

than \$500,000 in scholarships to attend Kentucky schools. Because of Stan's passionate leadership, countless Kentucky students are able to hone their skills and compete across the Commonwealth.

I would like to congratulate Stan for this impressive honor and thank him for a career of dedicated service to young people throughout Kentucky. I am proud to join with the Kentucky athletic community in celebrating Stan's accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT "GIL"
VANOVER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Gilbert "Gil" Vanover, who has committed his life to serving the people of McCreary County, KY, and the country.

A Korean war veteran, Gil joined the U.S. Air Force in 1950 after he graduated from McCreary County High School. During a mission in a B-26 Bomber, Gil's plane was shot down, forcing him and his team to evacuate. Gil parachuted out of the plane and was later rescued by Allied Forces.

During his landing, Gil suffered several injuries, causing him to be discharged from the Air Force. However, that did not dissuade him from serving his country again, and he reenlisted. After 28 years of service to his Nation, he retired as a first sergeant at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Among his many well-earned recognitions, Gil was awarded the Bronze Star and the Cross of Gallantry Air Medal for his selfless military service to our country.

After his career in the Armed Forces, Gil returned back to his hometown to serve his community in a new way: as a teacher. He taught history for 15 years at McCreary County High School, the same school he had attended years before.

I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Gil for his bravery and perseverance in his service to our country, as well as his commitment to the next generation of his community in McCreary County. He is an inspiration to his students, neighbors, and all who seek to help others.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHEASTERN
KENTUCKY REHABILITATION INDUSTRIES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the work of the Southeastern Kentucky Rehabilitation Industries, SEKRI, a nonprofit organization in Corbin, KY, which helps provide employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Before its founding in 1971, men and women with mental or physical disabilities in southeastern Kentucky often struggled to find real opportunities for employment. Since SEKRI was established, it has helped many men and women find work. Seventy-five percent of SEKRI's workforce is comprised of

individuals with disabilities who produce garments such as caps and protective gear for the Armed Forces. Today SEKRI has five plants, four of which are in Kentucky, and employs over 550 individuals throughout the region. SEKRI plans to open its sixth plant in Pineville, KY, this year.

For more than 45 years, SEKRI has helped hundreds of workers with disabilities in eastern Kentucky participate in the workforce. I would like to commend SEKRI for its many contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER MONDALE

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I would like to celebrate Vice President Walter Mondale, who recently marked his 90th birthday. When Vice President Mondale was asked about the legacy of the Carter administration, he responded this way: "We told the truth, we obeyed the law and we kept the peace—and that's not bad." Not only was that description apt and characteristically humble, I submit that it captures Walter Mondale's values and virtues.

First, Walter Mondale tells the truth. And aren't we so sorely in need of this today? Sometimes, when Mr. Mondale told the truth, it was painful. And sometimes, when he told the truth, he paid a political price. But truth in public service is a luminous thing, and Walter Mondale has always shone brightly.

Honesty was taught early by his parents, Theodore, a Methodist minister, and Claribel, a music teacher. An old friend of Mondale's once observed that he would often ask, "I wonder what my mother's going to think about that?" Well, his mother did not see her son become Vice President and ambassador, and Reverend Mondale did not see him become attorney general and Senator, but I suspect, he thinks about them still.

Second, Walter Mondale respects the rule of law and lives the rule of law. And aren't we so sorely in need of this today?

Not surprisingly, one of Fritz and Joan Mondale's favorite movies was "A Man for All Seasons," in which Sir Thomas More famously observes that, when the last law is down and the Devil turns on you, there is no place to hide. In other words, the rule of law protects all of us.

You might say, well, respect for the law is just the baseline we might expect of the most famous graduate of the University of Minnesota's law school—now Mondale Hall—who went on to become the State's chief lawyer; yet we have seen that even prominent public officials, trained in the law, can cut corners when tempted by money or power.

Walter Mondale has never cut corners. In both his private life and his public life, this is a man who has always turned square corners.

Finally, Walter Mondale works for peace. And aren't we so sorely in need of this today?

We know of the Vice President's important role in the Camp David Peace Accords and the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. We know of his role as ambassador to one of our most important allies. But when we think of Walter Mondale and peace, we must think also of his goal of community reconciliation through civil rights. As the lead author of the Fair Housing Act, for more than half a century, he has fought for equity and fairness.

Yes, Walter Mondale tells the truth, obeys the law, and works for peace. That, I would suggest, is not just "not bad"; it is wonderful and extraordinary.

As I recognize Vice President Mondale and his contributions to this country, I wish him a happy birthday.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MARGARET SOONG
MEOW LEE

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Margaret Soong Meow Lee, a remarkable educator, researcher, and family woman. Sadly, Mrs. Lee passed away on August 1, 2017. She will be remembered for her dedication to helping others as well as for her invaluable contributions to the field of forensic science.

Mrs. Lee was born in Sarawak, Malaysia, and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in education from Taiwan Normal University. Subsequently, she received a master's degree in education from Long Island University and a postgraduate certificate from Seton Hall University in bilingual and multilingual education.

Mrs. Lee became a teacher and ultimately an assistant high school principal in Sarawak and served as the commissioner of women's affairs. She brought her love for educating others to the United States and continued teaching in New York. Her impressive career in the New York City public school system lasted nearly a decade.

After moving to Connecticut, Mrs. Lee worked at the Veterans Administration Hospital in West Haven as a computer programming analyst for 20 years. Her exemplary work at the VA hospital still benefits that facility.

Mrs. Lee's extraordinary life's work includes her husband's career as well. As the wife of Dr. Henry C. Lee, the founder of the University of New Haven's Institute of Forensic Science and internationally renowned forensic scientist, Mrs. Lee accompanied her husband to hundreds, if not thousands, of his lectures. Throughout the course of his distinguished criminal justice career, Dr. Lee received unflinching support and assistance from his wife. They traveled the world together, with Mrs. Lee serving as a trusted sounding

board, expert aide de camp, and vital source of insight and perspective. Her remarkable intelligence and wisdom greatly assisted Dr. Lee and the many professionals and criminal justice experts who worked with him. I have valued my personal relationship of many years with these two uniquely talented, insightful, and public-spirited friends and professionals.

Known as a caring mother, excellent educator, and strong advocate for the University of New Haven's international students, Mrs. Lee received many awards including a "Mother of the Year" award by the Chinese American Parent-Student Council of New York City and an honorary doctor of humane letters degree in 2012 from the University of New Haven. To honor her ongoing memory and strong support for the university, the Margaret Lee Scholarship Fund was established upon her passing.

My wife, Cynthia, and I extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Lee's family during this difficult time, particularly to her husband—a dear friend and role model of public service—their two children, and their four grandchildren. May their many wonderful memories of Mrs. Lee provide them solace and comfort in the days ahead.●

REMEMBERING REVEREND MARION BASCOM AND KONSTANTINE PREVAS

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of the appointment of Rev. Marion Bascom and Konstantine Prevas, Esq., to the Baltimore City Board of Fire Commissioners. These two men made significant contributions to the city of Baltimore and the Baltimore City Fire Department.

On January 23, 1968, Reverend Bascom was sworn in by Mayor Thomas D'Alessandro III as Baltimore City's first African-American member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. Mr. Konstantine Prevas was also sworn in that day. Reverend Bascom was a minister and fighter for social and economic equity. Mr. Prevas was an attorney, WWII veteran, and a leader of the Greek community with a long family history in the Baltimore business community. These two men may not have known about the great task that lay ahead of them, yet they both undertook each challenge and opportunity with vigor and commitment. The Baltimore City Fire Department is the beneficiary of their outstanding and tireless efforts.

Although Baltimore's fire department was desegregated in 1953 under the administration of Mayor Thomas D'Alessandro, Jr., in 1968, it still had vestiges of Jim Crow. Segregation inside the firehouses and unfairness in the areas of discipline and promotions were among the issues that needed to be addressed. Commissioners Bascom and Prevas were well-suited to lead the fight against these inequalities.

Commissioner Bascom did not think that being the first African-American in leadership of Baltimore's fire department was the key to change in an institution that had a legacy of nepotism. He always credited Commissioner Prevas for being the deciding vote on a three-vote panel to move the department forward. Reverend Bascom would often say, "Never forget the name of Konstantine Prevas. "Gus" Prevas was my friend. He voted with me on every issue that was of interest to Black people. If it was not for him, you still would be sitting on the Black toilet, sleeping in the Black bed, eating off the Black plate, drinking coffee out of the Black cup and washing up in the Black sink."

Thanks to the outstanding leadership of these two commissioners, the difficult challenges long facing the department were met with increased scrutiny and examination. The "good old boy" system, discrimination in assignments and promotions, bias in meting out discipline, and inequality in working and living conditions, all were finally being taken seriously. The African-American members of the department were invited to share their views of the issues that needed correction directly with the fire board. After a series of meetings, the following statement was released from an executive session of the fire board: "The Board wishes to clearly state that it is unalterably opposed to the unwritten rule that seems to prevail in a few isolated fire houses with respect to the use of beds, toilets and other facilities. All such facilities are provided by the City for use by all members and are not to be assigned on the basis of race. In short, if there are any "unwritten" rules that cause discrimination in any form whatsoever, they will be eliminated immediately."

Commissioners Bascom and Prevas were not afraid to make waves to correct the injustices they observed. For example, they agreed to be witnesses in one of our Nation's first lawsuits to address discrimination in public safety. In addition, they helped the Baltimore business community acquire property to build a new "super station" in downtown Baltimore. While negative newspaper editorials endangered the project's funding and historic architectural considerations complicated its design and construction, the commissioners' support for the project was unwavering. Defending their plan, they asked who would question replacing obsolete firehouses that were 60 to 100 years old. As the records of the board of fire Commissioners state, "In addition to the aesthetic benefits to the area involved, there will be but one new building to maintain as opposed to three old and costly buildings—and most important to all citizens—the fire house complex will afford an improved efficiency of response for the fire fighting units and ambulance units stationed therein." These consolidations created a more efficient and effective

delivery of service to the hub of the city. The concept was so successful that it inspired construction of another large station on the east side of the city, which is home to eight fire service units and four specialty units. Firehouse Magazine has reported that Steadman Station was "the Busiest Station in the Nation," having 3,000 more runs than the next busiest station in the country.

The experience of the April 1968 riots exposed the inadequacy of the department's personal protective equipment. Observations during firefighting operations indicated a need for two-way hand-held radios, and several pieces of the second line apparatus did not conform with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Code. Once exposed, these matters became the priority of the members of the fire board until the funding was obtained and the equipment put into service.

The fire board also created the emergency medical system of the Baltimore City Fire Department, whose mark on the city is apparent today. One example is the approval of a request from Dr. Gustav C. Voigt, director of the coronary care unit of Baltimore City Hospitals. Dr. Voigt presented a proposal for a pilot project for a specially equipped and staffed ambulance for heart attack patients. Many believe that early support for this project lay the foundation for today's basic and advanced life support service. The board also worked with fraternal organizations, firefighters and the community to promote the idea of Dr. Thomas J. Krisek, chief of plastic surgery, to establish a burn unit in city hospitals. That unit has become part of the Johns Hopkins Health System, known as Maryland's Regional Burn Center. The offer by the Bell System of a universal emergency number 911, education of the community concerning the pulling of false alarms, and enhancement of community outreach to improve relations between the public and members of the fire department were also significant initiatives undertaken by the board.

The Baltimore City Fire Department is one of the most diverse and accomplished fire departments in our Nation. I am delighted to recognize its achievements and the lasting contributions of Rev. Marion Bascom and Konstantine Prevas.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.