

The need today is very great. Scholars around the world are facing fresh repression and conflict. More scholars are fleeing Iraq and Syria, a new crisis looms in Turkey, and increasing threats to academics have emerged in countries as diverse as Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

Today, I would like to tell you about developing a new partnership. Over the past few weeks, several colleagues and I have met with Theresia Bauer, Minister of Science, Research and Art for the state of Baden-Württemberg, of which Heidelberg is a part. We have discussed an innovative idea to add to Germany's current scholar rescue efforts by joining together SRF, private funds, and the state of Baden-Württemberg. We are happy to have the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung as a partner who, with the Ministry, will support a new group of persecuted academics to be placed specifically in this state. The supervisory board of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung just decided last week to join the program. I am happy to welcome the Executive Director, Christoph Dahl, today.

While the details of such a unique multi-lateral partnership remain to be confirmed, and we all look forward to guidance from our friends at the Humboldt Foundation, I can say a few things. First, this very much follows in the tradition of Baden-Württemberg, under Minister Bauer, showing leadership on such issues, most recently with a new program to provide scholarships to refugee students. Second, such a new program makes best use of SRF's power to find and vet persecuted academics from any country and every field. Third, it shows both the power and promise of private philanthropy to bring different groups together to find creative solutions to urgent problems. It is just this type of collaborative thinking that we need in our inter-connected world.

What we see now as a refugee problem may well become an even greater deluge in the near future as climate change devastates ever more of our planet, and technology enables tyrants to maintain power more cruelly.

We live on a tiny ball spinning through a largely empty space. And if we don't share this small world that we inhabit, it will be its end. Building walls is futile; equally bad, they put the people on each side into prisons, no matter how prettily they are wall-papered.

We in the so-called first world are, with our ferocious energy consumption, deeply implicated in the changes we see today, and the greater ones we will see tomorrow. More and more people will come to us, dragging their young children across the seas and the mountains to come to a place they don't know a continent away. We should feel deeply honored, but we must live up to it. If we don't, the liberties they hope we have will be lost to us all.

"Giess Wasser zur Suppe und heiss alle willkommen" ("Add water to the soup and make everyone welcome") is an old German folk saying. Those ancestors well understood that a meal cannot be enjoyed, a peace not maintained, and one's own not protected without sharing and compromise. It is a bit of German folk wisdom that has survived all imperializing regimes and their detriments.

Once again, I thank you for the great honor of this award and commit myself, in the spirit of true and authentic partnership, to do this critical and urgent work together.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PAQUIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Robert Paquin is retiring after 40 years working as a dedicated public servant in

Vermont and on Capitol Hill in Washington. Bob has committed his entire career to making the Federal Government a positive force in the lives of individuals and communities. He has accomplished much, particularly on behalf of our State of Vermont.

Bob, as Marcelle and I have always known him, was my longest serving staff member and is among the longest serving personal staff members in U.S. Senate history. He began in my Washington office in 1977 and then moved to Vermont to serve as one of my outstanding field representatives. He ended his congressional staff service 32 years later, in 2009, to take a leadership role at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, in the Obama administration.

On my staff in Washington, Bob worked on defense, foreign policy, and appropriations, and in Vermont, he supported my work on agriculture, conservation, energy, and environmental protection. He also helped to manage my Vermont offices and provided constituent services to countless Vermonters.

Bob brought Vermont values on conservation, sustainable and organic agriculture, dairy, and rural development to my work on many farm bills, affecting national agricultural practices, policy, and economics to this day.

Bob also helped to develop the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990, worked on its reauthorization in 2001, and supported my efforts every year to maintain sufficient Federal support for the Lake Champlain cleanup efforts. He worked day in and day out to nurture and grow important partner organizations in Vermont, including the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, the Lake Champlain sea lamprey control program, and many more that have helped to leverage Federal investments in conservation and the cleanup of Lake Champlain.

I strongly believe that land conservation is an important part of the heritage of every Vermonter. Bob worked on the ground to help establish the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, the Nulhegan/Conte National Wildlife Refuge and the Upper Missisquoi and Trout National Wild and Scenic Rivers. He also helped me as I fought for the addition of more than 100,000 acres to the Green Mountain National Forest, protection of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and establishment and expansion of eight Federal wilderness areas in Vermont. He also worked on the delivery of Capitol Christmas trees from Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest to Washington, DC.

Time does not allow me to catalogue all of Bob's accomplishments while on my staff, but his greatest impact may have been his simple and honest interactions in helping thousands of Vermont constituents with problems and requests over so many years. Bob

is known for his troubleshooting and advocacy for Vermonters in every corner of the State.

In 2009, I gave my highest recommendation to the incoming administration of President Obama for Bob to be appointed as executive director of the Farm Service Agency in Vermont. Bob has distinguished himself in that role—helping Vermont farmers recovering from Tropical Storm Irene, implementing new programs under the 2014 farm bill, assisting new Americans from the refugee community to start farms, supporting our dairy farmers through tough times, and nurturing his dedicated USDA staff across Vermont.

Robert Paquin has been a truly exceptional and dedicated public servant for Vermont and the Nation for four decades. I will continue to seek his advice, and Marcelle and I wish him and his wife, Theresa, all the best in the future.

TRIBUTES TO HARRY REID

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as a young man growing up in Searchlight, Nevada, HARRY REID was an accomplished amateur boxer. During his 30 years of service in this Chamber, Senator REID has demonstrated time and again the qualities of skill, hard work, and determination that he learned in the ring all those years ago.

Prior to joining the Senate in 1987, Senator REID established a deep commitment to public service in the House of Representatives and in State and local offices. And before that, he served Congress and supported his young family working nights as a Capitol police officer while attending law school at George Washington University. As a Senate leader, serving as Democratic whip, majority leader, and, currently, Democratic leader, he has been a formidable advocate for his caucus.

In the Senate, Senator REID has been a passionate voice for education, environmental protection, health care, and renewable energy. His commitment to those who serve our Nation in uniform is evident through his support for military readiness and for our veterans.

The great Jack Dempsey defined a champion as "someone who gets up when he can't." In his many years of service to the people of Nevada and to our nation, Senator HARRY REID has proven himself to be a fighter who always answers the bell. I wish him and his wife, Landra, health and happiness for many more years to come.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I have had the honor and privilege of serving with HARRY REID for all of my 16 years in the Senate. He has been a resolute leader for our Caucus, a fearless legislator who has brought landmark legislation to the floor and a tireless advocate for Nevadans and all Americans. More importantly, I am proud to call HARRY a friend.

We all know the story of HARRY's journey to elected office from that small mining town in Nevada. The

humble way he grew up inspired him to help others who faced similar hardships his family had faced. He carried that perspective with him from Searchlight, NV, to the halls of the Capitol, where he became a champion for causes meant to improve the lives of all Americans.

HARRY is a fighter. That has been said by so many of his friends and colleagues over the years, and it is truer of him than almost anyone I have ever worked with. That title, of course, has more than one meaning for HARRY. His years of amateur boxing taught him strategy and relentless willpower in the face of his opponents. His years in the Senate have been no different. He has had to fight for historical legislation in an increasingly vitriolic political climate, things like the Affordable Care Act and the stimulus bill, legislation that gave millions of Americans hope for their futures.

HARRY has also been a very powerful ally for me and my fellow Floridians, specifically in the fight to protect the State's fragile environment. He has always been right there with me in pushing for Everglades funding and vigorously defended our coastline from drilling proposals that threatened Florida's economy and unique environment.

His leadership has been a source of guidance and great strength for me during my time in the Senate. I am honored to have served with him and wish him and his family well in his retirement.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the many accomplishments of my friend, Senator HARRY REID, my colleague from Nevada, during his storied career in the U.S. Senate.

Growing up in a modest household without an indoor bathroom, hot water, or a telephone, HARRY learned the values of family, faith, and education. HARRY understood that it is the most vulnerable in society that need the strongest champions, someone to fight for them.

HARRY's service to the people of Nevada began long before he came to Congress. After attending law school at George Washington University, Leader REID returned home and served as Henderson's City Attorney. At the age of 28, he was elected to the Nevada State Assembly. Two years later, Leader REID became the youngest Lieutenant Governor in Nevada history. HARRY experienced political losses early in his career, but he never let that hold him back. After 5 years as chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission, HARRY won election to the U.S. House in 1982. He served two terms before winning his first U.S. Senate race in 1986.

HARRY's stint as an amateur boxer taught him to never back down from a fight, no matter how big. Throughout his Senate career, the people of Nevada have been able to count on HARRY to fight for them.

He has spearheaded investments in clean energy, established Nevada's first national park, Great Basin National

Park, and led passage of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill of Rights.

As majority leader, he shepherded landmark legislation through the Senate—The Affordable Care Act, Wall Street Reform, the Recovery Act, and many more. Despite the powerful interests lining up to defeat these efforts, HARRY didn't back down. He worked hard and got things done. As a result, millions of Americans have health care.

We have fought our way back from the Great Recession of 2008. Consumers now have more protection against powerful companies. It is fair to say, HARRY's leadership has improved our country and our families' lives.

Today I want to focus on a few issues where I was particularly proud to have worked with him. Leader REID has been a longtime champion for the Filipino World War II Veterans. This group of over 260,000 Filipino veterans answered President Roosevelt's call during World War II and fought heroically under the U.S. flag. Unfortunately, they have had to endure another fight over the course of seven decades—the fight for the recognition and benefits they were promised. Leader REID has been at the forefront of this fight. He has helped secure compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. We have worked together to reunify the remaining veterans with their children. And just last week, the House passed and sent the President my legislation awarding Filipino World War II veterans the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. Leader REID was instrumental in getting this bill through the Senate, and I deeply appreciate his support.

Nevada is home to a vibrant Filipino-American community. Leader REID is deeply familiar with the experiences and struggles of Filipino veterans and their families. He worked with Hawaii's late Senator Dan Inouye to create the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund within the VA in 2009. The fund's creation was a significant step forward in recognizing the dedicated service and sacrifice of these veterans. I was proud to have Leader REID join me in our successful effort to secure appropriations language prohibiting any attempts to direct these funds to other programs.

This past May, the Obama administration finalized a parole program that would allow family members of Filipino World War II veterans to come to the United States to be reunited with their aging parents and siblings. These veterans had already waited decades to be reunited with their children in the Philippines.

Speaking at my press conference announcing the program, HARRY honored the veterans' sacrifice saying, "in those islands where MacArthur left, the Filipinos were left there with some of our troops and they fought valiantly and were not recognized."

Finally, I want to highlight Leader REID's work on immigration. In 2009,

while campaigning in Nevada, a young woman named Astrid Silva slipped a note to HARRY. Astrid was brought to the United States when she was 4 years old. Unable to work legally, Astrid babysat to earn money. She excelled at school but feared deportation if she applied to college. In the following years, Astrid and HARRY corresponded, and he learned of the hopes, dreams, and struggles of the DREAMers.

In a 2013 interview hours before the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform, HARRY said, "This is why I did this . . . because of some things she said."

Later, when speaking on the floor before the vote, HARRY said, "I appreciate every one of those letters she sent me, because each was a reminder of what is at stake in this debate." A testament to HARRY's character, even while serving in one of the most powerful roles in Washington, HARRY never forgot who he was fighting for.

Aloha, HARRY. As we say in Hawaii, a hui hou, "until we meet again."

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA BOXER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about my longtime friend and colleague BARBARA BOXER, who is retiring from this body along with me this year.

Senator BOXER will be remembered as an inspiration to young women across our country. Her career is a textbook of how to get involved in public service. Starting at the local level, she came out of the antiwar movement and got involved in the environmental movement and local causes. Taking lessons from grassroots organizing, she ran for the Marin County Board of Supervisors. She lost that first race, but she didn't give up. She ran again and won and became the first female chair.

Eventually, she made her way to the U.S. House of Representatives. Along the way, she heard a lot of "no," but always turned it into a "yes." She never quit, never lost faith in herself, and never stopped trying.

When it looked like the accusations of Anita Hill would be swept under the rug, I spoke out in the Senate against it, but I was only one female voice. BARBARA BOXER came to my aid. Even though she was in the House, she led a troop of fierce House women running up the steps to the Senate to face down the Judiciary Committee and demand they shed light on the accusations of sexual harassment. BARBARA had the crack team of ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, Pat Schroeder, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, NITA LOWEY, Jolene Unsoeld, and Patsy Mink to back her up. They marshalled the press and marched right up these steps. They knocked on the door and were going to be turned away because they weren't Senators. But they pointed to that group of photographers and said, "We are going to tell them that you turned us away, what do you think will happen then? So they were let in and made their case. Those Senators couldn't face the calculation and