

to collaborate. During her tenure at the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Polly has channeled the organization's mission to improve the capacity of surrounding nonprofits dedicated to housing and conservation. Today Vermont's landscape of nonprofit developers and preservationists is uniquely integrated, much thanks to Polly's early efforts to instill value in the belief that building homes includes building community.

Polly's vision has also had a direct impact on thousands of Vermonters in nearly every corner of the state. Her leadership has contributed to the success of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board as it has invested in and developed more than 12,000 homes and apartments. More than 1,300 homes with much-needed services and supports have also been developed for our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. Throughout, the organization has also enabled more than 1,000 individuals to become homeowners, further enabling them to become integrated within their local communities.

Polly's leadership and advocacy may also be witnessed in the other voluntary roles she has held throughout the last four decades. She is an active member of the city of Montpelier's Housing Task Force, the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition, and is well known for her role as a founding board member of the Vermont Community Loan Fund. Her reach also extends to other important causes, including a most recent appointment to serve as the vice president of the board of Vermont Works for Women, an organization that supports disadvantaged women and those who pursue nontraditional careers.

We have also been fortunate to have Polly as a delegate to our region and national affordable housing communities, including the New England Housing Network and the Housing Assistance Council. In 1994, Polly received the Skip Jason Community Service Award from the Housing Assistance Council after being nominated by a host of Vermonters. As a leading national advocate for rural housing policy in the country, this award recognizes those whose efforts have improved the housing conditions of the rural poor in their communities and whose work "in the trenches" often goes unrecognized in their communities. Since then Polly's leadership, has continued, as she has served as both president and chair of the board of the Housing Assistance Council.

Polly has been well known to friends and colleagues as much for her gentle humor as her uncompromising dedication to preserve the unique beauty and quality of life found at home in Vermont. Her work will leave a lasting impression on those of us who have been fortunate enough to learn from and work alongside her. As she transitions to retirement, I do hope she finds opportunity to revel in her accomplishments both near and far.

## HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the historic events taking place in Crete, Greece. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople has called the first Holy and Great Council of the various Christian Orthodox churches around the world since 787 CE.

The Holy and Great Council is the first meeting of its kind in over a millennium. The 14 Orthodox Christian Churches together have over 300 million followers around the world, including over a million Americans. These churches are self-governing but united by common dogma, faith, liturgy, and moral conviction, with the Ecumenical Patriarch serving as the "first among equals."

This meeting began on Sunday, June 19 and will continue through June 26. Three hundred and fifty leaders are attending this meeting where they will promote unity among the world's Orthodox believers. They will discuss key issues facing Orthodox Christians, including the church's mission in today's world, the Orthodox diaspora, and the relationship of Christian Orthodoxy with the rest of the Christian world.

The Patriarch has a record of reaching out and working for peace and reconciliation among all faiths and has fostered dialogue among Christians, Jews, and Muslims. His All-Holiness has received awards from the United Nations, the United States, and other nations for providing moral leadership throughout modern history's greatest tests. His efforts to convene this Holy and Great Council is a testament to his continued leadership at a time when it is greatly needed. After the September 11, 2001, attacks, the Patriarch organized a gathering of religious leaders, including Muslim imams, to condemn the attacks as an anti-religious act. He was also the first Ecumenical Patriarch to attend the inauguration of a pope.

With so much suffering taking place around the world, we need people to come together, like they are in this historic meeting, to work together to advance our shared values. I commend and thank Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for convening this Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Christian Churches in Crete, Greece.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, once again, Greece, the home of democracy, the home of the fundamental principle of religious freedom that democracy has come to represent here in America, is making history, this time on the Island of Crete where Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople is leading a meeting of Orthodox Christian Churches, the Holy and Great Council, that occurs only once in a millennium. In fact, it has not happened since 787 CE, but it is happening now.

The 3 million Orthodox Christians across America, from all 14 national jurisdictions around the world with the

largest number affiliated with the Greek Orthodox Church—the Church of the convener of the Council—Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, are following this historic gathering with great anticipation.

It is the charge of the Holy and Great Council to deal with internal church matters, but Orthodox Christians are also deeply concerned with the opportunity this historic event presents for a wider ranging conversation about not only process within the confines of religion, but the prospects for peace and prosperity it represents for all members of the church and for all people around the world.

Orthodox Christians in America come from all walks of life and represent all opinions and points of view. They include personalities well-known to all of us in this Chamber and beyond: ABC journalist and host of "Good Morning America," George Stephanopoulos; Huffington Post creator Arianna Huffington; and sportscaster Bob Costas. In the political world, they include former Governor of Massachusetts and Democratic nominee for President Mike Dukakis; Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman and former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton, John Podesta; and current Members of Congress—Representative DINA TITUS of Nevada and NIKI TSONGAS of Massachusetts, as well as Congressmen JOHN SARBANES of Maryland and GUS BILIRAKIS of Florida.

These are all respected, talented, accomplished Orthodox Christians whose faith and opinions are represented at the historic convocation of the Holy and Great Council. They are among the more than 1 million Greek Orthodox Americans who are led by their spiritual head, Archbishop Demetrios, who presides over seven metropolitans with regional jurisdictions that serve on the local Holy Synod. The archbishop and his predecessors have played a prominent role in American life, culture, and history that has been part of the fabric of this Nation. We all remember the famous civil rights march in Selma, AL, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but we may not remember that at the march was also the late Archbishop Lakovos, marching shoulder-to-shoulder with Dr. King.

Greek Americans, hailing from 500 churches across this Nation, including many in my home State of New Jersey, believe deeply that this Holy and Great Council is a fateful gathering that can have a dramatic impact on their religion and civilization for 1,000 more years, that the council's deliberations will hold great meaning and great promise for a better life for all of us, for peace on this planet, and for the greater good of generations to come. They know and we in this Chamber know that the importance of Orthodox Christians will be measured not by the history made in Crete at this meeting, but the history Orthodox Christians around the world have already made.

I join all of my colleagues in hoping for a successful and productive once in

a millennium session of the Holy and Great Council. I join with all of my Orthodox Christian friends in New Jersey and around the world in celebrating this historic meeting.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. BEVERLY "JO" HARRIS

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and commend the outstanding career of Dr. Beverly "Jo" Harris, one of the State of West Virginia's most respected educators, on the occasion of her retirement. During her tenure as the first president of BridgeValley Community and Technical College, Dr. Harris has shown tremendous passion and dedication to her students, colleagues, and her community. Her commitment to education has been an inspiration to many citizens of our State.

Dr. Harris obtained her undergraduate degree from Concord College and a master's degree from Marshall University. She then received a doctoral degree in educational administration from West Virginia University. Dr. Harris began her career in education at a proprietary school in Morgantown before being hired by West Virginia Institute of Technology in 1975 as an instructor in the school's newly created associate degree business program. She has continued to work in the same building in Montgomery throughout many changes to both the school and her role.

Under Dr. Harris's leadership, the school, formerly known as Bridgemont Community and Technical College, was nationally recognized as the fourth fastest growing small public 2-year college of 2010, was a finalist for the 2011 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, and selected as one of 2013's Top 50 Community Colleges in America according to "Washington Monthly." Her efforts were later recognized when she received the WVCCA Leadership Award, the WVBEA Business Teacher of the Year award, and she was jointly named Upper Kanawha Valley Citizen of the Year, along with her husband, Carl.

In addition to her official role as president, Dr. Harris has also served on the boards of the SMART 529 College Savings Program, WV Workforce Development Council, New River Gorge Regional Development Authority, the Upper Kanawha Valley Economic Development Corporation, Region 4 Planning and Development Council, South Charleston Rotary, and the Fayette County and South Charleston chambers of commerce.

I have had the pleasure of working with Jo throughout my time representing the state of West Virginia in Congress. I am proud to call her my friend and trusted colleague whose counsel will be missed. I am thankful for Dr. Harris's dedication to West Virginia's higher education system and the many students she taught and mentored. Today, I ask my colleagues

to join me in honoring Dr. Beverly "Jo" Harris for her service.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Mountain View Electric Association's 75th anniversary. On December 6, 1940, Mountain View Electric's 249 original members filed for incorporation of the cooperative. Since then, the company has provided power to Arapahoe, Crowley, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Lincoln, Pueblo, and Washington counties in Colorado. Its territory covers 5,000 square miles, powering homes, schools, churches, small businesses, and hospitals.

For more than seven decades, Mountain View Electric has been an important source of electricity for many of Colorado's rural counties. In particular, the company has worked diligently to help the residents who lost their homes in the Black Forest Fire in 2013. In the wake of this devastation, Mountain View Electric worked to quickly restore service to the area, at no additional cost to the property owners.

Rural electric cooperatives play an important role in communities around the United States, serving an estimated 42 million Americans. This business structure connects consumers directly to the operations of the company, keeping electricity prices affordable. Electric cooperatives also contribute to development and growth across the country's rural areas.

I commend Mountain View Electric for its decades of service to rural Colorado. Congratulations again on this significant anniversary. •

##### TRICENTENNIAL OF GEORGETOWN, MAINE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the town of Georgetown, ME, which is celebrating its 300th anniversary this month. This small, coastal town, with just over 1,000 inhabitants, has a long and proud history dating back to the 18th century, and I am pleased to join them in celebrating their tricentennial and honoring the town's cherished place in the State of Maine.

Nestled among one of the many inlets of Maine's rugged coastline near the mouth of the Kennebec River, Georgetown has a long and storied past dating back to the end of the 17th century. During the King Philip's and King William's wars in the late 1600s, the Kennebec River Valley was a war-torn and volatile area, but a small settlement emerged after the conflicts. In 1716, the town of Georgetown-on-Arrowsic was incorporated and has remained an iconic landmark on the Maine coast ever since.

Today Georgetown is known for its picturesque landscape and quaint,

smalltown feel. It is home to boat builders, fishermen, retirees, summer residents, and artists alike. Summer visitors can enjoy the town's famous Reid State Park, historic lighthouses, and the many land preserves protected through the community's dedication to preservation and environmental sustainability. Even when the winter comes and the summer residents leave, a cohesive and engaged year-round population remains. The town and its citizens represent the best of Maine's historic coastal villages: a close-knit and hard-working community surrounded by striking natural beauty.

Led by its dedicated tricentennial committee, Georgetown will commemorate its 300th anniversary with an all-day celebration on June 23. Scheduled events include the burying of a time capsule, a town parade, and presentation of special tricentennial products from local businesses and organizations. These events mark the culmination of over a year of collaboration between local government, nonprofits, and local businesses who have worked together to create a truly amazing celebration fitting of this tremendous milestone.

I commend all that the people of Georgetown have done to make their town such a special place to live and visit. Their shared love for their hometown and commitment to its success has made Georgetown one of Maine's greatest communities. I am proud to recognize this historic milestone and wish the town many more years of success. •

##### TRIBUTE TO CHARLES L. RICE

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a great American who has honorably served our country as president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, USU, in Bethesda, MD, on the campus of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Dr. Rice began his service at USU in 2005. During the past 11 years as president of the University, he also served for 6 months as Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, March to August 2010.

During his tenure, Dr. Rice has worked to improve the USU's curriculum, research portfolio, external relationships, board, and physical plant. The results of these efforts are exhibited by the recent full accreditation of the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Nursing. Dr. Rice recognizes the institution's unique military and public health care missions and has worked to ensure that lessons learned in a decade of conflict were incorporated into the curriculum and the fabric of the institution, along with the Department's fundamental humanitarian mission. These important lessons include advances in trauma care, developing strong leadership skills among Military Health System officers, and increasing diversity in the