

the U.S. Senate with stories from the men and women whose lives were affected. Christy turned this program into an invaluable resource for Senate employees experiencing obstacles and struggles in their professional and personal lives. Her innovative methods for implementing training and programs made her a vital asset to the Senate and a devoted leader to her staff. It is our hope that the irony is not lost, that through the auspices of her professionalism, confidentiality, morality and ethics, we are prevented from hearing many such stories; only those who Christy helped know the true value of her service. Christy is a valued leader within the Sergeant at Arms and a trusted confidant to the Senate family. I thank her for her dedicated service, her unbridled patriotism and unwavering support.

STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I support the Student Non-Discrimination Act, a bill first introduced in the 111th Congress and reintroduced again now in the 114th Congress. This bill represents a critical step forward in protecting the rights of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth to receive an education free from bullying and harassment on account of who they are and who they love. I thank Senator FRANKEN for his leadership on this issue, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important civil rights legislation.

Education is the cornerstone of our democracy. In order for our system of government to thrive we must promote the education of our citizenry. It is what allows voters to make informed decisions on who they think is best fit to serve as their Representative, Senator, or President. It is a critical element of public debate and the free flow of ideas and it is what drives our economy forward and makes our country strong.

Given the importance of education, no student should be harassed in school. We must do all we can to make education accessible to all. We must ensure that schools are safe and welcoming to all children so that students can enter the classroom ready and able to learn.

Bullying touches the lives of countless young people. Each school year, LGBT students in New Jersey, and across America, are harassed, bullied, and even assaulted based on their perceived or known status as LGBT. Occasionally, these youth even experience bullying from teachers and administrators. The very people that are supposed to educate and protect these children at times serve as the root cause of the problem. Bullying a student for any reason—but especially for simply being themselves—is simply unacceptable.

The consequences of bullying can be devastating and potentially life threatening. Studies show that discrimina-

tion at schools is a major contributor to dropouts, absenteeism, and academic underachievement. LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to experience verbal harassment, assault, and exclusion. Suicide rates are disproportionately high among children and young adults that identify as LGBT. In fact, LGBT youth are four times more likely to commit suicide than their peers. Most alarmingly, we have seen bullying and harassment tragically lead to suicides in school districts across the country.

Allowing discrimination of LGBT to go unchecked in our schools deprives our youth from the equal access to education that they deserve. Whether that discrimination is in the form harassment or assault, we cannot stand idly by and watch our children's lives be torn apart.

The Student Non-Discrimination Act is a critical civil rights bill that would ban discrimination against any student on the basis of his or her actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

The legislation expands the Federal definition of harassment to protect the rights of LGBT students. The bill defines harassment to include severe, persistent, or pervasive conduct that would limit a student's ability to participate in a program or activity at a public school.

The bill prohibits harassment of LGBT students as a form of discrimination that is Federally protected.

All of these provisions provide the Federal Government with critical new tools to prevent the scourge of persistent and offensive bullying of youth simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Student Non-Discrimination Act. I urge my fellow Senators to support this bill and promptly pass it through the Senate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WIL SMITH

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise today on a sad occasion. Yesterday, Bowdoin College—indeed, the entire State of Maine—lost a truly great man. Wil Smith, who was a good friend to countless people in Maine, passed away yesterday at the age of 46 following a courageous 3-year battle with cancer.

It is difficult to encapsulate in words the remarkable depth and breadth of someone like Wil. He grew up in Jacksonville, FL, the youngest of 10 children. His mother, Mildred, passed away when he was 15 years old. After high school, Wil briefly attended Florida A&M University before enlisting in the U.S. Navy and becoming an aviation electronics technician. He served in the first gulf war and was later transferred to the Naval Air Station in Brunswick, ME.

While stationed in Brunswick, Wil began coaching football at Brunswick

Middle School. It wasn't long after that when the coach of the Bowdoin College men's basketball team spotted him and was impressed by his talent and natural ability to work with kids. He asked Wil if he had ever thought about attending college. After some convincing, Wil applied to and was accepted at Bowdoin.

It was also during this time that Wil became a father—and only months before his first semester began, he was granted full custody of his 11-month-old daughter Olivia. To say the least, he was a nontraditional student in almost every sense. Matriculating at age 28, he was a decade older than most of his freshmen classmates. He was one of just three African-American students in his class. And he was the first single father in Bowdoin's history to attend the college.

He worked tirelessly—carrying Olivia to class and then to basketball practice, taking evening shifts at the local Staples store, and volunteering at area high schools. He faced challenges unfathomable to most of his classmates at Bowdoin—struggling to balance a commitment to his daughter and his rigorous coursework. But Wil persevered—and he did so with a strength of conviction and determination that would come to define the influence he would have on students who would follow in his footsteps at Bowdoin.

Following graduation, Wil continued to devote his time and energy to his community, and in particular, to young people of nontraditional or underrepresented backgrounds. He continued to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserves, and joined the staff of Bowdoin College, serving as director of multicultural student programs. Driven to continue his education, he then enrolled in the University of Maine School of Law, where 3 years later, he would graduate with a law degree and once again return to Bowdoin.

At Bowdoin, Wil served as a beacon of light to so many students—many of whom, like him, toiled with the challenges of the transition to college. But as a gifted mentor and as someone who had the rare ability to genuinely connect with people, to understand them, and to relate to them, Wil inspired a newfound sense of hope in countless students, and his advice, unfailing support, and encouragement turned around the lives of hundreds and perhaps thousands of people.

And while students were away from Bowdoin during the summer, Wil dedicated his time to the Seeds of Peace International Camp in Otisfield, ME. It was an endeavor that he joined in the summer of 1999, before he graduated from Bowdoin, and it was one he carried on until last summer. At the camp, he mentored children from across the world, and challenged them to look at and judge their peers not by their race, ethnicity, or differences, but by their thoughts and their merit. Wil was truly a team player in this

work, serving in numerous positions at Seeds of Peace over the years, from coach to counselor to associate director. But the title was always less important to Wil than knowing he was helping those he worked with at the camp. And true to the camp's mission, Wil cultivated seeds of peace within the heart of every child he met—his reach and impact extending around the world.

That same spirit of mentorship drew him to the basketball courts of Catherine McAuley High School in South Portland, where he coached the girls' varsity team for a decade, amassing nearly twice as many wins than losses and, in a testament to his talent as a coach, bringing home a prized state championship in 2007. Through the game he loved, he taught young women about the power and virtue of leadership, character, and teamwork—the same traits he worked so hard to instill in students at Bowdoin, in young people at Seeds of Peace, or in anyone who came to him in search of help.

There is a hole in the heart of our community today. But while Wil's loss is felt by countless people, his legacy will be carried on by the thousands who were fortunate enough to know him. Indeed, it is that legacy of caring, of hope, and of understanding which he has given to us and which we will give to future generations along with his story as proof that even the most unlikely of beginnings can yield remarkable outcomes. Today, the world is a lesser place for Wil's loss, but we are all better for him having been in it.

My heart goes out to his daughter Olivia, his partner Maha Jaber, and her son, Nim, his family, and to all the people whose lives were touched by this extraordinary man's unfaltering enthusiasm, caring, and generosity.●

RECOGNIZING RUTGERS UNIVERSITY FOR WINNING THE NAFSA 2014 SENATOR PAUL SIMON AWARD FOR COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONALIZATION

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to honor Rutgers University for winning the 2014 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization from NAFSA: The Association of International Educators. The award is named for the late Senator Paul Simon and is among the most prestigious awards for systemwide comprehensive internationalization. The award recognizes Rutgers' significant strides in providing a global education to its students, tackling global challenges through research, and working with diverse communities at home and abroad.

The award honors the university's significant achievements in enhancing its global reputation over the course of its nearly 250-year history. One hundred and fifty years ago, the university first began this process when it welcomed to campus a handful of students from Japan. Today, Rutgers hosts near-

ly 1,500 international undergraduate students from over 125 countries each year.

Through the Rutgers' Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs, GAIA Centers, the university has established hundreds of strong research and education partnerships with key institutions on six continents. The centers' advising services, cross-cultural social events, and immigration processing have streamlined the arrival and cultural adjustment of nearly 7,000 talented international students and scholars. The centers have grown service-learning abroad and study abroad opportunities from just a couple of programs in the 1960s to over 160 semester and year-long courses. The centers also foster unique and strong relationships with the United Nations, one of only a handful of universities around the globe to do so.

Rutgers actively participates in flagship international programs. Since January 2012, the university has hosted 73 Brazilian students for year-long, non-degree educational programs under the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program. Rutgers was also one of only 20 universities nationwide selected to host talented young African leaders for a 6-week civic leadership program under President Obama's Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.

Rutgers students and alumni received 26 Fulbright grants this year, a record number for the university. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program reported that this ties Rutgers for third place among research universities nationwide.

The university's worldwide reception is higher than ever before. In 2013, the Center for World University Rankings, CWUR, ranked Rutgers 33rd out of hundreds of international institutions.

I congratulate Rutgers University for winning the 2014 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization, and I look forward to their continued success.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 636. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 644. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Chair, Mr.

JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MARINO of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE of Kentucky, Mr. COOK of California, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy: Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado and Ms. MCSALLY of Arizona.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mr. POMPEO of Kansas and Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

The message also announced that pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

The message further announced that pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 51312(b), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy: Mr. KING of New York.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 534. A bill to prohibit funds from being used to carry out certain Executive actions related to immigration and for other purposes.

S. 535. A bill to promote energy efficiency.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary: