

their factories, research and workers. Business investment has been one of the missing parts of the recovery.

“We’re not quite there yet, but we’ve made a considerable amount of progress,” says Ashworth.

REMEMBERING KEN HECHLER

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Ken Hechler, a former Presidential adviser, veteran, public servant, author, Congressman, West Virginia’s 26th Secretary of State, and educator who left a significant imprint on my home State of West Virginia.

Ken was born on September 20, 1914, in Roslyn, NY. Always a staunch advocate for engaging the public in politics, he helped organize support for President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal while attending Swarthmore College. He later earned a master’s degree and Ph.D. in political science, both from Columbia University.

Shortly after the United States entered World War II, Ken was drafted into the Army where he trained as an infantryman and a tank commander. Eventually he was assigned as an Army combat historian and rose to the rank of colonel. He was one of five people assigned to interview leaders of Nazi Germany after the war.

His experience as a war historian led to his joining the Truman administration as an adviser on local issues during his tours across the Nation. He remained on Truman’s administration throughout the remainder of his tenure and briefly into the administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

He was the author of “The Bridge at Remagen,” which detailed the Army’s crossing of the Rhine River during World War II. This publication helped make him a household name.

Ken later joined the American Political Science Association, with one of his jobs requiring him to find political science professors for colleges. His legacy in West Virginia began in 1957 when he got a request to teach political science at Marshall College, now Marshall University. Following one term at Marshall, he ran for Congress and won. He served nine terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1957 to 1977.

He saw West Virginia for the welcoming place it is. Once you have visited our little State, it never really leaves you. Most importantly, Ken recognized quickly the issues that matter in West Virginia—mostly concerning the coal industry and protection of our miners. In the wake of the explosion at the Consol No. 9 mine in my hometown of Farmington, Ken played a key role in the promotion of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. I personally lost many individuals who I knew well, including my dear Uncle John and several classmates, in that explosion. The implementation of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act set the groundwork for everything we have accomplished for our miners since then. I will

always be grateful for Ken’s contributions.

Among his many history-making legacies, Ken joined the march to Selma with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1965. He was the only active Member of Congress to participate.

After a successful tenure in Congress, Ken served as West Virginia’s Secretary of State. He moved his desk out front so he could interact with visitors passing through. He loved to visit with all West Virginians. He fought for transparency in our campaign finance system, was passionate about protecting our democratic process, and fought to ensure that West Virginians had access to cast their ballots.

Ken never gave up his commitment to public service and continued to be active on the issues that matter to the public. At the age of 85, he walked 530 miles with Granny D to show his unwavering commitment to campaign finance reform, shortly after the McCain-Feingold Act passed Congress. Put simply, Ken was never one to back down from a challenge. The man was fearless and fought tirelessly for causes he believed in.

What is most important is that he lived a full life, surrounded by dear friends and family. It is my hope that Ken’s loved ones are able to find peace, strength, and support in one another. This is a time to celebrate his life and vast accomplishments, as well as the countless lives he touched, and to honor his memory in our thoughts and prayers.

Again, I extend my most sincere condolences to his loving wife, Carol, and the entire Hechler family and dear friends. I am honored to join the people of West Virginia and beyond in recognizing his memory, as well as the unwavering love he had for his loved ones and our great Nation. His legacy of service will live on forever.

REMEMBERING TIM MITCHELL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I have said many times that the Senate is a family, and today we are a family in mourning. Tim Mitchell, the assistant Democratic secretary and a 25-year Senate staffer, lost his battle with brain cancer this past Saturday night. It was a battle he waged with uncommon courage and grace. We are disconsolate that such an outstanding person in the prime of his life has been taken from his family and from the Senate. We send our deepest condolences and prayers to his beloved wife Alicia; his cherished son Ben; his father, the Reverend Dr. Philip Mitchell; his sister Christi; and the rest of his family and many, many friends.

While Tim spent part of his formative years in Binghamton, NY, he was born in Boston and also grew up in New Hampshire, so he ultimately pledged his sports allegiance to Boston and New England. He called himself a P-K—a preacher’s kid. He earned his undergraduate degree from the State Univer-

sity of New York at Fredonia. He earned his juris doctor degree at night while he worked here in the Senate, from Catholic University’s Columbus School of Law. Tim loved his family most of all, but he also loved the Senate, and he loved the Boston Red Sox—I am not sure of the order there; maybe they were tied. He actually acquired two seats from Fenway Park and put them in his basement for when he wanted to watch a game. They were just part of his extensive collection of Red Sox memorabilia, hats, ties, and the like. I don’t think any other fan was as excited and as proud as Tim was when the Red Sox won the World Series in 2004, ending an 86-year drought.

Tim started his Senate career following his junior year in college as an intern for then-Senator Don Riegle from Michigan. He returned to the Senate after he graduated to work as a staff assistant in Senator Riegle’s office, where he quickly displayed his talents and work ethic and was promoted to a job on the Senate Banking Committee. Later, he worked on the special Whitewater Committee. He also worked for former Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, on his personal staff and on the Democratic Policy Committee, before joining the floor staff in 2001.

As a member of the floor staff, Tim was intimately involved in every bill, every nomination, every accomplishment of the Senate. Throughout it all, he was always calm, always patient, always courteous, and always exhibiting his innate sense of decency and fairness. He was a parliamentary expert and a trusted adviser.

I hope Tim’s wife Alicia, his son Ben, and his other family members know just how much Tim was loved and respected here in the Senate. Given the partisan nature of his job, that is, perhaps, the best testament to the type of person Tim was. Our hearts, like theirs, are broken. I hope they may find some solace in these words written by the Reverend Henry Scott Holland, originally as a sermon, but usually reprinted as a poem:

Death is nothing at all.

It does not count.

I have only slipped away into the next room.
Nothing has happened.

Everything remains exactly as it was.

I am I, and you are you, and the old life that
we lived so fondly together is un-
touched, unchanged.

Whatever we were to each other, that we are
still.

Call me by the old familiar name.

Speak of me in the easy way which you al-
ways used.

Put no difference into your tone.

Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little
jokes that we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.

Let it be spoken without an effort, without
the ghost of a shadow upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant.

It is the same as it ever was.

There is absolute and unbroken continuity.

What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
 I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just round the corner.
 All is well.
 Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.
 One brief moment and all will be as it was before.
 How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, since 2010, I have sponsored a State of the Union essay contest for Vermont students. The contest, now in its 7th year, is an opportunity for Vermont's high school students to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were President of the United States. A panel of Vermont teachers reviewed all of the essays submitted and selected the top 20.

I would like to congratulate each and every finalist and to specifically acknowledge Quinn Nelson Mayo as this year's winner of the contest. I would also like to recognize Musa Mayange for placing second and A.J. DeFelice for placing third. I ask to have printed in the RECORD the winning essays.

The material follows:

QUINN NELSON MAYO, ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY JUNIOR (WINNER)

The United States was founded on several core values; the most important, as most of us agree, is freedom. This shared belief has been the foundation of our country for over 200 years. And for centuries, media has been a major outlet for people to exercise this freedom because it allows them to share their opinions with the masses. The idea of free speech took on a different meaning with the development of the internet in the late 80s. Since then, this liberty has grown exponentially. Now people have the ability to share their thoughts with a much larger audience. It is possible to do this anonymously and without fear of consequence. The internet is an incredible asset which has helped with globalization and the spread of information. However, this form of media does have its drawbacks. The leading issue is that it enables the spread of false information. So, while the internet embodies our nation's core value of freedom, it can also be detrimental to another vital aspect of our society: educated and well informed citizens.

Regardless of one's political views, we can all agree that 2016 has been a tumultuous year for politics, here in the United States and across the globe. The 2016 presidential campaign was a dramatic affair, and just the opening act to one of the most high-stakes elections in our country's history. The actions and rhetoric of the president-elect have inspired a great political shift, as well as a burgeoning sense of xenophobia and hatred throughout the country. During times such as these, it is important to focus on what we can do to create a better future. Much of the hate directed towards certain groups of people is due to ignorance and can be traced back to stereotypes perpetrated by unreliable media sources. Forcing media sites to drastically increase their censorship would rightfully anger their users, on the grounds

that it restricts their constitutional right to free speech. Therefore, the most plausible and effective solution to the problem of misinformation is to educate people.

As of this year, 78% of the United States population has a social media profile (Statista). Facebook and Twitter have billions of users across the world. It is imperative that we use such sites with care. The recent controversies over fake news have made the influence of the media on politics increasingly apparent. The rumor now known as "Pizzagate" is a prime example of a fake news story with tremendous influence. Millions of people believed that Hillary Clinton was involved in a child-prostitution ring run out of a pizza parlor. This is because, for a vast number of people, social media and biased news sources are their only ways of acquiring information. In fact, it is estimated that 62% of American adults use social media at least occasionally as a news source (Pew Research Center). However, many blindly make the assumption that it is accurate. When hundreds of thousands of people are susceptible to hate-driven fake news, it can have a huge impact on our democracy.

This is why I propose the incorporation of media literacy as a core subject in all public schools. Public schools educate the majority of our nation's children. Which is why, by teaching America's youth how to approach sources impartially and critically, we can fix this problem of misinformation. Integrating media literacy as a required course at elementary and high-school levels is an investment in our future generations.

MUSA MAYANGE, WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR (SECOND PLACE)

Twelve years and still no change. After fleeing from a civil war in Somalia in 1992, my parents took refuge at a refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya. After 12 years of struggle, in 2004 we flew from the National Airport of Kenya to J.F.K. International Airport in New York thinking our lives were saved. Finally here, the land of the free and the home of the brave. One of the only places on earth where you can taste opportunity and smell a second chance. At the age of 17, I can see it now. America's resistance to change.

Racism exists in America. Surveys reveal that whites apply stereotypical thinking about blacks, considering them lazy and unintelligent. What are we going to do about these attitudes towards persons of color?

The American National Election Studies asked voters to rank blacks and whites from hardworking to lazy, from intelligent to unintelligent. In 2012, 62 percent of whites gave blacks a lower score in at least one area. In 2008, 45 percent of whites expressed negative feelings about black stereotypes. (Milbank, Washington Post)

For a while, we thought that the issue of racism was over and that our nation was going to move forward and "leave the past in the past." It almost had me fooled because we live in Vermont and we sometimes can be isolated from world issues. But racism is still here. When everyone thought that it was no longer "relevant," it's still alive.

As a young African-American immigrant, how can I wrap my head around this? As Vermonters how can we annihilate racism and get our community to be accepting of all races, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds?

Ta-Nehisi Coates addresses the disadvantages of living with black skin in Between the World And Me. Coates says "... today, when 8% of the world's prisoners are black men, our race has been refinanced to the Dream of being white. Black life is cheap, but in America, black bodies are a natural resource of incomparable value." Black people are born with a disadvantage. We are more likely to go jail than white people. The

Center for American Progress says, "In the United States, black people account for 60 percent of those imprisoned. The prison population grew by 700 percent from 1970 to 2005, a rate that is outpacing crime and population rates.

Black people make up 17% of the United States population yet more of us are in jail. A black man is twice as likely to go to jail than a white man, even if they did the same crime.

Racism was born when humans identified skin color as a positive or negative factor. If each of us could accept that we are all humans, we come from different places, and have different interests, we could accept racial differences, but not let them divide us. We will never move forward if we don't work together side by side and knock down obstacles.

AJ DEFELICE, HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN (THIRD PLACE)

The United States is one of the greatest countries on Earth, prized for its natural beauty, economic opportunities, and democratic principles. However, many challenges face our nation. Among the most pressing issues are climate change, immigration, and income inequality.

Perhaps the most daunting problem we face is climate change, and the crucial role our country plays in it. Although President Obama recently signed the Paris Agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions, much must still be done to combat this issue. We can begin by putting unemployed or low-income Americans to work—manufacturing, transporting, and installing renewable energy products—such as solar panels, wind turbines, and more. This would produce a similar effect as the New Deal put into place by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to combat the negative effects of the Great Depression. Additionally, a carbon tax should be established nationally, to lower emissions, and encourage the usage of renewable energy. A carbon tax would also allow for tax reductions in other areas, and combined with employing Americans to transition to widespread renewable energy, would create economic growth, while simultaneously reducing our carbon footprint.

Another controversial issue which troubles our nation is immigration. The United States is a country built on the backs of immigrants, and to deny a path to citizenship to millions who long only for a higher quality of life is unpatriotic. We must stop dehumanizing these people and see them only for who they are—people. Immigrants strengthen our economy, whether it be as producers, consumers, or developers. To deny them access to citizenship in our nation would be depriving ourselves of economic growth and cultural diversity. Economic and cultural change that would only strengthen American society.

Income inequality is another issue which plagues our nation today. According to countless years of research, income inequality has a direct correlation on social and health issues. A study conducted by the University of Wisconsin found that people who reside in more financially unequal communities are more likely to die before the age of 75. As national income inequality decreases, so do social and health problems. This decline can be seen in Scandinavian countries, where having a more equal gross domestic product per capita results in a higher quality of life. To make this possible for the United States, corporations must be regulated and held accountable by lawmakers to be sure that the American people are receiving the representation they deserve. As citizens, we must be responsible in electing officials who will place the needs of the greater population