

they have a clear-eyed look at what we stand for. Do we stand with those little, vulnerable babies in desperate need of care and comfort and support, medical treatment, food, or do we stand with the comments of the Governor of Virginia over the last 2 days?

Tonight, I am beginning what is known as the rule XIV process. That is an expedited procedure for floor consideration of my legislation, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

In addition, I want to announce that on Monday night, I am going to be sure that every Senator has the opportunity to come to the floor and say whom we stand for and what we stand against. So I want to announce that in addition to the rule XIV process that I am going to initiate in a moment, I also want Senators to be aware that on Monday evening, I am going to be asking unanimous consent for Senators to come to the floor and pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act legislation. I am going to ask all 100 Senators to come to the floor and be against infanticide. This shouldn't be complicated.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 311

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 311) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. SASSE. Thank you. I look forward to the debate in this body on Monday evening.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I made the decision to return to Illinois

because of the challenges faced by the region's residents due to the extreme cold. As a result, I was necessarily absent from this afternoon's cloture vote on McConnell amendment No. 65 to the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019 S. 1.

On vote No. 13, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture.●

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
FLOYD K. LINDSTROM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the bravery and service of PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom, a Colorado Springs World War II veteran who has earned our Nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. I also want to recognize the significance of February 3, 2019, which marks the 75th anniversary of his death. He was killed in action at the battle of Anzio.

It is my pleasure to commend the efforts of the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System and Colorado's veterans community, which worked to bring a Medal of Honor for display at the Lindstrom Colorado Springs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

Much has been said about the battle that compelled Lindstrom to act above and beyond the call of duty where he earned his place in the Hall of Heroes. According to the citation, Lindstrom acted with "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" in defeating a German counterattack on a hill near Mignano, Italy, November 11, 1943. When the enemy counterattacked, Lindstrom and his platoon were forced to fall back to a defensive position. Unable to eradicate the enemy nest from this position, Lindstrom fearlessly picked up his heavy machine gun and ran up the hillside to gain a new position, only 10 yards away from the enemy machine-gun; yet again, Lindstrom was unable to reach the gunners who were hiding behind a large rock. Lindstrom charged uphill once more facing a steady stream of fire and killed both gunners with his pistol. In this moment, Lindstrom embodied the true spirit of self-sacrifice.

Every day, men and women in uniform like Lindstrom heroically serve on the front lines of our Nation's defense. I stand with Coloradans today to honor his sacrifice and his memory.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN MADDOX

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Marilyn Maddox of Lewis and Clark County. This week marks Marilyn's 100th birthday. She is being honored this week at the Montana State capitol, not only for her birthday, but also for 80 years of service with the Montana Federation of Republican Women.

Marilyn was born in Chicago on January 31, 1919, and grew up in Ohio. She

attended Ohio State University where she performed as a professional dancer and concert violinist. She joined the National Federation of Republican Women in 1939 and still has her original membership card.

While in Ohio, she married Thomas Maddox to whom she would be married for 71 years. Tom, was a journalist with the Associated Press, and they lived in several Midwestern cities before Tom received a transfer out West to Helena, MT. They packed up their 1951 Plymouth station wagon with two young daughters and two dogs and headed for Montana. Like many folks who find themselves in Montana, the Maddoxes fell in love with Big Sky Country.

Marilyn is an avid outdoors woman and loves hunting and fishing. She also worked for the Montana Stockgrowers Association for many years. Marilyn has 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren, and a Shihtzu named Toby Wong.

I congratulate Marilyn on reaching this milestone and thank her for her many years of service to the people of Montana and the Helena community.●

RECOGNIZING CARROLL
BRADFORD, INC.

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, it is my privilege to honor a Florida small business that exemplifies what it means to provide quality service and to give back to the community when it matters the most. As chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the value of hard work and the unique American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my pleasure to recognize Carroll Bradford, Inc., of Orlando, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Carroll Bradford, Inc., is a full-service construction and landscaping company that was founded in 2010 by Stephen Barnett and Jon Menke, who were both born and raised in central Florida. Stephen and Jon are related by marriage and were driven to follow in the footsteps of their grandfathers, who were both successful small business owners in the 1940s. The company's name combines the names of each co-founder's grandfather: Stephen's grandfather, Carroll Barco, and Jon's grandfather, G.L. Bradford.

Carroll Bradford started in the Baldwin Park community in Orlando and now has expanded to Jacksonville. Through hard work and dedication, Stephen and Jon built a reputation of providing quality construction and landscaping services, being honest with their customers, and giving back to the community.

In its first 8 years, Carroll Bradford has grown exponentially, leading the company to create an app to respond to the expanding base of customers. A testament to this growth is the company's partnership with the Orlando Magic

basketball team, for which Carroll Bradford proudly serves as the Magic's "Official Builder." As a result of its exceptional work, Carroll Bradford has won numerous awards and accolades, including an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau and recognition from the Orlando Business Journal as a "Fast 50" business in 2017.

Carroll Bradford not only constructs many of the buildings and homes that form the Orlando and Jacksonville communities, but it is also dedicated to serving the people who live there. Carroll Bradford supports its community in a variety of ways, including sponsoring the Coaches and Friends Toy Drive Challenge golf tournament each December, providing meals at Orlando's Ronald McDonald House, and hosting an annual Arnold Palmer Hospital trick-or-treat event. In March of this year, Carroll Bradford will sponsor the 2019 Arnie's March Against Children's Cancer for the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children. Additionally, the family at Carroll Bradford established the CB Foundation, which provides financial assistance to families in need.

Carroll Bradford, Inc., is an outstanding example of what it means for a small business to be more than just a workplace for a community. The team at Carroll Bradford combines a desire to provide a useful service for Floridians, while remaining committed to enhancing the community through service. I would like to congratulate Stephen, Jon, and all of the employees at Carroll Bradford, Inc., on being named the Senate Small Business of the Week. I wish you the best of luck as you continue to grow your business and serve your community.●

VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY FINALISTS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD some of the finalist essays written by Vermont High School students as part of the ninth annual State of the Union essay contest conducted by my office.

The essays follow, in alphabetical order according to the finalists' names.

ISABELLE DESROCHES, BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY, SENIOR, FINALIST

Civility in local politics is a topic of increasing importance. As we attempt to compromise on enormous national issues such as immigration, health care, and foreign policy, intense polarization has created unbearable tension between parties, and leads almost daily to an absence of civil discourse. Even more terrifying a sight in recent years is the aggression and polarity that has seeped into local elections through overly-aggressive yard signs, tempestuous town meetings, and neighborhood altercations that craft rifts in our communities. Hopefully, we can shift these themes before courtesy in both national and local politics dies, and my generation is left sans civility in our system.

We seem to be coming upon an age of wildly strong convictions. Although

history classes dive into both pros and cons of political circumstances (such as the eras of Andrew Jackson or Lincoln), citizens and politicians are more resistant than ever to accept the yin/yang relationship that can be found in any political situation. Anyone who follows news is chronically frustrated by this double standard. What we must come to accept as a nation is that none of the pressing issues that face us today can be solved without a common language of civility.

Rollo May, an existential psychologist, wrote about conviction in *The Courage to Create*. "The relationship between commitment and doubt is by no means an antagonistic one. Commitment is healthiest when it is not without doubt, but in spite of doubt," he wrote. May understands what we must come to embrace and apply to our politics: our convictions are strongest when we can cast doubt upon our own stance. A position without doubt causes ignorance and paralyzation of thought. It is courageous to doubt yourself and keep an open mind. We learn this in school, yet students are often hard-pressed to find admirable examples of these philosophies in our lives and on the national stage. As politics become increasingly heated, we can agree that it is more important than ever to preserve integrity and traditional decorum in local elections as well; movements like this must initiate in the strong roots of our society—our tight-knit communities. Our government must set a precedent of positive influence and etiquette so that progress and compromise can finally begin. We must work to create a climate of dialogue instead of hostile debate, both in communities and gradually on a national scale. Civility in politics is the foundation of the progress we need to make in the coming years. Actively working towards an attitude in politics that allows us to work in a bipartisan fashion, and incorporate doubt in our convictions and empathy in our approach is the only way we can ensure the survival of our American political system as it was intended.

LIVIA GREENBERG, STRATTON MOUNTAIN SCHOOL, JUNIOR, FINALIST

The chest closes as the throat tightens like a python strangling its prey, the skin burning as it breaks out in angry hives and rashes, forcing one to claw at their body as a lack of oxygen begins to shut down vital organs. This is an allergic reaction—one that can be experienced by the 15 million Americans with food allergies, one of whom sent to the hospital due to a reaction every three minutes. The device used to stop reactions, called an EpiPen, can be made for thirty dollars; however, the lifesaving instrument retails for 600 dollars. The exorbitant price of the EpiPen is a result of domination over the healthcare market, with nothing stopping the company from raising prices exponentially. Unfortunately, the EpiPen is not the only example of why monopoly capitalism is

an immoral system that abuses the consumers who are in need of medical help. Multiple monolithic companies are forcing those with medical needs to pay prodigious amounts for necessities, a practice that must be broken apart with government intervention.

Shattering medical monopolies needs to be one of the country's priorities, and the most feasible solution to do so is to create a new act that would outlaw inflexible patents and bolster smaller companies financially. The federal government currently uses three anti-trust acts as a guideline for what is a legal or illegal trust, but because none of the acts address copyright, colossal companies have avoided punishment by patenting products or drugs in a manner that makes an alternative product illegal to sell. Even remotely similar products have been banned by the FDA and are not allowed to be sold. By creating a law that prohibits exceedingly unalterable patents, cheaper products would be allowed into the healthcare market. With a government loan, small-scale companies can develop the alternative competition, which would drive the companies that currently have a monopoly into lowering their prices in order to sell their product. In addition to reducing the cost of medical necessities, the consumers would have more freedom to choose which product they trust in case of an emergency and better access to medication essential for life.

While both an ethical and economic issue, trusts are a problem that can be solved with strong government action that keeps the wellbeing of the American citizens at the forefront of concern. No one in the United States should die because of an inability to afford medication due to corporate greed. Creating a new anti-trust act will allow for more companies to develop and sell vital medications at a more accessible price, and will stop companies from nailin in innocent people's coffins.

SETH HARTE, BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL,
FRESHMAN, FINALIST

I'm the kid that dreams of writing movies but is reluctant because I've heard too many stories of writers that fail. I love soccer and want to play in the MLS but know how few make it. I want to be an attorney someday but all I hear is how expensive it is to go to law school. All of this noise makes me feel like there is no way to succeed. But can't I try? I am starting to believe that we close the door before we can open it because defeat feels inevitable. Our society does not see the beauty in failing so we instead we just quit. I believe this is because of our history, our grading systems, and social media.

We learn from an elementary school age that we should never fail and this philosophy is exhibited repeatedly throughout our schooling and into adulthood. We are taught that to mess up is the worst thing we can do because we have survived so long with a