

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 CRENCHAW

• 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

of Atlanta in celebrating Saturday, December 12, 2015, as Children's Museum of Atlanta Day.●

TRIBUTE TO DEONTAY WILDER

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the current World Boxing Council, WBC, World Heavyweight Champion Deontay Leshun Wilder.

Mr. Wilder is a native of Tuscaloosa, AL. He graduated from Tuscaloosa Central High School in 2004, and he attended Shelton State Community College. From there, he focused on forging a career in boxing.

Mr. Wilder began his boxing career in 2005, and he has achieved outstanding success as both an amateur and professional boxer. In 2007, Wilder upset the favorites to win the National Golden Gloves and the U.S. championships. Wilder was awarded the bronze medal in boxing at the 2008 Olympics. In 2012, he won the WBC Continental Americas heavyweight boxing title.

In January of this year, Wilder became the first American heavyweight champion in 9 years after his win over Bermane Stiverne. Since then, Wilder has successfully defended his WBC title twice, most recently in September.

Deontay Wilder has made a proactive effort to give back to the State of Alabama by hosting his first two title defenses in Birmingham, AL. He has also been a champion of charitable causes such as the fight against spina bifida.

Mr. Wilder is an incredible athlete and an inspiration to many. I am honored to recognize his great talent and success, and I am proud to call him a fellow Alabamian.●

REMEMBERING JAMES JOSEPH MARSHALL

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor James Joseph Marshall, a third generation Montanan and a veteran of World War II.

On behalf of all Montanans and Americans, I stand to say thank you to Jim's family for his service to our Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Jim's life and service, a story that most certainly will not be forgotten, and a story he perhaps wouldn't have told himself.

In fact, it wasn't until his oldest daughter, Vicki, was in eighth grade that she even noticed her father's limp. She asked her mother, "Why does daddy limp?"

Ruth told her that he limped because of his war wound. He never talked about his experience during the war, and it wasn't until he wrote about his injury for a presentation to middle schoolers that his family heard the full story.

Jim was shot in the leg while fighting in the Ruhr Pocket, in Germany, near the border of Czechoslovakia on April 25, 1945.

After sweeping the countryside searching for any remaining resistance,

his platoon butted up against German troops on a mountainside. It wasn't long until the platoon was pinned down by the automatic weapon fire.

The platoon made a dash for cover but to no avail. Every man was hit. Jim described the shot to his leg like being hit by a sledgehammer.

German troops came to confirm they were all dead and to gather any rifles and ammo. Jim, with his orders shoved underneath him and the sole survivor, played dead. They passed on.

Not long after, German medics came through.

Surprisingly, a young German, whom Jim identified by the swastika on his arm, put a compress on his leg and a jacket over top of him before moving on.

Shortly after, an American Jeep rolled up and rescued him.

Jim always said he never would have made it out alive had that young German not stopped to show him some compassion.

Once home from the war in 1946, Jim enrolled at Montana State University at Bozeman.

It was there that he met his future wife Ruth Officer, a nurse who tended to some residual issues with Jim's hip. They married on March 15, 1947.

Jim was always a man who took care of his family, and that devotion took them to Livingston, Ruth's hometown. There, he began work as a carpenter's apprentice, eventually becoming a journeyman.

After returning to MSU to get his industrial art degree, he began teaching shop at Emerson Junior High in Bozeman. Eventually, he became a purchasing agent for Missoula School District No. 1.

Jim and Ruth had three children: Vicki, Leann, and Jim. They remember him as a humble man who cared deeply for his family and frequently demonstrated that devotion.

The fondness with which Jim is remembered is reflective of the life he lived. Folks will remember his willingness to help out a friend and his love of photography, especially bald eagles. He was passionate about making Montana better for future generations.

In September of 2012, Jim had the pleasure of participating in one of the earliest Honor Flights to Washington, DC, to see the World War II Memorial there.

His daughter, Leann, helped him register himself as a World War II veteran at the memorial, and his name will remain in the kiosks there for anyone to see.

In fact, I had the honor of greeting that particular Honor Flight back to Montana afterward and am happy to hear that Jim immensely enjoyed that experience.

Jim died on April 8, 2014, surrounded by family.

It was my honor to recognize James Joseph Marshall's bravery and service to the United States by presenting his family with the Bronze Star Medal for

meritorious achievement based on his prior award of the combat infantryman badge and the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp.

Our Nation is forever grateful for Jim's service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:09 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 611. An act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1541. An act to amend title 54, United States Code, to make Hispanic-serving institutions eligible for technical and financial assistance for the establishment of preservation training and degree programs.

H.R. 1755. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the congressional charter of the Disabled American Veterans.

H.R. 2212. An act to take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2270. An act to redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2288. An act to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3279. An act to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require annual reports to Congress on, and the maintenance of databases on, awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3490. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), 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 Joint Economic Committee: Mr. TIBERI of Ohio, to rank before Mr. AMASH.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:41 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 611. An act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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