

completion of the McCook Reservoir in the Chicago region. McCook is a 10-billion-gallon reservoir designed to redirect flood and wastewater from the Chicago region. When completed, the project will benefit Chicago and 36 surrounding suburbs, including 1.5 million structures and over 5 million people. Also included is language that will help pay for work on the Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve and the Prairie Bluff Preserve in Will County. These are important projects for Illinois that will help prevent flooding in our communities and restore our region's ecosystems.

In Illinois, we treasure Lake Michigan, from the drinking water it provides to millions of people, to the commerce and tourism it brings to the Chicago area. That is why protecting and restoring our Great Lakes is so important to Illinois. This bill authorizes \$300 million per year to help protect our Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, or GLRI, which provides Illinois with millions in Federal funding to combat invasive species like Asian carp; reduce and remove pollution, waste runoff, and toxic chemicals; and restore wetlands and other lakefront assets. GLRI funds have been used for restoration projects like the removal of toxic chemicals from Waukegan Harbor, green infrastructure like the Millennium Reserve near the Calumet River, and the restoration of 40 acres of land at North-erly Island.

Finally, this bill takes important steps to address the water contamination issues that have been plaguing communities across the country. Lead water contamination is not a new problem. In Illinois, we have been battling this issue for years. The contaminated water crisis in Flint, MI, was a wakeup call to all of us that we must have strong drinking water protections in place and invest the necessary resources to keep our water safe for our children. This bill provides \$220 million in direct emergency assistance to Flint and other communities facing similar drinking water emergencies. It provides \$1.4 billion over 5 years to help small and disadvantaged communities comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The bill modernizes our State Revolving Loan Fund program and provides \$300 million in grants for communities to replace lead service lines. And because we are also seeing high levels of lead in our schools' water, the bill authorizes \$100 million for additional lead testing in schools. This bill also addresses many of the issues that I raised in the Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act that I introduced with Senator MENENDEZ and the CLEAR Act that I introduced with Senator CARDIN, two bills that would ensure our children are protected from the dangerous effects of lead in our water and our housing.

Congress has a responsibility to protect the safety of our drinking water, defend our communities from flooding,

improve our waterways, and fix the Nation's crumbling water infrastructure. I want to congratulate Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member BOXER for their hard work and dedication to improving our water infrastructure and for getting this bill passed by the Senate. I am proud to support the important investments that this bipartisan bill makes to improve water infrastructure in Illinois and around the country.

#### U.S. PARTNERSHIP WITH GEORGIA

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, Georgia is a trusted friend and steadfast partner of the United States. I firmly support Georgia's sovereignty, security, and prosperity, and I wish to congratulate Georgians on the remarkable democratic and economic progress they have achieved in 25 years of independence since the fall of the Soviet Union.

I would particularly like to call attention to our unwavering security partnership with Georgia, whose Armed Forces participate in international missions worldwide, including the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, where Georgia is contributing more personnel than any other non-NATO member. I know the United States deeply appreciates Georgia's contributions to these missions and honors its sacrifices.

Our important security relationship with Georgia continues to grow. Through ongoing regional efforts like the European Readiness Initiative and expanded bilateral cooperation, as laid out in the new defense agreement signed in July, the United States and Georgia are working ever more closely to boost our mutual security, build Georgia's resilience and self-defense capabilities, and create a safer region and world. In this context, I remain deeply concerned about Russia's continued occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and believe Russia must fulfill its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement. The United States is steadfast in our support for Georgia's sovereignty and remains committed to helping Georgia achieve its goal of NATO and European Union membership and full integration into European institutions.

Georgia is preparing for parliamentary elections in October, an important test of the country's civic institutions and democratic practices. Georgia's continued democratic maturation depends on free and fair elections contested in a pluralistic media environment. I also believe it is critical for Georgia to sustain progress in enacting its reform agenda, particularly in the justice sector, which will both further strengthen our bilateral partnership and prove to Georgians that their government is working for them. Progress has not come without difficulty, but the commitment of the Georgian people has made Georgia a true standout in a difficult region and an important partner of the United States.

Again, I would like to congratulate Georgia on reaching this significant milestone and recognize the importance of our continued close partnership.

#### GROWTH AWARENESS

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today, on behalf of every child who suffers from growth disorders, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this week, September 19 through 23, as Growth Awareness Week.

Tracking a child's growth is critical as it is a major sign of his or her overall health. When their growth is delayed, it is an indicator of potential underlying medical disorders. In fact, more than 600 serious diseases and health conditions, ranging from nutritional disturbances and hormone imbalances to unidentified kidney problems and brain tumors, can cause growth failure. Unfortunately, the two most common causes of growth failures frequently go undiagnosed, even in children who are evaluated.

By failing to diagnose the cause of growth failure, the potential for damage and high costs of care increases. By contrast, early detection and diagnosis can ensure a healthy future for children with growth failures. That is why raising public awareness and education about growth failure is so important.

I commend the MAGIC Foundation for their great work and look forward to working with my colleagues to improve the lives and health of children in Illinois and across the country.

#### NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize America's professional truck drivers who serve our Nation by safely delivering such vital goods as the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and the medicine we rely on.

This week, September 11 through 17, is designated as National Truck Driver Appreciation Week to honor the 3.5 million professional truck drivers in the United States. According to the American Trucking Associations, the trucking industry employs more than 7 million people, making it not only essential to our economy, but also one of our country's largest employers.

In Nebraska, the trucking industry employs nearly 63,000 men and women who safely deliver essential goods from Scottsbluff to Lincoln and everywhere in between.

Trucking is a major driver of our economy, responsible for nearly 70 percent of the total U.S. freight tonnage. More than 80 percent of communities rely solely on the trucking industry for their goods and commodities.

America's truck drivers are dedicated to keeping our highways safe. They follow stringent safety regulations, attend frequent training programs, and educate the motoring public to help them drive safely around tractor-trailers.

America's truck drivers sacrifice precious time with their families while delivering their products to millions more. This week, we pause to say thank you.

I salute these fine professionals and their families for their dedication to delivering life's essentials safely and securely.

#### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LORING JOB CORPS CENTER IN LIMESTONE, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on October 1, 1996, the first students arrived at the new Loring Job Corps Center in Limestone, ME. It is a pleasure to recognize this milestone 20th anniversary of this program, dedicated to helping disadvantaged young people develop the determination, abilities, and character to succeed.

In the two decades since its founding, the Loring Job Corps Center has graduated more than 10,500 students. Whether they go on to the workforce, higher education, or the military, these graduates take with them the skills, self-confidence, and resolve to overcome the setbacks, obstacles, and failures that are part of life. The focus on community service at Loring helps to create the engaged citizens that are so important to Maine's future.

In addition to providing training and education, Loring Job Corps has developed a nationally recognized pre-military program and is one of the highest military placement Job Corps centers in our Nation. This is a fitting tribute to the namesake of the former Air Force base on which the center is located: MAJ Charles Loring, a Maine native who was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for heroism in the Korean war. Two years ago, the Loring Job Corps Center reaffirmed its respect for those who serve our Nation by rededicating its dining center, Dahlgren Hall, in memory of LT Edward Dahlgren, a World War II Medal of Honor recipient from nearby Perham, ME.

Young people today face a great many challenges and threats to their well-being, and Job Corps students at Loring and throughout the Nation are no exception. It is essential that Congress continues to work with the Department of Labor to strengthen policies to better ensure the safety of the young men and women who enter the Job Corps to better their lives.

The national Job Corps program was founded more than a half-century ago on the noble idea that, if given the opportunity, the support, and the training, America's at-risk young people could overcome any obstacles and achieve. For 20 years, Loring Job Corps graduates have turned that idea into reality. I congratulate the faculty, staff, and students for this accomplishment and offer my best wishes for continued success.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I join my esteemed colleague, Senator COLLINS, in recognizing the 20th anniversary

of Loring Jobs Corps Center in Limestone, ME. This center is a subsidiary of the Department of Labor's national Jobs Corps program, which provides vocational training, education, and opportunity to our Nation's at-risk youth. Over the past two decades, the Loring Jobs Corps has been an important part of that noble effort.

Throughout our great Nation, young people face roadblocks to their personal and vocational success. Recognizing that every member of society has potential if given opportunity, Jobs Corps gives people the skills they need to overcome these problems and create better engaged members of society. Through their efforts, they have inspired self-confidence and a sense of commitment to the community in the lives of their members. Through military service, higher education, or the workforce, graduates of the Jobs Corps have been able to make a difference in the world and been an inspiration for countless others.

Since its opening in 1996, Loring Jobs Corps Center has been at the forefront of the effort to improve the lives of disadvantaged young people and provides them with the skills necessary to thrive in their communities. Through career training and education, Loring Jobs Corps has helped over 10,500 students to a brighter, fuller future and stands poised to help thousands more. A testament to the program's success, the Loring Center has even become one of the highest military placement Job Corps centers in the country.

I like to think of Maine as one big small town. As such, we all have a responsibility to help disenfranchised youth in our communities, and the Loring Jobs Corps has gone above and beyond in accepting this responsibility. I thank the center for its consistent dedication to at-risk youth, commend them for their long record of service, and wish them the best of success for years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL F. BUCHWALD

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Mike Buchwald, a dedicated member of my staff for over 9 years. Mike has served in my personal office, as my counsel, and finally, as deputy staff director for oversight and policy on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Over this time period, Mike has displayed a work ethic like none other. I have come to rely deeply on his attention to detail and exceptional command of the Nation's intelligence analysis.

Before joining the committee, Mike served an associate at the international law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, where he specialized in criminal, congressional, and internal investigations of corporations and nonprofit entities as a member of the white-collar defense and strategic counseling groups. He served as a law clerk for Federal District Judge George P.

Schiavelli in California, where he was born and raised. Prior to law school, he worked as a legislative assistant in my personal office for 3 years. Mike earned his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and his B.A. cum laude with distinction in history from Yale University. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and has been admitted to practice law in California and the District of Columbia.

Mike's accomplishments on the Intelligence committee were extensive, many of which were completed behind the scenes in furtherance of the committee's oversight mandate. Two important public reports on which Mike was involved were the 2010 report on Attempted Terrorist Attack on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 and the 2013 SSCI Review of Terrorist Attacks on U.S. Facilities in Benghazi. Both reports were critical in helping improve our understanding of these attacks and how the U.S. Government and the intelligence community can prepare for them in the future.

The sheer volume of other committee activities in which Mike was engaged are too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say that he was an integral part of my intelligence team, supporting me and the committee in the enactment of seven consecutive intelligence authorization bills and overseeing the most complex activities undertaken by our government. He has unmatched passion for congressional oversight, for the intelligence community, and for this country's national security. Mike not only served me well, but was the consummate professional with all members and committee staff on both sides of the aisle.

Mike will continue to further his government career by accepting a position within the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division. I am certain the Department will find him to be a shining light, committed to protecting this country and its citizens. It is also important for me to acknowledge the support Mike has received from his fiancée and now wife, Jamie Lynn Poslosky. I thank her for allowing Mike to spend many late nights in the office meeting the oversight demands of the Intelligence Committee.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly thank Mike and to wish him the very best in all his future endeavors. I will miss his insights and his ability to always have the right document at hand for any discussion or deliberations. Thank you, Mike, for your many years of service and dedication both to the country and to me personally.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANNETTE MARIE GILLIS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics, on behalf of the members of the