

called “the most frustrating, most difficult problem of the entire effort.” TVA kept stalling and opposition from private interests arose. “TVA had moved in but wasn’t ready to build the dam,” Hortin said. “All the while the nation’s economic condition pressed hard on the people. There was hunger, people couldn’t get work, and the outlook was grim. TVA would say, ‘Someday we’ll build it.’ We wanted them to get it started. TVA was being called socialism, and a lot of unprintable things. But LTVA stayed out of that type rhetoric and petty politics. Our argument was pretty mercenary. We contended that TVA was building dams for other states, it was federal tax money being spent, and here we were at the heart of all this water, and our dam wasn’t being built!”

In January 1937, fate took a hand as nature demonstrated the need for a dam. Rain fell for 19 days. The Tennessee and Ohio rivers and their tributaries overflowed their banks. Multimillions of dollars were lost.

A crucial piece of legislation passed Congress on Feb. 16, 1938. Hortin received a telegram from Sen. Barkley reading: “Just retained, Gilbertsville, whole TVA appropriation.” That bill meant TVA’s appropriation wouldn’t be cut. Still TVA wouldn’t use the word, construction. Draffen was on a train bound for Washington to lobby for the bill when he received the news. He continued his journey and thanked each legislator who voted for it.

LTVA’s lobbying bore fruit on July 1, 1938 when Congress appropriated \$2,613 million for construction of the dam. Its total cost was \$116.2 million. “On that day the word construction was used for the first time,” Hortin said. “It was key; we had our dam!”

At the height of construction, 5,000 men from several states came to work on the dam. The economy boomed, and housing was needed for the influx of workers. TVA floated homes down the river to Gilbertsville from its worker village at Pickwick Dam and built a self-contained community with schools, administration offices, medical clinic and recreational facilities. That community, just south of old Gilbertsville, became known as “The Village.”

After the dam was completed, Draffen recruited Charles Hall to assist him in efforts to entice industry to locate in Calvert City. Hall wrote more than 1,000 letters touting the amenities Calvert City offered—cheap electricity, river, rail and highway transportation. Draffen and Hall reaped success in 1948 when the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company (now Arkema) announced it would build a plant near Altona. It opened in July 1949. Pittsburgh Metallurgical Company (now Calvert City Metals & Alloys) opened in November 1949. Industrialization had begun.

Predictions that Calvert City’s population would balloon from less than 300 to 10,000 by 1960 didn’t happen. However, industrialization continued with National Carbide of Air Reduction (now Carbide Industries) opening in January 1953, followed by BFGoodrich Chemical Company (now Lubrizol) and West Lake Chemicals. American Aniline and Extract Company (now ESTRON) opened in 1954; Airco Chemical Company (which later became Air Products and Chemicals and is now Evonik), and General Aniline and Film Corporation (now Ashland) opened in 1956. Other spin off companies include Wacker, Cymetech and many support businesses.

A few industries Draffen and Hall courted didn’t locate at Calvert City. Hall said General Tire, now closed, opted for Mayfield. Then there was Great Lakes Carbon Corporation owned by George Skakel, father of Ethel Kennedy. In a 1980 interview, the late Grand Rivers Mayor John Henry O’Bryan, said Luther Draffen brought Skakel to Grand Rivers to buy land for a plant. Great Lakes Carbon

bought more than 1,200 acres a little northeast of Grand Rivers from TVA and three private landowners. But in a letter to Hall dated April 3, 1952, Skakel said he regretted “the company had reluctantly decided to abandon its development plans.” Skakel held out hope that Great Lakes Carbon might build the plant later. But on Oct. 3, 1955, Skakel and his wife, Ann, were killed when their plane crashed.

Probably the most significant impact electricity from Kentucky Dam made on Marshall County was a higher standard of living for its people. In 2015, earnings in all industries averaged nearly \$55,000 annually. Last year, travel and recreation—much of it related to Kentucky Lake created by the dam—added \$74 million to the county’s economy and Calvert City added 2.994 million in payroll taxes to county coffers.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit all news organizations and hit them hard at a time when they have rarely been so essential to the American people and our communities.

News organizations have had to severely trim their staffs, while coping, as we all have had to do, with the pandemic’s health threats and uncertainties. It is a great credit to our Fourth Estate that so many news organizations nonetheless have managed to produce such heroic work in meeting this vital challenge.

Most news outlets have had to transition to an online distribution model in distributing their reporting during this pandemic. These valiant efforts have included those by online-only news organizations such as “Vermont Digger,” in Vermont. The New York Times recently recognized the vital work of such Vermont news outlets as “Vermont Digger” and “Seven Days” in the face of these unprecedented challenges.

Vermont stands almost alone in the Nation in our State’s successful efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. Much of that can be attributed to the bold steps taken by State and local communities and leaders at all levels, including Governor Phil Scott, to follow the science in promoting mask wearing and social distancing. Sensible and responsible leadership, and strong and steady reporting by Vermont’s news organizations, have produced “a high degree of social trust,” as the Washington Post has reported.

Recently “Vermont Digger” was recognized by the Local Independent Online News Association for its local coverage of COVID-19, and that recognition is richly deserved.

Vermonters know that in troubling times like these, we fare best when we make the difficult but important decisions to protect our families, our neighbors, and our communities. This pandemic continues to rage, but I am proud that my fellow Vermonters are once again leading the Nation in our efforts to conquer out this virus.

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY EVERHART

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to recognize Nancy Everhart on the occasion of her retirement from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Nancy Everhart has been a true Vermont leader in agriculture and conservation, dedicating her decades-long career to the protection of farmland and the viability of the farmers who rely on it. She retires with an extensive list of accomplishments. The passion she applies to her work has had a tremendous impact on the Vermont landscape, as well as our Nation’s agricultural future.

Nancy was a farmer first. As a strong pioneer of Vermont’s organic movement during the 1980s, she was among the first Vermonters to sell organic milk to her community. Her work and that of other like-minded farmers in Vermont were catalysts in the early organic movement that ultimately led me to introduce the Organic Food Production Act as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Enacted as part of the 1990 farm bill, that bill created the first-ever standards and label for what is now a \$50 billion industry. Even as she became a national leader in conservation, Nancy has still maintained a small, diversified, organic farm at her home in Marshfield, VT. Her personal experiences as a farmer have afforded her a unique perspective and credibility to bring to each phase of her career.

As the conservation director for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Nancy has led or contributed directly to the conservation of more than 77,000 acres across nearly 500 parcels of Vermont farmland. These projects have helped to keep Vermont farms viable by allowing farm owners to access substantial capital and benefit from their most valuable asset, their land. Those benefits, however, do not stop at the fence line. Nancy knows that investments in preserving working landscapes benefit the rural communities that surround them and contribute greatly to the tourist and outdoor economies of rural States like Vermont. They can be a bridge to the next generation, often providing young and beginning farmers the opportunity to overcome their biggest hurdle: accessing affordable farmland to start and grow their enterprise. When that succession of stewardship is broken and working lands fall out of production, it can exact an immeasurable price from the community.

Nancy’s decades of work have exemplified and brought home to Vermont exactly the outcomes that I envisioned when I worked to establish the Federal role for farmland protection in the 1990 and 1996 farm bills. Since that time, Nancy has drawn on her vast experience to provide counsel on how to expand that role and continually improve farmland conservation provisions, including most recently in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—ACEP—provisions of the 2018 farm

bill. Those provisions greatly enhance the delivery and flexibility of farmland conservation programs, not just for Vermont but across the entire United States.

As a farmer herself, Nancy Everhart understands the challenges that farmers face, and she has dedicated a portion of her work to improving farm viability, increasing diversification, and providing opportunities for young Vermonters to realize their own farm dreams. As she retires, Nancy's enthusiasm and commitment to Vermont agriculture will continue to be reflected in our State's working landscape and resilient farmers.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGETOWN LAW

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, 150 years ago, Georgetown Law convened its first class in Washington, DC, where 25 students from 12 States began what has now become a century and a half long legacy of learning. While Georgetown Law's entering classes look quite different now—over 500 students from nearly all 50 States and from countries around the world—the institution's dedication to justice and service remains the same. Since opening its doors in 1870, Georgetown Law has educated generations of bright, driven, and passionate future lawyers who embody the school's motto: "Law is but the means, justice is the end."

I had the great fortune of attending Georgetown Law and received my juris doctorate in 1964. While laptops may have replaced legal pads since my law school days, Georgetown Law's commitment to producing competent, fiercely principled attorneys has never changed. The education I received at Georgetown Law had a profound, indelible impact on me and the way I view the world.

Georgetown Law furthered my inspiration to become a U.S. Senator. Attending classes just blocks away from Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court, I and many others were constantly reminded that the law is not just an academic endeavor, but a very real one, impacting the lives and rights of millions. It filled me with awe to be learning the law in the city where laws are being made. It is no wonder that so many alumni of Georgetown Law dedicate their lives to public service and government.

Georgetown Law stands out among our Nation's law schools for ensuring that students are not just learning the law, but putting it into practice. The law center offers top-ranked clinical programs and practicums, in which law students learn the art and science of lawyering. From asylum seekers to victims of domestic violence, from appellate arguments to criminal defense proceedings, Georgetown Law students learn what it truly means to zealously advocate for real clients in need.

Georgetown Law also boasts world-renowned centers and institutes that

push the legal profession to be both introspective and innovative. A special place of pride for me is the school's Center on Privacy and Technology, which trains the next generation of lawyers who will carry on a cause that has been one of my top priorities as a U.S. Senator: fighting for Americans' privacy rights.

During these difficult times, it is steady to know that Georgetown Law still embraces one of its oldest but most timeless traditions: imbibing the spirit of service in its graduates. That, without a doubt, is the lasting legacy of Georgetown Law, educating generations of lawyers who believe that the law is an instrument for good.

My congratulations to Georgetown Law on this milestone. Here is to 150 more.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CHILDREN'S LITERACY FOUNDATION

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to call attention to the important work done by the Children's Literacy Foundation—CLiF—a Waterbury Center, VT, based organization that was established in 1998 to address children's literacy in Vermont and New Hampshire. CLiF's founder, Duncan McDougall, set out to improve access to books and other learning resources for children in low-income, at-risk, and rural communities through a diverse set of programs, from story-telling events with authors to partnerships with elementary schools to distribute books to students. Over the last 22 years, the foundation has touched the lives of thousands of children in Vermont and New Hampshire.

As schools in Vermont have opened their doors in a more limited capacity this fall, learning has become more difficult for many students, and access to books at home has become even more critical. Luckily, CLiF quickly moved to address this new challenge. Since March, the foundation has partnered with schools and libraries to fill some of the gap left by remote learning, distributing 40,000 books across our two States, and facilitating remote and in-person literacy workshops and story-telling events. Not only has this been beneficial for children, but it has helped parents as well, many of whom are simultaneously juggling teaching, and working full-time. As a father and a grandfather, I truly understand the importance of access to books in the home, and I am truly grateful for the efforts made by Mr. McDougall and the rest of the team at the Children's Literacy Foundation to make books more available for students in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Reading is, as they say, fundamental, and I often think of my days visiting Kellogg Hubbard in Montpelier when I was growing up. Providing children the resources and tools to grow in their reading journeys is providing them a lifelong tool for success.

The Children Literacy Foundation was recently featured in an article in

Vermont's "Seven Days." I ask unanimous consent that the article, "Waterbury Literacy Nonprofit Distributes 40,000 Kids' Books During Pandemic," be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Seven Days, Sept. 30, 2020]

WATERBURY LITERACY NONPROFIT DISTRIBUTES 40,000 KIDS' BOOKS DURING PANDEMIC

(By Sasha Goldstein)

Anyone with kids knows how difficult WFH life can be during a pandemic. But a local nonprofit has tried to make things a bit easier for families.

Since March, the Waterbury Center-based Children's Literacy Foundation has given away nearly 40,000 books to kids across Vermont and New Hampshire. The gesture is all the more important at a time when kids have been isolated and soaking up screen time, said Erika Nichols-Frazer, the foundation's communications manager.

"Our program partners have gotten really creative with it," Nichols-Frazer said. "Some of them send books home in meal packages or with other learning materials; others have done curbside pickup . . . So we're making sure we're still getting them books at this time, which is obviously more important than ever."

The foundation's mission, according to its website, "is to inspire a love of reading and writing among low-income, at-risk, and rural children up to age 12." Nichols-Frazer said the pandemic has made that a more urgent undertaking. Such groups of kids are the most likely to fall behind when they aren't in school or are learning remotely.

Earlier this month, the foundation launched its Year of the Book program and donated \$25,000 to schools in Chelsea, Windsor, Danby and Clarendon, as well as J.J. Flynn Elementary School in Burlington. Each student at those schools will receive 10 new books they may keep and will participate in virtual and in-person readings and workshops with local authors and illustrators. The school libraries, classrooms and even the local community libraries will each receive cash to buy new books, Nichols-Frazer said.

Despite the pandemic, she said, a group of volunteers in the Waterbury area has continued to help put nameplate stickers in each book so the kids can personalize their reading materials. "It might sound small, but it's an important thing for these kids to own books," Nichols-Frazer said. "A lot of the kids we work with don't have their own books, and so having that little sticker in there that says 'This is my book' is kind of a special thing for them."

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed