

with Sierra Nevada, Ken oversaw the relocation and new construction of the center, the third time he had done so with a center. The new center, with Ken at its head, has greatly enhanced the living and learning environment for thousands of students over the years.

During his unprecedented 36-year tenure as a center director, the Job Corps centers Ken has run have been honored with numerous performance awards from the U.S. Department of Labor, not to mention Recognition of Performance and Community Value awards by the legislatures and Congressional delegations of California, Hawaii, and Nevada. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I commend Ken Dugan on a lifetime of public service, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

AROOSTOOK ASPIRATIONS INITIATIVE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to engage my fellow Senator from Maine in a colloquy regarding a new citizen-led education enterprise in our great State, the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative, AAI.

Aroostook County, where I was born and raised, is defined by an extraordinary work ethic and the enduring spirit of its people. It is Maine's northernmost and largest county, and its economy depends on an able and educated workforce. Too often, the goals of hard-working students in Aroostook County are impeded by the costs of higher education and the complexities of choosing a career. Thanks to the extraordinary commitment of Ray and Sandy Gauvin, those obstacles are being addressed in dramatic and dynamic ways.

Cognizant of the needs of students and indebted to a community that enabled their own success, the Gauvins have designed a multifaceted program aimed not only at educating but also empowering students in Aroostook County. Through AAI, they have established a scholarship fund, launched by their own generous donation, for high school students seeking postsecondary education. These scholarships target economically disadvantaged and first-generation college students throughout the county. AAI collaborates with the University of Maine at Presque Isle and at Fort Kent, the Northern Maine Community College, Husson University, area businesses and entrepreneurs to offer seminars to guide students throughout their postsecondary education. Students can also team up with Aroostook County employers through a cooperative internship program that gives them practical experience in careers they would like to pursue. These internships help lay the foundation for invaluable relationships with professional mentors.

I am extremely proud of the Gauvins, the business leaders with whom they have joined forces, and the accom-

plished students they have supported and will continue to assist through this wonderful program. I am confident that this initiative will enrich Aroostook County, its families, its future workforce, and its economy.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the comments of the senior Senator from Maine. I, too, am proud to commend the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative, AAI, and the Gauvin County Scholarship Fund for their efforts to increase educational and economic opportunity in Aroostook County. AAI's partnerships with all 16 of the county's high schools and all 4 of the county's institutions of higher education serve as a model of what forward-thinking private citizens, schools, colleges, universities, and businesses can accomplish when they set out to better their communities.

The initiative takes on the goal of increasing access to education for first-generation college students and those from lower income families, clearly critical in its own right as a matter of fairness and pairs it with measures designed to harness the benefits these students will bring to the local economy. Scholarship recipients are directed to local colleges and universities, allowing them to forge connections with local business leaders through AAI-coordinated internships. As a capstone, AAI matches scholarship recipients with mentors who help them craft business plans in their senior year of college, ensuring that each graduate has a roadmap as they enter the workforce. The first group of scholarship recipients will graduate in 2015, and I look forward to observing their accomplishments and the added energy they will bring to their communities.

None of this would be possible without the vision and generosity of Ray and Sandy Gauvin, along with that of the businesses, schools, colleges, and community organizations that have heeded their call in supporting AAI. The Gauvins' personal experience, as a first-generation college student and a career teacher, respectively, clearly inspired the effort they have spearheaded. As they noted in an interview with the Bangor Daily News, they believe "education is the great equalizer," and I could not agree more. I thank the Gauvins and the initiative's business and education partners for stepping up to support the county's next generation of leaders. I cannot wait to see, with their communities behind them, what these students will achieve.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, last week, Armenians and friends of Armenians around the world solemnly remembered the horrific dislocation and slaughter that began in 1915 and resulted in more than 1.5 million deaths and another half million Armenians driven from their ancient homeland.

The Armenian Genocide was carried out by the Ottoman Empire in its waning years amidst the chaos of World War I. For what was an undeniably gruesome period in human history, Theodore Roosevelt called the Armenian Genocide "the greatest crime of the war."

It is this terrible chapter, more than any other single event, that led to the Armenian diaspora, including in the United States and my home State of Rhode Island. For generations, the Armenian community has been a strong and hardworking part of our Rhode Island family, producing great leaders in both government and business. Whether at flag raising ceremonies, church festivals, the wonderful St. Vartanantz Annual Bazaar at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, or at commemorations of the Armenian Genocide at the monument in the North Burial Ground in Providence, Armenians are part of the fabric of Rhode Island.

Since achieving independence after the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenia has at last established a foothold for democracy in the Caucasus after centuries of outside domination and totalitarian rule. I have long supported foreign assistance to Armenia to help grow its economy and strengthen its Democratic institutions, and I will continue to do so.

But perhaps the most meaningful thing we can do for Armenia and for Armenians in Rhode Island is to help cast a light on that brutal genocide 99 years ago. To this day, too many people are unaware of this tragedy, due in part to the unwillingness of some to call it what it was. But make no mistake; the slaughter of innocent Armenians was genocide, plain and simple. Indeed, our modern term "genocide" was first coined to describe both the Jewish Holocaust and the plight of the Armenians under Ottoman persecution.

Along with my Rhode Island colleague Senator JACK REED, I have proudly cosponsored resolutions in the Senate condemning the genocide and calling on the President of the United States to ensure that U.S. foreign policy appropriately and without equivocation reflects the realities of the Armenian Genocide. This solemn recognition is important not only to so many Armenians in Rhode Island and throughout the world, but to our human obligation to the truth.

IMMIGRATION RULE CHANGE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, the Departments of Homeland Security and Commerce announced a proposed rule change that would extend employment authorizations to spouses of certain H-1B workers. The rule says that spouses who have already begun the process of seeking legal permanent resident status through employment, or those who have been granted an extension beyond their 6-year limit of stay in the country, are eligible for employment authorizations.

On a call with media today, Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Mayorkas said that the intent of this regulation is to make it more attractive for foreign workers to come to and stay in the United States. Under current law, Congress authorized 85,000 H-1B visas to be available each year for high-skilled workers. Yet, with this sweeping rule, more workers will be allowed to come, work, and compete with U.S. workers in high-skilled fields despite the well-documented fraud in the H-1B program. The Department believes that the rule change will allow more than 97,000 people to obtain employment authorization in the first year alone.

While we're all interested in attracting the best and the brightest foreign workers to the United States, the Obama administration clearly doesn't seem concerned with the millions of unemployed Americans, and those who have been forced out of their jobs because companies prefer to hire lower-paid workers from abroad.

In addition to their lack of compassion and understanding for American workers, it is disturbing that the administration is once again circumventing Congress and implementing their own rules. As with other unilateral actions this administration has taken, I question their legal authority to issue this rule.

In 2001, Congress explicitly laid out in statute that the Secretary could provide work authorizations to certain spouses of foreign workers. Congress said that work authorizations could be given to spouses of L1, intercompany transfers, and E, treaty traders/investors, visa holders. Congress did not, at that time, give spouses of H-1B visa holders the permission to work. It could have, but it did not.

The administration may claim that it has broad authority to issue work authorizations to anyone in the United States. If the executive branch has such broad authority, then why would Congress explicitly lay out the category of visa holders and foreign nationals who could work in the U.S.?

And, what will come next? Where will this administration stop? What other categories of individuals will be granted work authorizations? The rule allows spouses of "certain" H-1B visa holders to work. What about the others? Why didn't the administration do a more comprehensive rule for all H-1B spouses? Maybe the Department realized they were already pushing the envelope with its authority. Will the administration push back against advocates of other nonimmigrant categories, or refuse to expand the rule to all spouses of H-1B visa holders?

What is frustrating about this rule is that it flies in the face of the immigration bill that the Senate passed last summer. The bill, if passed, would allow spouses of H-1B holders to work. Section 4102 of S. 744 would give the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to issue work authorization

to those who are accompanying or following to join a principal H-1B worker. Inclusion of this provision signals that the Secretary does not currently have authority.

Originally, the bill written by the Gang of Eight, only gave that authority to the Secretary if the home country of the foreign national did the same for U.S. workers. The Gang of Eight's bill said, "The Secretary of Homeland Security shall authorize the alien spouse to engage in employment in the United States only if such spouse is a national of a foreign country that permits reciprocal employment."

The intent of the authors of the Senate bill was to ensure that American spouses were treated equally. The rule does not take this into consideration.

The Obama administration claims it wants immigration reform, but they can not wait for Congress. They act on their own. And, they do it to the detriment of American workers. We need to get immigration reform right, and doing ad-hoc rules that fly in the face of the statute are not helpful to the process. What is next? Will the President unilaterally legalize the undocumented population because he can not have his way with Congress? President Obama has to prove that he can be trusted. Otherwise, American workers and the American people will continue to lose out because of his policies.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID THIBODEAUX

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished coach and sports enthusiast, Mr. David "Big Daddy" Clyde Thibodeaux. Coach Thibodeaux is best known throughout his hometown of Acadiana as "Big Daddy" for his warm and fatherly spirit to his family and former players alike. Mr. Thibodeaux served with distinction as head coach of both the Stone Junkies Softball Team and AAU Team Louisiana. In 2005, Coach Thibodeaux was awarded for his remarkable coaching career when he was inducted into the AAU Louisiana Hall of Fame.

Coach Thibodeaux disseminated his sage knowledge of the game to more than just his players. Through his work as a sports announcer, Coach Thibodeaux also imparted his wisdom of basketball and football with sports fans from around the country. Over the course of his announcing career Coach Thibodeaux broadcast live on KPEL's ESPN 1420 Radio, Friday Night Football, Big Time Sports Show on Sundays, and Kevin Foote's Wednesday Football Show in the morning, as well as the online show of PrepBallers.net. His love of people and sports was evident to everyone who met Coach Thibodeaux, and his life embodied a career of service to others and God.

David Thibodeaux is survived by his wife, Rose A. Thibodeaux; his son Derrick and Niema LeBlanc Sr., of Petal, MS; his daughter, Adrienne and

Johnathan Goodie of Breaux Bridge; two step brothers, Raymond Green of New Iberia and Colby Green of Dallas, TX; his uncle, Yancy Thibodeaux of Reno, NV; his brother-in-law, Nolan Hamilton Sr. of New Iberia; his nephew and godchild, Nolan Hamilton Jr., of New Iberia; six grandchildren, Dayton LeBlanc, Braylen Goodie, Derrick LeBlanc Jr., Carmyn Goodie, Kennedy LeBlanc, and Jalen Goodie; two nieces, Patience Thibodeaux and Setonya Mouton; nephew, Gregory Martin Thibodeaux Jr.; great niece, Zaylen Mouton; great nephew, Zyren Lastrapes; and his aunt, Janzina Thibodeaux.

It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me, along with David "Big Daddy" Thibodeaux's family, in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this incredible coach, mentor, and friend, as well as his lasting impact throughout the State of Louisiana.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT BATON ROUGE CENTENNIAL

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Southern University located in Baton Rouge, LA, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. Southern University at Baton Rouge was established on March 9, 1914, when Southern University moved from New Orleans to Scott's Bluff, overlooking the Mississippi River in the northern section of Baton Rouge. The University opened its doors just outside of Baton Rouge with nine professors and just one central building to 47 students. The original building, now called the Archives and Information Center, housed the administration, all classrooms, and even served as an all-girls dorm. The original campus is now a part of the Louisiana African American Heritage Trail.

Southern University remains the only land-grant school in the State of Louisiana and now has more than 200 buildings worth more than \$200 million. This year's Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge, SUBR, Centennial Celebration will honor Southern's historical contributions as well as acknowledge exceptional alumni in a variety of fields, including its first president, Dr. Joseph Samuel Clark. The Jaguar Nation of Southern University is well-known for its role in the civil rights movement in the State of Louisiana and for its nationally recognized marching band nicknamed, "the Human Jukebox."

Undergirding all of the centennial events will be an ambitious fundraising effort that will solicit financial support from corporations, foundations, businesses, religious organizations, alumni, university retirees, former and current board members, former system presidents and chancellors, former student campus leaders and athletes, current faculty, staff and students, elected and appointed officials, community leaders, and the public in general. The