REMEMBERING IVY JOHNSON

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the spirit, determination, and life of Ivy Johnson. Ivy lost her long battle with cancer on Friday, November 19. Our thoughts and prayers remain with her parents, her brothers, and the rest of her family and friends.

While Ivy's many academic achievements and personal adventures will be chronicled by others, I want to focus on the Ivy we knew—the public servant—and I offer these thoughts on her life and her service to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

From the start, I appreciated and respected Ivy's strong work ethic, and my trust in her judgment grew each passing day.

Ivy had a wonderful capacity to combine her knowledge of the law and understanding of policy with the practical political realities that form the foundation of the legislative process. Ivy believed in the law and that it worked to advance notable and worthy goals.

She worked with Representative ISSA's staff on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to identify financial support provided by the Federal Government to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, or ACORN, after allegations emerged of inappropriate activity by that organization.

She provided insightful analysis on everything from judicial nominations to homegrown terrorism.

She played a critical role in the investigative work of my staff regarding the November 2009 terrorist attack at Fort Hood. She skillfully conducted investigative reviews of the government's policies relating to the reading of Miranda rights to terrorists captured in the United States.

Ivy understood that the security of our Nation and the privacy and civil liberties of Americans are not mutually exclusive. Her guidance on law enforcement and intelligence tools and techniques reflected a mature appreciation of the Constitution and laws of the United States, an understanding of the threat terrorists pose to our Nation, and a deep respect for the rights of Americans.

Her accomplishments were noteworthy in and of themselves, but they are remarkable considering the personal struggle that Ivy was waging throughout her tenure on the committee.

Shortly before joining my staff, her doctors found a tumor in her jaw. She endured multiple surgeries, numerous rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, and other difficult treatments that sapped her strength and energy.

But neither the cancer nor the treatments could destroy Ivy's determination or spirit. Ivy insisted on carrying a full workload. She was always concerned that her treatments might place additional burdens on her colleagues, and she never complained about the hand she had been dealt.

On more than one occasion, we tried to tell Ivy to stop e-mailing from her BlackBerry while she was waiting for treatments. When a particularly grueling round of treatments or an extensive surgery was on the horizon, and with everything she was undergoing at the time, Ivy thought of others and let us know she would be watching her BlackBerry if we needed her for anything.

And we often did. The trust Ivy had earned from me and my senior staff was such that we regularly sought her guidance on matters across the board. Ivy was ''a lawyer's lawyer''—even the most skilled lawyers on my staff regularly sought her thoughts on issues because her knowledge of the law and her reasoned approach to problem solving was indispensable when complex problems required careful analysis.

In her professional life, and her pain, Ivy was intensely private. Few knew how ill Ivy actually was because while she suffered, her work never did.

There are times in our lives, whether professional or personal, when we know the right person has come into our lives, and that was the case for us with Ivy. It brought a heartfelt smile to my face when Ivy's mother told me that Ivy had called her time with us her ''dream job.''

Ivy's courage and determination will continue to serve as an inspiration for all of us.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO AGNES WELCH

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I pay special tribute to Agnes Welch, a member of the Baltimore City Council and a dedicated public servant. Councilwoman Welch, who was first elected to the Baltimore City Council in 1983, is retiring after serving her community and her city in the council for almost three decades.

Councilwoman Welch has always been attuned to the needs of her west Baltimore community and loyal to her faith. She has been a trailblazer for women, African Americans, and her constituents. Her committee work in the city council helped shape the renaissance of Baltimore's downtown and the redevelopment of its neighborhoods. Her work with not-for-profit organizations and city agencies has created new opportunities for child care, family health care, better schools, and senior housing. Councilwoman Welch's work with the Catholic Archdiocese has improved the Church's outreach to and accommodation for people of color and it has improved services for the neighborhoods and communities surrounding the churches. As a result of her outstanding service and dedication to the church, she received the Papal Medal ''pro ecclesia et pontifice'' from Pope John Paul II.

Legislatively, Councilwoman Welch has demonstrated her concern for the welfare of her constituents, particularly those people living in poverty. She sponsored legislation which created the framework for addressing homelessness. Another legislative proposal funded a study into the increase in teenage homicides. Most recently, she introduced legislation to establish a Task Force on Childhood Obesity.

Councilwoman Agnes Welch has been an outstanding public servant, working selflessly, tirelessly, and effectively on behalf of others. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Councilwoman Welch for her dedication to her community and constituents, and in wishing her well in her retirement.•

TRIBUTE TO TOM MONAHAN

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today, I would like to celebrate the extraordinary career of newsman Tom Monahan, who, after 40 years of political reporting for NBC Connecticut, is semi-retiring. I first came to know Tom in the early seventies when he covered me in the Connecticut General Assembly, and I have greatly admired his work and personality ever since.

Tom is a native of Bristol, CT, who began his career in broadcast radio. He started reporting sports when he first joined NBC CT, and then graduated through the ranks to eventually become the station's chief political reporter and one of Connecticut's very finest.

Much can be said about Tom's skill as a journalist, but his integrity immediately comes to mind. Edward R. Murrow, the great television broadcaster, once said ''we cannot make good news out of bad practice,'' and Tom's career surely embodied that principle. At a time when journalism is increasingly defined by attacks and negativity, Tom represents something of the ''old guard'' fact-driven reporting meant to inform and educate. He was always interested in getting the story out, but not interested in ''getting'' the public official who was part of the story. For so many years, the people of Connecticut who watched him came to rely on him for his truthfulness, and in the end many of us who were privileged to be in public life during his career wanted to help him get the story because we had such respect for and confidence in him.

I have so many memories from over the years with Tom, but one stands out above the others. I remember the morning in August 2000 when Vice President Gore announced that he had selected me to be his Vice Presidential running mate. I was in my house in New Haven, CT, and the number of satellite and TV trucks outside began to grow, in effect barricading me in. The Gore campaign team flew in from Nashville and my new press secretary said to me in my kitchen, ''Sir, the initial reaction to Vice President Gore's selecting you as his running mate has been tremendous and, if you speak to the press outside, you can only detract

from the positive coverage we're getting.'' As we walk out the side door to head to the airport, who, of course, was standing right there but Tom Monahan. Needless to say, I went over and spoke to Tom—how was I not to?

As I reflect on Tom's career, I cannot help but think how much he will be missed, and how grateful Connecticut should be for the invaluable service he provided us. We are undoubtedly better off for having had Tom Monahan as a reporter. I wish him and his wonderful family my very best as he moves on to an exciting new chapter in his life.●

REMEMBERING ROBBINS BARSTOW

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life and work of Robbins Barstow of Hartford, CT, a great filmmaker, conservationist, and dedicated member of the community.

Robbins Barstow has come to hold a special place in the hearts and minds of thousands of families across the country through the tender and illuminating documentary films he produced over the years. Mr. Barstow captured the lives and aspirations of ordinary people in mid-century America, most famously in his film ''Disneyland Dream'' which the Library of Congress included in its National Film Registry for its cultural and artistic significance, calling it a ''priceless and authentic record of time and place.''

Mr. Barstow brought a similar sensitivity and talent to his professional work with the Connecticut Education Association, where he worked tirelessly on behalf of teachers and public schools across our state. Mr. Barstow believed deeply in the power of education to transform our country and the world, and he dedicated so much of his life to ensuring that our teachers got the respect and acknowledgement that they so greatly deserve.

I also admired Mr. Barstow deeply for his extraordinary efforts as a conservationist. He held a special interest in whales and brought his interest and passion for the environment and natural world to founding Cetacean Society International, a conservation, education, and research organization with ties to over 25 nations. Mr. Barstow made a number of films about endangered species that will continue to inform us of the importance of conservation and inspire future conservationists for years to come.

The State of Connecticut and our Nation more broadly are blessed to have leaders like Robbins Barstow in our communities. He will be deeply missed and his important contributions and unforgettable spirit will never fade from our memory. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Barstow family: his wife Margaret, his children David, Dan, and Cedar, his grandchildren, and great-grandchild.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. MILO SHULT

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I honor an Arkansan for his contribution to Arkansas and our Nation. Dr. Milo Shult served as vice president of the University of Arkansas's Division of Agriculture for the past 18 years, improving living conditions for many Arkansans and Americans. After so many years of service, he has decided to step down from his position and move to the next chapter of his life. He leaves behind a positive, lasting legacy. While he is stepping down from his current position with the university, he will undoubtedly continue to play an active role in promoting agriculture and enhancing the lives of Americans.

The Division of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas, which was headed by Dr. Shult, plays an integral role in improving the lives of individuals all over the State and Nation through its work on campus and in the field. The mission of the division is to enrich the lives of neighbors by drawing on what is learned from research and using outreach skills. They meet this mission by maintaining a strong presence throughout Arkansas, which is critical given the importance of agriculture to our economy and way of life. Agriculture contributes 12 percent of Arkansas's gross State product and is responsible for more than one in every six jobs in the State. We are proud to be ranked in the top 25 among States in the production of 24 agricultural commodities, and we rank in the top 5 for rice, broilers, upland cotton, cottonseed, catfish, turkeys, and sweet potatoes.

Becoming such a successful and diverse agriculture State requires an active research and extension service that is innovative and resourceful. Dr. Shult developed a solid division system that currently employs cooperative extension faculty in all 75 counties; agricultural experiment station scientists and extension specialists on 5 university campuses and at 5 research and extension centers; and support personnel at 8 research stations. These employees provide Arkansans with informational resources related to agriculture production and processing; environment, energy and climate; family and youth programs; access to safe and nutritious foods; and community development. These resources serve as tools to positively impact lives and communities in Arkansas and make our Nation and world better.

While vice president of the Division of Agriculture, Dr. Shult exhibited excellent leadership ability moving the division forward. Dr. Shult possessed exemplary skill in working with stakeholders and building relationships while executing the division's programs consistent with its mission. The division grew and prospered under his leadership, and it stands poised to meet the many challenges and needs of the 21st century. During his tenure, Dr. Shult oversaw the development of over $72 million in new construction and facility upgrades, including new construction or improvements to every Research Station and Research and Extension Center across the State. Today these facilities are state of the art and the envy of other States and nations. With Dr. Shult at the helm, the division kept with the times and always planned for the future by turning challenges into opportunity. He leaves behind an improved division and an improved State with a vision of where it needs to go to meet future challenges.

While I and others will certainly miss Dr. Shult's work at the division, I am excited to know he will remain active in agriculture research, extension and education. Dr. Shult was recently appointed to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Board. In this position, Dr. Shult will advise the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and land-grant colleges and universities on top national priorities and policies for food and agricultural research, education, extension, and economics. This is a huge compliment to Dr. Shult and is a result of his efforts at the University of Arkansas. He will provide outstanding leadership on the board, and I am sure he will bring a unique perspective that is needed and desired.

Dr. Milo Shult is an inspiration and a proven leader of people and organizations. He is a family man with many friends and associates. I have enjoyed working with him in my capacity as U.S. Senator, and I know the entire Arkansas congressional delegation is appreciative of his kindness and genuine efforts. His passion, leadership, and influence greatly increased the readiness and effectiveness of the University of Arkansas's Division of Agriculture. I appreciate his service to the people of Arkansas, and I wish him well in his continued service to our country.●

RECOGNIZING STERLING ROPE COMPANY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, American manufacturers have faced a variety of persistent challenges over the past several decades, including competition from foreign markets and rising structural costs. Nonetheless, the manufacturing industry remains resilient in the United States. The sector still supports roughly 18.6 million jobs in the United States, or approximately one-sixth of all private sector jobs, and American manufacturing produces $1.6 trillion of value every year equaling 11 percent of U.S. gross domestic product. And just yesterday, we got word from the Institute for Supply Management, or ISM, that November marked the 16th straight month of positive growth for American manufacturing. And so, today I recognize one of Maine's remarkable small manufacturing companies, Sterling Rope Company, which has been producing high quality rope for more than a decade and a half.

Sterling Rope got its beginnings in 1993, when president and founder Carolyn Brodsky opened her business in Massachusetts. By 1997, Ms. Brodsky