

other. They listen closely while others shine as well as play as an ensemble, producing thrilling fortissimos that echo in audiences' hearts long after the final note.

While maintaining a high level of musicianship through competitive auditions, the GBYO provides an invaluable experience—an alternative to joining a sports team—for students who love music. Its members can feel camaraderie, learn teamwork, and come to understand the value of weekly group rehearsals and daily practice.

I applaud the GBYO for its goal of providing a supportive environment where lifelong friendships are formed, mentorship thrives, and students feel safe to express their emotions and connect through passionate music. This sensitivity is rare and precious. GBYO combines the development of emotional intelligence and social skills with the principles of hard work and diligence. These young musicians are talented, smart, well-rounded, and, best of all, excited.

In March, the GBYO celebrated its landmark anniversary with a gala alumni concert at the University of Bridgeport, conducted by GBYO's music director, Christopher Hisey, who is an alumnus of the orchestra. He led a stirring and inspiring alumni ensemble piece to finish the tremendous concert. I congratulate executive director Barbara Upton and music director Christopher Hisey, for their leadership.

I wish the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestras continued success and hope this well-regarded organization can serve as a role model, inspiring others to preserve and perpetuate the long tradition of the arts and the importance it holds for our culture and society.

2011 CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 2011 Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame inductees and their contributions to the recent history of the State of Connecticut and our Nation.

In the spirit of preserving the often untold accomplishments of impactful leaders from Connecticut, each year the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame publicly honors several women, living or deceased, to share their stories, preserve their legacies, and update and equalize the history that is taught to our children. The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame has created and maintained a remarkable space, free of charge, where the utmost respect can be paid to women who have made immeasurable impacts to our daily lives.

On October 25, 2011, at the 18th Annual Induction Ceremony and Celebration "Women of Influence: Creating Social Change"—Isabelle M. Kelley, Denise Lynn Nappier, and Patricia Wald were inducted. These three women are trailblazers, taking on various leadership positions in govern-

ment while breaking through stagnant stereotypes and archaic traditions.

Isabelle M. Kelley devoted her passion for societal transformation, drive to accomplish, and energetic entrepreneurship to the problem of food shortages faced by our country's most impoverished families. Ms. Kelley was born in Connecticut in 1917 and remained there throughout her high school and college years, attending Simsbury High School and the University of Connecticut. Upon graduation in 1938 with an economics degree, she was asked to join the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an economist to examine food purchasing trends, which inspired a life-long interest in our country's food supply. In this capacity, she was the first to publicly link malnourishment in children to limited school achievement. She was asked by President Kennedy to serve on a task force to realize a national food stamp program. In 1964, she authored the Food Stamp Act and was appointed as the first Director of the Food Stamp Division of the USDA. It was the first time any woman directed a national social program at the USDA and led any type of consumer affairs or marketing division in any Federal agency.

Ms. Kelley passed away in 1997, but students of public health and nutrition can listen to and read transcripts of her oral history project by Harvard University's Schlesinger Library, whose aim was to capture the voices of 38 women "who had achieved positions of high rank in the federal government during the middle decades of the twentieth century." In 2011, she was invited into the USDA's Hall of Heroes.

The Honorable Denise Lynn Nappier, now serving her fourth term as Connecticut's first female State treasurer and first elected statewide official, and the country's first African American female State treasurer, can serve as a role model to women around the country who strive to impact the field of financial regulation. Born in 1951 in Hartford, Treasurer Nappier ran for city treasurer in 1989. After working 10 years to engender Hartford's financial development, she won the position of State treasurer. She made visits to schools around the State, teaching students how to save and budget—paving the way for success in their finances as adults. The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame joins other esteemed organizations that have honored Treasurer Nappier, including the Girl Scouts of Connecticut, the Hartford College for Women, the National Association of Minority and Women Law Firms, the Government Finance Officers Association, and the National Political Congress of Black Women.

The Honorable Patricia Wald has dedicated her career to public service and the law, retiring from her seat as the first female judge for the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to serve on the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. Born in 1928 in the city of

Torrington, she went on to attend law school at Yale University as one of only 11 women in her graduating class. Judge Wald was motivated to go into government service by the possibilities of social reform, especially addressing issues concerning poverty and criminal justice. In 1964, she was nominated by President Johnson to the President's Commission on Crime in Washington, DC. After serving the Carter administration as Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, she was appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia in 1979, where she served for 20 years, eventually as chief judge. Since her retirement from the bench, she has been asked to join several commissions and task forces, including President Bush's Commission on Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Constitution Project's Guantanamo Task Force. Most recently, she has served on the advisory board of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. I join those who have honored Judge Wald, including members of the International Human Rights Law Group, the American Lawyer Hall of Fame, and the American Bar Association, in celebrating her commitment to the law, especially in protecting our country's most vulnerable.

I know my colleagues will join me in honoring these remarkable women, who weathered criticism and risked public failure to inspire current and upcoming public servants and to better the lives of future generations.

2011 CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 2011 inductees of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, a nonprofit organization that honors men and women from Connecticut who have served their communities in commendable ways since retiring from the military. Starting in 2005, when established by Executive Order, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame has selected at least 10 inductees each year: men and women from Connecticut who, even after their great sacrifices as Active members of our military, have chosen to continue their service in innovative ways to contribute to the lives of current enlistees, fellow veterans, and civilians.

These local heroes were celebrated at an induction ceremony surrounded by their family and friends this past December attended by Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz. I would like to join Lieutenant Governor Wyman and Commissioner Schwartz and formally recognize Samuel Beamon, Sr., Rev. Dr. G. Kenneth Carpenter, Richard Rampone, Ronald Catania, Burke Ross, John Chiarella, Phillip Kraft, Ronald Perry, Dr. Madelon Baranoski, and Harold Farrington, Jr.