

the birth and development of the State of Israel, and in him we see the essence of Israel itself—an invincible spirit that cannot be denied. Through his determination, his strength and perseverance, and his profound compassion, President Peres enabled a seemingly impossible dream to become a reality and changed forever the destiny of the Jewish people.

Even as a young man, Shimon Peres showed a dedication to public service and a commitment to the pursuit of justice and peace. He was an active leader in the "Working Youth" group, he founded a kibbutz in the Jordan Valley, and became a member of the Haganah [hah-gah-nah]—all before he reached 21.

Over the course of his seventy years of public service, President Peres has served as a member of the Knesset for 48 years and held virtually every position in dozens of cabinets, serving in nearly two dozen ministerial posts including twice as Prime Minister, and as Defense Minister, Treasury Minister, and Foreign Minister. He was then elected as the ninth President of the State of Israel, the position he holds today.

I have met many brave and inspiring people in my life, but there are few who have done more to preserve freedom for future generations than Shimon Peres. He recognized that the highest duty of leaders is to protect and preserve the freedom and security of their people, even in the face of hostility and in the face of doubt and disappointment. And this is just what President Peres has done, not only for the Jewish people but for all people.

He has been a leader for strength, building Israel's military and defense capabilities. He has been a leader for prosperity, helping make Israel one of the strongest economies in the world today. And he has been a leader for peace, making difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions in persuading the Palestinians to pursue negotiations and find peace for all, standing by his belief that all children, both Israeli and Arab alike, deserve the chance to grow up and grow old free from the threat of violence and tyranny.

In the time that I have known Shimon Peres, I have been inspired by his statesmanship, leadership, courage and civility. And among his many virtues, I have been most inspired by his idealism. Shimon Peres has always been a dreamer. He once said that "dreaming is only being pragmatic"—words that drew criticism from some and laughter from others.

But he is right, of course. It is difficult to understand how someone who has witnessed such unspeakable horrors in his life can still place such faith in dreams. But it is due in part to his optimism and idealism, and his willingness to serve on behalf of those dreams, that Israel exists today. By never giving up on his dreams, Shimon Peres reminds us that we do not need to give in to complacency or cynicism—and why we can't afford to.

So I join all of you in recognizing the great achievements of Shimon Peres. And I thank you for devoting your time to honor this great man. With your help, it is my hope that our friends in the House will complete the necessary legislation, and all of us in Congress will be able to join together to express the abiding affection and admiration that we and the American people have for one of Israel's most distinguished sons—a man whose inspiration and impact will endure far beyond the generations who have witnessed them.

RECOGNIZING MARRINER S. ECCLES

Mr. HATCH. Over time, many Utahns have been honored for their contribu-

tions to our country, and perhaps no one contributed more to our Nation's economic success at such a critical time than Marriner S. Eccles. I am honored to stand with the Eccles family this week as the Federal Reserve unveils a statue of Marriner Eccles in the atrium of the Marriner S. Eccles Building of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, DC.

Marriner Stoddard Eccles was born in Logan, UT, on September 9, 1890, the oldest of nine children. Following the death of his father, who had become a leading industrialist with numerous enterprises, Marriner, at the young age of 22, took over the leadership of his father's businesses that were left to his mother, Ellen Eccles, and Marriner and his siblings. Previously, Marriner had worked in several of his father's businesses, had served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, LDS, in Scotland and had attended Brigham Young College in Logan.

A superb business analyst and bold administrator, he reorganized and consolidated his father's industrial conglomerate and banking network. Eccles, along with his brother George, joined with the Browning family in Ogden, UT, to form the Eccles-Browning Affiliated Banks, believed to be the first multibank holding company in the United States.

With the onset of the Great Depression of the 1930s, banks around the country faced customers rushing to withdraw their deposits. The Eccles-Browning Affiliated Banks withstood several bank runs, and in the process, Eccles began to understand the need for a compensatory fiscal and monetary policy. In July of 1933, Eccles was one of the experts summoned by the Senate Finance Committee to travel to Washington to counsel Congress on the profound economic turmoil that was occurring across the country.

Eccles delivered 38 pages of testimony, including a distinct 5-point plan for fixing the economy. "We must correct the causes of the depression rather than deal with the effects of it!" became one of the most quoted lines from Eccles' dramatic testimony. His five-point plan included unemployment relief through direct aid to the States, a bank deposit guarantee program, canceling the World War I Allies' war debt, implementing a national minimum wage, and establishing a national economic planning board.

Eccles made his points clearly enough that the Roosevelt administration invited Eccles to join as an Assistant Treasury Secretary. Even when asked by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to become a Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, Eccles stood strong and replied he would "not unless fundamental changes [were] made in the [Federal Reserve]."

Eccles' involvement with policymaking did not stop there. He became involved with the Emergency Banking Act of 1933, the Federal Housing Act of

1934, and the 1933 law creating the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. With FDR's blessing, Eccles rewrote the 1935 Federal Reserve Act and became the first Chairman of the reorganized Federal Reserve Board, serving from 1936 to 1948. In February 1944, Roosevelt appointed Eccles to another 14-year term and Eccles stayed on the Board until 1951, when he resigned, marking a total of 17 years of service.

Eccles' talents combined with the policies he supported helped counter the recession crisis of 1937–1938, which in turn helped build America's economic strength prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor and World War II.

Many at the time considered Marriner Eccles' policies to be radical, but there is little doubt that his influence at the Federal Reserve continues to benefit our country today.

It is my honor to stand with the Eccles family this week and unveil yet another tribute to this remarkable Utahn we are so proud of.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am here to support the introduction of a bill I am cosponsoring, the Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Act.

Charter schools are about freedom for teachers, choices for parents, and more and better opportunities for students.

I gave the weekly address for the Republican Party on Easter weekend, and I said that, instead of mandating tasks for you to do, government should enable you to create a happier, safer, more prosperous life.

This bill is just the kind of proposal that enables people. It enables parents to help their children get a real opportunity by choosing better schools for them to attend. It enables students to learn and succeed. It enables teachers to succeed by giving them the freedom to use their firsthand knowledge.

And it enables administrators to succeed by freeing them from bureaucratic mandates and giving them the chance to use their good judgment.

The bill would continue the Federal charter schools program, which since 1994 has given grants to states to start new charter schools. It would make improvements to that program to ensure that those funds are used as effectively as possible to increase the number of high-quality charter schools.

Specifically, this bill would invest more Federal funds in the replication and expansion of high-quality charter schools with a proven record of success, while still giving States the flexibility to invest in innovative new models.

The bill would continue Federal support for non-profit organizations which help charter schools find suitable facilities, while also encouraging States to assist charter schools in this task.

It would provide those hard-working and creative educators seeking to open