

on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies set the cap on obligations from the Fund as high as possible. As States are forced to tighten their belts, victim services are being cut all over the country. Without Federal assistance from this trust fund, victims' compensation programs and victims' assistance programs and services would be unavailable to many.

I am also proud to be the lead sponsor of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, which is another important measure that strengthens crime victims' rights and improves crime victims' services. This bipartisan bill was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee in October 2013 and every Democratic Senator has cleared this bill for immediate passage by the Senate. This is a strong, comprehensive bill that has the support of many Senators, including Senators CORNYN and MCCONNELL. There is no reason that this important bill should not be passed as soon as possible.

This legislation reauthorizes the original Justice for All Act of 2004. The programs created by the Justice for All Act have had an enormous impact, and it is crucial that we reauthorize them. This legislation strengthens key rights for crime victims, reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, includes provisions to improve the quality of indigent defense, and increases access to post-conviction DNA testing to protect the innocent. It strengthens the rights guaranteed to crime victims in the criminal justice process and ensures that basic services, like the rapid testing of rape kits, help victims receive the justice, safety and closure they deserve. This legislation also increases authorized funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program. This vital program assists forensic laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting those who commit those crimes so that victims have peace of mind knowing that justice will be served. I urge my fellow senators to support the passage of this vital legislation.

I was also extremely proud when the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 was signed into law last year by President Obama. This is legislation, which I introduced with Senator CRAPO, reauthorized the critical Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA. When we enacted VAWA 20 years ago, it sent a powerful message that we will not tolerate crimes against women, and the law forever altered the way our Nation combats domestic and sexual violence. Just as it did nearly 20 years ago, this reauthorization offers support to the victims of these terrible crimes and helps them find safety and rebuild their lives. It was crafted with a great deal of input from victims and the tireless professionals who work to support them every day, and I am grateful for their support and assistance.

The VAWA reauthorization takes responsible and moderate steps, in this case to protect immigrant and Native women, and ensuring services to all victims, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This legislation also includes new protections to prevent stalking and campus assault. It is particularly fitting to talk about this in April, which is also Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I am glad that the Senate was able to quickly move on this bipartisan bill and ensure it was passed in a timely manner. The reauthorization of VAWA was approved by the Senate by an overwhelming vote of 78–22. This is an issue that has and should continue to transcend partisanship, and we did just that last year when an overwhelming majority of the Senate voted in favor of VAWA. I hope we can continue to work together to support women's and victims' rights in the future.

This includes supporting the Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act, another bipartisan bill that I introduced in March. This legislation represents a comprehensive and commonsense approach toward guaranteeing the effectiveness and scientific integrity of forensic evidence used in criminal cases. It is critical that Americans have faith in their criminal justice system, and this legislation aims to achieve that by promoting national accreditation and certification standards and stronger oversight for forensic labs and practitioners. The Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act ensures that reform efforts will be guided by experts and practitioners with both criminal justice expertise and scientific independence, and it establishes consistent standards in the forensic science disciplines. I am glad to be working with Senator CORNYN on this important effort.

I have always supported and will continue to support victims' rights. As we recognize the horrific losses victims of crimes have endured, it is important that we work towards lessening the effects of these tragedies and help victims can recover and rebuild. I look forward to working with my fellow Senators on both sides of the aisle to ensure that crime victims are never forgotten, and that they have our strong and enduring support.

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD CODY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last month, I spoke on the Senate floor about a friend from my hometown of Montpelier, VT, GEN Richard Cody. General Cody left Montpelier—one of our Nation's smallest State capital—to serve his country, beginning as a student at West Point. He had an outstanding military career serving all over the world and culminating with his service as Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

General Cody recently returned to Vermont, where he was honored by his

alma mater, Montpelier High School. Prior to the testimonial dinner saluting him, General Cody went back to the high school, where he inspired students with his patriotism and commitment to making a positive difference in the world. In fact, his student audience was so inspired with this tremendous leader that he received a standing ovation at the end of his remarks.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article by Amy Nixon published in the April 5, 2014, edition of the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus in honor of General Cody's return to Vermont.

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

[From the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus, Apr. 5, 2014]

#### GENERAL WELCOMED BACK TO CAPITAL (By Amy Nixon)

MONTPELIER.—Gen. Richard Cody, a retired four-star general who came up through the ranks at Montpelier High School, returned to his alma mater Friday afternoon to share with students, staff and faculty his story, as well as inspiration for how the coming generation of young Americans can serve their nation as leaders, whether or not they choose to wear a uniform.

Cody is a graduate of the Class of 1968, and the message board in front of the high school was changed to welcome him back for the day's events. After high school he went on to West Point and ascended through the ranks to become a four-star general and the 31st vice chief of staff of the Army. He retired in 2008, and serves today as the chairman of the board for "Homes for our Troops," a national nonprofit organization which builds handicapped-accessible homes for disabled veterans and their families.

Cody served in the Army for 36 years, and was one of fewer than 40 four star generals in all of the armed forces combined at the time of his retirement.

His visit was sponsored by the Montpelier High School Boosters, who are also hosting a dinner tonight in Cody's honor at the Capitol Plaza Hotel as part of their Celebration of Excellence program. A short film presented to Cody at his retirement, about eight minutes in length, was shown, with photos of him as a young boy growing up here to his high school sports accomplishments in newspaper headlines of the day, his high school photo, shots of him during his career in the Army and during his time at West Point, at his wedding, with his children, and with the troops with whom and for whom he served for nearly four decades—including several returning soldiers whose bodies had been tangled by war, and were in military hospitals with the General visiting their bedsides.

Cody was known as the "G.I.'s General," and at one time former President George H.W. Bush introduced Cody, quipping, "Take a good look at him. I'm glad he's on my side!"

The film ended with Cody stating, "You can't ever leave the Army, you just take the uniform off."

After the film, Cody shared stories of what it was like to be the second in command of the U.S. Army, with more than 1.1 million American men and women in active duty, the reserves and National Guard being his responsibility.

"It's great to be back at Montpelier High School with the Solons," he said, offering a walk-back through his life before and after the Army by way of providing some life lessons to the hundreds of young people sitting before him in the same seats he once sat in.

"I think back on all the things I learned in the schools here," began Cody, saying as he came of age and entered West Point, the United States was in troubled times, with riots playing out in Detroit and elsewhere and an unpopular war in Vietnam being waged. He said he enrolled at West Point with a desire to learn to fly helicopters, thinking he'd be back home in Montpelier in five or six years working at his family's car dealership washing cars and changing oil. Instead, he rose through the ranks and ended up in the halls of the Pentagon.

"I had no idea that I would spend four decades in uniform and travel all over this world," he told students, coming down off the stage with a microphone in hand to answer questions after he spoke for some time.

Cody credited his upbringing and family, and his teachers and coaches here with helping him to succeed, saying many of the people who supported him through the years in the city's schools "saw potential in me," and encouraged him, as he encouraged the students before him in the assembly to "choose the harder right over the easier wrong." He told the group that really everything they need to know in life they learned as little kids, from saying please and thank you to not cutting line, to holding hands with a friend going out to recess, to sharing toys, and cleaning up your toys when you're done. He urged the high schoolers to be kinder to one another, to support one another, to honor and respect the people in their company now—and always.

"My hope is you will reach the highest potential you have, no matter what it is," said Cody. "Do what's right when everybody else wants you to do something different," he urged. He told the students to "seek the whole truth versus the half truth" in life.

Having traveled the world, including war zones in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, Cody said "People want what you have," from clean water to plentiful food, sewers that work, books, schooling—including for females—and peace and safety. "This is a great country. We need to make it better."

"What type of American citizen do you want to be?" Cody asked. He urged them to be the type that "goes into this world to make a difference." He told them to be the people who can look themselves in the mirror "and say, I 'did good.'"

Sherly Copans, 18, a junior, asked the general about the lessons he learned, and he responded, "As a leader, you have to believe every day that everyone in your unit will do well. Everybody has great potential. . . . It's your job to help them reach that potential." He also said he learned to not play favorites, "because that really erodes team work."

"Respect for each other," was another critical component, he said.

Students asked him about the Middle East, about the recent shooting at Fort Hood by a military man, and conflicts around the world.

Of Afghanistan, he said, "It's not any better today than it was on 9/11, and I could make the case it's worse." Some of the hopes to really change conflicts in other parts of the world are so deep culturally they are things that will take a century to try to change, but the U.S. over and over works to reduce violence, to "stop things from boiling over," he said.

A major problem worldwide, he said, is the lack of job opportunity for young people, leading to unrest and recruitment by terrorists.

Samantha Flanagan, 15, a freshman, asked Cody about the recent shooting at Fort Hood, where Cody was twice stationed. That shooting left four dead, including the shooter, all members of the military.

Cody said the man was likely suffering from post traumatic stress, saying, "When

you mix guns and you have medical issues and mental health issues, it's tragic. We need to figure out why can't we get medical and mental help they need to them faster?"

In closing, Cody told students, "You don't have to join the military to serve this country. You can serve this country in many ways, but if you go into the military, you'll grow faster."

"Treat each other well, take care of each other," he said, thanking those in the auditorium as they rose to their feet, applauding their hometown hero.

As the event closed, it was announced that Cody is donating a new custom-made, illuminated scoring table to his alma mater.

After the auditorium event, Cody was given a tour of the high school, and there was a reception for him in the library. Later Friday afternoon, Cody was celebrated during a meet and greet at VFW Post 792, an event sponsored by the Montpelier High School Boosters and the American Legion Post 3.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### LOSS OF THE USS "THRESHER"

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, 51 years ago the USS *Thresher*, a nuclear-powered attack submarine built and maintained at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, left safe harbor on what was to be her final voyage. She was manned by a crew of 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians. Just 1 day later, on the morning of April 10, 1963, the USS *Thresher* was declared lost with all hands, the largest loss of life in a submarine accident to-date.

I rise today to commemorate the loss of the *Thresher* and her crew, but also to highlight an important legacy that was borne of this tragedy. In the aftermath of the *Thresher* sinking, the United States Navy redoubled its submarine safety certification efforts, resulting in the establishment of the Submarine Safety and Quality Assurance Program, known as SUBSAFE. Today, SUBSAFE is regarded as one of the most comprehensive military safety programs in the world and safeguards the vessels that carry our U.S. Navy personnel to the far depths of the oceans in defense of our freedom. In the time since the SUBSAFE program was implemented, no SUBSAFE certified submarine has been lost at sea.

The legacy of the *Thresher* and ensuing efforts to improve submarine safety is a testament to the devotion of all submariners past and present and to the commitment of those who support them from land. In order to preserve this example of duty for future generations, I have joined with members of the New Hampshire and Maine Congressional delegations, both past and present, to support the authorization of a memorial to the USS *Thresher* on the grounds of the Arlington National Cemetery. A memorial consistent with the Cemetery's vision of serving as "A national shrine—A living history of freedom—Where dignity and honor rest in solemn repose" is a fitting tribute to those lives lost.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me today in remembering

the USS *Thresher*. As we remember with profound sorrow the loss of her gallant crew, we must also recall the countless lives that have been saved as a result of this sad event. •

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 96. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation: Mr. DENT of Pennsylvania.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 743(b)(3) of Public Law 113-76, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Commission on Hunger: Mr. Jeremy Everett of Waco, Texas, Dr. Susan Finn of Columbus, Ohio, and Mr. Robert Doar of Brooklyn, New York.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following concurrent resolution was discharged from the Committee on the Budget pursuant to section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 96. Concurrent resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar: