

so juvenile court judges don't receive the publicity some of their colleagues receive.

John Rogers loved juvenile court. He spent 21 years as a judge there and eventually became the supervising judge. To the often-complicated cases involving minors, Judge Rogers strove to bring wisdom, compassion, and justice.

Gwen Rogers has a stack of letters from men and women who appeared before Judge Rogers as youths and later wrote him letters thanking him for giving them a second chance. There was one letter in particular that he kept close and read several times. It was from a man who appeared before Judge Rogers on three different occasions. On his third court appearance, Judge Rogers said: "I could send you to juvenile detention and you would deserve it. But I still see a glimmer of hope in you, so I am sending you to Boystown." He made it clear to the young man that this was his last chance.

Years later that boy—now a grown man—wrote to him and said he finished at Boys Town, went on to graduate from college, became a minister, and founded a church in the Presiding Officer's home State of Indiana.

Judge Rogers was the sort of man who became a father to many young men who needed someone to look up to. The young man he really poured his hopes and dreams into was his own son John Rogers, Jr. When John Jr. was 12 years old, his parents invested in some stock for him. Every birthday and Christmas after that, instead of toys John Jr. received stock certificates. At the age of 16, he got his first summer job—that was a family rule. Judge Rogers saved every dime he could in order to send his son to the best school. Eventually John Rogers, Jr. graduated from Princeton University. He would go on to found Ariel Capital Management, now called Ariel Investments, the first African-American-owned asset management company in America.

In 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen were honored right here in the U.S. Capitol with a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor our Nation can bestow. The Tuskegee Airmen are the largest group ever to receive the medal. About 300 of the airmen crowded into the Capitol Rotunda on that cold March day to receive their medals. What an incredible sight. Many wore red jackets, a symbol of their Red-Tailed Angels reputation.

Afterwards, I was honored to host a reception in my Capitol office for the 11 Tuskegee Airmen from my home State of Illinois. One of them was John Rogers. Also joining us for that little reception was my colleague at the time, Senator Barack Obama. What a moment that was to see the arc of history and justice.

Five years later, President Barack Obama invited Judge Rogers and 14 other surviving Tuskegee Airmen to the White House for a screening of

"Red Tails," a George Lucas film about the historic flyers. Talk about the arc of history—the first African-American President inviting the first African-American aviators to the White House.

Judge Rogers, this man whose courage helped to break the color barrier in America's military, first knew Barack Obama as a promising young community organizer who was dating Michelle Robinson. The Rogers and Robinson families go back a long, long way. When John Rogers, Jr. was captain of Princeton's basketball team, he recruited Craig Robinson, Michelle's brother, to play for Princeton. Craig Robinson would later help persuade his younger sister to attend Princeton. There they were all those years later, Judge Rogers, President and Mrs. Obama, together in the White House watching a Hollywood film about the Tuskegee Airmen.

Judge Rogers' granddaughter Victoria said her grandfather actually watched the film three different times. Every time he moved his hands as though he were flying. She said, "He said he could remember the tension."

A while back Judge Rogers told a reporter: "I hope there are planes in heaven so I can fly, because you know how much I love to fly."

Well, Judge, I hope there are planes there too for your sake, and I hope you are sitting in first class or in the cockpit where you belong. You earned it.

In closing, Loretta and I and our family extend our sincere condolences again to Judge Rogers, his beloved wife Gwen, his son John, Jr., his granddaughter Victoria, to the rest of the Rogers family, to Judge Rogers' many friends, and all of those whose lives he touched and enriched.

That gathering in that Rockefeller Chapel was such an outstanding turnout of people in Chicago who wanted to pay tribute to the great man John Rogers, Sr. He will be dearly missed.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S.-CHINA SISTER CITY PROGRAM

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Sister City programs in Ohio. The Sister Cities International program was created by President Eisenhower in 1956 with the intent of fostering peace and prosperity through cultural exchanges that promote appreciation through mutual experience and understanding.

Through the years, relationships have been formed and strengthened through "citizen diplomacy" and person-to-person exchanges between U.S. and international cities. These educational, informational, and cultural

exchanges have not only created important diplomatic, economic and trade relationships, but they have also formed lasting personal bonds between individuals and cities.

The Sister City programs have positively impacted many cities throughout the United States, but today I would like to specifically recognize the 2014 U.S.-China Sister City Award recipients in my home State of Ohio. The State of Ohio was one of four recipients in the country for the Longest Relationship Award for its relationship that began in 1979 with the Hubei Province. Cincinnati was one of four programs in our Nation to be recognized as a Best Overall U.S.-China Sister City program in 2014. This strong relationship between Cincinnati and its Chinese Sister City Liuzhou in the Guangxi Province has existed since 1988. I was honored to be one of the original board members of this special Sister City relationship. In addition, the Columbus Sister City program was one of only three U.S.-China Sister City programs in the country to win a Sustainable Development Award. The relationship between Columbus and its Chinese Sister City, Hefei in the Anhui Province also began in 1988.

The U.S.-China Sister City programs in Ohio have been successful in forming relationships that mutually benefit the partnering communities by building global cooperation at the municipal level, promoting cultural understanding, and encouraging economic development. Some of the cultural exchanges made possible through these programs in Ohio include educational student and teacher exchanges, home stays, summer language camp exchanges, art exchanges, and science and medical exchanges.

The participants in these programs have demonstrated a commitment to enrich their communities culturally and economically, and I am inspired by the achievements that have been made in Ohio. I would like to congratulate the Ohio Sister City programs on being 2014 U.S.-China Sister City award recipients.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VERMONT ESSAY WINNERS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD winning essays written by Vermont High School students as part of the Fourth Annual State of the Union Essay contest conducted by my office.

The essays follow:

Alexina Federhen, Mount Anthony Union High School, Grade 11 (Winner)

A HOUSE DIVIDED

2013 was a difficult year for America. Nature brought death and disaster by fire, wind, and water; four prominent banks used unethical methods to deprive Americans of their homes; numerous individuals, businesses, and the city of Detroit hit financial rock bottom; and shootings in our schools

every other week killed 19 and wounded 24 students and staff. A spy revealed that our government is spying on our private conversations; universal healthcare became a universal headache when the application process required major surgery; and an exciting finish exploded into terror at the Boston Marathon. But Americans are resilient and resolute. Oklahoma is rebuilding and Detroit is reorganizing. Many Americans have healthcare for the first time and dozens of Boston's runners finished their race in the Shires of Vermont Marathon. Americans weathered the tragedies of 2013 with the same determination, innovation, and cooperation that has enabled us to overcome depressions, recessions, wars, and disasters in the past; we pull up our boot straps, plant our feet firmly in the direction of progress, and extend a helping hand to those in need.

Tragically, there was one disaster that the American people could not overcome in 2013—a Congress so dysfunctional that it could not even manage to operate the government for the entire year. And our expectations were not high to begin with. A Gallup poll conducted in January 2013 found that Americans rank Congress lower in popularity than root canals and cockroaches and rate Congressmen lower in ethics and honesty than used car salesmen. Instead of employing collaboration and compromise, our leaders indulged in backstabbing and finger pointing. Rather than seeking common ground to find solutions to the problems facing our country, our elected representatives nitpicked and cherry picked and attacked each other's intentions and integrity to boost their personal prospects for fundraising and reelection. The spectacle of Tea Party Republicans posturing for the press while the government crashed and burned lacked only a violin accompaniment to rival Nero's folly.

The 113th Congress was the least productive legislature in our history, passing only fifty-five bills into law. Public approval of Congress sank from a "high" of 18% on January 1, 2013 to a current low of 8%. In fact, "69% think no matter how bad things are, Congress can always find a way to make them worse." (Rasmussen Reports) We deserve better from our political leaders. We need Congressmen and Senators who will set aside personal gain and divisive ideology in order to build compromise and find consensus on the issues that challenge us: economic opportunity, income parity, gun control, immigration, stagnant academic achievement, climate change, and long-term deficit reduction.

Abraham Lincoln once observed that "a house divided cannot stand." Our House and Senate have splintered into partisan factions of squabbling inactivity. Americans will continue to soldier on, overcoming whatever obstacles impede our advancement. We can only hope that our Congressional leaders will acquire the maturity and wisdom to help rather than hinder our progress. But for now, we are a union without unity.

Katharine Mayo, Twinfield Union School, Grade 11 (Second Place)

In our changing world today we face many challenges, not just in our country and individual regions, but throughout the globe. One of the main problems that could alter our world forever is climate change. Throughout the past century we have spewed hundreds of thousands of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which top scientists now unanimously agree is warming our world and causing extreme weather to become frighteningly common. Our planet has warmed 1.4° in the past one hundred years, and is projected to keep warming if we do not act soon. This warming is causing chang-

ing weather patterns that are drastically affecting our world. Flooding, fires, and tornadoes throughout the country and storms such as Tropical Storm Irene right here in Vermont show how the effects of climate change are hurting people everywhere. Even the small changes in my home town in Vermont are starting to add up, we have less snow, more green Christmases, and extreme summer storms. Floods are also becoming increasingly common. However, neither Vermont nor America are the only places that are being heavily affected by climate change. It is a global problem, and we have to think globally and work together in order to mend what we have done to our planet. Our world is beautiful and fragile, and we must put our energy to solving the problem of climate change before it is too late.

America has always been known as a place where individuals are both innovative and creative in order to solve problems. I believe that we can each take steps as individuals and as a country to reduce the carbon we released into the atmosphere. These steps include driving less, and carpooling more, replacing light bulbs for more energy efficient ones, being more conscious of where our food comes from, and recycling and composting as much as possible. We have seen over the past one hundred years that each of us have the power with our small, everyday choices to destroy earth's environment and natural balance. I believe that if we have been able to do that, then we each have the power with our small, everyday choices to change the earth's environment for the better. We must all make small changes in order to live a more sustainable lifestyle and lead the world in the right direction by being a country with a minimal carbon footprint.

We cannot put this issue off any longer. Now is the time to act, now is the time to put our differences aside and work together in the government and around the world to change the world for the better and protect our world for future generations. We must not be selfish about this problem by brushing it under the rug because it is easier that way, or in order to maintain our way of life. We must act now to make changes in the way we live in order to preserve this beautiful world for our future children and for generations to come.

Robert "Will" Aldrich, Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School, Grade 9 (Third Place)

In the world there are many issues that we need to address. There is poverty and debt, the circling case in which innocent people can't feed themselves or their families because they can't afford to, which in turn causes famine. Another problem is pollution, which destroys our environment by making it dirty and useless for future generations. Another problem is communication, a thing that most countries do not know how to do. All of these problems, every single one, could be solved by promoting sustainable development. Promoting sustainable development will help to make great leaps forward in solving world issues.

One way that promoting sustainable development will help to solve world problems is that it will help developing countries. Aiding the developing countries will prove extremely useful later on when we need help. This will give us the image that we are helpful and are there when other countries need us. Although this will cost a lot of money, it will become a large help later on if and when we're in trouble. Promoting sustainable development in developing countries will also increase peace throughout the world. If all the countries are helping each other out, meaning that we are sharing our information and products, then there will be little to no

conflicts, and we can all be happy and get along. Not to mention that helping out other countries will heavily decrease poverty and famine, which will prevent the need for future U.S. aid and thus save us money, since that is what some people are more interested in. Clearly, promoting sustainable development will help to increase peace and equality and decrease poverty and famine.

Promoting sustainable development will definitely help to improve our image as a country. We will be looked at as a great role model and a powerful force with good intentions. The U.S. could be viewed as a gentle giant of sorts. This will improve our favor when it comes to disputes and it will also increase our ally count. Although that should not matter, we should be doing these things out of the goodness of our hearts, not expecting reward. We should not need to receive a reward for us to support the dying, the sick, and the poor. In conclusion, promoting sustainable development will improve our image so that we are looked at in a better light.

Promoting sustainable development will greatly reduce conflict over rare resources. One example of conflict over scarce resources is the U.S. and Iran over oil. Another is against the residents and loggers in South America over the Amazon Rainforest. This could all be avoided if we all shared our resources and promoted the use of sustainable development. Sustainable development would mean that we do not need to constantly deplete the Earth's resources. Sustainable development would mean that we come up with ways to fuel our economies with sources that will never run out! If the countries do work together to achieve that goal, then we will no longer have to fight over the sources that we need because we'll never run out of them.

Promoting sustainable development will help the world make great leaps forward in solving world issues. It will do this by helping developing countries develop in economically and environmentally sound ways, improving the image of the U.S., and reducing disputes and fighting over rare resources. The solving of these problems will help bring about an era of peace all over the world. Sustainable development will save Mother Earth from mutilation and destruction. The world will be a better place if everyone gets along and we all are working toward the same thing: the protection of our planet. Promoting sustainable development will make for a better world for all the generations to come.

Brian Townley, Woodstock Union High School, Grade 10 (Third Place)

Dear Senator Sanders, The American Economy is currently in recovery from the worst recession to hit this nation since the great depression. This recession has left the American economy in disarray, specifically the American middle class. Stuck on median wages, the American middle class has been hit the hardest by the collapse of the infrastructure of the American economy.

In order to repair this monumental failure of our nation to recognize the middle class as valuable, we must begin to support Main Street America; local businesses. As a nation we tend to ignore the services, and products of local businesses in favor of the cheaper alternatives offered by billion dollar conglomerates. If we, as a nation, can ever hope to change, we must be willing to sacrifice. This phenomenon is responsible for the gradual disappearance of Main Street America, and the lack of attention given to the American Middle Class.

With the ominous threats of climate change advancing, we are offered a second chance to strengthen the middle class. We

must create sustainable energy sources, to put an end to global warming. To build our industrial foundation upon a new type of energy will create a surplus of jobs. These jobs must offer respectable wages, health care benefits, and opportunities for growth. If this is done effectively, we may be able to get the American middle class back on track, and simultaneously end the impending threat of global warming.

In order to allow our economy to recover from the recession, we must recognize the youth of America as our future. In doing so, we must stress upon implementing a better educational system to better engage the students, create more affordable collegiate education for the middle class. The middle class faces many challenges, yet are a cornerstone of the American economy. However, when attempting to send their children to college, the middle class faces yet another challenge. The wealthy are able to pay the college tuition, and the poor are given generous financial aid grants. However, the middle class is expected to pay thirty to fifty thousand dollars a year to send their kids to college, money which they don't have. This is unacceptable, and takes away a great deal of incentive for these kids to even attend college. Those who do attend college leave with a degree, but are then faced with enormous amounts of student loans. Lastly, we must involve the youth in the workforce of America. Not only will this strengthen our workforce, but it will also provide the American youth with savings for college, and teach them the value of work.

As I previously stated, in order to change, we must be willing to sacrifice. We must be willing to sacrifice the allure of bargain brands to support a local brand. We must sacrifice our tendency towards gasoline to find more sustainable sources of energy. If we are truly willing to sacrifice, we will change.●

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Catholic schools across our Nation that provide our children with an outstanding education while preparing them to lead lives in the example of Jesus Christ. This year, we mark the 40th year of celebrating Catholic Schools Week, shedding light on the extraordinary contributions these schools and their students make to communities across the country.

This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service," provides a solid representation of the mission of these schools in educating the whole person and forming our children into responsible stewards ready to take on the challenges of the future. Today, more than 2 million children are educated in Catholic schools in the United States. Ninety-nine percent of them graduate from high school, and 85 percent pursue postsecondary education. Such a rate of success is a great testament to the quality of our Catholic schools and their educators.

As an alumnus of a Catholic school in New Orleans, I have firsthand experience of the benefits of receiving a Catholic education. These schools are devoted to nurturing the young minds that pass through their halls each year, instilling in them the values necessary to become active and caring members

of their communities, cities, and Nation.

In a recent statement, Bishop George Lucas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Education, stated:

Our schools have educated millions of young people over the years by providing them a superior academic background, always pointing the way to eternal life. The success of Catholic schools in handing on the faith, generation after generation, is a bright light in the history of the Church in the United States.

During the week of January 26 to February 1, let us recognize the steadfast commitment of the administrators, teachers, students, and families, who support Catholic schools across the United States, and appreciate their efforts to educate the youth of our Nation. In that respect, I am hopeful that the Senate will pass my bipartisan resolution celebrating Catholic Schools Week.●

NOTRE DAME SEMINARY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, since 1923, the Archdiocese of New Orleans has offered a deeper understanding of Catholic theology and discipleship through Notre Dame Seminary. In its 90 years, Notre Dame Seminary has prepared men for ministerial priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church, promoting a spirit of humility, service, and sacrifice. In addition, the seminary offers graduate theological education programs to deepen the faith of both religious and laity.

Leaving the seminary, these young men are prepared to become servant leaders in their parish communities around the world and to profess the life and good works of Christ in their daily lives. Blessed John Paul II said, "The formation of future priests . . . is considered by the Church one of the most demanding and important tasks for the future of evangelization of humanity."

These 90 years are a testament to Notre Dame Seminary's steadfast commitment to this demanding and important task. Their stewardship of God's grace has blessed our communities, protected the vulnerable, comforted the sick, and offered hope to the broken. Men who have graduated from Notre Dame Seminary have served our communities in over 20 dioceses throughout the United States.

I am grateful for Notre Dame Seminary's leadership in our community and throughout the United States and celebrate their 90 years of preparing servant leaders for our church.

PORTOPERA

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, I am delighted to congratulate PORTopera on its 20th anniversary season.

Since its opening performance of "Carmen" in the summer of 1995, PORTopera has been a pillar of Maine's artisan community and inspired countless young musicians and performing

artists to pursue their passion for the opera. Over the years it has brought some of the world's greatest stars and most highly acclaimed productions to Maine audiences and played an invaluable role in enriching our communities.

PORTopera's dedication to excellence has been recognized around the country earning praise in *Opera News* for its 2012 production of "Madama Butterfly" and the *Boston Globe* for "Le Nozze di Figaro" in 2001. Furthermore, PORTopera's educational outreach initiatives such as the young artists programs and the opera-in-school program with the University of Maine have provided future generations of singers a place to hone their skills and learn from some of opera's greatest figures.

As Maine's artistic community continues to grow, I am pleased to recognize PORTopera for its leadership and tremendous accomplishments. Congratulations and thank you.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 17, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appointed the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. MIKE ROGERS of Michigan.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3547. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bill was signed on January 17, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3362. An act to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require transparency in the operation of American Health Benefit Exchanges.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.