

nights can be deadly. Unfortunately, for homeless teens, winter can also mean even greater vulnerability to being victimized by human traffickers.

That is why we must pass the Leahy-Collins Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act today. This should be unanimous. We are talking about helping homeless children and victims of human trafficking. There is no good reason to oppose this measure.

The programs supported by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program provide essential resources to homeless children who need our help. Amanda, for example, is an 18-year-old living in Bellows Falls, VT, and participating in the Transitional Living Program at the Youth Services of Windham County. Amanda's mother gave her and her four siblings up for adoption when she was 2. When she was 13, her adoptive mother died of a stroke. Amanda was devastated, suffered academically, and eventually dropped out of school, then struggled with substance abuse and became homeless.

Fortunately, Amanda was connected with the Youth Services of Windham County and has turned her life around. She is sober, she is on track to graduate from high school, and she has a job. Amanda says of her youth worker Danielle, "She is part of the reason why I try to keep doing so good . . . Without her, I wouldn't have what I have today." Funds authorized by this bill made Amanda's transformation possible. Once headed for a life of dependency, she is now poised to become a successful and contributing young adult.

There are currently 1.6 million homeless teens in this country like Amanda, and they need us to do our job and pass this bill. This bill reauthorizes critical outreach and emergency shelter services that have provided lifesaving support for the last 40 years. It takes historic steps to address the growing population of homeless LGBT youth by ensuring that no young person is denied services based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It also addresses new dangers that our young people face, like sexual exploitation and human trafficking, which urgently require our attention.

Human trafficking is a growing problem in the United States, and traffickers prey upon our weakest young people, especially those in need of money or shelter. Too often, homeless children become trapped in devastating cycles of abuse and exploitation.

Runaway and homeless youth service providers are our first line of defense. This bill makes sure they are trained to identify victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking, so they can help victims become survivors.

After this bill was first introduced in July, it was considered by the Judiciary Committee and was voted out in September with strong bipartisan support. We had bipartisan input on the legislation, including from Senator CORNYN, who offered an amendment that included nearly every provision of

his Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. This amendment gives law enforcement new tools to combat human trafficking and provides expanded support for victims of sexual exploitation.

Working across the aisle to enhance this bill and get it passed reminds me of the way both Houses of Congress came together to pass the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act just last year. Domestic violence, like youth homelessness, is not new. However, the challenges faced by victims are constantly changing, and we must be responsive to the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. We cannot become complacent in the face of suffering. We need to pass this bill.

I thank Senator COLLINS for working with me on this legislation and for joining me as an original cosponsor. I ask for the support of every Senator to pass the Leahy-Collins Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act. The American people expect it, and our humanity demands it.

#### RECOGNIZING MIKE HALEY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career of Sheriff Mike Haley, who has served as the Washoe County sheriff since January 2, 2007.

For more than 30 years, Mike Haley has been dedicated to protecting the people of Washoe County. He started his career in 1980 as a deputy sheriff and proceeded to work and supervise in every division within the Sheriff's Office. When he was elected sheriff, his vast experience and understanding of the community he served enhanced Washoe County. Sheriff Haley spearheaded groundbreaking projects, such as the Northern Nevada Counter-Terrorism and Cyber Center and the Area Crime Evaluation System, and used these technological advances to make the Washoe County Sheriff's Office more efficient. Under his leadership in an extremely poor economic situation, county law enforcement overcame budgetary challenges and continued his efforts to make Washoe County safer.

Mike Haley has helped Nevada immensely beyond his role as sheriff. He serves as vice-chair for the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security and is chairman of the Nevada High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program. In previous years, he was the president of the Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association. These notable positions only begin to demonstrate Sheriff Haley's dedication to the community, and the constructive impact he has had on the Silver State.

Prior to his career in law enforcement, Mike Haley served our Nation as a first sergeant in the U.S. Army. He graduated with honors from Northeast Missouri State University with a Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice. His commitment to extending his education and training is evident in all he has done. Mike Haley graduated from the FBI National Academy, the Secret Service Executive Academy, Senior Management Institute for Police Executives at Harvard University, South-

west Command College for Law Enforcement Executives, and the Drug Enforcement Academy.

Throughout his prolific career and his exemplary life, Sheriff Mike Haley has been a great boon to the State of Nevada. I congratulate him on his many successes while serving as the Washoe County sheriff and appreciate his dedication to public service. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE D. EDWARDS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a man who has dedicated his life's work to education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Dr. George D. Edwards is the founding president and CEO of Big Sandy Community and Technical College, BSCTC, and he will step down from that position in January of 2015.

Although Dr. Edwards is originally from Virginia, it is fair to consider him an adopted son of the Bluegrass State. He first came to Kentucky in 1970 to attend Berea College, and upon finishing his undergraduate studies, he decided he wasn't in a hurry to leave. Dr. Edwards went to Murray State University to earn his master of business administration and master of economics, and despite some absences from the Commonwealth in the interim—including when he earned his doctor of education from the University of Southern Mississippi—he returned to Paintsville where he has lived for the last 14 years.

When Dr. Edwards first moved to eastern Kentucky in 2000, he became the third president of Prestonsburg Community College and the first CEO for the Big Sandy Community and Technical College District. When the colleges merged in 2003 to become Big Sandy Community and Technical College, he became the institution's first president and CEO.

In this capacity Dr. Edwards has worked tirelessly to strengthen Big Sandy's commitment to its students. He has cultivated ties with the area's business community through his work with the local chambers of commerce, he has instituted an honors program for students, a Leadership institute for faculty and staff, and created a music and drama program for students and the community. He has also overseen over \$23 million in infrastructure projects on campus.

Although Dr. Edwards and his wife, Dr. Joyce Edwards, plan to move to Verona, VA, in their retirement, their impact on the State and the region will undoubtedly remain. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this exemplary educator, Dr. George D. Edwards, and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

Mr. President, the Big Sandy Community and Technical College recently published an article on their Web site detailing the life and career of Dr. George D. Edwards. I ask unanimous

consent that the article be printed in full in the RECORD.

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

[Aug. 5, 2014]

FOUNDING PRESIDENT/CEO OF BSCTC  
ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

After 14 years, Dr. George D. Edwards, founding president and CEO of Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC), will step down as college president and CEO on January 5, 2015. He will work on a special assignment through June 30, 2015.

"This is a bittersweet day for our family," said Dr. Edwards. "I have had the honor of working with a dedicated board of directors, foundation board, a great leadership team, and a group of passionate faculty and staff who are committed to our mission. Together, we have made great strides in providing the people of the Big Sandy region a comprehensive community and technical college that is devoted to student success, access and transfer."

Dr. Michael B. McCall, founding president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), issued the following statement on Dr. Edwards' retirement: "Dr. Edwards' outstanding leadership during the past 14 years has enabled BSCTC to provide the local community with educational programs in high-wage, high-demand fields, designed to enhance the eastern Kentucky economy. We are currently working with Dr. Edwards to ensure a seamless transition plan is in place as we move forward in our mission to provide Kentuckians with a quality postsecondary education that is both accessible and affordable."

Dr. Edwards and his wife, Dr. Joyce Edwards, plan to relocate to Verona, Va. upon his retirement.

"This will allow us to be within two hours of all of our children and grandchildren," he said. "Family is very important to Joyce and me, and we look forward to spending time with them, traveling and volunteering in the community."

Dr. Edwards became the third president of Prestonsburg Community College and the founding president of the Big Sandy Community and Technical College in November 2000, shortly after the passage of House Bill 1 which created KCTCS. Under his leadership, Prestonsburg Community College and Mayo Technical College together formed Big Sandy Community and Technical College in 2003.

Student success has been the cornerstone of Dr. Edwards' administration. Since 2008, the college has increased credentials awarded to students by 140 percent and graduates earning associate degrees by 64 percent.

Dr. Edwards has overseen more than \$23 million in building projects during his tenure. BSCTC opened the Student Center in 2002 and the Postsecondary Education Building and East Kentucky Science Center and Planetarium in 2004. The Mayo campus benefitted from a more than \$7.5-million renovation in 2002. Additionally, more than \$4 million have been spent on infrastructure upgrades in the areas of technology and sustainability.

Dr. Edwards' strong and compassionate leadership has led to many accomplishments, including: the creation of the Floyd County and Johnson County Early College Academies; a highly responsive Workforce Solutions program; the creation of the Big Sandy Singers, Big Sandy Idol and Fine Arts department; the Honors Scholarship program; leadership development for employees; and the continued growth of the Big Sandy College Educational Foundation, Inc.

"I'm most proud of the students we've helped," said Dr. Edwards. "It's rewarding to be in a position and represent an institution that has unwavering commitment to students. It's also been rewarding to watch our employees grow and develop over the years. I hope that my efforts have made a difference."

Karen Sellers, chair of the BSCTC board of directors, said Dr. Edwards transformed an already well respected community college into a remarkable place to work and study.

"As a result of his strategic leadership, BSCTC has seen significant growth in student enrollment, faculty achievement and campus improvements," she said. "Dr. Edwards has done a terrific job of reaching out to the business community, fundraising and recruiting talented students, faculty and staff. Every step of the way, he has reminded this community of the vital importance of Big Sandy Community and Technical College."

Charles "Rusty" Justice, vice chair of the BSCTC board of directors, said: "I would like to thank Dr. Edwards for his leadership of this wonderful institution over the last 14 years. Under his guidance he has overseen growth and progress in all facets of the organization. I would also like to thank him for his friendship. He is a man of intelligence and character and I have benefited from that relationship."

Bobby McCool, chief institutional officer, said Dr. Edwards' leadership has elevated the importance of postsecondary education in economic development.

"Big Sandy Community and Technical College has brokered the dialogue of conversation on the role of our college in workforce development," he said.

Dr. Nancy B. Johnson, provost at BSCTC, said Dr. Edwards' leadership and commitment to students and communities served by the college has been phenomenal.

"The many successful programs initiated—increased scholarship access; the improvement of facilities; the access to technology and its infusion into the learning process; the responsiveness to workforce needs; and the continual encouragement and support to faculty and staff through professional development opportunities—all provide evidence of this leadership and commitment. Working as a member of his team at Big Sandy has truly been a gift for me."

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LIEUTENANT GENERAL PETER M. VANGJEL

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a distinguished public servant and officer in the U.S. Army, LTG Peter M. Vangjel. General Vangjel served as the 64th Army inspector general and retires on February 1, 2015, after more than 37 years of selfless service to our Nation. Throughout his professional life, General Vangjel personified the Army values of duty, honor, and selfless service in leadership roles around the world and here at home. Many of us on Capitol Hill know General Vangjel by these qualities and have enjoyed the opportunity to work with him on a wide variety of Army issues and programs. It is my privilege to recognize his many significant contributions.

General Vangjel is a native of New Hampshire and graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1977. He served in a variety of command and staff assignments and has led our sol-

diers in both peace and war, in combat and humanitarian missions, in the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. He has proven himself as a stellar leader demonstrating unselfish devotion to the Nation, our leaders, soldiers and their families.

For the final 3 years of his noteworthy career, General Vangjel served as the Army inspector general, providing independent and unbiased advice to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army. His advice, assistance, and detailed oversight of timely, high-visibility inspections and investigations proved critical for an adaptive Army in transition. He personally led multiple efforts to promote readiness, resource stewardship and accountability of equipment, funds, personnel and leader behavior.

As he has throughout his career, General Vangjel embraced his charter to conduct outreach to our Army's leaders, soldiers, families, and the public at every opportunity, stressing the importance of resource management and creativity. Nowhere was this more evident than during his 2-year assignment to the Middle East, where he supervised efforts that provided nearly \$8 billion dollars in cost avoidance and streamlined contracting and logistic support efforts as our troops surged in to Afghanistan and retrograded from Iraq. His vision, passion, and energy kept key military and civilian leaders aware of emerging trends enabling them to correct problems and anticipate future challenges.

General Vangjel led his team in conducting many significant inspections enabling our Army to address critical issues, revise policies, and improve processes. His special inspections of Arlington National Cemetery restored effective oversight and reinstalled public confidence in the effort to honor our fallen heroes at a place sacred to all Americans. Likewise, his team's work to help our suffering soldiers receive more efficient behavioral health treatment within the Integrated Disability Evaluation System brought to light new information about process issues and the need for better coordination and support from Veterans Affairs. In addition, during his tenure, the Army inspector general performed vital compliance oversight inspections for some of our Nation's most sensitive activities, including nuclear and chemical research and development centers, intelligence oversight, and information assurance operations.

LTG Peter M. Vangjel has consistently provided superb leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Army and our Nation. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank General Vangjel, his wife Joanne, and his entire family for their commitment and contributions to our Army and the Nation, and I congratulate them both on an exceptional career of selfless service.