

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 2. (This figure includes one matter from the previous calendar year carried into 2013.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit: 1.

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2013, the Committee staff conducted 12 new Member ethics training sessions; nine Member and committee office campaign briefings; 13 employee code of conduct training sessions; eight public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 28 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; three private sector ethics briefings; and eight international briefings.

In 2013, the Committee staff handled approximately 8,073 telephone inquiries and 1,980 inquiries by email for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2013, the Committee wrote approximately 755 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 608 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 104 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2013, the Committee issued 3,246 letters concerning financial disclosure filings by Senators, Senate staff and Senate candidates and reviewed 1,760 reports.

#### REMEMBRANCE AND RESOLVE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, every January brings hope that the New Year will be a happy and safe one. But, sadly, 2014 has already been marred by gun violence.

To cite just a few examples, on January 9, a 16-year-old student at Liberty Technology Magnet High School shot a classmate in the thigh with a pistol. On January 14, a 12-year-old in New Mexico walked into his middle school's gym and opened fire with a shotgun, injuring two of his classmates as they waited to go to class. And on the evening of January 15, a man used a semi-automatic handgun to murder two people at an Indiana grocery store. He was about to kill another person just before police officers shot and killed him.

Sadly, our Nation's epidemic of gun violence continues. The National Cen-

ter for Injury Prevention and Control has estimated that around 30,000 people in the United States die from gunshot wounds every year, and more than 60,000 people are injured by guns every year. A study also has shown that the firearm homicide rate in our Nation is 20 times higher than the combined rate of 22 other countries comparable in population.

We live in a country where almost every week a community is wracked by a mass shooting, defined as an incident that claims at least four lives. In 2013, our Nation witnessed at least 25 such shootings. These occur all over our Nation, in places like Oklahoma City, where last August a man who had been diagnosed with schizophrenia stopped taking his medication and shot his mother, sister, niece, and nephew; in Ottawa, KS, where last April a man who had served prison time for attempted second-degree murder shot and killed 4 people; in Washington, DC, where a mentally deranged individual killed 12 and injured 8 at Washington's Navy Yard.

Last December, just one day before the anniversary of the tragic Newtown school shooting which stole the lives of 27 people, 20 of them children, another school shooting occurred in Arapahoe, CO. This time, the perpetrator was an 18-year-old high school senior who entered his high school near Denver armed with 125 rounds of ammunition, a pump-action shotgun, a machete, and three incendiary devices. He critically injured a classmate, who has since tragically passed away, before taking his own life. While this may not qualify as a mass shooting, it is no less troubling. It is a testament to how disturbingly numb to gun violence our society has become that the sentiment "it could have been worse" is some form of relief.

Today, America is a nation where parents are nervous to send their children to schools, shopping malls, and movie theaters because they are genuinely afraid that their kids might not come back. We live in a nation where toddlers find unsecured handguns in their family's homes and accidentally take lives. We live in a society where arguments and disputes turn into tragedies, all with one ill-considered pull of a trigger. Is this the kind of environment we want to live in? Is this what we want to leave for the next generation?

Mr. President, it is my hope that this year, the procession of gun tragedies will begin to end. It is my hope that we will not be submerged this year in the horror of a mass shooting. But this hope will only be realized if Congress takes action to stop the gun violence plaguing our country.

I urge my colleagues not to accept the status quo, where convicted felons, domestic abusers, and the mentally ill can get their hands on a deadly weapon at any time. I urge my colleagues to take steps toward ending this violence by passing commonsense legislation,

supported by 90 percent of the American people, that would enact background checks on all gun sales. I urge my colleagues to work to ensure that our homes, our families, and our neighborhoods become safer.

#### ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Ashland University for addressing the challenging issue of skyrocketing tuition. After serious consideration, Ashland has dramatically reduced its tuition for the 2014-2015 school year by 37 percent. Ashland hopes this important step will improve access to higher education at affordable prices while keeping the university financially competitive.

Ashland University, which is located in Ashland, OH, has a proud history of providing quality education since its founding in 1878. The university offers undergraduate, masters, and doctorate degrees and has been nationally recognized and ranked in the "Top 200 National Universities" by U.S. News & World Report for the last 2 years.

Madam President, I would like to congratulate Ashland University for addressing the affordability and accessibility of higher education.

#### TRIBUTE TO MYRON BELKIND

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Cleveland native Myron Belkind, who was named president of the National Press Club on January 25, 2014. Mr. Belkind grew up in Lyndhurst, OH, where he began his career in journalism writing as a student and then for the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Cleveland Press.

During Mr. Belkind's 42-year career with the Associated Press, he covered many world leaders and headed up Associated Press bureaus in Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, London, and Tokyo. He served as president of several foreign press associations and as a journalism instructor at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. He has received the Distinguished Alumni Awards from the Ohio State University School of Communications and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

As a foreign correspondent in the 1970s, Belkind covered major international news stories and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the breaking news that Prime Minister Gandhi's government had declared a state of emergency on June 26, 1975, suspending civil liberties, arresting thousands of political opponents, and imposing restrictions on the national and international press.

He is the first National Press Club president with an extensive international background in foreign correspondence. In his new role, he has vowed to continue his work promoting worldwide freedom of the press and will

continue to strive for professional development and excellence in journalism.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Myron Belkind, a fellow Buckeye, as he begins this new chapter in his distinguished career.

#### REMEMBERING MARSHA OGILVIE

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Marsha H. Ogilvie, a loyal and steadfast mayor of Sandpoint, ID. On January, 8, 2014, Mayor Ogilvie lost a valiant battle with cancer and my State lost a good friend, a champion for women and children and a tireless public servant.

Mayor Ogilvie, who was born at March Air Force Base in Southern California, moved to the great State of Idaho in 1994. In the 20 years she made Idaho her home, she distinguished herself in service to others. As she once said, and many in Sandpoint now say, she won the hearts and minds of the people in Sandpoint.

Elected mayor just 2 years ago and having served the two previous years on the city council, Mayor Ogilvie, leaves a giant hole in those hearts and the broader community. The business and professional experience Mayor Ogilvie brought was wide and varied and earned her the respect of many. Early in her career, she served in restaurant and retail management. When she and her husband Francis arrived in Sandpoint, they opened a couple of small businesses—The Candy Cottage and the All Smiles gift shop. But Marsha Ogilvie was not just about business. She cared deeply about the health, welfare and success of women and children.

Soon after moving to Idaho and well before entering public service, she established Kinderhaven, a nonprofit community organization which is dedicated to supporting children in crisis. Founded in 1996 and under the vision and compassionate care of Marsha Ogilvie, more than 1,300 children have found the all-important help they needed in times of their greatest distress. So important to the Sandpoint community, Kinderhaven was named the grand prize winner in the 2002 Governor's Brightest Stars Awards. In addition, Mrs. Ogilvie, who crossed paths with many women serving as volunteers in the Sandpoint community, started Women Honoring Women. It was designed to be a one-time event but has evolved since 1999 into an annual event to recognize and honor women in Bonner County who are 65 or older and working to make a difference in the lives of others, who love learning and exhibit qualities of leadership. Marsha Ogilvie recognized these qualities in others because she, too, possessed them. . . well, all but one—she was only 64 when she passed away.

If these achievements were not enough, Marsha Ogilvie joined with three friends to co-author a children's book, which was just recently pub-

lished. Gigi's Enchanted Forest was a way to honor the life of a mutual friend of theirs who shared their hope for and love of children and a dedication to community service.

Mayor Marsha H. Ogilvie personified a life of giving and caring. Her unparalleled legacy of hard work, reaching out to her community and recognizing those who help others in volunteer service is indelibly etched on the many hearts and minds of those she served in Sandpoint, ID, and far beyond the city limits. May God bless her husband, her family and the hundreds of Idahoans who will miss her passion, exuberance and spirit of joy.

#### FISHER'S TECHNOLOGY

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, a small business faces a constant threat to its bottom line when the products they sell grow obsolete. Years of expertise and business relationships can be rendered meaningless without the ability to adjust in an ever changing and technologically advancing marketplace. There is no better example of adaptation than Fisher's Technology in my home State of Idaho.

Fisher's Technology was founded in Boise, ID in 1936, during the worst years of the Great Depression, as a specialty typewriter sales and repair shop. In 1985, Gary Mahn purchased the company and, since then, Fisher's Technology has expanded its inventory to become Idaho's largest office supply firm. This would not have been possible had Fisher's remained narrowly focused on typewriters. In a continuing business evolution, Mr. Mahn sold the office supply portion of the company to another local Boise company. This allowed Fisher's Technology to maintain and grow the remaining office equipment division.

Today, Fisher's Technology has four locations across Idaho, offering a variety of office hardware and software products along with IT services. After a 78 percent increase in sales revenue, topping \$13 million, Fisher's was named to Inc. Magazine's 5,000 fastest-growing companies in the Nation. Fisher's has made this list four of the last 5 years, a testament to the Fisher's Technology team's hard work and commitment to customer satisfaction. At a time when America's economy has struggled to add jobs, Fisher's Technology has boosted its payroll from 46 employees in 2009 to 66 today representing a 43 percent increase in hiring.

Not only has Fisher's Technology helped businesses across Idaho meet their equipment needs, but its employees are also active members of their communities and strive to give back in any way that they can. For example, the company sponsors the Blue Cross "Blue Cruise" bicycle race, which benefits local charities in Idaho's Treasure Valley.

I commend everyone at Fisher's Technology on their continued growth,

resilience, and determination, and wish them another 78 years of success.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DAVID MELINCOFF

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a remarkable Vermonter, David Melincoff, who is carrying on the tradition of providing a good meal and fostering a sense of community each Thanksgiving.

As many Vermonters continue to struggle to make ends meet in the wake of the most severe recession to hit the United States in generations, Mr. Melincoff marked the 24th year his Burlington, VT restaurant has offered a traditional Thanksgiving dinner at no cost. Nearly 1,000 dinners were given away this past Thanksgiving. Since the Thanksgiving Community Dinner started 24 years ago at Sweetwaters American Bistro, Mr. Melincoff estimates that more than 20,000 meals have been served free of charge.

The dinner, a traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, stuffing, and mashed potatoes, offers the same experience a diner would have eating at the restaurant on any other night, including wait service provided by volunteers. The fundamental difference is that the meal is free of charge—and the sense of community this generosity inspires is undeniable.

It is not only those who are having financial difficulties who attend the Thanksgiving Community Dinner. As Mr. Melincoff noted, "Sometimes it's an emotional need." Often, people who have lost a loved one attend in order to share in the company and fellowship of others. The dinner provides an opportunity where people, regardless of their economic status, can sit and break bread together. "Here, they just feel equal. That's the part that always gets me," Mr. Melincoff said. "It's about self-respect."

The meal itself is just one part of the day-long event. A coat donation drive was added as another effort to serve 4 years ago. Hundreds of coats are collected in advance by the Windjammer Restaurant in South Burlington, and this year roughly 700 coats were provided to individuals in need.

Local residents and members of the business community also pitch in to make the Thanksgiving Community Dinner a success. Everyone benefits from this event, whether it is from the food provided or the satisfaction of giving back to the community. For the volunteers, Mr. Melincoff noted, "it puts things into perspective about what you should be grateful for."

Mr. President, I wanted to take this opportunity to commend Mr. Melincoff for his commitment and service to others and applaud his efforts to reach out to those in need. •

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to