

that NASCAR had a very wide following around the country.

When he was 14 years old, Ken Squier announced his first race at a small dirt track in northern Vermont—from the back of a logging truck.

In 1960, he opened Thunder Road SpeedBowl, a quarter-mile racetrack in Barre, VT. In summer, the track has hosted stock car races every Thursday night for the last 50 years. These events have become fixtures in the culture of northern Vermont.

As NASCAR developed a national following, Ken Squier became one of its most celebrated personalities. He pioneered the use of in-car cameras during broadcasts, putting viewers right next to the driver during the race. Ken's voice became inseparable from the sport, providing turn-by-turn coverage of all CBS-broadcast races for almost two decades. This included the sport's most prestigious event, the Daytona 500.

Ken Squier is not at all defined solely by his importance to racing. He has deep roots in northern Vermont. In 1969, he became president of Radio Vermont, Inc., a family business that is one of the only independent, family-run radio companies left in the United States. Radio Vermont's stations provide a variety of music, sports, and news; in particular, they focus on local events, the happenings that bind communities together and give them identity. Over the years, Ken has staunchly opposed corporate consolidation of the media because he believes, strongly, that radio stations should serve the community and provide vital conduits for local information. He has practiced what he preaches.

Radio Vermont's immense value to the communities it served was proven during the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011. Irene was the most destructive storm to hit Vermont in decades. Torrential rains and Vermont's mountainous terrain brought flooding on a vast scale, wiping out houses, businesses, and historic downtowns. Roads and bridges were washed away, cutting dozens of towns around Vermont off from the outside world. Ken and his staff, Eric Michaels, Lee Kittell, Tom Beardsley, meteorologist Roger Hill, and others kept the station on the air 24 hours a day in the weeks after the storm to ensure vital emergency information reached Vermonters in towns that had been cut off. With the State of Vermont's emergency communications equipment washed away, Radio Vermont proved that local radio stations are fundamentally important to their communities.

Ken Squier has helped change sports in America, but even more significantly, he has been a true exemplar of a good citizen. Vermont is, and will remain, deeply in his debt.●

REMEMBERING CATHERINE O'NEILL

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in hon-

oring Catherine O'Neill, the great advocate for refugee women and children who died in Los Angeles last month at age 70. Cathy was my friend and neighbor, and I will miss her.

Catherine was born in 1942 in Queens, NY, the daughter of Irish immigrants Patrick and Bridget Vesey. After graduating from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn and teaching as a Catholic missionary in Texas, she earned master's degrees in social work from Howard University and in international affairs from Columbia.

Cathy had an extraordinary career as a social worker, writer, editorial director, businesswoman, and director of the UN Information Center in Washington, DC. She was also active in political life, twice running for office in California and serving as finance director for Governor Jerry Brown's 1976 presidential campaign, but she is best known for her groundbreaking and heroic efforts to help refugee women and children.

In 1989, after visiting refugee camps around the world as a board member of the humanitarian International Rescue Committee, Cathy became a founder of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, now Women's Refugee Commission.

As the Commission's board chair, Cathy traveled the world to listen to refugee women and children and learn about their most pressing needs. She attracted prominent women journalists, academics, and philanthropists to the Commission and became a leading advocate for refugee issues on Capitol Hill, at the UN, and in the media. Under her leadership, the Women's Refugee Commission has shaped policies and practices in the U.S. and around the world to address the needs of women and children displaced by war, persecution, and natural disasters.

On behalf of the people of California, I send my gratitude and condolences to Cathy's husband, Richard Reeves, her daughter Fiona Reeves, sons Colin and Conor O'Neill, Jeffrey Reeves, her grandchildren, and her sister Mary Ann Garvey. Catherine O'Neill was an amazing person who made our world a better and more compassionate place, and we will miss her dearly.●

REMEMBERING FRANCIS JOSEPH CHASE

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a proud veteran, a committed Marylander, a great American, and my good friend, Francis Joseph "Frank" Chase. Frank passed away on December 11, 2012 in his Columbia, MD home after a brief illness. He leaves behind his beloved family: his wife of 50 years, Carole, a daughter Amy, and a granddaughter Grace.

Frank loved his country dearly, and he showed it through years of public service, which began in 1955, when he entered the Army for 3 years. Frank then joined the civil service, beginning at the Social Security Administration

and later moving to the Health Care Financing Administration, both in Baltimore. When he retired in January 1993, Frank left government service with far more than his Federal pension. For at SSA and HCFA, he had honed expertise that would for many years guide him to continue, as a volunteer, to improve the lives of retirees, persons with disabilities, and others.

A man of boundless energy, Frank was a valued confidant and a member of my health advisory group for the past 20 years. With nearly perfect attendance at meetings and conference calls, he could always be counted on for a warm greeting, sage advice, and wisdom born of compassion and clear-sightedness.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Frank maintained strong ties with his alma mater, serving terms as president of the Dartmouth Alumni Association and president of the Dartmouth Club of Maryland. He also served his community through volunteer work at Common Cause of Maryland, United Seniors of Maryland, and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Through his involvement in Maryland politics, Frank fought tirelessly for fair election practices, propelled by the belief that, regardless of their views, all Marylanders deserved to have their voices heard. Through my many conversations with him over the years, I discovered a man who loved democracy and justice, and who felt compelled to live his life in service to these causes.

In closing, when I think of Frank, I am reminded of the words of Robert Frost in "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening":

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Frank could have led a comfortable, quiet life after retirement, but he chose instead to keep going for many more miles, working for the causes he believed in deeply and the Nation he loved. Like all who were privileged to know him, I will miss my dear friend Frank Chase, and I ask you to join me in celebrating his life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As 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 Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)