

Control and Prevention, could infect up to 20 others, including caregivers, friends and family. Samantha Power, the U.N. Ambassador, said to me earlier this week in a briefing she's trying to get other countries to view this with the same urgency that we do.

This is an instance, she said, when we should be running toward the burning flames with our fireproof suits on. Ebola is killing people in West Africa at alarming rates and picking up speed. It's hard to say exactly what the number of cases is. There is an official number, a little less than 5,000 of Ebola cases in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, but the worry is that one-half of those cases were reported in the last three weeks. You don't have to know very much about mathematics to know that if—whatever the number—if it doubles every three weeks that very soon we have an out-of-control epidemic. And we can see easily what would happen if a single infected traveler reaches another country and begins to infect others in that country.

I said earlier, and we'll learn more today, about what we know how to do. We'll hear from a doctor who has contracted Ebola and who has recovered from it and who is here to talk about it. It's not like the flu. It can only be spread by bodily fluids, often contracted by caring for someone who's sick or through burial practices.

But with global travel, we're only one airplane ride away from a person exposed to Ebola getting on a plane to the United States and then becoming sick once they arrive. And then the mathematics of that infection could begin to develop in this country.

There's human tragedy in Africa, but it affects the rest of the world and it affects the United States. Our state is known as the Volunteer State. And Dr. Brantly is an Ebola patient. He was working for Samaritan's Purse. He's not a Tennessean, but his parents are graduates of Lipscomb University, which is in Nashville. He, like many Americans, go on mission trips around the world to help people who need help.

I will support the administration's request for the \$30 million Senator HARKIN talked about, and the \$58 million for the biomedical advanced research and development. That's for vaccines and cures and treatments. That should pass this week.

There's a request to address \$500 million of reprogramming in the Defense Department. Some have asked, why should our military be involved? Because they have to be involved if we want to deal with the problem. There's no way for the doctors and the nurses and the health care workers to deal with it.

So I'm pleased that on both sides of the aisle, we have leaders who are beginning to recognize the severity of this epidemic. Dr. Frieden and U.N. Ambassador Power are taking the lead. We look forward to learning all we can about the severity of the epidemic and what we must do to control it.

But I'll end where I started. We must take the deadly, dangerous threat of the Ebola epidemic as seriously as we take ISIS.

#### RESIGNATION AS COMMISSIONER TO THE EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, effective immediately, I hereby resign my position as Commissioner to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DEAN STONE

- Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, next Tuesday, September 23, is an important day in my hometown of Maryville, TN. It is the 90th birthday of Dean Stone.

It would be hard to imagine Blount County without Dean Stone. For most of his 90 years, he has been our historian-in-chief, our storyteller-in-chief, and our editor-in-chief. His photographs of the Great Smoky Mountains and his eight books about our county's history line the libraries of most of Blount Countians. In fact, taken altogether they constitute a library of their own.

Dean is a longtime journalist and native of Maryville, TN, where he served as editor of the Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times and still serves as opinion editor today. In each Sunday's edition, he writes his "Bits of Stone" about the history and happenings around Blount County. Dean earned his degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1949 after serving in World War II, where he originated the idea of raising the American flag over Yugoslavia. After college, he decided to return to Maryville and began his career with the Maryville-Alcoa Daily Times as a Sunday editor.

Dean became managing editor of the newspaper—known now as the Daily Times—later that year and has been employed with the newspaper for the last 66 years. His journalistic skills and energy have helped to make the Daily Times one of the best smaller daily newspapers in our country. Under his direction, the Daily Times has received more than 30 first-place awards from Tennessee journalism associations. In 2013, Dean was inducted into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame.

Dean is known for his contributions to tourism in Maryville and Blount County, including founding the Times Townsend Traveler in the early 1950s, a tourism journal that was one of the first publications of its type in the Nation. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his service to tourism in the area, including recognition as the "one person in Blount County and Townsend who has contributed the most to tourism during the 20th century" at the Tennessee Governor's Conference on Tourism. He also served as president of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce, on numerous education and school boards, Leadership Blount, the Maryville-Alcoa Jaycees, the Alcoa Kiwanis, and the United Way of Blount County.

Dean is a longtime supporter of our national parks and for many years has served on and chaired the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Commission. He was instrumental in founding Beautiful Blount, which still seeks to preserve the beauty in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. He also started Stonecraft in 1954, a postcard company

he founded to share the beauty of the Smokies.

Gregg Jones, current president of Blount County Publishers, said:

For the past several decades it has been Dean Stone's joy to reveal in word and picture every dimension of his beloved Blount County. As he has done so over the years, it has become apparent that Dean, himself, is one of Blount County's greatest treasures. I am honored to claim Dean as my colleague and friend, and wish him the very best on this special day and every day to come.

Another colleague of Dean's, Carl Esposito, current publisher of the Daily Times, said, "Dean Stone is not only the elder statesman of the Daily Times, but a virtual repository of Blount County history and knowledge. It is a pleasure and privilege to work alongside him."

Many Blount Countians have their own stories about Dean's impact on their lives, and I have mine. Other than lawn mowing and paper routes, Dean gave me my first real job. When I was a student at Maryville High School during the 1950s, Dean began a feature in the Daily Times reporting the news in Blount County high schools. He named me the school page editor for Maryville High. As I remember, the pay was one penny for each inch of copy that I wrote. I remember turning in so many inches of copy that after the first edition, Dean limited the number of words each school editor could write.

Ever since, Dean Stone and his family have been close friends of the Alexander family. There is no one from whom I have learned more about my home county than Dean Stone.

So Dean, from one of your many students, admirers, former employees and fellow Blount Countians, Happy 90th Birthday, and thank you for all you have done to celebrate the beautiful place we call home.●

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES

- Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 40th anniversary of Swords to Plowshares, one of the preeminent organizations providing quality, compassionate care and services to veterans in the San Francisco Bay area.

In 1974, six veterans concerned about the challenges facing soldiers returning home from Vietnam established a program to help ease their transition to civilian life by providing education, job training, and employment assistance. Swords to Plowshares quickly earned a reputation as a trusted resource for veterans, and over the years it has grown to meet the needs of each new generation of veterans.

As veterans came home from Vietnam, Swords to Plowshares created extensive health, social services, legal services, and housing programs to support them. Following the gulf war, Swords began offering programs to address mental health and substance

abuse among veterans. As veterans returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, Swords worked with vets and their families to identify gaps in VA services and established the Institute for Veteran Policy to make recommendations to the military and VA to better address the needs of our newest veterans.

Today, with the help of more than 100 dedicated staff, Swords provides employment and job training, legal services, and housing assistance to more than 2,000 veterans in the San Francisco Bay area each year.

I want to extend my special thanks to Michael Blecker, a U.S. Army veteran who joined Swords in 1976 and has served as its executive director since 1980. I am lucky to have known Michael for more than two decades, and there is no one who has been more dedicated to ensuring that veterans are treated with the dignity they deserve.

Our service men and women and their families who have made tremendous sacrifices in service to America deserve not only our deepest gratitude but also our commitment to help them lead healthy and productive lives. As Swords to Plowshares celebrates its 40th anniversary, I offer my profound thanks for all it does to fulfill our sacred obligation to our Nation's veterans.●

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CECIL WILLIAMS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 85th birthday and extraordinary contributions of my dear friend, the Reverend Cecil Williams.

For more than half a century, Reverend Williams has served as the founder and minister of Liberation at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, CA. As a minister, community leader, author, lecturer, and champion of the poor and marginalized, Reverend Williams is widely recognized and revered as a national leader in the struggle for civil rights, human rights, and social change.

Cecil Williams was born in San Angelo, TX, and from a very young age, this caring and sensitive boy was fondly known as "the Rev" by his close-knit family. Cecil grew up in the segregated South, but his strong, loving mother always told her son, "You are going to be somebody."

After graduating from Huston-Tillotson University and the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Cecil Williams became the pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church at a time when its congregation was dwindling. Reverend Williams embarked on his life's work: to make this church the center of a vibrant community that would reach out to all, particularly the poor, oppressed, and marginalized.

Reverend Williams welcomed worshippers of all backgrounds, races, and sexual orientations. In 1964, he helped establish the Council on Religion and

Homosexuality an organization dedicated to educating religious communities about gay and lesbian issues and stood up to police who attempted to shut down a dance benefit to raise funds for the new organization. Reverend Williams was also one of the first clergymen to take a stand for same-sex couples by presiding over their weddings four decades before today's struggle to legalize gay marriage.

Under his leadership, Glide Memorial thrived and became a cornerstone of the community. He hosted poets, jazz musicians, and political activists at the church and launched a free meals program that serves 750,000 meals a year, feeding more than 3,500 hungry people daily. Today more than 17,000 people participate in Glide programs, volunteering in its community clinic, childcare, and afterschool programs, housing services, and Daily Free Meals program.

Reverend Williams is married to Janice Mirikitani, Founding President of the Glide Foundation, and together they direct Glide's many innovative social and cultural programs.

In his life and work, Rev. Cecil Williams has embodied Glide Memorial's revolutionary mission: "to create a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization."

I am proud to join his family, friends, and many admirers in celebrating the 85th birthday and extraordinary contributions of Rev. Cecil Williams.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN HOGANSON

• Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I wish to honor John Hoganson who retired at the end of July after 33 years of dedicated service to the State of North Dakota with the North Dakota Geologic Survey.

John traces his love for discovery and earth science back to his childhood in eastern North Dakota. As a child, John could be found with his father's claw hammer breaking open rocks in an attempt to discover the mysteries that lay inside. As a young adult, his passion and curiosity helped him graduate from North Dakota State University and eventually to earn a doctorate in geology with an emphasis in paleontology from the University of North Dakota.

He began his career in public service as a geologist with the Geologic Survey. The position later transitioned when he was tasked with formulating a fossil resource management plan for the State. John would later go on to serve as our State's first paleontologist, a position he held for 25 years.

John was instrumental in securing passage of two landmark pieces of legislation in the North Dakota State legislature that helped to protect our State's fossil resources and created a state fossil collection. Under John's leadership, North Dakota's fossil collection has grown from a small collec-

tion of bones to one that now numbers in the hundreds of thousands. One of the top finds includes a 67-million-year-old *Edmontosaurus*, a duck-billed dinosaur, with intact fossilized skin, who has been affectionately named Dakota. Dakota is one of only a handful of dinosaurs in existence to have preserved skin. Dakota has been regarded by experts as one of the more important discoveries in recent times because he may be the best-preserved *Edmontosaurus* found to date. He also created a public dig program which has brought in volunteers from across the country and around the world to assist with digs.

In addition to his work for the State, John has also been a valuable teacher and mentor, spending countless hours engaging students of all ages and the general public around the State in hands-on educational experiences. Without John's passion and commitment, many North Dakotans would have never been aware of our State's rich paleontological history. He has been pivotal in the creation of curriculum for the North Dakota Studies project, and the 24 fossil exhibits in museums and visitors centers across the State.

In evidence to his lifelong commitment to discovery, John will be continuing his work with fossils by completing some research projects and writing papers for scientific journals. I want to thank John for his years of dedication and service as an advocate for paleontology and as a teacher to the people of North Dakota. I wish him the best in his new endeavors and a happy and full retirement.●

#### CONGRATULATING DAVID SOUSA

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate David Sousa on his being elected the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, Nevada Department Commander for 2015. I am proud to honor a Nevadan who has dedicated his life to serving our country and is committed to ensuring that our Nation's heroes receive the care that they deserve.

Commander Sousa has had a long and decorated military career in the United States Army for over 25 years. During his service, he has served missions in Kenya and Somalia and went on to serve in "Operation Iraqi Freedom" in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, as a member of the 72nd Military Police Company. He also went on to serve in "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Kandahar, Afghanistan, as a member of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Commander Sousa for his courageous contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I recognize