

“Tennessee Waltz” for Mercury Records. It turned out it was her last recording session. Mike Kerr, the owner of Kerr Records, had invited her to come to Nashville and record an album, “Best of Patti Page.” He had invited me to come play the piano while she sang the “Tennessee Waltz,” which I did. It was a real thrill and she was very patient to put up with an amateur piano player for her very special song. She told me then it wasn’t the first time she had performed with a Tennessee Governor. In 1950 she had performed with Tennessee Governor Gordon Browning at a Memphis theater. This was when she was all the rage, the “Tennessee Waltz” was all the rage, and the Governor wanted to sing it with her.

I asked how it went. She said, “Well, to tell you the truth, the Governor wasn’t a very good singer.”

I don’t know what she said to others about my piano playing, but I think that was probably about as harsh a verdict as Patti Page ever rendered of any other person.

According to the New York Times obituary, Patti Page once said:

But I don’t think I’ve stepped on anyone along the way. If I have, I didn’t mean to.

Well, Patti Page is gone now, but her music is not. Whenever we Tennesseans hear our State song, the “Tennessee Waltz,” played, or whenever we sing it, we will remember the voice of Patti Page.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks that the obituary about Patti Page from the New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times—Obituary]

PATTI PAGE, HONEY-VOICED '50S POP SENSATION, DIES AT 85

(By Anita Gates)

Patti Page, the apple-cheeked, honey-voiced alto whose sentimental, soothing, sometimes silly hits like “Tennessee Waltz,” “Old Cape Cod” and “How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?” made her one of the most successful pop singers of the 1950s, died on Tuesday in Encinitas, Calif. She was 85.

Her death was confirmed by Seacrest Village Retirement Communities, where she lived.

Ms. Page had briefly been a singer with Benny Goodman when she emerged at the end of the big band era, just after World War II, into a cultural atmosphere in which pop music was not expected to be challenging. Critics assailed her style as plastic, placid, bland and antiseptic, but those opinions were not shared by millions of record buyers. As Jon Pareles wrote in The New York Times in 1997, “For her fans, beauty and comfort were one and the same.”

“Doggie in the Window,” a perky 1952 novelty number written by Bob Merrill and Ingrid Reuterskiöld, featured repeated barking sounds and could claim no more sophisticated a lyric than “I must take a trip to California.” It is often cited as an example of what was wrong with pop music in the early '50s, a perceived weakness that opened the door for rock ‘n’ roll. But if that is true, and if the silky voice of “the singing rage, Miss

Patti Page,” as she was introduced during her heyday, was mechanical or sterile, she had significant achievements nonetheless.

“Tennessee Waltz,” from 1950, sold 10 million copies and is largely considered the first true crossover hit; it spent months on the pop, country and rhythm-and-blues charts.

Ms. Page was believed to be the first singer to overdub herself, long before technology made that method common. Mitch Miller, a producer for Mercury Records, had her do it first on “Confess,” in 1948, when there were no backup singers because of a strike.

The height of her career predated the Grammy Awards, which were created in 1959, but she finally won her first and only Grammy in 1999 for “Live at Carnegie Hall,” a recording of a 1997 concert celebrating her 50th anniversary as a performer. Her career was also the basis of recent, short-lived Off Broadway musical, “Flipside: The Patti Page Story.”

In the early days of television Ms. Page was the host of several short-lived network series, including “Scott Music Hall” (1952), a 15-minute NBC show that followed the evening news two nights a week, and “The Big Record,” which ran one season, 1957–58, on CBS. “The Patti Page Show” was an NBC summer fill-in series in 1956.

Ms. Page defended her demure, unpretentious style as appropriate for its time. “It was right after the war,” she told The Advocate of Baton Rouge, La., in 2002, “and people were waiting to just settle down and take a deep breath and relax.”

She was born Clara Ann Fowler on Nov. 8, 1927, in Claremore, Okla., a small town near Tulsa that was also the birthplace of Will Rogers. She was one of 11 children of a railroad laborer.

Having shown talent as an artist, Clara took a job in the art department of the Tulsa radio station KTUL, but an executive there had heard her sing and soon asked her to take over a short country-music show called “Meet Patti Page” (Time magazine called it “a hillbilly affair”), sponsored by Page Milk. She adopted the fictional character’s name and kept it.

The newly named Ms. Page broke away from her radio career to tour with Jimmy Joy’s band and was shortly signed by Mercury Records. She had her first hit record, “With My Eyes Wide Open, I’m Dreaming,” in 1950. Other notable recordings were “Cross Over the Bridge,” “Mockin’ Bird Hill,” “Allegheny Moon” and her last hit, “Hush . . . Hush, Sweet Charlotte,” which she recorded as the theme for the Bette Davis movie of the same name. That song was nominated for an Oscar, and Ms. Page sang it on the 1965 Academy Awards telecast.

Ms. Page briefly pursued a movie career in her early '30s, playing an evangelical singer alongside Burt Lancaster and Jean Simmons in “Elmer Gantry” (1960), David Janssen’s love interest in the comic-strip-inspired “Dondi” (1961) and a suburban wife in the comedy “Boys’ Night Out” (1962), with Kim Novak and James Garner. She had one of her earliest acting roles in 1957 on an episode of “The United States Steel Hour.”

In later decades her star faded, but she continued to sing professionally throughout her 70s. Early in the 21st century she was performing in about 40 to 50 concerts a year. In 2002 and 2003 she released an album of children’s songs, a new “best of” collection and a Christmas album.

Ms. Page married Charles O’Curran, a Hollywood choreographer, in 1956. They divorced in 1972. In 1990 she married Jerry Filicetto, a retired aerospace engineer, with whom she founded a New Hampshire company marketing maple syrup products. He died in 2009. Survivors include her son, Danny O’Curran; her daughter, Kathleen Ginn; and a number of grandchildren.

Ms. Page’s nice-girl image endured. In 1988, when she was 60, she told The Times: “I’m sure there are a lot of things I should have done differently. But I don’t think I’ve stepped on anyone along the way. If I have, I didn’t mean to.”

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

(The remarks of Mr. COONS pertaining to the introduction of S. 85 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. COONS. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## STARTUP ACT 2.0

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I have only been a Member of the Senate for 2 years, but in that short period of time at least seven other countries have taken actions that we have not taken to better support and attract entrepreneurs to their countries’ economies. The map beside me shows those countries: the United Kingdom, Russia, Singapore, Australia, Brazil, Chile, and Canada. Those countries have changed their rules, regulations, passed laws, changed their policies to make their country more friendly to startup businesses and to entrepreneurship.

I wish to focus on and visit with my colleagues about what is happening in one of those countries—our neighbor to the north, Canada—and explain why it is in the interests of our own country to act quickly to retain highly skilled and entrepreneurial immigrants.

In 2002, Canada announced plans to create a new visa to attract foreign entrepreneurs to their country. Canada is developing a plan to admit foreign entrepreneurs who have received capital from venture funds to start businesses in Canada and to admit them to Canada within weeks. A spokesman for the Canadian immigration agency was quoted in September as saying: “Canada seeks young, ambitious innovative immigrants who will contribute to Canada’s job growth and further drive our economy.”

But Canada is not just changing its laws to attract entrepreneurs; it is advertising and trying to lure talent there. The ad we are now showing—this is a full-page ad that appeared in a publication called Fast Company. It is an American magazine dedicated to startups, to technology and innovation. The advertisement for Ontario highlights R&D incentives and innovative and dynamic business environment

and the top talent needed to grow new businesses.

We in Congress and in the administration need to take note of this. Other countries, including our friends to the north, are aggressively courting entrepreneurs and talented individuals and they are luring them from here; they are trying to get them from the United States. Canadian Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney said: "We need to proactively target a new type of immigrant entrepreneur who has the potential to build innovative companies that can compete on a global scale and create jobs for Canadians."

While we work in the United States to continue educating our children with the skills for a 21st century economy and training the next generation of great American entrepreneurs, we also need to be welcoming to those who want to create a business in the United States and employ Americans now. With respect to Canada, America is the country of entrepreneurs, a place where those with good ideas who are willing to work hard can come and make something for themselves.

There is a global battle for entrepreneurial talent and the United States is falling behind. A story I heard while visiting California, the Silicon Valley, last year, illustrates this point pretty well. A large company that just a few years ago was a small startup told me they had plans to hire 68 highly skilled immigrants but could not get a visa for them to work in the United States. Rather than letting this talent go, the company hired them but hired them at their location in Canada. It is certainly troubling that 68 jobs went outside the United States. They were lost in our country because the United States does not have a visa program that works. What troubles me even more is that some of those 68 people hired in Canada will go on to start a business that may result in significant job creation in Canada. Those jobs that could have been in the United States are now in another country and those individuals who may start a company are no longer in the United States but are now in Canada. When we lose entrepreneurs and highly skilled immigrants, we lose the jobs they create.

The good news is there are steps we can take to attract and retain foreign entrepreneurs and highly skilled immigrants. In a bipartisan effort, Senator WARNER, Senator COONS, Senator RUBIO, and I introduced Startup Act 2.0 last year. Senators BLUNT and Scott Brown of Massachusetts joined as cosponsors, and an identical bill was introduced in the House of Representatives with an even number of Republican and Democratic supporters. Again, this year, I am working with those colleagues to reintroduce a bill very similar to that in very short order.

Startup Act 2.0 makes changes to the Federal regulatory process to lessen government burdens on job creators, modifies the Tax Code to encourage in-

vestment in new businesses and capital formation, seeks to accelerate the commercialization of university research that can lead to new ventures and, most importantly, provides new opportunities for highly educated and entrepreneurial immigrants to stay in the United States where their talent and new ideas can fuel economic growth and, most importantly, create jobs for Americans.

Startup Act 2.0 creates an entrepreneurial visa for foreign-born entrepreneurs currently in the United States—legally in the United States. Those with good ideas, with capital, and the willingness to hire Americans would be able to stay in the United States and grow their businesses. In many instances, foreign-born entrepreneurs, here legally, have an idea and want to begin a company that will employ Americans but are told their visa does not allow them to remain in the United States.

Take the story of Asaf Darash. Asaf was born in Israel and came to the United States in 2007 after being awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of California. After completing his doctoral thesis, he founded a software company called Regpack. Asaf raised \$1.5 million in financing for the company and hired more than a dozen Americans. His company has the potential to grow quickly and to further create additional jobs. But Asaf, the founder of this dynamic company, is no longer in the United States. My staff contacted him this morning and he said that because of the difficulty in obtaining a visa and the amount of time and effort it was taking, he decided it was easier to move to Israel and take the core of the company, including its jobs, with him. As Regpack grows, new jobs are going to be created in Israel—jobs that could have been in the United States if we had a visa dedicated to foreign entrepreneurs such as Asaf.

Sadly, his story is far from uncommon. Immigrants legally living in the United States who have a good idea and want to start a business have few options available to them. With very few ways to stay, these entrepreneurs, just like Asaf, are forced to move and take their businesses with them and take the jobs they have created and will create to other countries.

I wish to make certain America is the best place for entrepreneurs who want to build America and hire Americans. Passing Startup Act 2.0 will help make this happen.

Entrepreneurial immigrants have long contributed to the strength of our country by starting companies and creating jobs. Of the current Fortune 500 companies, more than 40 percent were founded by first- or second-generation Americans. Today, 1 in every 10 Americans employed at a privately owned U.S. company works at an immigrant-owned firm.

In our mobile world, entrepreneurs have a choice as to where they start a

business. For decades, there was no better place than the land of opportunity—the United States of America. But things are changing. Other countries are aggressively seeking the best and brightest, those with entrepreneurial talent, as a way to grow their economy.

I believe most—in fact, I would say at least 80 percent—of my colleagues in Congress agree with the visa provisions in Startup Act 2.0. They understand that retaining highly skilled entrepreneurial immigrants will lead to economic growth and new jobs for Americans. Unfortunately, there is an approach in Congress that has been here for the last several years that says if we can't do everything, we will not do anything. I urge my colleagues let's pass what we can agree on now and keep working to find common ground on issues that still divide us.

Canada and other countries are creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs, for startup companies, but the United States is still the home of the American dream. We need to pass Startup 2.0 so individuals can pursue their ambitions in America.

Millions of our citizens remain out of work. Our economy is barely growing. One would think, common sense would suggest we would work hard together to deal with the issues we have agreement on that would help jump-start the economy.

Let's do that. Let's jump-start the American economy through entrepreneurship and allow those with talents and skills we need to pursue the American dream in the United States of America and thereby strengthen our economy.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DYSFUNCTIONAL LEGISLATING

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we all know in the Senate and in the House of Representatives about the low grades Congress receives in public opinion polling. Everybody knows what the public reports: Congress is partisan. Congress is divided. Congress is dysfunctional.

One recent survey that got a lot of media attention reported that Congress is less popular than a root canal. Across the country, people are fed up with Congress. Indeed, Members of Congress are fed up with Congress.

Americans want a Congress that can take on the tough challenges of today. But another recent poll by USA Today and Gallup showed that 77 percent of Americans feel "the way politics works in Washington these days is causing serious harm to the United States."