

corner of the pond, and the fact that we were able to both in the Senate and the House navigate that pond and deal with respectfully with one another—and also recognize in some cases our different points of view couldn't be included—I think, is a great credit to the process.

Governors, teachers, superintendents, Republicans and Democrats, wanted us to do this, and we've done it so far. There's not only consensus on the need to fix it, but we have now shown today that in the House and Senate of the United States, there is consensus on how to fix it. And that means we'll keep the important measures of student achievement, but we will restore to states, communities and classroom teachers the responsibility with what to do about the results of the tests.

This would not have happened without your leadership and Rep. Bobby Scott, who has been a terrific partner in all this, and the cooperation of the members of the House and Senate on this committee.

I've complimented Senator Murray perhaps excessively over the last year, but she has been absolutely key to this. So I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this.

I came to the Senate not just to make a speech but also to try and get a result and today we've gotten one.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE CARROLL

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, last week President Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor, to my longtime friend and fellow Alaskan Bonnie Carroll. In my judgment, this is a recognition long due. While America may have first heard the name Bonnie Carroll last week, our military families have long viewed her as a lifeline, a true woman of valor.

Bonnie is the founder of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, TAPS. She founded TAPS after the death of her husband, Alaska Army National Guard BG Tom Carroll, in a military plane crash on November 12, 1992.

TAPS is an organization that provides support to military families who have lost a loved one. TAPS welcomes anyone who is grieving the death of someone who died in the military. Its families have experienced loss in a variety of ways—from combat, suicide, terrorism, homicide, negligence, accidents, and illness. Our survivors include mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, fiancés, and other relatives of those who have died.

Since its launch in 1994, TAPS has cared for the more than 50,000 surviving family members through a national network of peer-based emotional support services, a 24/7 helpline available to those grieving a loss, connections to community-based care throughout the Nation, and casework assistance for families navigating all of the resources and benefits available to them.

One of TAPS' most respected programs is its "Good Grief Camp," which is offered to young people who have lost a loved one. This program pairs

young survivors with Active-Duty military mentors. Military mentors help the young survivors learn how our Nation honors those who have served and sacrificed and companion these children during their grief journey.

I suspect that many of our fellow Americans had never heard of Bonnie Carroll or TAPS before. Unlike some of the others honored at last week's ceremony—people like Barbra Streisand, Steven Spielberg, and James Taylor—Bonnie is not a celebrity. She does not seek attention for herself. Her laser focus is on helping military families, and she does nothing to distract herself or her organization from that mission. But that doesn't make her any less a rockstar. And now America knows why.

Incredible as it may seem, Bonnie Carroll's road to distinction did not begin with her work at TAPS. Her resume includes service to America as a member of the Air National Guard, the U.S. Air Force Reserve, as a senior staff member in the Reagan White House Cabinet Affairs Office, and the VA's White House liaison in the administration of President George W. Bush. She relocated to Baghdad to serve with the Coalition Provisional Authority. She has served on countless boards and commissions related to military health, suicide prevention, and grief therapy.

Bonnie reflects the very best of the Alaskan spirit, a spirit of community and service before self. I am honored to join with the President in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of Bonnie Carroll, my dear friend, fellow Alaskan, and great American.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE WATERS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alice Waters, groundbreaking chef, restaurant owner, author, and activist who was recently awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama for her pioneering role in the sustainable food movement.

As a student at the University of California, Berkeley, in the 1960s, Alice developed a passion for social activism. While studying abroad in Paris one semester, she began to realize the impact food can have on our daily lives. Exposed to lively discussions over fresh, locally sourced home-cooked meals, a simple yet revolutionary idea took root, and in 1971 she and a group of friends opened Chez Panisse in Berkeley.

It was a concept that took off almost immediately: fresh, local, and organic food that changed with the seasons. As the restaurant's success grew, Alice and her staff created a network of local farmers and producers whose dedication to sustainable agriculture supplied Chez Panisse's fresh ingredients, helped to pioneer farm-to-table-cuisine, and served as a model for future generations of restaurant owners.

Alice's influence spread far beyond the kitchen. In 1996, she created the

Edible Schoolyard Project to help schools develop community gardens, so students can better understand the origins of their food and how to create fresh, local, and healthy meals. Today there are more than 5,000 Edible Schoolyard Project locations worldwide, and the effort helped inspire First Lady Michelle Obama to plant a vegetable garden on the South Lawn of the White House.

Alice has said that "good food is a right, not a privilege," and her work is helping to make that a reality. She has revolutionized the way our country cooks, eats, and thinks about food—and we are all better because of it.

I am proud to congratulate my friend, Alice Waters, on this incredible honor and wish her many more years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American Medical Women's Association, AMWA, the first national organization of women physicians.

One hundred years ago, less than 6 percent of all physicians in the United States were women. Recognizing a crucial need to provide support for these pioneering women and to bring diversity to the medical field, Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen founded the AMWA on November 18, 1915, in Chicago.

The AMWA quickly established a network and support system for women in the medical profession and documented their lack of opportunities in postgraduate training, internships, and academic appointments.

Over the years, the AMWA successfully advocated to increase leadership roles for women doctors, sponsored research and panel discussions on medical women in the workforce, and established scholarship and mentorship programs to encourage the next generation of women leaders. The AMWA has also worked to improve women's health by addressing issues from human trafficking and affordable contraceptive care, to childhood obesity and osteoporosis risk across the globe.

For the past century, the American Medical Women's Association has served as the vision and voice of women in medicine. As we celebrate their extraordinary milestone, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the AMWA for their tireless efforts to open the door for generations of women physicians. Because of their work, countless men, women, and children have benefited from the dedicated service of AMWA members, and for that we are all grateful.

OBSERVING WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 28th World AIDS Day. This day is a time to recognize the tremendous progress we have

made in combating the human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, HIV/AIDS, and to redouble our commitment to preventing and treating this devastating disease.

For many years, we have viewed AIDS as a death sentence. Before 2000, rates of infection grew exponentially. People living with HIV/AIDS had few options, and what options they did have were expensive and out of reach. Millions of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS were isolated within their own communities, and there was virtually no way to prevent HIV transmissions from pregnant women to their unborn children, ending countless lives before they could truly begin.

But thanks to sustained United States and global efforts—administered through programs like the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, the Global Fund, and UNAIDS—we are finally turning the tide, not only in terms of slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS, but also by improving the lives of those affected by this disease.

Since 2000, new HIV infections have dropped by 35 percent. AIDS-related deaths are down 42 percent from their peak in 2004. To date, 15 million men, women, and children worldwide are on anti-retroviral therapy, compared to only 1 million in 2001. We have also made significant progress in tackling mother-to-child transmissions, which are key to ending the AIDS epidemic. Today 73 percent of pregnant women living with HIV have access to anti-retroviral therapy, greatly reducing the likelihood that they will transmit the disease to their babies. As a result, since 2000, new infections among children have fallen by 58 percent. Because of our investments in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, health systems throughout Africa have been strengthened, allowing millions to gain access to medications and more advanced treatments. Life expectancy in nations like Rwanda and Kenya have dramatically increased, and health facilities have been modernized.

These steps are just some of the ways in which we have made remarkable progress to stop HIV/AIDS in its tracks. We are, without a doubt, on our way to an AIDS-free generation. This is something that can happen in our lifetimes.

In mid-September, more than 150 world leaders gathered at the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 3 includes a target to eradicate HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other communicable diseases by 2030. This is a bold commitment that requires strong leadership from the United States. To achieve this goal, the United States must continue to invest in and provide strong funding for our global health programs, especially PEPFAR.

As my colleagues know, PEPFAR is the largest commitment by any nation

to combat a single disease internationally and represents the very best of America and our commitment to global humanitarian values. Thanks to PEPFAR, 7.7 million men, women, and children worldwide are receiving anti-retroviral treatments. In 2014, PEPFAR supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 56.7 million people and provided training for more than 140,000 new health care workers to help combat HIV on the ground. Through PEPFAR, we have been able to reach 5 million children who have been orphaned or made vulnerable due to HIV/AIDS. PEPFAR has also dramatically improved outcomes for pregnant women and their babies, reducing the transmission of HIV from mother to child. In 2014, PEPFAR supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 14.2 million pregnant women worldwide. For the nearly 750,000 pregnant women who tested positive for HIV, PEPFAR's anti-retroviral medications allowed 95 percent of their children to be born HIV-free.

We have made extraordinary progress; however, there is still much work to be done. Currently, there are more than 22 million people living with HIV who are not yet on treatment, and HIV is still the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age worldwide. We are on our way to an AIDS-free generation, but we can't rest on our laurels now. We need the commitment and leadership of partner countries—reinforced with support from donor nations, civil society, people living with HIV, faith-based organizations, the private sector, and foundations—to make an AIDS-free generation a reality. On this World AIDS Day, we recognize the progress we have made and recommit ourselves to continuing to combat HIV/AIDS both at home and abroad.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING MILTON PITTS CRENCRAW

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor today Milton Pitts Crenshaw, an aviation pioneer from Little Rock, AR, who paved the way for integration in the U.S. military and impacted generations of aviators.

Crenshaw, known as the father of black aviation in Arkansas, developed a love of flying while at the Tuskegee Institute. He excelled in the program, and after earning his pilot's license, he pursued his instructor's certificate. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Crenshaw joined the Army Air Corps Civilian Pilot Training Program as a flight instructor.

He had the distinction of being one of the original supervising squadron commanders for the Tuskegee Airmen. He trained hundreds of cadets during the 1940s, an accomplishment he was rightfully proud of.

"The first thing that he takes pride in is that he and the other Black flight

instructors paved the way for people of color to enter the field of aviation. He is proud that he was chosen to implement that program," his daughter Dolores Crenshaw Singleton said in a recent interview.

Crenshaw helped break the barriers that existed in the military. His passion for aviation continued after his tenure at Tuskegee, serving as a flight instructor at several air bases, including Camp Rucker, AL, where he became the first Black flight instructor.

Crenshaw honorably served with the U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Air Force for more than 40 years.

He also shared his love of aviation with Arkansas, and he was instrumental in creating an aviation program at Philander Smith College in Little Rock. Crenshaw taught aviation at the school from 1947 to 1953, holding classes at Adams Field in the Central Flying Service building.

Along with the accolades of inductions in the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, in 2007 he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, along with other members we have come to admire as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Milton Pitts Crenshaw passed away on November 17, 2015. Today he will be laid to rest at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock. He was a true American hero whose leadership helped secure victory and peace for all freedom-loving people of the world.●

RECOGNIZING THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ATLANTA

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor a wonderful asset in my hometown of Atlanta, GA, the Children's Museum of Atlanta.

Since the opening of its permanent facility in 2003 at Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta, it has become a leading attraction for families and has helped ignite the revitalization of the area, along with the Georgia Aquarium, the Center for Civil and Human Rights, the College Football Hall of Fame, and the iconic World of Coca-Cola. The Children's Museum of Atlanta has promoted the power of play and highlighted the importance of early childhood education in all areas, especially literacy, math, and science.

Not only am I married to a former teacher, but as a grandfather and the former chair of the Georgia Board of Education, I have long been committed to enhancing and improving educational opportunities for our children. The Children's Museum's mission and vision help parents, educators, and schools ignite curiosity and discovery in young children, enhance learning, and help them reach their goals.

The museum has recently undergone a major renovation and will reopen its doors on December 12, 2015, to a completely updated facility.

I am delighted to recognize on the floor of the Senate and to join the city