

SEN. FISCHER WILLA CATHER UNVEILING
REMARKS

When we are here in Statuary Hall, I like to remind people that we are not alone.

If you look above the door leading into the Rotunda, you'll see a figure. It is Clio, the muse of history.

For generations, she served as a constant reminder that our words and actions—the good and the bad—would be judged by time and leave a lasting mark on the nation.

Today Clio welcomes one of Nebraska's finest literary artists, Willa Cather.

"Let your fiction grow out of the land beneath your feet."

This quote, attributed to Cather, is an apt summation of the author's life and work.

Cather's vivid, reflective writing has become synonymous with the pioneer spirit of Nebraska.

Her fiction—epitomized by the Great Plains novels *O Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark*, and *My Antonia*—truly feels like it grew from the soil of Nebraska.

Cather herself grew from that land. Her family settled in Red Cloud while she was still a child, and her imaginative mind put its roots down there in Webster County.

For decades until her death in 1947, Cather was unable to shake her creative spirit away from its home in the open plains of the heartland.

The unveiling of Cather's statue is especially poignant for me, because Cather's fiction is not the only art to grow out of the land beneath her feet.

In 2006, my sister-in-law Nadine McHenry's art was selected as part of the annual Willa Cather Conference organized by the Cather Foundation.

"I am a Nebraska painter and my feet stand on the same prairie grasses that Cather stood on," Nadine wrote of her painting exhibition.

Nadine's impressionistic paintings are a blend. They blend an imaginative representation of Cather's prose with Nadine's own personal experience on our family's ranch in the Nebraska Sandhills.

Four of the paintings—"Longing," "Isolation," "Pioneering the Way," and "Way Ahead"—draw new vigor out of Cather's century-old works, each created as an expression of a different quote by the novelist.

Nadine's art illustrates the profound resonance of Cather's writing for those of us who call Nebraska home.

That resonance—the talent and imagination immortalized in Cather's indelible novels—is what endows her with the significance to be placed in the U.S. Capitol as a representation of Nebraska's best.

I'll end with words from Cather's "Song of the Lark," words that strike a sense of understanding into the heart of any Nebraskan who has read her work.

"What was any art but a mold to imprison for a moment the shining, elusive element which is life itself?"

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA NATHANSON

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Ella Winter famously remarked to author Thomas Wolfe, "Don't you know you can't go home again?" The remark, in abbreviated form, became the title of one of his most famous books, published after he died. The two writers never met Martha D. Nathanson, who grew up in Park Heights, went to Indiana University in Bloomington to earn

her bachelor's degree and J.D., and then returned home and dedicated her life to making Baltimore a better, safer, healthier, and happier place.

Martha is retiring from LifeBridge Health, where she has been responsible for government relations, focusing on legislative and regulatory policy at all three levels of government, covering all aspects of healthcare delivery and community and economic development in the areas surrounding all of LifeBridge Health's facilities, including Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. Martha's expertise, political skills, finesse, and natural ability as a community organizer have made her a formidable force for bringing better healthcare and other vital services to underserved communities, including Lower Park Heights. I don't know whether LifeBridge's Northwest Hospital would be the outstanding facility it is today without Martha's tireless advocacy.

Before Martha joined LifeBridge some 25 years ago, she was director of risk management and legislative and regulatory affairs for Kirson Medical Equipment Company, where she developed legal, regulatory, and joint commission—JCAH—compliance programs and drafted and negotiated contracts with providers. She also worked as an attorney advisor at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and as an associate attorney at Ober Kaler in Baltimore. I have relied on and am grateful for Martha's wise counsel on healthcare and community and economic development issues in Baltimore over the years.

Martha's vocation and avocation are one and the same. In addition to her professional career, she serves on the board of CHAI—Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.—served as chair of the Board of Park Heights Renaissance and is a founding member of the Northwest Baltimore Partnership. She also serves on the board of advisers of the University of Maryland School of Social Work and the Safe Streets Community Advisory Board. She has bought, renovated, and sold houses in her neighborhood and is active in CREW Baltimore, which promotes the business interests and professional advancement of women in all disciplines of the commercial real estate industry by providing educational and networking opportunities and contributing resources to support the local community. Given all of this, it is no surprise that Martha was named as one of Maryland's 100 Top Women by the "Daily Record" in 2017.

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give. Martha Nathanson has given so much to her beloved hometown, and Baltimore is so much better for her tireless efforts. Since she is not the "retiring" kind, I know she will stay active in community affairs. But now, she will have more time for biking and trekking and environmental causes and, most important, for her family. I know that she is especially "over the moon" about

being a grandmother. I want to thank her for her service and friendship and wish her all the best as she begins the next chapter in a wonderful life of service.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. SUSAN PETERSON THOMAS

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to thank Dr. Susan "Sue" Peterson Thomas for her many years of service to the State of Kansas and Kansas State University—K-State—as well as honor her for all that she accomplished during her career.

The daughter of a dairy farmer and former mayor of Abilene, KS, Sue began her journey at K-State as a student, where she graduated with a bachelor of science degree in political science and history. She would go on to earn a master of public administration degree from the University of Kansas, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from K-State.

Sue's service to the State of Kansas began in 1978, where she worked for Mike Hayden during his time as the speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives and Governor of Kansas. She also served on the transition teams for Governor Hayden and Governor Sam Brownback.

Sue would go on to work for her alma mater, beginning her distinguished career at K-State in 1989. During her 33 years of service to the university, Sue worked her way up to chief government relations officer, where she was directly responsible for all university liaison activities with the State and Federal legislature. She also served as a political science instructor since 1992, where she taught Kansas politics and government to over 1,000 students.

During her time at K-State, Sue was responsible for multiple different projects that have had a tremendous impact on the university. She was instrumental in securing State funding to renovate Farrell Library and add 153,000 square feet of new space to the library on K-State's Manhattan campus; she coordinated the successful legislative effort to merge the Kansas College of Technology in Salina into K-State, forming the K-State Salina campus; she led the efforts to secure State and Federal funding for the construction and equipment of Pat Roberts Hall, the home of K-State's Biosecurity Research Institute. The fruits of her labor culminated at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility's ribbon-cutting ceremony this last May, which she worked tirelessly on, helping pass multiple pieces of legislation that were crucial to the State's efforts to land the facility adjacent to K-State's campus in Manhattan.

Throughout her career, Sue has been recognized at the local, State, and national levels. She has been awarded the prestigious Marvin D. "Swede" Johnson Achievement Award, the Flinchbaugh Family Wildcat Pride

Award, and the Career Excellence Award from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' Council on Governmental Affairs.

Sue officially retired from K-State on April 7, 2023, after 33 years, 8 months, and 6 days of service to the university. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Susan Peterson Thomas, as well as thank her for all of her work on behalf of the State of Kansas and Kansas State University.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 467. An act to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1640. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the proposed rule titled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products", and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2(b)(4) of Public Law 171-40, the Minority Leader appoints the following individuals to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific History and Culture: Mr. Rodney Davis of Taylorville, Illinois and Mr. Vincent K. Fong of Bakersfield, California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1640. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the proposed rule titled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1615. An act to prohibit the use of Federal funds to ban gas stoves.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2003. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State to provide additional assistance to

Ukraine using assets confiscated from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and other sovereign assets of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2004. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 relating to de minimis treatment under that Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2005. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require that information required to be disclosed to the Securities and Exchange Commission by issuers be material to voting or investment decisions regarding those issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2006. A bill to foster Tunisia's democratic institutions, to limit funds until Tunisia restores checks and balances, and to authorize the creation of a fund to support democratic reforms; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2007. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the submission by issuers of data relating to diversity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2008. A bill to amend section 1977 of the Revised Statutes to protect equal rights under law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2009. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize a national network of statewide senior legal hotlines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 2010. A bill to subject professional baseball clubs to the antitrust laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2011. A bill to prohibit the importation of seafood and seafood products from the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2012. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2013. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide funding to sustain and increase the supply and quality of child care, access to child care, and the child care workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 2014. A bill to ensure that certain members of the Armed Forces who served in female cultural support teams receive proper

credit for such service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2015. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to provide funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2016. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2017. A bill to provide multiyear procurement authority for LGM-35A Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2018. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 2019. A bill to prevent States and local jurisdictions from interfering with the production and distribution of agricultural products in interstate commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2020. A bill to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2021. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to apply that Act to small business financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.