

mines, ever. Over the last five years, we have twice achieved the lowest rate of fatalities in general industry, ever, including last year. And over the last five years, we achieved the lowest fatality rate in the construction industry, ever.

Last year, we conducted the largest number of whistleblower investigations, ever. Last year, we helped more miners who suffered retaliation from their employers for raising health and safety concerns than were helped in the entire second term of the Bush Administration or the entire second term of the Clinton Administration. Black lung that cripples and kills miners will become much, much rarer under a new rule we proposed. Hundreds of deaths and thousands of morbid illnesses will be prevented each year under a new rule we proposed to protect workers from exposure to silica.

Over the past 5 years, we have returned more than \$1.1 billion in wages to the workers from whom they had been stolen. We conducted the largest number of directed Davis-Bacon investigations, ever. And we did the best job, ever, of targeting our wage and hour investigations to the workplaces that had violations, even when the workers felt too threatened and too disempowered to complain. We expanded minimum wage and overtime protections to nearly 2 million home health aides. The people who care for us when we need them most will now get the most basic of worker protections.

Last year, we conducted the largest number of pension and health plan investigations over the past five years. During that same period, we recovered more than \$1.3 billion in pension and health plan benefits for more than 710,000 participants and beneficiaries through informal resolutions. We also promulgated almost two dozen rules with our colleagues at Treasury and HHS to implement the President's historic health care law.

Last year, we assured that the largest percentage of workers exiting Labor Department job training programs got industry-recognized credentials. We also helped hundreds of community colleges work with employers to give tens of thousands of workers skills that employers need right now and will need for years to come. We expanded eligibility for the Trade Adjustment Assistance and unemployment insurance under the President's Recovery Act. And we nursed all 53 jurisdictions administering UI programs through the worst unemployment crisis in seven decades.

Last year, we did the best job, ever, of targeting the very small number of union officers and staff who embezzle funds or engage in fraud. We also achieved near record efficiency in concluding investigations of union elections despite the fewest resources available ever.

Over the past five years, we have stripped away a mountain of bureaucratic and legal barriers that kept our civil rights agency from finding and remedying discrimination. And we are finding and fixing pay discrimination, in particular, at an accelerating rate. We changed the law so that hundreds of thousands more people with disabilities and veterans will get jobs with federal contractors every year.

Last year, we helped the highest percentage of federal employees with disabilities on workers compensation to return to work since we started keeping records on this activity. We also processed workers compensation claims for longshore workers and energy employees at the fastest clip, ever.

We have done the best job, ever, of managing the taxpayers' money entrusted to the Labor Department's care. We have had five consecutive years of clean financial audits, and these last two years, we had no material deficiencies in our financial audit. We re-

placed a 25-year-old financial management system that put us out of compliance with just about every law with a new cloud-based financial management system that helps us comply with every law, and balance our books, and spend the taxpayers' money responsibly.

Last year, we did the best job, ever, of paying our bills on time, and we paid the smallest amount of interest for late payments, ever. We paid our small business contractors faster than ever. And the percentage of contracting we are doing with small businesses is the highest, ever.

We accomplished all of this by taking seriously President Obama's direction to engage in evidence-based, data-driven management.

The Government Accountability Office recently conducted a survey of all managers in 24 executive branch departments and agencies at the GS-13 level and higher. GAO asked these federal managers a long list of questions that amounted to, "does your agency or department use evidence-based, data-driven decision making?" The Labor Department beat all 24 federal agencies that were part of the survey. We lead the federal government in Obama-style evidence-based, data-driven management.

This impressive list of accomplishments reflects an agency that is back on track. It is a testament to the hard work of Secretary Solis, Secretary Perez, Seth Harris, the DOL leadership team, and the dedicated career staff that work for the agency across the country.

While he has moved on to new challenges in his professional life, our Nation owes a great debt of gratitude to Seth Harris for his leadership and for his passionate dedication to helping working families. I know Seth's work on these issues is far from done, and I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new roles in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN MANNING

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, Jean Manning is synonymous with the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment. Since establishing the Office in 1993 at the direction of the Joint Leadership, Ms. Manning has provided invaluable counsel to Senate offices to ensure their compliance with applicable employment laws, including the Equal Pay Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and numerous other laws Congress applied to itself when it passed the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991 and the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995. Now, after decades of service to the Senate, Jean is retiring. While her retirement is much deserved after a long career, her wise counsel will be missed throughout this great institution.

Ms. Manning, who originally hails from Chicago, began her career as she now ends her career—with public service. After receiving a B.A. in 1972 from the University of Illinois, she took on the important role of educating junior high school students. Ms. Manning left teaching to further her education, obtaining an M.B.A. and a J.D. from the

University of Illinois. While pursuing her law degree, Ms. Manning was a member and Articles Editor of the University of Illinois Law Review, in which she published an article about using multiple regression analysis to assess and remedy salary inequity between men and women, a subject about which she has always been passionate. Also while in law school, Ms. Manning was awarded the Rickert Award for Excellence in Legal Writing, an honor that anyone who has reviewed Ms. Manning's exceptional legal writing will know was well deserved.

Following her graduation from law school in 1983, Ms. Manning began her legal career in the great State of California, where she honed her legal skills as a labor and employment law litigator at several prestigious national law firms. Although she eventually moved to the East Coast in 1992, Ms. Manning still considers California her home. She returns to California several times each year to visit friends and family. In retirement, she plans to live in northern California during part of each year.

In the early 1990s, Congress as a workplace underwent a sea change when all major employment laws became applicable to Congress. The Joint Leadership selected Jean Manning as the Senate's first Chief Counsel for Employment to establish and to manage the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment. Ms. Manning's goal was to create a non-partisan, legal defense office in the Senate that would provide top-tier legal advice and representation to all Senators and Senate offices in the area of labor and employment law. Ms. Manning has far exceeded her goal. The office she established has a stellar reputation throughout the Senate. On a daily basis, the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment advises and trains all Senate offices of their obligations under employment laws. Every year, the Office presents over 70 legal seminars within the Senate to ensure that Senate managers understand and adhere to all employment laws when managing their offices.

Ms. Manning also has tirelessly represented Senate employing offices at all levels of the Federal court system, including arguing before the United States Supreme Court. It is a testament to the high standards she set for herself and her entire office that, since its inception 21 years ago, the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment has never lost a case.

Throughout her Senate career, Ms. Manning has provided Senators, officers and Senate employing offices with unfailingly sound legal advice—even at times when she knew her advice might be unpopular. We thank her for her exceptional service to the Senate. The Senate is losing a great legal advocate, educator and source of institutional knowledge. The Senate is a better place for Ms. Manning's outstanding service, and she will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA RENEE SIMPSON

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the dedicated career and service to the Congress and the Nation of Renee Simpson, who is retiring at the end of this month after over 30 years of service in both the Executive and Legislative branches of our government. She has dedicated her life to public service helping keep our Nation and its citizens secure, and we honor her for her longstanding dedication.

Renee is leaving the Senate as a staff member for Audits and Oversight of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. During her 3 years on the Committee, Renee has been integral to the committee's oversight of the 16 intelligence agencies. She led reviews of the intelligence community's information technology modernization and classification processes, and served as a committee liaison with the inspectors general of the intelligence community. Her knowledge and insight helped both identify items of concern and proposals for improvement.

In addition to her service with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Renee has served as a Legislative Affairs Officer in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and as the Special Senate Liaison for the United States Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs. But perhaps her most significant assignments and accomplishments came during her 24 years of service with the U.S. Naval Reserves.

Ms. Simpson's distinguished military career began as an Operations and Readiness Officer for Desert Shield/Desert Storm and her unwavering commitment to service led her to posts around the world, including to NATO's Allied Forces Southern Headquarters Command, the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Italy, the Joint Task Force in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, U.S. Joint Forces Command, and the Office of the Director of Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC.

Renee has received numerous awards for her military service including the Defense Superior Service Medal as well as many Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals.

Renee is especially close to her family and her priorities and heart lie with them in Sanford, NC. Her father, Lester Ray Simpson, is a proud Navy veteran of the Korean War who has an appreciation of fine attire with just the right bow tie. Her mom, Vivian, remains Renee's unending inspiration and role model. And according to Renee, her sister, Jane Rae Fawcett, is "a superstar and the smartest, funniest person I know." Finally, her family simply would not be complete without her anchor of a brother-in-law, Deputy Sheriff Ed Fawcett. Renee lives, breathes and loves her family above all else.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to publicly thank Renee and to note my appreciation for her dedicated and dignified efforts. We will miss your insight and experience, and your commitment to pursuing the right policies to protect our Nation.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Subcommittee assignments.

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

UNITED STATES, SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY
113th Congress, Subcommittee Assignments,
February 27, 2014

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES, MARKETS, TRADE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Sen. Donnelly, Chair, Sen. Heitkamp, Sen. Harkin, Sen. Brown, Sen. Gillibrand, Sen. Walsh, Sen. Chambliss, Ranking, Sen. Roberts, Sen. Boozman, Sen. Hoeven, Sen. Johanns.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON JOBS, RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENERGY INNOVATION

Sen. Heitkamp, Chair, Sen. Brown, Sen. Klobuchar, Sen. Bennet, Sen. Donnelly, Sen. Casey, Sen. Johanns, Ranking, Sen. Hoeven, Sen. Grassley, Sen. Thune, Sen. Boozman.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Sen. Bennet, Chair, Sen. Harkin, Sen. Klobuchar, Sen. Leahy, Sen. Heitkamp, Sen. Walsh, Sen. Boozman, Ranking, Sen. McConnell, Sen. Chambliss, Sen. Thune, Sen. Roberts.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION, SPECIALTY CROPS, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Sen. Casey, Chair, Sen. Leahy, Sen. Harkin, Sen. Brown, Sen. Gillibrand, Sen. Bennet, Sen. Hoeven, Ranking, Sen. McConnell, Sen. Chambliss, Sen. Grassley, Sen. Thune.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, MARKETING AND AGRICULTURE SECURITY

Sen. Gillibrand, Chair, Sen. Leahy, Sen. Klobuchar, Sen. Donnelly, Sen. Casey, Sen. Walsh, Sen. Roberts, Ranking, Sen. McConnell, Sen. Boozman, Sen. Johanns, Sen. Grassley.

*Senator Stabenow and Senator Cochran serve as ex officio members of all subcommittees.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, no family should be forced to endure the loss of a child. In his memoir, President Dwight Eisenhower wrote that the loss of his 3-year-old son in early 1921 was "the greatest disappointment and disaster in my life, the one that I have never been able to forget completely." That is why one of the fundamental expectations that Americans have of their government is also one of the most simple: to protect America's children; to ensure that our communities, our streets, and our families are safe.

But sadly, Congress has done little to combat the gun violence that con-

tinues to devastate American children and families. Many have characterized horrific shootings affecting children in our Nation, such as the one which occurred in Newtown, CT, as somehow separate from mainstream American society. But recent studies have shown that such incidents cannot be viewed in a vacuum. Instead, as a recent Yale University study has established, they are part of a wider, disturbing trend of gun violence wounding and killing American children. This study found that every day in the United States, around 20 children sustain firearm injuries serious enough to require hospitalization. In 6 percent of those cases, the wounds prove to be fatal. Three quarters of child hospitalizations examined by the study were the result of unintentional or accidental injuries, often cases of children playing with an unsecured firearm.

The study's rigorous clinical framework, combined with the reality that it is discussing children, makes for jarring reading. The researchers found, for example, that the most common firearm-inflicted injuries on children are open wounds, fractures, and internal injuries to the thorax, abdomen, or pelvis. Injuries to the nerves or spinal cord are also frequent. Traumatic brain injury resulting from gun violence is most often found in children younger than 5. These are not statistics of soldiers on a battlefield who volunteered to face danger. These are innocent children, in our communities, right here at home.

This cycle of violence touches families around our Nation. Like in Detroit, where a recent Detroit News investigation showed that nearly 500 Detroit children have died in homicides since 2000, mostly as the result of gun violence. That investigation cited, as an example, the story of 12-year-old Kenis Green Jr. Last August, he was shot and killed on his front porch during his uncle's birthday party. In Texas, last October a 5-year-old boy shot himself with a .40 caliber pistol that his babysitter left unattended when she went to take a nap. In South Carolina, last December a 15-year-old boy accidentally shot and killed a 12-year-old while loading a magazine into a firearm.

If almost anything in the world was responsible for sending 20 American children to the hospital every day, or was frequently involved in teenage suicides, or was inflicting traumatic brain injuries on toddlers, Congress would spring into action to address what can only be described as a public health crisis. We would enact comprehensive safety standards to stop the bloodshed. But when firearms are responsible for these horrific effects, inexplicably, we do nothing.

I urge my colleagues to recognize this crisis and to act to protect our children from gun violence. I urge my colleagues to take up and pass gun safety measures already pending in this Congress to keep firearms out of