

A local publication, the Greensburg Record-Herald, recently published an article extolling Dr. Chowning's life of accomplishment. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Greensburg Record-Herald, Dec. 23, 2015]

CU'S JOHN CHOWNING ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AS OF JAN. 1

(By Joan McKinney)

Dr. John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president at Campbellsville University and a former chair and board member of the Campbellsville University Board of Trustees, has announced his retirement effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Dr. Michael V. Carter, president of Campbellsville University, with whom Chowning worked for 17 years, said, "John Chowning is one of the most gifted individuals I have ever met. He is a great thinker, and he is wise in his approach to topics across a broad spectrum."

"John is a very good writer, an accomplished speaker, teacher and preacher. He is detailed and is a well-read public policy analyst on a broad array of topics."

"We will miss him on a day-to-day basis, but we are so fortunate he is serving in a new part-time role for the university."

Chowning is retiring after 26 years of service to Campbellsville University. However, he will continue to work part time as executive assistant to the president for government, community and constituent relations beginning in January 2016.

Chowning became involved in fundraising with Campbellsville University in 1989 and became a member of the university's Board of Trustees in 1992.

He continued on the board for the next seven years, serving as chair in 1996 and 1997. He became a full-time employee in February 1998.

Dr. Joseph L. Owens, who is serving his fifth term as chair of the Campbellsville University Board of Trustees, said, "Dr. John Chowning is a shining example of selfless service that has made a difference in many lives at Campbellsville University. He is highly motivated, personable and a spirit-filled man of God."

"His love for the Lord is exemplified in his Christ-like character, as well as his concern for excelling in diversity, diplomacy and the development of bridge-building relationships."

Serving as executive vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president has been "a very humbling and rewarding career path in which God's divine guidance has been evident in the progress CU has seen," Chowning said.

He taught as an adjunct for several years in Campbellsville University's political science department. He has served as chair of the university's diversity committee, strategic planning and University Council.

Chowning founded and has directed the Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy at Campbellsville University which has hosted a wide array of speakers and forums on a host of public policy issues.

Chowning has been involved in many endeavors at Campbellsville University including race reconciliation, and establishing Dialogue on Race, a project dear to his heart. He has served as a leader of Greater Campbellsville United, the focus of which is to help create an environment of equality and oppor-

tunity for all residents of Campbellsville-Taylor County and the heartland region of Kentucky.

Chowning was one of the founding members of Team Taylor County (Campbellsville-Taylor County Economic Development Authority) and served for several years as chair and continues as a member of the board.

He received the Governor's Development Leadership Award in 1999 and was named Citizen of the Year for Campbellsville-Taylor County two separate years by the Campbellsville-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce.

Chowning was founding member of the Center for Rural Development and former chair; founding member of the Southern Kentucky Economic Development Corporation and former chair; and founding member and former board member and secretary of Forward in the Fifth education reform group.

With his work with the Economic Development Authority in Campbellsville, he was instrumental in organizing a dislocated worker program at Campbellsville when Fruit of the Loom closed in Campbellsville in 1997-98.

With the support of CU presidents Dr. Ken Winters and Carter, Chowning proposed the university's Technology Training Center and coordinated efforts to secure funding for the project by working with U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Chowning has left his mark on Campbellsville University with the naming of the Pence-Chowning Art Gallery, the Chowning Art Shop, the Chowning Executive Dining Room and the Chowning Patio.

He and his wife, Cathy Pence Chowning, have established an endowed scholarship fund at Campbellsville University that provides annual scholarship awards to qualifying minority students.

In his role as a pastor, Chowning is an active member and former secretary of Taylor County Ministerial Association and is a member of the executive boards of Taylor County Baptist Association and Zion District Association of Baptists.

He has led his church, Saloma Baptist Church of which he has served as senior pastor since 1994, to become a member of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, the state's historic black Baptist state convention—one of two historically Anglo Baptist churches to join the GABKY. He has been active in the life of the GABKY for the past several years.

Chowning has a master's of public administration (planning emphasis) from Eastern Kentucky University; a bachelor of arts in political science from Transylvania University, and an associate of arts from Lindsey Wilson College.

"From serving as trustee chair and vice chair and two terms as a board member to the past 18 years in my current role, my association with Campbellsville University has been one of the most rewarding and meaningful affiliations of my career," Chowning said.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator BOXER as vice chairman of the committee, that the Annual Report of the Select Committee on Ethics for calendar year 2015 be printed in the RECORD. The Committee issues this report today, January 28, 2016, as required by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

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

U.S. SENATE,  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,  
Washington, DC, January 28, 2016.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS 114TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the "Act") calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report not later than January 31st of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee's activities in 2015 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 55. (In addition, 2 alleged violations from the previous year were carried into 2015.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 36.

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 13.

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 7. (This figure includes 2 matters from the previous calendar year carried into 2015.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit or because it was inadvertent, technical or otherwise of a de minimis nature: 5.

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2015, the Committee staff conducted seven new Member and staff ethics training sessions; 20 Member and committee office campaign briefings (includes one remedial training session); 20 employee code of conduct training sessions; 13 public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 27 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; two private sector ethics briefings; and five international briefings.

In 2015, the Committee staff handled approximately 10,265 telephone inquiries and 2,784 inquiries by email for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2015, the Committee wrote approximately 930 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 793 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 83 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2015, the Committee received 3,179 public financial disclosure and periodic disclosure of financial transactions reports.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for yesterday's vote

to confirm the nomination of John Michael Vazquez of New Jersey to be U.S. district judge for the District of New Jersey. I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for today's votes on Senator MARKKEY's amendment, No. 2982, and Senator CRAPO's amendment, No. 3021, to the Energy Policy Modernization Act, S. 2012. I would have voted yea on both of these amendments.

#### HOLD ON S. 2415

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to inform my colleagues that I have placed a hold on S. 2415, the EB-5 Integrity Act of 2015. I have been working for years to reform the EB-5 immigrant investor program, which is run by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and have introduced legislation with Senator LEAHY to overhaul the program.

Our bill, S. 1501, is a comprehensive approach to dealing with the fraud, abuse, and national security vulnerabilities. Our bill also restores the program back to its original intent to ensure that rural and high unemployment areas have access to this source of capital.

S. 2415 is a bill that is modeled almost identically after S. 1501; yet it is weaker and leaves behind many provisions that would in fact bring integrity back into the program. Late last year, I objected to bringing S. 2415 up by unanimous consent and have placed a hold on the bill because I hoped we could consider more effective measures to root out fraud and abuse and create real jobs and do it in a comprehensive manner that ensures the program is able to work for every part of the country for years to come.

As I stated previously on this floor, the failure to include needed reforms last year means the program continues to pose risks to the homeland. I am not so sure reforms are possible anymore. It may be time to do away with it completely.

Nevertheless, if we pass legislation to extend the EB-5 program beyond this fiscal year, I hope to work with my colleagues to achieve true reform.

#### HONORING CHRISTA MCAULIFFE AND THE ENTIRE "CHALLENGER" CREW

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to salute the memory of the seven brave crewmembers of Space Shuttle *Challenger*, who perished on a mission of exploration and discovery 30 years ago today, on January 28, 1986. I honor the memory of all seven *Challenger* crewmembers: Gregory Jarvis, Judith Resnik, Francis Scobee, Ronald McNair, Michael Smith, Ellison Sizani, and Christa McAuliffe.

Indeed, Congress permanently honors the *Challenger* crew with a painted lunette medallion of the crew prominently placed in the Brumidi Corridor of the Capitol Building, one floor below

this Chamber. In that painting, six of the crewmembers are depicted holding their helmets in their arms, but one crewmember, Christa McAuliffe, is holding in her arms not her helmet but a globe.

For Granite Staters and for teachers and educators all across America and the world, there is a very special place in our hearts for Christa McAuliffe, a social studies teacher at Concord High School who was selected from more than 11,000 applicants to become the first NASA teacher in space.

During a year of extensive training at NASA before the mission, Christa created science lessons that she planned to teach from space while on board *Challenger*, broadcasting her lessons and observations to students all across Earth.

As a former teacher, I witnessed the impact that Christa's participation had on students and teachers. The *Challenger* was integrated into the classroom curriculum, allowing students to discover a passion for science. We continue to see the contributions of the *Challenger's* crew in the students who pursue careers in the sciences and in the success of recent NASA missions.

I am especially pleased to witness Christa McAuliffe's continuing impact in advancing education in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and math—and encouraging young people—especially young women—to pursue careers in STEM fields.

A few months after the accident, the families of the *Challenger's* crew created the first Challenger Center for Space Science Education, a nonprofit that engages students and teachers in hands-on education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Since then, 40 Challenger learning centers have opened their doors in the U.S. and other countries, and they are expanding opportunities for innovative programs and activities in STEM.

We all appreciate that this is a very difficult day for the many outstanding professionals at NASA. On that day, they lost seven wonderful colleagues. Our heart goes out to the NASA family and the families of all seven crewmembers on this day of remembrance.

As an astronaut, Christa McAuliffe was on a mission to outer space. But, as a teacher, she was also on a personal mission to educate and enlighten. She opened the eyes of young people around the world to the wonders of our planet and universe. Today, we remember and honor her bravery, her passion for teaching, and her tremendous legacy.

#### HONORING OFFICER DOUG BARNEY

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, on Sunday, January 17, 2016, this country lost an American hero—Officer Doug Barney of the Unified Police Department in Salt Lake County, Utah, was shot and killed in the line of duty. He died honorably, doing what he loved to do: serving and protecting his community.

Every day of his 18 years on the force, Officer Barney made his commu-

nity not just safer but better. I know this not from personal experience—I was not one of those fortunate enough to have met Officer Barney—but from the community's response to his untimely death.

When the tragic news spread across Utah and the Nation, those who knew him or knew of him—and it was hard to live in Salt Lake County without knowing Officer Barney—sprung into action to support his family and to commemorate his life of service.

The most important step was taken first: to surround Officer Barney's wife and three teenage children with love, comfort, and assistance. The outpouring of support came not just from friends, family, and neighbors, but from strangers, too. Nanette Wride and Shante Johnson didn't know Officer Barney, but they were among the first to join his wife, Erika, on her long journey of healing. Indeed, Wride and Johnson came as fellow travelers on that journey—they, too, had suffered the loss of a husband serving on the front lines of law enforcement—knowing all too well the unique challenges facing the Barney family during this trying time.

Then there was the candlelight vigil honoring Officer Barney, hosted by the Salt Lake Valley Law Enforcement Association and the city of Holladay, UT. Despite bitterly cold temperatures, hundreds of friends and neighbors huddled to pay their respects to the man who had meant so much to so many.

That same night, another ceremony took place at the Utah State Capitol, as firefighters, first responders, and police officers gathered to receive the U.S. honor flag at the end of its thousand-mile journey from Fort Worth, TX. The flag has flown over battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Ground Zero in New York City, and now, it is escorted by State troopers to communities across America that are mourning the loss and honoring the sacrifice of those who have been killed in the line of duty. It stayed with Officer Barney's body until his funeral, which brought together thousands from across the country.

This was not the first time Doug Barney galvanized his community. In 2010, the students, teachers, and administrators of Eisenhower Junior High School rallied behind Officer Barney who was in the middle of what would become a 12-year battle with cancer. To the students, Officer Barney, the school's resource officer, was "one of the good guys," so they organized a dodge-ball tournament—they called it the Battle for Barney—that raised over \$1,000 to help him pay for his medical treatment.

All of this stands as a testament to the profound impact Officer Barney had on the people and the community he dedicated his life to serve. Standing 6 feet, 5 inches tall, he had the physical attributes to be a good police officer, but as someone who genuinely respected and cared about everyone he