

Thaddeus Stephens was one of the most righteous, uncompromising abolitionists in all of American history—and thank goodness for him.

In the movie, he tells President Lincoln that there is no use in appealing to the moral decency of slaveholders and their allies to end slavery and racial discrimination.

The reason, he says, is that “the inner compass that should direct the soul toward justice has ossified”—become utterly useless—“through tolerating the evil of slavery.”

President Lincoln’s reply was so wise. He said, “A compass, I learnt when I was surveying, . . . it’ll point you True North from where you’re standing, but it’s got no advice about the swamps and desert and chasm that you’ll encounter along the way.”

He went on to say, “If in pursuit of your destination, you plunge ahead, heedless of obstacles, and achieve nothing more than to sink in a swamp, what’s the use of knowing True North?”

There is a lesson in that story for all of us.

Passing laws in our democracy requires more than passion and more than clever speeches.

Passing laws requires legislative skill. It requires mastery of parliamentary procedure and arcane rules. That is how we avoid the “swamps and desert and chasms” that President Lincoln spoke of.

Bill Dauster knows more about the rules of the Senate than probably anyone since Senator Robert C. Byrd. That has made him something of a legend in the Senate, on both sides of the aisle.

But what makes him even more admirable is the reason that Bill Dauster has mastered the mechanics of law-making.

Bill has worked for a lot of big names in American politics, but it is dignity and justice and fairness for the little guy that has always driven him.

In 30-plus years, he left the Senate only twice, for brief stretches. Once was to be President Bill Clinton’s deputy assistant for economic policy during the golden years of a budget surplus. The other time was in 1998 and 1999, to work on the Presidential exploratory committee of Senator Paul Wellstone.

Paul Wellstone used to say: “I didn’t come to the Senate to fight for the Rockefellers. They have enough lobbyists. I’m here to fight for the little feller.”

That could be Bill Dauster’s motto too.

Bill Dauster has the rare sort of vision in which no one is invisible, no one is so small that they are undeserving of respect.

Bill isn’t the only dedicated public servant in his family. His equally brilliant wife, Ellen Weintraub, has served as a commissioner on the Federal Election Commission since 2002.

They are the parents of three grown children, Matthew, Natanya, and Emma.

We thank the entire Dauster-Weintraub family for sharing Bill with us.

Somehow, even with the obligations of work and family, Bill has found the time to be something of a Talmudic scholar.

So let me end with this thought, from the ancient Taludic sage, Rabbi Tarfon, who wrote, “Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.”

For 30 years, Bill Dauster has helped this Senate pass laws that have made life more just and more merciful for untold multitudes, in America and around the world. Although he is leaving the Senate, I know he will never abandon that work.

THE PRESIDENT IN SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, while the Office of Management and Budget was putting the finishing touches on its Orwellian-themed “A New Foundation for American Greatness,” the President’s fiscal year 2018 budget, which proposes to eliminate or drastically reduce funding for a vast array of critical programs on which the American people—including the most vulnerable among us—depend, the Trump family was being feted by one of the world’s wealthiest and repressive regimes.

Not only has the Saudi family used its vast oil wealth to promote an extremist ideology, including in madrassas and mosques in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, its grip on power is made possible through corruption and the systematic denial of fundamental rights, including the brutal oppression of women and girls, human trafficking, and the exploitation of foreign labor.

After criticizing the Saudis during the Presidential campaign, earlier this week, President Trump and his family basked in the opulent glow of Saudi family royalty. According to press reports, just prior to their arrival, the President’s son-in-law finalized a \$110 billion sale of American weapons to the Saudis; yet neither the President nor his advisers, who danced with Saudi sheiks in a grand palace, voiced any concern that Saudi Arabia is a police state whose citizens have no opportunity to change their government, where criticism of the Royal family is not tolerated, and where arbitrary arrest and torture are common, nor with the Saudis’ repeated misuse of U.S. military equipment against innocent civilians in Yemen.

In fact, standing next to the Saudi Foreign Minister at a joint press conference, Secretary Tillerson rightly called on the Iranian Government to restore freedom of speech and assembly for its people so they can “live the life that they deserve.” But do the Saudi people not deserve such rights? He made no such appeal to the Saudi monarchy.

Secretary of State Tillerson has also made clear that the values and individual rights that Americans have long believed are what makes the United States the great country that it is and which are in fact universal values enshrined not only in our Bill of Rights, but also in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will take a back seat to our “national security and economic interests.” In that sense, the administration is modeling itself after China and Russia, which, given President Trump’s admiration for “strong” leaders like President Putin and Secretary Tillerson’s background as he head of the world’s largest oil company, should surprise no one.

According to a press report, Secretary of Commerce Ross found it “fascinating” that there were no protests during the President’s visit to Saudi Arabia. “Not one guy with a bad placard,” he said, apparently oblivious to the fact that protests are prohibited and any protester would have been immediately arrested.

I know I am not the only one here who finds it hard to fathom that a President who has condemned terrorism, as he should, says virtually nothing about the Saudi royal family’s own support for extremism that breeds terrorism, and nothing about the Saudi regime’s gross mistreatment of its own citizens. In fact, the President’s daughter, who purports to speak on behalf of the White House, publicly praised the Saudi regime’s progress on women’s rights, ignoring the fact that every woman she met with—none of whom were women’s rights activists—required the permission of a male relative to participate.

America’s values, including the defense of human rights, are a source of our strength, our durability, and our leadership in the world. I have no qualms with a President of the United States visiting Saudi Arabia. In fact, I support it. What I don’t support, however, is the President agreeing to a massive sale of weapons to a regime that, with the exception of its antipathy toward Iran, shares little in common with the United States. Saudi Arabia has been a supporter of terrorism. Its armed forces have committed war crimes in Yemen. Saudi Arabia ranks among the world’s worse violators of human rights—even below Iran. The message to the Saudi regime and the Saudi people from President Trump and his family is that these issues are no longer important enough to even mention.

Those of us who have been working on protecting and promoting U.S. national security interests since long before this administration took office know better. It is not possible to effectively separate our values, like the protection of individual freedoms and other human rights, and our national security and economic interests. They are inextricably linked, and we will all pay the price if we ignore that reality.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my wife Marcelle and I know and respect Jacqueline Mars. She joined the Washington National Opera's board of trustees in 2003. She was elected as chairman of the board of the Washington National Opera in 2011 and oversaw WNO's affiliation with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Some of the highlights during her tenure as chair have been the acclaimed production of American Ring—The Ring of the Nibelung; M&M's Opera in the Outfield; the Holiday Family Opera; and the American Opera Initiative. Marcelle tells me that, in recognition and appreciation of all of her tireless efforts and enormous contribution and support of the Washington National Opera, the Board of Trustees of the Washington National Opera have unanimously approved that Jacqueline Mars will now be recognized as chairman of the board of trustees emeritus of the Washington National Opera.

I ask unanimous consent that this resolution be printer in the RECORD.

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA

The Board of Trustees of the Washington National Opera (the "Board") does hereby adopt the following resolutions:

Whereas, the Board recognizes the extraordinary achievements of Jacqueline Badger Mars as Trustee and Chairman of the Washington National Opera;

Whereas, in her years as Chairman, Jacqueline Badger Mars has provided wise, farsighted, and creative leadership in guiding the Washington National Opera from the challenges it faced in effectuating its historic affiliation with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, through its successful and acclaimed production of Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen cycle of operas—perhaps the most ambitious project that can be undertaken in the opera world, to its commissioning and introduction of new works by new composers and librettists as part of the American Opera Initiative;

Whereas, Jacqueline Badger Mars's service as Chairman has included numerous other highlights and accomplishments; and

Whereas, the Board wishes to recognize its deep appreciation to Jacqueline Badger Mars for her untiring efforts and enormous contribution to and support of the Washington National Opera and the operatic art form generally, and for her friendship over the years, now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That Jacqueline Badger Mars shall hereinafter be recognized as Chairman of the Board of Trustees Emeritus of the Washington National Opera; and further

Resolved, That this resolution shall be effective May 15, 2017.

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues that today is National Missing Children's Day.

President Reagan highlighted the importance of making child safety a priority when he established May 25 as National Missing Children's Day for the first time in 1983. On this day, we pause to remember those children who have gone missing and honor those who are dedicated to their rescue.

According to the FBI, hundreds of thousands of children are reported missing each year. Most of these cases are closed within hours, thanks to the quick actions of families, communities, and law enforcement personnel, but there also are children, like Lyric Cook and Elizabeth Collins, who never make it home safely.

Ten-year-old Lyric and 8-year-old Elizabeth disappeared in 2012 while taking a bike ride near their grandmother's house in Evansdale, IA. Their bodies were found in the woods nearby later that year. Almost 5 years have passed since their lives were cut short, but the perpetrator has yet to be identified.

My heart goes out to their grieving families and the families of all the other children who have lost their lives in similar tragedies. These child abduction and murder cases are a reminder of the need to promptly pass legislation to extend the key programs authorized by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. The Senate passed such a bill by a vote of 89 to 0 in the 114th Congress. Another measure that would make a difference in the lives of missing children is Kevin and Avonte's Law. Last year, the Senate unanimously passed this legislation, which is named in honor of two boys with autism who died after wandering from safety. This bill, which I cosponsored, promotes the use of technology to help locate children with autism and related conditions who may be susceptible to wandering away from safety. It also supports training for first responders and other community officials to help prevent and respond to these cases.

A related bill passed the other Chamber by a wide margin late last year. I am currently working with the sponsor of that companion bill, Congressman CHRIS SMITH, to resolve the differences between our two bills. Congressman SMITH and I intend to reintroduce an updated version of Kevin and Avonte's Law in each Chamber in the coming weeks.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that I will soon introduce legislation, known as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017. The bill I am developing includes several provisions to help in the fight against child exploitation. First, it promotes training of school resource officers, to ensure that they can better detect and respond to child trafficking cases. Second, it updates the authorization for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Third, it extends and updates some of the key programs that were established under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

In closing, the feeling of dread and helplessness that families must feel when a child goes missing is unimaginable. To help prevent similar tragedies in the future, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these important pieces of legislation.

ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and celebrate the many contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, AAPI. The Asian American and Pacific Islander community is diverse and draws from a variety of distinct cultures, each of which has strengthened this country—providing leaders, innovators, scientists, activists, artists, and citizens.

As we take the time to recognize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and their heritage, it would be negligent to forget that this year marks 75 years since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. He signed Executive Order 9066 in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor and authorized the Department of War—today known as the Department of Defense—to establish "military zones." The military had complete authority over these zones, including control over who entered and who was permitted to leave. The military zones became internment camps. In total, some 75,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and 45,000 Japanese nationals were imprisoned in these camps across the country.

At the time, many attempted to justify the internment camps by citing Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. They cited the need to protect our homeland from potential espionage. They cited the fact that Japan was our wartime enemy. They cited the likelihood that the next attack would come from someone "looking like" the enemy.

What they failed to explain was why no internment camps were established for Americans of German ancestry—or Italian ancestry. Japan was not our only wartime enemy; yet Japanese Americans were the only ones thrust into imprisonment under the guise of "national security."

It is not difficult to guess why. Japanese Americans were targeted because their heritage was thought to be easier to perceive. Of course, in many cases, the U.S. Department of War did not draw distinctions between Americans of Japanese ancestry and Americans of other Asian or Pacific Islander ancestry. If you were thought to look like the enemy, you were a target—full stop—and were at risk of being imprisoned illegally by the American Government.

This is one of the darkest periods in our history. We must not forget it. We cannot forget the tens of thousands of innocent families who were stripped of their basic human and legal rights and