

morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Christ the King School of Burlington, VT, will soon celebrate its 75th anniversary, and it remains one of the most distinguished educational hubs in the Green Mountain State. Begun as a school to accommodate the overflow of students from the Cathedral School, three-quarters of a century later it continues to offer young Vermont students the educational foundation on which to build successful futures.

The school has undergone a considerable transformation since it opened its doors to the community of Burlington and beyond in 1940, but its commitment to education has been constant. Its curriculum helps students experience learning through real-world experiences. Recently, students traveled to Ausable Chasm in New York. Students, their teachers, and many parents hiked the chasm, collecting foliage for a future science lab where students will use paper chromatography to separate the components in leaves. By giving students opportunities to take their learning outside of the classroom, they early on come to understand the importance of engaging with the surrounding community.

In addition to expanding their curriculum to include this experiential learning, Christ the King School's recent partnership with the Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education at the University of Vermont will help give students access to technology and professional development resources that might not otherwise be available.

Christ the King School has a long history of commitment to excellence in education. I commended the School in the RECORD as the school celebrated its 50th anniversary, and I am pleased to again commemorate another milestone. Our young people deserve the best in their educational development. Christ the King School continues to provide the academic and spiritual guidance it has delivered for the last 75 years, and I hope will do so for decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE PATERSON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Katherine Paterson is a treasure to Vermont. She is also a close friend to Marcelle and me. And today, at the age of 82, she continues to write with the grace and talent that has made her a two-time National Book Award winner and twice a Newbery medalist.

I have had the honor and good fortune to know Katherine for many years. Her humble and soft-spoken nature belie the power of her writing and

her myriad contributions to children's literature.

In announcing that she would be last year's winner of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, the committee noted: "Katherine Paterson has been writing books that have made a profound difference in children's lives for 40 years. Her work acknowledges life's challenges and difficulties, yet she always leaves her readers with hope."

I ask that this recent profile of Katherine Paterson, from the Burlington Free Press, be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From The Burlington Free Press, Nov. 16, 2014]

KATHERINE PATERSON'S LIFE IN STORIES (By Sally Pollak)

Montpelier Author's Memoir is a Set of Stories, Many Could Serve as a Manual for Loving and Raising Kids

In her new book, "Stories of my Life," Katherine Paterson tells a set of wonderful stories that span her eight decades.

She writes about her young childhood in China, where she was born, and the mountain resort where she stayed with her mother and siblings (including a newborn sister) during wartime in the summer of 1937. Paterson tells about a family friend who was kissed by Robert E. Lee, and her distant cousin named Mark Twain. Yes, that Mark Twain. Paterson writes about taking her sixthgrade class on a field trip to the Washington zoo; the widow she lived with when she worked as a missionary in Japan, and her sons' adventures in places unknown to their mother.

Paterson doesn't write about her first fall in Barre, where she and her husband moved 28 years ago. The youngest of Paterson's four children went off to college, and Paterson had left behind friends in Virginia and Maryland.

"It rained a lot," Paterson said. "I ate Ben and Jerry's Coffee Heath Bar Crunch, and read."

Paterson, who turned 82 on Halloween, is an awardwinning author who started to write books in the bits of time when her young children were all asleep. She was able to devote more time to writing when her four kids were old enough for school. Paterson's books have won the most prominent honors in literature, including two Newbery Medals ("Bridge to Terabithia" and "Jacob Have I Loved") and two National Book Awards ("The Master Puppeteer" and "The Great Gilly Hopkins.") Before the Patersons moved to Vermont for John Paterson's work as a minister, the Patersons knew Vermont as the place they celebrated their wedding anniversary. They would drive north from New York's Lake George, where they spend summers, to eat at Dog Team Tavern. The restaurant in Middlebury, known for its sticky buns, burned down in 2006.

The ice-cream eating phase in the big brick house in Barre would give way to book-writing, including books set in Vermont. Paterson had barely unpacked when she met a woman at a book signing in Shelburne who began a conversation: "Now that you're a Vermonter. . . ." The woman went on to inquire if Paterson had an interest in writing a book that would be meaningful for children of Vermont migrant farm workers.

This involved getting to know her new home state by visiting farms and homes, and completing a book on a six-month deadline (a first). In order to meet the deadline, Paterson proposed writing an I Can Read

Book. "The Smallest Cow in the World," with illustrations by Burlington native Jane Clark Brown, was Paterson's first book for new readers.

Decades later Paterson attempted another genre for the first time: memoir, or memoir-ish.

"Stories of my Life" is lively, interesting and generous of spirit. Its stories are warm and humorous, and connected to a larger sphere: literature, religion, history. Certain stories could serve as a manual, a valuable one, for loving and raising kids.

Still, writing a memoir wasn't part of Paterson's plan.

"It just seems like such a me, me, me thing to do," Paterson said recently at her home in Montpelier, where she moved last spring. "I didn't think people nearest and dearest to me would want to play minor roles in the stories of my life."

KITCHEN SINK STORIES

The illness of Paterson's late husband, John Paterson, was a kind of catalyst for Paterson's recently published book. During his sickness, Katherine Paterson was somehow unable to start a novel, she said. Instead, she began to write down stories drawn from her life, what she calls in her book "kitchen sink stories."

These are stories she heard from her mother as a child, when she washed, dried and put away dishes with her mother and sister. Paterson's children grew up in a house with a dishwasher, and some stories went untold in the absence of that evening chore.

"I realized there were family stories that my children didn't know and I should write them down," Paterson said. "It would be a good thing for the kids and for the grandchildren."

The stories are a fascinating collection that take in family history (great uncles who died in the Civil War); Paterson's work and travel in Asia; her chance meeting while at graduate school with the man she would marry; raising a family with accompanying menagerie—and writing books.

In "Stories of my Life" Paterson draws connections between significant events and people in her own life, and aspects of her books: a story line, a character, a scene.

She explains that she discovered the "emotional heart" of her first novel, "The Sign of the Chrysanthemum" in a conversation with her oldest daughter, Lin.

Lin was born in Hong Kong; she was two years old when the Patersons adopted her. There were times when Lin was young that it was difficult for her parents to get through a "curtain" and reach their daughter, Paterson writes.

From her memoir: "Lin," I yelled, "how can I help you if you won't tell me what's the matter?"

She jerked to life, her eyes wide open. "Why did that woman give me away?"

Paterson would go on to write a novel built around this question: "What must it be like, I wondered, to have a parent somewhere whom you do not know?"

Later, at a time she was idea-less for a book, she asked her four children what to write about.

The kids voted for a mystery. Paterson was certain she wasn't capable of writing one. She describes this in her memoir: "Do you think," I asked my eager children, "that anyone who is regularly beaten at chess by a six year-old has the kind of brain it takes to plot a mystery story?"

Yet her kids' choice helped Paterson find her way to a story that involved Japanese puppet theater.

"So the children and I compromised," Paterson wrote. "I would try to write an adventure story with as much suspense as possible." The resulting book, "The Master Puppeteer," won the 1977 National Book Award.

Her beloved novel, "Bridge to Terabithia," grew out of the accidental death of her son David's close friend at age 8. In "Stories of my Life," Paterson discloses that confronting a different death—her own—made writing "Terabithia" a particular challenge.

A LOVE STORY

The story of a strong and loving marriage runs through Paterson's new book, a partnership that formed in a matter of months. When John Paterson proposed to Katherine Womeldorf, he made a promise to always help and support her.

"John said that he knew I was a strong woman with many gifts, and he wanted to promise me that he would never stand in the way of my exercising those gifts," Paterson writes in her new book.

"It was very memorable," Paterson said of the proposal, talking about the conversation more than half a century later.

"I had no idea that I was going to be a writer," she said. "I had no idea what I was going to do. John thought I was going to be something."

John Paterson was a Presbyterian minister who collected art, played tennis and co-wrote books with his wife. His death at age 80 in September, 2013, was the central aspect of the "most extraordinary" story of Paterson's life, she wrote.

The experience, including conversations with "compassionate and honest doctors," suggested to the Patersons that a person needn't fight death with the full arsenal of modern medicine, Paterson said. John Paterson sought the advice of his wife, and chose to die at home.

"In our society we have to come to it," Paterson said. "Death is not the enemy."

The artist that John Paterson saw in his future wife is still at work. Paterson is writing a play with a friend, and awaiting the 2015 release of the film adaptation of "The Great Gilly Hopkins." The screenplay was written by her son David Paterson.

"I had a good life," Paterson said. "Let's face it."

TRIBUTE TO DR. JIM TAYLOR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jim Taylor as he ends his 35-year stint as president of the University of the Cumberland. Dr. Taylor is an educator of the highest degree and deserves the praise of this body for his unremitting devotion to his students and his community.

When Dr. Taylor retired last month, he ended the longest tenure as president of any college or university in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He led the university for so long, however, because he continued to get results from his students and contribute positively to his community—year after year.

Over the course of his tenure, enrollment in the school rose from 1,885 to over 5,500, the endowment rose from \$6 million to \$79 million, and numerous campus renovations were made including the construction of hundreds of handicap access ramps.

Dr. Taylor's impact did not stop at the boundaries of campus, however. He worked tirelessly to better his community—raising money for scholarships for Appalachian students and over-seeing clothing and food drives for area families.

For now, Dr. Taylor and his wife of 46 years, Dinah Louise Taylor, will move

to their home in Florida. However, Dr. Taylor could not separate himself from the institution for which he had worked for so long in one fell swoop. He will remain involved with the university in his new position of chancellor, where he will help with fundraising and provide counsel to his successor in order to provide for a smooth transition.

Dr. Jim Taylor's life of service to his students and his community provide a shining example of excellence for us all. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring this exemplary citizen.

The Times-Tribune of Whitley County, KY, recently published an article detailing the life and career of Dr. Jim Taylor. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Times-Tribune, Oct. 8, 2014]

THE ENDING OF AN ERA: UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS PRESIDENT TO RETIRE (By Kristina Smith)

Boxes filled the large rectangular room where Dr. James Harold Taylor usually sat and carried out his day-to-day business as president of the University of the Cumberland.

Each box was marked with bold, white letters—"mover."

Until Oct. 16, that's exactly what Taylor will be doing—moving.

Taylor's 35 years as president comes to an end next week as he officially retires and Dr. Larry Cockrum takes over the top position. His retirement also means the end of the longest tenure of a Kentucky college or university president.

So for now, Taylor prepares to move to his Florida residence with his wife of 46 years, Dinah Louise Taylor.

"I'm telling everybody goodbye and expressing my appreciation," Taylor said of his last week as president. "This job is too big for one working alone. It takes a team, and we have a great one here. We have great faculty, staff and students."

Taylor and his team have molded the university into the largest private college or university in the state of Kentucky during his time as president.

"We're also the only Baptist university in the state," Taylor quickly pointed out. "Well, except for Clear Creek Bible School."

Taylor is proud of the university and the over 5,000 students he is leaving behind. He mentions that he is especially happy with the developing physician's assistant program, nursing program and health programs.

However, he is most proud of the impact within the community that he leaves behind.

"What I'm pleased about is that we've been able to build 145 homes for people. Distributed tons of food and clothing. We've built hundreds of handicap access ramps, done insulation projects, roofing. We have a toy program for kids at Christmas who normally wouldn't get toys. Then we have Thanksgiving, where we do vouchers for people," Taylor said.

The list goes on and on.

"I've had a lot of fun," Taylor said with a grin.

But Taylor isn't boasting on his accomplishments. Once again, he points to the team of people surrounding him.

"When I'm talking about this, I'm just talking about how I hire smart people who

are really good," Taylor said. "And I just get out of their way and let them work."

Running a university that spans over 100 acres is a lot of work, and Taylor acknowledges that his predecessor will have no easy task before him.

"This school is so much bigger than people think," Taylor said. "See, our operating budget is \$50 million a year. The fiscal plan here is around \$200 million. You have to maintain all of it. So we raise probably around \$300 million, and spend around \$305 million. It takes a lot to keep it going."

So Taylor will provide some help to Cockrum going forward. He hopes to help make the transition as smooth as possible.

For about a week of every month, Taylor will assist in raising money and identifying friends for the college as chancellor.

"No one does anything alone. It takes many heads, hearts and hands," Taylor said. "Dr. Cockrum will take us to stellar heights and allow us to do things we've never done before."

Taylor believes that choosing Cockrum to follow in his steps will help the university continue to flourish after he's left campus and moved to the Sunshine State. He notes that Cockrum has been with the university for nearly a decade, and has seen firsthand the work Cockrum is capable of.

"You know, this profession is filled with talkers. But, he delivers. He's about the best I've seen," Taylor said of Cockrum. "I feel like all we've done is built the foundation and he's going to let this rocket ship fly."

While Cockrum is preparing to blast off into his new presidential role, Taylor will take the time to ponder upon his years with the university.

"It's time for relaxation and reflection," Taylor said. "I'm grateful for my wife who has allowed me to do what needed to be done in terms of promoting the institution. It's fulfilled this opportunity to serve. It's been a blessing. It's fulfilled our lifelong dreams. Few people get to live out their dreams—I was fortunate to be able to do that."

Taylor has already thought of a few words of advice to the university he leaves behind, though.

"You have to have a moral compass, a true north. I think the Christian faith can give you that," Taylor said. "Oh, and always measure twice, but cut once."

So Taylor will finish packing papers, photos and his personal belongings into the cardboard boxes that are piled in his office. But he will be back to visit; he's not ready to leave Williamsburg completely behind.

"I'll come back some because our son is buried here, and we'll have a home here," Taylor said. "But we'll come in for the holidays and things like that. We'll come in for some ball games."

As a final note, Taylor quotes a line of Shakespeare to sum up his time with the university and his pending retirement.

"The crown rests heavy on the head of the king," Taylor said.

RECOGNIZING MARK PRATER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Mark Prater, deputy staff director and chief tax counsel for the minority staff of the Senate Finance Committee.

Later this week, the Tax Foundation will award Mark their Exemplar of Excellence in Public Service Award for his many years of service on the Finance Committee. He will be only the second congressional staffer to be honored by the Tax Foundation in their 77-year history. And, I can say without