth largest potato growing area in the Nation, along with an abundance of grain, livestock, and other commodities.

In the county seat of Rexburg, you will find Idaho's second largest university, Brigham Young University-Idaho, formerly known as Ricks College. Citizens of the county, and throughout the region, for that matter, are very proud of this university and the tremendous growth it has experienced. They are also proud of the 95 percent graduation rate in their local high schools and at the university.

Rexburg and BYU-Idaho is also home to the Idaho International Dance Festival. For 27 years, the festival has brought hundreds of dancers and musicians from around the world to share their native music, songs, dance, and dress. Madison County residents strongly support the festival and are proud of the rich history of this event.

Madison County also has an abundance of natural features, including the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, the Cartier Slough and Deer Park wildlife management areas, and the twin Menan Buttes.

Senator CRAPO and I are proud to recognize this landmark anniversary. We congratulate Madison County residents for this centennial and we wish them all and their communities many more years of success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY KNOWLES

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, for 40 years, there has been no greater advocate for Southwest Missouri seniors than Dorothy Knowles. As executive director of the Southwest Missouri Office on Aging, Dorothy's leadership and motivation have inspired a talented and spirited staff to help seniors understand issues and offer a variety of resources. When Medicare part D arrived, it was Dorothy who voluntarily began the effort to educate seniors on the options and advantages in the new program. Thanks to her actions, the Southwest Missouri Office on Aging became and continues to be the premiere source of information on that program and others for seniors.

When Dorothy Knowles began work as a secretary and bookkeeper at the Southwest Missouri Office on Aging, it was brand new. A single mother in need of a job, Dorothy saw the new agency as an opportunity. She rose through the ranks and learned the agency's needs and programs as director of social services and as associate director. Her boss during those years was her mentor, Winston Bledsoe. Winston started with a \$25,000 grant to open the first 9 senior centers in the region, creating a daily meeting place for 40,000 seniors. When Winston retired in 1999, his deputy Dorothy took charge, armed with 25 years of experience in providing

senior services, advocacy, and a keen understanding of how to stretch a dollar.

Dorothy has never missed an opportunity to expand services and outreach and provide seniors with opportunities to improve the quality of life for older Americans. During 2012, there were 38 senior centers serving more than 370,000 meals to seniors and 700,000 home-delivered meals in 17 counties. Today there are services to support caregivers, respite relief, transportation, housekeeping, legal outreach, and even services to help seniors file income taxes.

In 2005, Medicare added prescription drug coverage, creating an on-line ordering process and regulations seniors had never experienced. Dorothy immediately saw the need to educate seniors so they could take advantage of this service to acquire vital medicines. Self taught and without additional funding, she led the staff at the Southwest Missouri Office on Aging to become the best resource for Medicare part D information anywhere. Working with my congressional office, Dorothy led her new experts on Part D into seminars and signup clinics in every county of Southwest Missouri. Every year since then, they have remained the premiere source of part D expertise.

I have worked with Dorothy Knowles and know the commitment, dedication, and joy she takes in serving our senior population. I doubt her retirement will be the end of her enthusiastic advocacy for Southwest Missouri seniors. She will still weigh in on elder abuse laws and senior wellness funding and will still instill that unrelenting zeal she has to champion senior causes in her 150 member staff and colleagues. I wish her, and the agency she helped craft into a bastion of senior advocacy, the best in the decades ahead. Southwest Missouri is a better place for seniors to live thanks to Dorothy Knowles and her four decades of service at the Southwest Missouri Office on Aging. •

REMEMBERING BILL EADINGTON

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of a world renowned gaming authority and professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR, Bill Eadington, whose passing on February 11, 2013, has brought great sadness to the Silver State. After 18 months, Mr. Eadington lost a courageous battle with cancer. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

Bill Eadington joined the faculty at UNR as an economist in 1969. He is the author of several books on the social and economic impacts of gambling and was a world-renowned authority on gaming issues. Mr. Eadington founded the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming at UNR and served as its director since 1989. Outside of the classroom, he has served as a resource for governments and private sector organizations worldwide on