

trafficking legislation is a cruel irony since she has a proven record of prosecuting child rapists and human traffickers. If Members want a prosecutor with a deep commitment to fighting human trafficking, then they should support Loretta Lynch.

The American people deserve to know that while the majority leader said he would block a confirmation vote on Ms. Lynch until we passed unrelated legislation, the Senate has voted 74 times on other matters. If the Senate can vote on a Republican budget, legislation to increase payments to doctors, and on the confirmation of several other nominees, then of course we can and should vote on the nomination of our Nation's next chief law enforcement officer. There is simply no excuse.

Every additional day that Ms. Lynch's nomination languishes on the floor is another day Senate Republicans fail to govern responsibly. This Congress, it took more than 3 months for Senate Republicans to schedule a vote on a single judicial nominee. And even though the Senate finally did confirm a district court nominee this week, nine more judicial nominees are waiting to be considered. This is no way to respect the dedicated public servants who have been nominated and no way to treat our coequal branches of government.

The Republican leader has the opportunity to show the American people what we can do when we work together. He should call Loretta Lynch's nomination up for a vote without further delay.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleague from Maine.

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

JOB CORPS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator KING in recognizing the Job Corps program on its 50th anniversary. Job Corps helps at-risk young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives through vocational and academic training. On August 30, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed legislation creating Job Corps. Today, one-half century later, generations of graduates in Maine and across America demonstrate why Job Corps has been one of our Nation's best investments.

Since its founding, more than 2.7 million young people have entered the Job Corps program with the determination to succeed and have graduated with the confidence and the skills to do so. The success rate is extraordinary. Nearly 86 percent of Job Corps graduates find employment in their fields, go on to higher education or serve our country in uniform. Job Corps students do not just learn a trade—they cultivate high aspirations and a commitment to service.

As I travel throughout Maine, I have extensive conversations with small business owners and workers about the

challenges they face. While there is no doubt that our Nation's unemployment rate remains unacceptably high, I have met with employers in Maine who have jobs available but who cannot find qualified and trained workers to fill these vacant positions.

With two centers in Maine, Job Corps not only helps young people in our State gain the skills that lead to rewarding careers, but it also improves their lives, assists employers, and strengthens communities. The Penobscot Job Corps Academy in Bangor, ME, and the Loring Job Corps Center in Limestone, ME, have the capability to serve nearly 800 at-risk youth on a daily basis. Over the past several decades, these two centers have compiled an impressive record of success in preparing disadvantaged youth for the workplace or higher education.

The combination of skills, self-confidence, and determination Job Corps offers can help young people overcome the setbacks, obstacles, and failures that often are part of life. The focus on community service at both centers helps to create the involved citizens that are so important to Maine's future. These centers put these young men and women on a path to being successful and vital contributing members of our country.

Job Corps was founded on the noble idea that, if given the opportunity, the support, and the training, America's young people could overcome any obstacles and achieve. For 50 years, Job Corps graduates have turned that idea into reality. I congratulate Job Corps again on this accomplishment.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I join the senior Senator from Maine in congratulating Job Corps on 50 years of service to our country's youth. Across the Nation, Job Corps provides training and career skills to economically disadvantaged young adults, helping them attain a high school diploma or equivalent and career technical training to prepare them for success in today's job market. This program is extremely important, giving young people who need a second chance the opportunity to forge a better career for themselves through hard work and meaningful study.

The Penobscot Job Corps Center in Bangor, ME, and the Loring Job Corps Center in Limestone, ME, have consistently proven to be outstanding assets to our State, helping young Mainers prepare to enter the workforce or pursue post-secondary education every year. Through a combination of unique learning experiences, these institutions are helping the next generation of Maine students work towards stable, long-term jobs.

In October of 2013 I was proud to congratulate the Penobscot Job Corps Academy for its certification as a Center of Environmental Excellence. This distinction recognizes Job Corps campuses that show leadership in implementing Job Corps' guiding principles for high performance green buildings.

At the time, the Penobscot Job Corps was one of only two centers in the country to receive this distinction.

This initiative prompted Job Corps facilities across the United States to not only reduce their environmental impact, but to also teach their students to live and work sustainably. The skills and knowledge that students receive from this program will surely help them compete in an increasingly environmentally focused labor market.

Job Corps centers are an important facet of our workforce development system and have a proven record of success in preparing disadvantaged students to obtain and hold a job or pursue opportunities in higher education. I wish Job Corps another 50 years of success, and I am proud of the many young people in Maine and across the country who have used this program to make a better life for themselves.

The contributions of Maine's Job Corps centers simply cannot be overstated, and I look forward to watching their continued development.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GREELEY HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL OBSERVANCES

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this year marks 70 years since the spring of 1945, when Allied forces liberated concentration camps, a major milestone in the end of the Holocaust.

For more than 30 years, the Greeley Holocaust Memorial Observances has helped raise awareness of the atrocities of Nazi crimes and the perils of anti-Semitism, hatred, and intolerance. This month, the Greeley Holocaust Memorial Observances will continue its longstanding tradition of remembering the victims of the Holocaust, commemorating the end of this horrific part of our history, and educating Coloradans about the importance of the Holocaust with discussions, films, exhibits, and workshops. This year's events will include presentations by Holocaust survivor Nathan Taffel.

It is my pleasure to commend the Greeley Holocaust Memorial Observances Committee for their dedicated service to this critical cause and to congratulate the Committee on its 32nd Greeley Holocaust Memorial Observances, 70 years after the end of the Holocaust. •

RECOGNIZING EDGEWATER, NEW JERSEY FIRST RESPONDERS

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and pay tribute to the heroic first responders of Edgewater, NJ, and surrounding communities, who successfully extinguished one of the largest fires in the history of Bergen County. On Wednesday, January 21, 2015, a massive fire destroyed an apartment building and displaced over 1,000 Borough residents, leaving many homeless during the bitter mid-winter months.

At 4:20 p.m. that day, smoke billowed along the western skyline of the Hudson River as Edgewater first responders rushed to the scene of a 7-alarm fire. Mayor Michael McPartland declared a local state of emergency, and the Edgewater Fire Department fought to control the blaze, which ultimately destroyed 240 of the 408 apartments in the complex. While civilians and first responders reported no serious injuries, hundreds of residents lost their homes, pets, and possessions. Were it not for the quick response of Edgewater's dedicated first responders, there could easily have been loss of life, and property damage would have been far greater.

By the end of the event, 35 departments and agencies from across the region had responded to the call for help. Over 500 police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and other emergency personnel were on the scene, many of whom stayed until 7 a.m. the next morning. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor some of these brave individuals for their fearless service to our community:

Chief of Police William Skidmore, head of the 27-member Edgewater police force, who made sure his officers secured the fire perimeter and controlled crowds, ensuring that both emergency personnel and residents remained at a safe distance.

Emergency Management Coordinator Robert Christiansen, who worked closely with Chief Skidmore to lead coordination efforts among the many county, State, and Federal emergency services that responded to the fire.

Fire Chief Tom Jacobson, who managed the overall firefighting response and coordinated 250 firefighters, 2 fireboats from the Fire Department of the City of New York, 2 Jersey City marine units, and 1 New Jersey State Police boat in fighting the blaze.

First Aid Squad Captain Kathy Frato, who led her team of EMTs in assisting residents and those firefighters who continued to battle the fire into the morning hours.

The firefighters of the Edgewater Volunteer Fire Department, who worked through the night to battle this massive blaze.

All of the first responders of the Edgewater Fire Department, Police Department, and First Aid Squad, in addition to the first responders from the 35 assisting municipalities, who helped to protect life and property. Their courage and commitment to their community is an example to all, and I could not be more grateful for their service.●

CONGRATULATING JOE VENTO

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Grammy Award-winning musician Joe Vento on receiving the Century Award, an accolade well deserved in recognition of his many sacrifices. Mr. Vento has served both this great Nation and the city of Las Vegas throughout his life and is a true inspiration for all Nevadans.

Mr. Vento's passion for music began at an early age and had him playing the piano and accordion in New York by age 4. He later used his talents in a different setting, bringing the joy of music to those around him in time of war. Mr. Vento was in the U.S. Army Band near the end of World War II and served in World War II, the Korean war, and Vietnam. He received a battlefield commission of three stars from Marine Commandant Lew Walt during his time in Vietnam at a special concert for U.S. troops. Mr. Vento not only deserves recognition for his bravery in serving our country but also for his determination in providing entertainment for those courageously fighting for our freedom alongside him. His actions prove his selflessness and compassion for others.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women who lay down their lives for our freedoms. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Vento for his courageous contributions to the United States of America. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Mr. Vento's service to others did not end on the battlefield. He spent the next 70 years bringing incredible music to the city of Las Vegas. In the 1950s, he began performing with the Three Sons and remained with the group for 27 years. He made numerous appearances on prestigious shows, appeared in command performances at the White House and Imperial Palaces in Tokyo and Beijing, and conducted performances with Victor Borge, Nelson Eddy, and the Veteran Tonight Show Big Band. He also performed at the Paris hotel in Las Vegas. Most recently, Mr. Vento has lent his musical talent to the Royal Resort just off the strip. Mr. Vento's unwavering commitment to the Las Vegas community will never be forgotten. His music will be legend for years to come.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating Mr. Vento on his award and in recognizing his years of service to both the United States of America and the Las Vegas community. I wish him the best of luck in all of his musical years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SAM KAPOURALES

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a dear friend, a dedicated public servant and a passionate West Virginia leader, Sam Kapourales, who is celebrating his 80th birthday on

April 19, 2015. After proudly knowing Sam and his lovely wife Dee for more than four decades, it is a special privilege to celebrate Sam's vast achievements and his many years of steadfast service to Mingo County, to West Virginia, and to our Nation.

I have never met anyone more humble, community-minded and family-oriented than Sam. Throughout his 80 years, and still today, Sam has always answered the call of service. At every turn of the road—whether as the mayor of Williamson in Mingo County for nearly 21 years, as the prosperous business owner of Kapourales Properties, as a successful pharmacist or as an invaluable member of countless boards and organizations that focused on helping others and impacting our local communities—Sam has never lost touch with his faith, his family and those in need.

As a devout Mason, Sam has lead a life devoted to personal reflection, self-improvement and social betterment. He is a pure, true-blue West Virginian who has shown time after time that he loves his State and the people of West Virginia through his actions of service and philanthropy. For instance, Sam served as president of the Childhood Language Center in Charleston, where children with speech impediments could receive necessary treatments and services.

He also helped recruit much-needed medical services and physicians to the Tug Valley region as a sponsor of the Tug Valley Area Ambulance Service. And as proud Shriner and member of the Beni Kedem Temple in Charleston, even serving a term as Potentate—a true honor indeed—Sam helped raise funds to transport disabled, burnt or sick children to regional medical facilities. Sam and Dee even started a scholarship to provide additional educational opportunities for graduating seniors at Mingo Central High School.

Yet Sam's tireless community efforts do not even begin to stop there. Throughout the years, Sam served as a member on the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, the West Virginia Health Care Authority Board, and the West Virginia Housing Development Authority Board. He was Director of the First National Bank of Williamson, the First Bank of Charleston, the Summit State Bank, and the Energy Services of America Corporation. He also chaired the advisory board of Southern West Virginia Community College of Nursing.

Because of his passion, discipline, and staunch work ethic, it is no surprise that Sam has been recognized for his community efforts multiple times throughout the years. Yet to Sam, he says that the greatest of honors bestowed upon him is being a recipient of the 33rd Degree of the Scottish Rite, which is only granted for exceptional service to Freemasonry. His entire life, I never knew Sam to turn down participating in worthwhile cause or helping a neighbor in need. And I truly think