

Moreover, Sylvia, and her husband Rick, became friends to all—to me, my staff, and to my former staff—here in Washington, and in our beloved State of Utah. She always had a smile and a hug for everyone.

Sylvia made it her business not just to talk the talk, but also to walk the walk. She was a past president of the Women's State Legislative Council in Utah, a bipartisan group of women who meet to discuss issues of importance to Utah and the Nation. She also was the founder of the Utah Breast Cancer Network, and the president of the Hispanic Health Care Task Force in Utah. Sylvia became involved in building awareness at the local level, as well as the national level. Indeed, she was very proud to have been selected to be an advisor to the National Institutes of Health—a remarkable recognition of her top-ranked talent. She was involved at all levels in advocating for better biomedical research, better support for that research, and for a non-partisan, commonsense approach to a disease that is now expected to affect one in eight women over their lifetimes.

I recall the twinkle in Sylvia's eye when top experts at the Huntsman Cancer Center in Salt Lake City sought her knowledge about eye cancer, after she was treated successfully. She had found a surgeon in another State who could treat her without the certain loss of her eye, and she helped to connect the physicians so they could learn from each other.

It was a great loss to Utah when Rick Rickard built Sylvia the house of their dreams for retirement in Boise, ID this past fall. But we were all happy they had achieved their dream. I heard she was absolutely delighted to cook in her new kitchen. I am so pleased she at least got to spend a few months in their new home, one they had worked for so hard over so many years finally to achieve.

So our hearts go out to the Rickard and Garcia families, to Sylvia and Rick's two sons, Richard, Jr. and David, and to the many millions of others whose lives have been made better by the significant achievements of my friend, Sylvia Rickard.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE SUBSEQUENT TO SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 17, 2014, subsequent to the sine die adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1206. An act to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1378. An act to designate the United States Federal Judicial Center located at 333

West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center" and to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse".

H.R. 2754. An act to amend the Hobby Protection Act to make unlawful the provision of assistance or support in violation of that Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3027. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 Miller Valley Road in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Barry M. Goldwater Post Office".

H.R. 3572. An act to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units.

H.R. 3979. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4276. An act to extend and modify a pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.

H.R. 4416. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building".

H.R. 4651. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 West Baker Road in Baytown, Texas, as the "Specialist Keith Erin Grace, Jr. Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 5050. An act to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5185. An act to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.

H.R. 5331. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the "Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building".

H.R. 5562. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Ocean Avenue in Lompoc, California, as the "Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 5687. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 East Market Street in Long Beach, California, as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office".

H.R. 5816. An act to extend the authorization for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills were signed on December 17, 2014, subsequent to sine die adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bill (H.R. 3979) was signed on December 18, 2014, subsequent to sine die adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. LEVIN).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 18, 2014, subsequent to the sine die adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1068. An act to enact title 54, United States Code, "National Park Service and Related Programs", as positive law.

H.R. 2901. An act to strengthen implementation of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to implement, leverage, and monitor and evaluate programs to provide first-time or improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene to the world's poorest on an equitable and sustainable basis, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3608. An act to amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

H.R. 4030. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 18640 NW 2nd Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the "Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building".

H.R. 5771. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills were signed on December 18, 2014, subsequent to sine die adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolutions were read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 18. A resolution making majority party appointments for the 114th Congress.

S. Res. 20. A resolution limiting certain uses of the filibuster in the Senate to improve the legislative process.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED, 113TH CONGRESS

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 17, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 2338. An act to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 3008. An act to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms.

HEITKAMP, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WARNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RISCHEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. LEE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BURR, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COATS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. PAUL, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. PERDUE, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. SASSE):

S. 1. A bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; read the first time.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COATS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 11. A bill to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 12. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 14. A bill to establish the Hurricane Sand Dunes National Recreation Area in the State of Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 14. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain interest in Federal land acquired for the Scofield Project in Carbon County, Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 15. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to recognize the authority of States to regulate oil and gas operations and promote American energy security, development, and job creation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 16. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to apply the provisions of the Act to certain Congressional staff and members of the executive branch; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 17. A bill to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 18. A bill to prohibit authorized committees and leadership PACs from employing

the spouse or immediate family members of any candidate or Federal office holder connected to the committee; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 19. A bill to appropriately manage the debt of the United States by limiting the use of extraordinary measures; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 20. A bill to establish a procedure to safeguard the Social Security Trust Funds; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 21. A bill to ensure efficiency and fairness in the awarding of Federal contracts in connection with natural disaster reconstruction efforts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 22. A bill for the relief of Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 23. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to the definition of "widow" and "widower", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. LEE):

S. 24. A bill to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority shall not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 25. A bill to improve the coordination of export promotion programs and to facilitate export opportunities for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 26. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require contracting officers to consider information regarding domestic employment before awarding a Federal defense contract, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 27. A bill to make wildlife trafficking a predicate offense under racketeering and money laundering statutes and the Travel Act, to provide for the use for conservation purposes of amounts from civil penalties, fines, forfeitures, and restitution under such statutes based on such violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 28. A bill to limit the use of cluster munitions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr.

UDALL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 29. A bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 30. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 31. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 32. A bill to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 33. A bill to provide certainty with respect to the timing of Department of Energy decisions to approve or deny applications to export natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 34. A bill to prohibit assistance to the Palestinian Authority until it withdraws its request to join the International Criminal Court; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 35. A bill to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 36. A bill to address the continued threat posed by dangerous synthetic drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 37. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for State accountability in the provision of access to the core resources for learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LEE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. DAINES):

S.J. Res. 1. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S.J. Res. 2. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the

United States requiring that the Federal budget be balanced; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 1. A resolution informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 2. A resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 3. A resolution to elect Orrin G. Hatch, a Senator from the State of Utah, to be President pro tempore of the Senate of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 4. A resolution notifying the President of the United States of the election of a President pro tempore; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 5. A resolution notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a President pro tempore; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. REID):

S. Res. 6. A resolution expressing the thanks of the Senate to the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY for his service as President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate and to designate Senator LEAHY as President Pro Tempore Emeritus of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 7. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 8. A resolution electing Julie Adams as Secretary of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 9. A resolution notifying the President of the United States of the election of the Secretary of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 10. A resolution notifying the House of Representatives of the election of the Secretary of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 11. A resolution electing Frank Larkin as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 12. A resolution notifying the President of the United States of the election of a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 13. A resolution notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 14. A resolution electing Laura C. Dove, of Virginia, as Secretary for the Majority of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. REID):

S. Res. 15. A resolution electing Gary B. Myrick, of Virginia, as Secretary for the Minority of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 16. A resolution to make effective appointment of Senate Legal Counsel; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 17. A resolution to make effective appointment of Deputy Senate Legal Counsel; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 18. A resolution making majority party appointments for the 114th Congress; submitted and read.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 19. A resolution relative to the death of Edward W. Brooke, III, former United States Senator for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 20. A resolution limiting certain uses of the filibuster in the Senate to improve the legislative process; submitted and read.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 23. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to the definition of "widow" and "widower", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, over the past few years we have seen remarkable progress in one of the defining civil rights issues of our era—ensuring that all lawfully married couples are treated equally under the law. In 2011, when I chaired the first Congressional hearing to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, only 5 States, including Vermont, recognized same-sex marriage. With today's lifting of Florida's

unconstitutional same-sex marriage ban, couples in 36 States and the District of Columbia now have the freedom to marry. This is welcome progress, and I hope we will see similar advancements in even more States this year so that all Americans can marry the one they love.

Despite this tremendous progress, there is still more to be done to ensure that no person faces discrimination based on who they marry or wish to marry. As I said when the Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, "All couples who are lawfully married under state law, including in Vermont, should be entitled to the same Federal protections afforded to all other married couples." Court challenges will continue this year in the remaining States that do not recognize marriage equality. But in Congress, there are several steps we can take immediately to help ensure our Federal laws treat all marriages equally.

Surprisingly, the Copyright Act, which protects our Nation's diverse creative voices, still bears vestiges of discrimination. A provision in the Act grants rights to the surviving spouse of a copyright owner only if the marriage is recognized in the owner's State of residence at the time he or she dies. This means that a writer who lawfully marries his or her partner in Vermont or California is not a "spouse" under the Copyright Act if they move to Michigan, Georgia, or one of the other States that do not currently recognize their marriage.

Congress should close this discriminatory loophole to ensure our Federal statutes live up to our Nation's promise of equality under the law. As the Supreme Court recognized in striking down key portions of the Defense of Marriage Act, it is wrong for the Federal Government to deny benefits or privileges to couples who have lawfully wed.

Today I am reintroducing the Copyright and Marriage Equality Act in the Senate to correct this problem. The bill, which I introduced in the Senate last Congress and which a bipartisan group of lawmakers including Representatives DEREK KILMER, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and JARED POLIS plans to reintroduce in the House of Representatives soon, amends the Copyright Act to look simply at whether a couple is lawfully married—not where a married couple happens to live when the copyright owner dies. It will ensure that the rights attached to the works of our Nation's gay and lesbian authors, musicians, painters, photographers, and other creators pass to their widows and widowers. Artists are part of the creative lifeblood of our Nation, and our laws should protect their families equally.

When I introduced this bill last year, it failed to get the support of a single Republican in the Senate. I hope that in this Congress, Republicans will consider joining this effort to correct