

the Agreement reached by the Government and the Communities, I want to take the first step and publicly apologize as President of the Republic, as representative of the unity of our citizens, for the abuse and human rights violations that each one of the communities suffered”.

He continued to say: “On behalf of the State of Guatemala I ask you to accept these apologies so that we can heal the wounds in our hearts without forgetting the injustices and human rights violations that occurred”.

President Perez Molina also said that he felt honored that his administration managed to reach an historic agreement that will contribute to overcome the drama that the Communities suffered for more than three decades. He continued to say that with the public event to recognize and repair the affected populations, one of his main objectives when taking office in January of 2012 was fulfilled. He went back and quoted his inauguration speech: “I ask God to grant us the wisdom to actively promote true reconciliation. A reconciliation that gives us the strength to work on our pending issues, on unattended injustices, on reconstructing our social fabric and to keep investing on the most valuable thing our Guatemala has, its citizens.”

PUBLIC POLICY FOR REPARATION OF DAMAGES

Several Government officials attended the public event, which had Vice President Roxana Baldetti as honor witness. Present also were representatives of the communities, local authorities and representatives of international organizations.

President Perez Molina highlighted that the agreement required a public policy for reparations and a structured plan to combat poverty, social injustice, inequality and the abandonment that these communities have suffered.

The Government Decree that gives life to this agreement was published on Friday in the Official Gazette and establishes the Public Policy for the Reparation of the Communities Affected by the Construction of the Chixoy Hydroelectric Dam.

The Policy will be applied to benefit 11,383 families and will offer basic infrastructure for 33 communities in Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz and Quiché, where the affected populations lived when the violations occurred.

President Perez Molina highlighted that the implementation during 2015 and 2016 has a budget of 200 million dollars for individual reparations. Besides individual pay, the Government will direct 1 billion quetzals in the next 15 years to build basic infrastructure in the 33 affected communities.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY E. FORCHT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the leading businessmen and entrepreneurs from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Terry E. Forcht is the founder, chairman, and CEO of the Forcht Group of Kentucky and was honored to be named the “Knox County Chamber 2014 Man of the Year” in recognition of his success in business and his contributions to the community.

Terry was born and bred in my hometown of Louisville, KY. Like me, Terry attended the University of Louisville for his undergraduate studies. He also obtained his law degree from the UofL Brandeis School of Law and subsequently left the Commonwealth to obtain his MBA from the University of Miami in Florida.

Terry would not leave Kentucky for long, however. He returned in 1964 to serve as a chairman of the Commerce Department at Cumberland College—now the University of the Cumberland—and 3 years later he started his own law practice in Corbin, KY.

In 1972, Terry bought the Hillcrest Nursing Home in Corbin—an acquisition that is widely considered to be the first piece of what would eventually become the Forcht Group of Kentucky. This initial purchase has grown into what is now called First Corbin Long Term Care and consists of nine health and rehabilitation centers in the region.

In 1972, Terry also became heavily involved in community banking. He was appointed to the board of directors of Corbin Deposit Bank and Trust Company, and as his interest and expertise in the industry grew, he founded Tri-County National Bank with a group of investors in 1985. As with his nursing home acquisition, this community bank quickly prospered and grew. Today there are 30 Forcht Bank locations in Kentucky with total assets of over \$1 billion.

Mr. Forcht has grown his company over the years into a sprawling enterprise that employs over 2,100 people. The Forcht Group currently consists of 22 radio stations, 19 finance company offices, 2 insurance companies, 2 newspapers, a pharmacy and diagnostic lab, a retail furniture and gift store, a construction company, real estate, and several other small businesses.

Outside of his business, Terry still manages to find time to stay involved in his community. Although he is no longer a practicing lawyer, he is still a member of the Whitley County and Kentucky Bar Associations. In the past he has been president of the Whitley County Republican Party and has run for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also currently serves on the board of directors of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Kentucky Economic Development Board.

Terry's success in business has also allowed him and his wife Marion to pursue their passion for philanthropy. They are both active members of Grace on the Hill Methodist Church and have generously donated large sums of their hard-earned money to the University of Louisville, the University of the Cumberland, and to the University of Kentucky. Many generations of Kentuckians will undoubtedly find new opportunities open to them because of Terry and Marion's contributions to education in the State.

The Knox County Chamber 2014 Man of the Year Award is a fitting tribute to a man who has contributed so much to his community. Terry's entrepreneurial zeal and commitment to furnishing quality higher education in his State set a glowing example for us all. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this exemplary citizen.

PORTRAIT UNVEILING OF JUDGE JOHN HEYBURN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on October 3 of this year, I had the honor of speaking at the portrait unveiling of U.S. District Court Judge John G. Heyburn. I ask unanimous consent that my comments at that ceremony be printed in the RECORD.

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

I first met John Heyburn in 1971. Somehow, we had both found ourselves here in Louisville working for a fledgling gubernatorial candidate named Tom Emberton. It was the first of many attempts by John to derail what was otherwise destined to be a dazzling legal and judicial career with a foray into politics. And I like to think the increasingly frequent television ads many of you have seen for a certain U.S. Senate race have finally confirmed him in the view that between the two of us, he chose the nobler path.

So you're very welcome for that, John. I assure you, it's been an expensive lesson in career advice.

Now, I don't remember a whole lot about that governor's race, but I do remember what I was thinking when John and I met—that we were cut from different cloth. He came from a very prominent family here in Louisville. His dad had run for Congress back when I was in college, which I remembered. He attended boarding school up in New England . . . he went to Harvard . . . he golfed. You get the drift . . .

So what happened next was unexpected, but in retrospect entirely predictable: I liked him. I liked him a lot. And the accuracy of that first impression has been validated again and again in the decades since.

John Heyburn is just impossible not to like.

That's the first thing to say about the man we've come here to honor. And I think it needs to be said, because it's certainly not the main reason so many of us made sure to be here today. But it's a big reason so many of us really wanted to be here, and why this is such a happy occasion. John doesn't just inspire confidence and respect. He doesn't just impress with his intellect and erudition. He makes you feel lucky to know him.

And I think I got a good sense for why that is on that first campaign for Tom Emberton. I mean, here was a brilliant young guy from a distinguished family, fresh out of Harvard, about a head taller than everybody else. The rest of us on the campaign were all basically operating without a license. And yet he just loved it. He brought the same enthusiasm to that race that he brings to everything else, the sense that whatever it is you're doing, he's interested. And as long as you put your whole self into it, it's worth it.

John's basic approach to life had already been set all those years ago, and I can't think of a better way to describe it than to borrow a phrase from Oliver Wendell Holmes, who once gave the following piece of advice to a group of Boston lawyers: “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”

The language may be a little antiquated, but I think the sentiment captures John perfectly. Because whether it's running a marathon in college, keeping time at one of Will's swim meets, tracking Jack's free-throw percentages in high school, drafting a judicial decision, resolving a dispute among lawyers . . . or facing up to the physical adversities of recent years, John has done it “with all his might”.

And that's the second thing to say about John Heyburn.

Now, for those of you who may be wondering, Tom Emberton ended up losing his race for governor. But as I indicated, one losing campaign wasn't quite enough to drive John out of politics. A few years later, he helped me win my own first political campaign, as County Judge Executive here in Jefferson County. And once elected, he gave me some very good counsel as a lawyer on my staff.

In repayment for his services I invited John to join my ticket for a run of his own . . . and then proceeded to run what was hands-down the worst campaign of my life. The defining artifact of the race was a billboard we put up along I-65. It was basically just three disembodied heads on a big neon board. I looked like Howdy Doody. John looked like Hitler. We took it down after a day and a half. And John's hopes for a career in politics were dashed once again . . .

It would take one more run for a political office to extinguish John's political ambitions, and to show him where his greatest talents lay. One of his recent judicial decisions led him to make an unexpected cameo in this year's Senate primary. But aside from that, he's been pretty quiet. For the past 22 years, John Heyburn has put all his might into this courtroom. And his impact has been enormous.

The truth is, John's such a friendly presence, it's easy to forget what a penetrating intellect he has or what an influential jurist he's been. But his skills and his focus as a judge are by now legendary.

As Chair of the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation, he's interacted with some of the best lawyers in the country. It's one of the main reasons he enjoys the job. It's a welcome duty for him, yes, and a testament to his very laudable commitment to public service. But mostly, I think, it's just a great opportunity for John to put his mind to work and to engage other legal minds on a very high level.

In more than two decades as a judge for the Western District, John has also untangled countless legal knots and delivered far-reaching opinions on some mind-numbingly complex and important cases. And that's to say nothing of the countless settlement conferences, which require a subtle genius of their own.

Others can speak more intelligently about the ins and outs of specific cases and the day-to-day demands of a judge. John has clearly excelled at both. But I think one of the far less-appreciated contributions he's made in his many years here has been his strong, positive influence on the culture of the place.

So let me just say that as someone who's played an active role in nominations to the court over the years, it's very gratifying to hear about the deep camaraderie and mutual respect that the district court judges in the commonwealth, and particularly in this district, enjoy. And of their reputation for excellence.

I think there's no question that no one is more responsible for that than John. And I'm grateful.

One veteran of the Kentucky bar summed it up like this: "It is a privilege," he said, "to practice law in Kentucky federal courts. The judges are fair, they're even-handed. They follow the statutes . . . they follow precedent . . . but they're [also] independent and they're really fine human beings."

I've heard of young lawyers dreading their first day in court but leaving here encouraged and energized not just because they made it through, but because Judge Heyburn was so kind and generous to them.

Experienced court-watchers say he's tougher on the lawyers he knows than on the ones he doesn't. And as for John's clerks,

well, some speak of their time here as nothing short of a revelation. It's the dignified but humane way he conducts his chambers. It's the methodical way he decides a case. But it's also just the sheer joy he brings to his work on the bench, or to talking politics over a sandwich at the City Cafe, or even to teaching a high school civics class with his clerks.

I'm told that on some of these field trips, by the way, John actually has his clerks act out the characters in famous court cases. It's not exactly something law school prepares you for. But they seem to enjoy it. At least they pretend to.

The larger point is this: in a field that isn't exactly known for excitement, John has always found a way to make the law interesting. His enthusiasm is contagious. And that's been one of his great gifts to the profession, and to everyone whose lives intersect with the work of this court.

One of John's former clerks put it like this. He said that after law school he was totally burned out, and not really looking forward to the career ahead of him. Then he met Judge Heyburn.

"Judge Heyburn," he said, "he just made me fall in love with the law."

That's why John attracts some of the best and the brightest. It's why his clerks love him.

He brings the law to life. He looks beyond the facts at hand and forces his clerks to ask "Why." He takes an interest in their lives long after they leave here. And he also gives them something else. He gives them a model for how to do their jobs well without forgetting that their first and most important job is at home.

And that's the third thing I would like to say about John Heyburn. He's a scholar. He's a giant on the bench. He's a good friend to his friends. He's a lot of fun. But he is a husband and a father first.

Ask his clerks what they remember about his chambers and they're just as likely to remember all the photos of Martha and Will and Jack as the wood paneling. Ask Martha about their marriage and she'll tell you they have as much fun together today as they did the day they met. Ask the boys what they remember, and they'll tell you something about their dad that a lot of other kids wish they could.

They'll say: "My dad was never MIA."

Now, for the past year or so, young Jack has had the great misfortune of being one of the very first people that I see in the morning when I'm up in Washington. I'm sure he doesn't look forward to that. But to me it's a great comfort. Not just because I like him too, but because whenever I see Jack I see Martha and John.

It reminds me of home. It reminds me of good times past. And it makes me hopeful about the future. Because these are really good people. They're both impressive in their own right.

And they really care about others.

So I'm delighted to be here to honor the judge on this happy occasion.

John Heyburn finally found his calling. And to the surprise of absolutely no one, he has lived it out with all his might. He has earned the respect of his peers and the gratitude of many clerks. He is greatly admired. And as the impressive crowd that's gathered here attests, he is very deeply loved.

Congratulations, old friend.

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to consideration of the nomination of Lourdes Castro Ramirez to be the Assistant Secretary of the

Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, for the Office of Public and Indian Housing.

Over the last 4 years, I have been raising concerns about serious problems at public housing authorities and HUD's failure to address them. The Office of Public and Indian Housing is responsible for overseeing the public housing authority program.

I recently learned that HUD is negotiating new, 10-year contracts with the 39 housing authorities participating in the Moving to Work, MTW, demonstration program. The Office of Public and Indian Housing is also responsible for administering this program but has failed to conduct proper oversight for years.

The current contracts don't expire until 2018 so there is no need to rush into signing new contracts. Instead, I recommend HUD takes serious steps to address the program deficiencies and determine if this demonstration should continue.

A group of housing advocacy organizations sent a letter to HUD on November 7, 2014, raising concerns about the lack of transparency in the MTW contract negotiations. I am requesting that a copy of this letter be included with my statement in the RECORD. These organizations represent the people directly impacted by HUD decisions. They are asking questions that would strengthen the program and protect funding from abuse. But HUD is blocking them from participating in the process. Only the MTW agencies are allowed to review the contracts and comment on the proposed changes.

According to HUD briefing materials, the MTW housing authorities operate about 14 percent of the Nation's housing stock and receive over \$3 billion in funding per year, equal to about 20 percent of total program funding. Yet HUD has failed to require any meaningful accountability or transparency.

This has led to financial abuses at the Chicago Housing Authority and other MTW housing authorities. On October 23, I sent a letter to HUD about the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), a Moving to Work participant. CHA has diverted approximately \$432 million in Federal funding into a reserve fund instead of issuing over 13,500 vouchers to Chicago families who need affordable housing assistance.

For example, the Atlanta Housing Authority has at least 20 employees receiving annual compensation ranging between \$150,000 and \$300,000 per year. The executive director explained that these high salaries are necessary "to both 'attract and retain' competent staff."

The executive director of the Philadelphia Housing Authority also received a high salary over \$300,000 per year. He also threw lavish parties, provided patronage to friends and supporters, and secretly paid sexual harassment claims.

Instead of providing safe, affordable housing for those in need, housing authority officials are using Federal