

Roosevelt's internment order was "a sad day in American history" because it was "wrong." Ford concluded by calling upon the American people "to affirm with me this promise: that we have learned from the tragedy of that long ago experience" and "resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated."

But fast forward four decades: another war, another election. And many Americans seem perfectly willing to repeat what was resolved never again to be repeated. Once again, fear—dare I say—threatens to trump this country's better instincts.

RECOGNIZING DANFORTH PEWTER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to celebrate the success of another Vermont business, Danforth Pewter, which this year celebrates 40 years of producing quality, hand-crafted pewter products. Danforth Pewter—owned and operated by Fred and Judi Danforth—opened for business in 1975 in Woodstock, VT. What started as a family business operating in a milk house in an old dairy barn has expanded to a workshop and flagship store in Middlebury and a network of retail stores in Burlington, Waterbury, and Woodstock, VT, and in Colonial Williamsburg, VA.

This rich history of Danforth Pewter, however, dates back more than two-and-a-half centuries, when Thomas Danforth II opened his pewter shop in Middletown, CT in 1755. Generations of Danforths followed in the patriarch's footsteps until 1873. A century later, Fred Danforth and his wife, Judi, also an artist, rekindled the family tradition and, following in the footsteps of his great-great-great-great-grandfather, reopened what is today a thriving business with a reputation for quality that extends far beyond the Green Mountains of Vermont. Fast forward to today, and the Danforth pewter legacy lives on. Using the same techniques to cast pewter today as were originally used by Thomas Danforth II is an even greater testament to the longevity of fine craftsmanship and the quality of the goods produced at Danforth Pewter.

Every time Marcelle and I visit Danforth Pewter, we are impressed by the time and effort that goes into each piece. We shared the quality of this craftsmanship in 2008 when we shared palm stones crafted at Danforth Pewter with other delegates at the 2008 National Convention. Whenever we are in Middlebury, Marcelle and I try to stop in the store and see what new pieces are available. Our home in Vermont is dotted with Danforth Pewter pieces, and many hold special memories for us. These pieces are part of what makes our house in Vermont truly our home.

The Burlington Free Press recently ran an article highlighting the long history of Danforth Pewter, punctuated with images of some of the company's most historic pieces. I ask unanimous consent that this December 11, 2015, article entitled "Inside the world of Danforth Pewter" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Dec. 11, 2015]

INSIDE THE WORLD OF DANFORTH PEWTER
(By Fred Danforth)

In his wonderful book "The Connecticut," Walter Hard tells of the development of trade along the Connecticut River by the American colonists. In one chapter he describes itinerant peddlers with horse-drawn carts who were the first to distribute the wares of the 18th-century artisans of the Connecticut Valley.

Some of the wares on those carts were most likely pewter mugs and plates made by Thomas Danforth and his six sons in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Thomas Danforth opened his pewter workshop in Middletown, Connecticut, on the banks of the Connecticut River, in 1755 and his sons, grandsons and great-grandsons continued crafting pewter in their respective workshops until 1873, when the last of the early American Danforth pewterers died. Some of the pewter pieces made by these Colonial and early American Danforths have made their way into the Smithsonian, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Winterthur Museum in Delaware, the DeWitt-Wallace Museum in Colonial Williamsburg, and many other American museums.

FRED AND JUDI CONNECT

In the middle of the 20th century, Judi Danforth, who was then Judi Whipple, also grew up on the shores of the Connecticut River, in Claremont, New Hampshire. Fred Danforth, whose father was the family genealogist, came to Vermont from Ohio to attend Middlebury College. When Fred and Judi met in Middlebury, they discovered that they not only liked each other a lot, but they had a common interest in pewter. Judi had studied silversmithing and pewtering at the school for American Craftsmen in Rochester, New York, and was determined to become a pewterer.

Fred aspired to fine woodworking and knew that the four pewter pieces on his family's mantle were made by his great-great-great-great-grandfather Thomas Danforth and his family. With a little cajoling Fred shifted his creative interest from wood to pewter. After a short apprenticeship in the basic skills of pewtering and a brief stint working for an entrepreneur in Nova Scotia, the two returned to Vermont and found the perfect spot to follow their new passion in Woodstock, and 102 years after the last of the early American Danforths stopped working in pewter, the Danforth family pewter trade came to life again, once more in the Connecticut River Valley.

Using the rampant lion from Thomas Danforth's touchmark on their first sign, Fred and Judi Danforth opened their pewter shop in Woodstock, Vermont in 1975.

Fred says "We were inspired by the burgeoning revival of the American Crafts movement in Vermont in the 1970s. We were brimming with design ideas and our goal was to make well-designed appealing functional pieces that people could use every day and enjoy for generations." The shop in Woodstock was in the milk house of an old dairy barn. The makeshift showroom was in their living room in a tired 1789 farm house.

'INTO THE WOODS'

After two years of successfully attracting both locals and visiting tourists to their fledgling business, they decided to move closer to friends in Addison County to begin raising their family and to pursue a new approach to their business.

"We moved into the woods," Fred continues, "some might say back to the land, in Lincoln. This presented new challenges for our business and we had to work hard to make it succeed. In order to reach customers we began attending more craft fairs and selectively selling our growing product line to stores around Vermont including Frog Hollow. We created our first touchmark based on the same rampant lion of Thomas Danforth II."

"And this was when Judi became a sculptor. She began carving wax into a whimsical range of buttons in the shapes of animals and flowers. They were immediately popular on the craft fair circuit, not to mention on the sweaters of our two beautiful young daughters." The business grew in new directions as the couple went to trade shows and sold their buttons and pins and then ornaments to stores all over the country.

EXPAND TO MIDDLEBURY

By 1988, they had 12 employees and had outgrown the workshop in the Danforths' barn in Lincoln. They built a new facility next to Woody Jackson's Holy Cow in Middlebury. Soon thereafter Judi's carving skill won them the license to make Winnie the Pooh pewter for Walt Disney, which led to another period of growth in a new direction.

In the late 1990s, the company returned to its roots and refocused its energies on Fred and Judi's original designs. In 1997 Danforth Pewter was honored by the SBA when Fred and Judi were the co-winners of the Vermont Small Business Person of the Year Award.

In 2006, the company took another big step, putting their flagship retail store in Middlebury into the same building as the workshop. One set of observation windows lets guests see 100-year-old lathes being used by skilled artisans to make oil lamps, candlesticks, baby cups and other hollowware. Another set of windows gives a look into the casting shop where visitors can see molten pewter being carefully poured into some of the hundreds of vulcanized rubber molds the company uses to make jewelry, holiday ornaments and figurines.

NETWORK OF PEWTER STORES

Today, the company employs around 60 people, and the network of Danforth Pewter stores has grown to include a boutique on Middlebury's Main St; stores in Burlington, Waterbury, Woodstock, and Williamsburg, Virginia; a holiday kiosk in the University Mall in South Burlington in November and December; and several retail events around New England. The company also has a thriving online business at www.danforthpewter.com, as well as a national wholesale business. In addition, Danforth makes custom designs, such as the bottle stoppers for one of Whistlepig Whiskey's high-end offerings, and holiday ornaments for Life is Good.

A lot has changed since Thomas Danforth II opened his pewter workshop in 1755, but there are a lot of things that he'd recognize if he walked into Danforth's Middlebury workshop today. The process of casting pewter by pouring molten pewter into a mold is a technique he used that's still in use today.

Hopefully, he'd also recognize a passion for good design and for quality craftsmanship. And he'd certainly recognize some of the pieces of Colonial-era and early American Danforth pewter that are on display in each Danforth store, including one or two that he made himself all the way back in the 1700s.

OMNIBUS LEGISLATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I support this bipartisan budget package

that is an important step forward for our country.

With this deal, we have avoided the devastating sequester cuts—which is incredibly important for our economy, for our workers, and for our businesses.

We did not allow the government to shut down over divisive issues—like taking away access to reproductive health care for millions of women.

We fought to protect investments that are vital to our families, children, seniors, veterans, women, college students, communities, and our environment.

By definition, no deal is ever perfect. No one will get everything they want—especially in a divided government, but this agreement is good for our country in many ways.

I will start with the extension of the clean energy investments included in this package.

Look at my State. We know what is at stake. Clean energy has proven to be a huge engine of economic growth in California.

So extending the wind and solar energy tax incentives will help create tens of thousands of clean energy jobs across the country that will benefit American families and the environment, increase our energy independence, and protect our children and grandchildren from dangerous pollution.

Extending the wind and solar tax incentives will eliminate over 10 times more carbon emissions than lifting the oil export ban will create. Combined, these incentives are expected to reduce annual carbon emissions equal to the emissions from 66 coal-fired power plants or 50 million passenger cars.

Extending the Investment Tax Credit, ITC, for solar would create an estimated 61,000 jobs in 2017 alone and avoid losing 80,000 solar jobs.

And extending the Production Tax Credit, PTC, would allow the wind industry to grow to over 100,000 jobs in 4 years and continue toward supporting 500,000 jobs by 2030.

These provisions are a game changer—and I am thrilled they were included.

I also strongly support the 9/11 First Responders provision. In this country, we take care of the people who put their lives on the line for us. These men and women answered the call of duty when our Nation was under attack.

I never understood why it took so long to do this, and it is a moral outrage that this program was allowed to expire in the first place. We should never have left them in limbo for health care.

We would never ever leave our wounded soldiers on the battlefield, and we should have never ever have given these brave first responders even a moment of doubt that we would be there for them.

I want to praise Senator GILLIBRAND, Senator SCHUMER, and Jon Stewart for putting this issue on the map—and get-

ting these 9/11 heroes the health care they need—and deserve. And I want to say this: it was then-Senator Hillary Clinton who, as a member of EPW, called attention to the dangerous, dangerous toxic air pollutants at Ground Zero, and I praise her for that work. She secured millions for a health screening program for Ground Zero workers and first responders.

I am also thrilled this deal renews the Land and Water Conservation Fund, LWCF, for 3 years. The fund—our country's most successful conservation and recreation program—ensures that all Americans have access to our beautiful outdoor spaces.

Since 1964, the fund has created recreation opportunities in every single State and protected national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other Federal areas—and doing so has benefitted our economy. Outdoor recreation, conservation, and preservation pumps more than \$1 trillion into the U.S. economy every year and supports 1 out of every 15 jobs in the U.S.

There are a number of other critical provisions in this package.

Veterans—this bill demonstrates our dedication to our veterans by providing \$163 billion in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. A majority of this funding will go directly to medical care and medical research for our veterans.

Education—this legislation will also provide billions of dollars in funding to ensure more access to quality education for our students—including \$22.5 billion for the Pell Grant Program—which when combined with mandatory funding will increase the maximum grant to \$5,915 and ensure that more than 8 million low-income students can attend college in the next school year.

The bill also invests significant funding in title I grants and Head Start—which gives our youngest children more opportunities for educational success.

Afterschool—the bill boosts funding for afterschool programs by \$15 million, expanding access to the critical programs for approximately 15,000 students.

Fighting the opioid epidemic—the bill also includes robust funding to fight the growing use of drugs in this country and increase awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse by providing \$3.8 billion for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services.

Preserving our national parks—the bill provides \$2.8 billion to preserve and protect our beautiful national parks.

Drought—I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN for including \$271 million to help alleviate hazards caused by drought, floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters. It also helps farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by these natural disasters.

Included in this package are also important tax provisions that will help our families, our communities and our environment.

The tax extenders package made permanent the child tax credit, CTC, earned-income tax credit, EITC, and American opportunity tax credit for college expenses.

This will increase the tax refunds of working families by several hundred dollars per year, depending on the size of the family.

Other important tax extenders made permanent are the deduction for State and local sales taxes, the deduction for donations of property for conservation purposes, tax-free retirement plan distributions for charitable donations, and the deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses, as well as parity for parking and transit subsidies. The bill also extends the favorable tax treatment of forgiven mortgages through 2016.

I am pleased that we were able to stop more than 100 poison pill riders.

We stopped Republicans from defunding Planned Parenthood and depriving nearly 3 million Americans of health care.

We stopped them from undermining the Food and Drug Administration's ability to protect Americans from the dangers of e-cigarettes.

We stopped them from restricting the authority of Health and Human Services, HHS, to administer and enforce the Affordable Care Act.

We stopped them from weakening the Department of Homeland Security's DACA program, which helps DREAMers succeed.

We stopped them from barring FEMA State and grant funds to sanctuary cities.

We stopped them from gutting the President's landmark Clean Power Plan and weakening the Endangered Species Act and destroying the Clean Water Act.

And we stopped them from eliminating the housing trust fund, which provides affordable housing for families across the country.

I am proud that Democrats stood together and fought against these dangerous provisions that would seriously hurt the American people.

Now, there were several provisions that ended up in the legislation that I do not support—measures that Republicans insisted on, such as lifting the oil export ban permanently, which I oppose.

I also do not support Republicans' decision to flat-fund the EPA—even though the EPA is incredibly popular with Americans.

And it doesn't provide the IRS with any new funds—which hurts our ability to administer the Affordable Care Act, as well as crack down on tax cheats and frauds.

The package also provides inadequate support for family planning—especially abroad.

At a time when we should be doing everything we can to prevent gun violence, this legislation does not overturn a prohibition on government-funded studies of gun violence.

I am also disappointed that the House's visa waiver language was accepted—rather than Senator FEINSTEIN's language that I supported.

But in the end, that is what a compromise is—and that is what it means to negotiate and to govern.

I want to praise Senator REID, Leader PELOSI, Senator MIKULSKI, and all of my fellow Democrats who fought so hard to make this the best agreement we could reach. I also praise their Republican counterparts.

I believe this is a good deal for the American people. It is good for our families, our children, our economy, and our environment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to move forward with the Senate language on the Toxic Substances Control Act, TSCA, which has been a difficult, multiyear odyssey.

I did this for two reasons. First, the bill has been vastly improved over the original bill, which in my opinion would have been harmful to our families because it overrode our State laws and set up an ineffective and nonexistent way to regulate most toxic pollutants. Secondly, I have been assured that, as the House and Senate bills are merged into one, the voices of those who have been most deeply affected—including nurses, breast cancer survivors, asbestos victims, and children—will be heard. I will have the opportunity to be in the room at every step and express their views.

This is very important to me because the history of this bill has been so contentious. I want to assure my colleagues, my home State of California, and the people of this Nation that I will stay intimately involved as the bill moves forward, and I will share my views openly. I look forward to the work ahead, and I am optimistic that we can reach a fair and just conclusion.

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LIGHT AND LIGHT-BASED TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, as the year comes to a close, I would like to highlight a proclamation from the U.N. General Assembly recognizing 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies. This global initiative is aimed at raising awareness of the vital role of light in our daily lives and its importance to 21st century technology and innovation. For centuries, light has transcended all boundaries from geography and gender, to age, culture, and race.

For centuries, light-based technologies have provided solutions to worldwide challenges in energy, agriculture, telecommunications, security, and health. To start, light has revolutionized medicine through technologies such as x ray imaging, laser surgery, and cancer treatments. Light has

transformed international communication via the Internet, a tool we cannot imagine living without today. It has helped us improve safety through sensors in cars and aircraft, advanced infrastructure monitoring, and weather prediction. Furthermore, light has helped millions around the globe work, study, and play after dark through low-cost and sustainable light sources for families who do not have access to grid electricity. From agriculture to forensics to virtual reality, light and light-based technologies continue to fuel innovations and improvements that touch nearly every aspect of lives around the world.

In fact, the science of light is becoming increasingly critical in growing our economy and keeping American manufacturing competitive on a global scale. The contribution of light-based technologies to our economy starts with fundamental optics and photonics education and research. Look no further than the work being done in my home State at Delaware State University's Optical Science Center for Applied Research, OSCAR, where researchers are developing new detectors for night vision technologies, methods for determining the composition of complex materials, and technologies with applications in space exploration, to name just a few. These economic contributions continue with investments in manufacturing to increase the development and production of new optics and photonics applications and technologies, a market that supports more than 7.4 million jobs and \$3 trillion in annual revenue in the United States.

The transformative value of light-based technologies was reaffirmed earlier this summer with the establishment of the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics, AIM Photonics, as part of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation. Continued investment in public-private partnerships like AIM Photonics accelerates research and development that leads to technologies like integrated photonic components and circuits. This vital work helps ensure that breakthroughs in related fields like biophotonics, high-resolution imaging, next generation wireless communications, and quantum computing will not only occur, but also be built right here in America.

The International Year of Light is also a real opportunity to provide the general public with a better understanding of the science of light; promote STEM education; and inspire the next generation of scientists, researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. This past year, optics and photonics organizations have held events around the United States such as the Light for a Better World symposium held in September in Washington, DC, that featured two Nobel prize winners as keynote speakers, Dr. Eric Betzig and Dr. Shuji Nakamura. In October, the University of Delaware also hosted Green

Light: Prospects in Lighting Design and Technology, which brought together artists and scientists from around the world, while other groups across the country have hosted similar symposia through local sections and student chapters of organizations. Events such as these provide public outreach on the importance of optics and photonics, promote youth interest and engagement in science, and educate us all on the crucial role that light-based technologies play in the U.S. economy and in everyday life.

Events like these have been happening not just here in the United States, but all over the world throughout 2015. Across the globe, events have been organized to learn more about the science of light and to celebrate the innovation and imagination that has fueled incredible discoveries and inventions. The storied history of innovation in light dates back to the first studies of optics 1,000 years ago and continues today with breakthroughs in the field of optical communications.

These activities would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of people in the optics and photonics field, both in industry and in academia. This includes the optics and photonics based societies and organizations that have sponsored the initiative, including the Optical Society, the American Institute of Physics, the American Physical Society, the European Physical Society, the German Physical Society, the Abdus Salam International Centre of Theoretical Physics, the IEEE Photonics Society, the Institute of Physics, Light: Science and Applications, Lightsources.org, 1001 Inventions, and the International Society for Optics and Photonics. In fact, the International Year of Light has been endorsed by the International Council of Science, as well as several international scientific unions and professional societies, and has more than 100 partners from over 85 countries.

By highlighting the critical role light plays in our everyday lives and its unique potential to improve the world in ways we cannot yet imagine, celebrating the International Year of Light provides a valuable opportunity to inspire, educate, and connect all of those who are fighting to make the world even brighter. From scientific societies to educational institutions to trade groups, from nonprofit organizations to private sector partners, the global community has recognized 2015 as the International Year of Light not only to commemorate achievements past, but also to set the stage for technologies of the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CRAWFORD-SEBASTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, it is my honor to congratulate the