

hands-on projects that require them to have an understanding of many different disciplines. He also has demonstrated the courage to do what he thought was right, even when decisions were controversial. His approach earned him the respect of the teachers and the entire school community, and it has helped turn King Middle School into a real success story.

I cannot say enough good things about Mike and his impact on King Middle School, the city of Portland, and Maine education as a whole. When I recently convened a panel of Maine educators to share their perception on reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Mike brought his strong voice to the table. His has always been an invaluable perspective. Through his experience and input, educators across Maine are better off as they work—just like Mike—to broaden their students' horizons and prepare them for success in a rapidly changing world.●

CELEBRATING THE "YEAR OF DAWES"

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I recognize former Illinois resident and Vice President of the United States, Charles Gates Dawes, in honor of the 150th anniversary of his birth on August 27, 1865. Charles Dawes holds a special place in American history, devoting much of his life to public service, and today his memory lives on in Evanston, IL, the place where Dawes and his family called home for nearly 60 years.

Serving as Vice President of the United States from 1925 to 1929 under President Calvin Coolidge, Dawes distinguished himself in the service of his country on a national and international scale. Dawes served as brigadier general in charge of the American Expeditionary Force Office of Supply during World War I, where he led the Allied Supply Board and subsequently received medals for distinguished service from each of the Allied countries. On December 10, 1926, Dawes was awarded the 1925 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on the "Dawes Plan" that restructured German reparation repayments following World War I and temporarily helped to restore balance to Europe, easing tensions between Germany and France.

In addition to his work under the Coolidge administration, Dawes served four other U.S. Presidents in various offices that included Comptroller of the Currency, First Director of the Federal Bureau of the Budget, and President of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Dawes also served as U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, a position he held until 1931. As Ambassador, Dawes successfully helped to negotiate treaties in international law and arms limitations. As the American delegate to the London Naval Conference in 1930, he specifically worked to broker an agreement between Japan, France, Italy, Great Britain, and the

United States to limit the number of Navy war vessels and regulate submarine warfare. Dawes was also a dedicated humanitarian, who personally established and funded extensive networks of food and housing for the homeless and less fortunate.

Charles Dawes is also remembered for his contributions and service to his local community of Evanston, IL. Dawes owned an Evanston based utility business, and he and his extended family were a part of the fabric of the community, attending local schools and participating in countless Evanston organizations. In 1942, he arranged to bequeath his home to Northwestern University and the broader Evanston community for the conservation of its cultural history. Today the Dawes home serves as the headquarters of the Evanston History Center, which will be honoring the life of Charles Dawes and the 150th anniversary of his birth through its "Year of Dawes" celebration. I commend the Evanston History Center for its dedication to educating the public on the remarkable life of Charles Dawes and preserving the Dawes family history for future generations.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in celebrating the "Year of Dawes" and honoring the 150th birthday anniversary of Charles Gates Dawes.●

TRIBUTE TO JAN THOMPSON

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I commemorate my constituent from Carbondale, IL, Ms. Jan Thompson, for her extraordinary work on behalf of American veterans. Ms. Thompson is a professor at Southern Illinois University and the founder and president of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor—ADBC—Memorial Society. On Sunday, July 19, 2015, Ms. Thompson and ADBC had the historic responsibility of being offered the first Japanese corporate apology for forced labor by American prisoners of war—POWs—during World War II.

Over 900 American civilian and military POWs were slave laborers in four mines owned by Mitsubishi Mining Company Ltd. during World War II. Ms. Thompson, whose organization represents surviving POWs, their families, descendants, and researchers working on POW history, accepted on their behalf an apology offered by Mitsubishi Mining's successor company, Mitsubishi Materials.

Thompson's father, Robert E. Thompson, was a Pharmacist's Mate aboard the USS *Canopus*—AS-9—a submarine tender moored in Manila Bay at the outbreak of the war on December 8, 1941. The tender was the only heavy ship left to service the submarines during the defense of the Philippines. The crew scuttled her the night before Bataan was surrendered on April 9, 1942 and escaped to fight on Corregidor Island.

Robert Thompson attended to the wounded during the final month of the

siege of Corregidor. Surrendering on May 6, 1942 in the face of great odds, he was assigned to the Bilibid Prison Hospital in Manila and survived the three "Hell ships" *Oryoku Maru*, *Enoura Maru*, and *Brazil Maru*.

On July 19th, Mr. Hikaru Kimura, a Senior Corporate Executive of Mitsubishi Materials Corporation and Senior General Manager of Global Business Management at the Paint Finishing System Division of Taikisha Ltd delivered the apology at a ceremony held at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

I applaud Mitsubishi Materials' courage and good corporate citizenship. I ask unanimous consent that the statement of Jan Thompson be printed in the RECORD.

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

STATEMENT OF JAN THOMPSON, PRESIDENT,
AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN & CORREGIDOR MEMORIAL SOCIETY

DELIVERED AT THE MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE
SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER—LOS ANGELES, CA,
JULY 19, 2015

Thank you Rabbi [Abraham] Cooper for moderating today and for having the Museum of Tolerance as the venue for today's meeting.

I thank [Ms.] Kinue Tokodome, Mr. [Hikaru] Kimura, Mr. [Yukio] Okamoto and the Mitsubishi Materials Corporation for inviting me to be a witness to this extraordinary occasion.

I have known Kinue for many years as a dear friend and an advocate for our former POWs. She has worked very hard over the years to bring all of us together today for this important event and she should be recognized for her dedication and perseverance.

I had three roles in the room: one role as a daughter of a former POW, Robert E. Thompson; another role as a filmmaker; and as President of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor [ADBC] Memorial Society.

Being a witness today is meaningful to me. Seventy years ago our countries were at war and we were enemies. Terrible things happen during war. Our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln stated "We cannot escape history," and perhaps Prime Minister [Shinzo] Abe was paying homage by saying at his recent address to Congress: "We cannot avert our eyes . . ."

For some former POWs an apology is important and they are grateful.

For others, the apology is 70 years too late. Unfortunately for those who have passed away [they] were not able to hear the moving words of Mr. Kimura.

The mission of the ADBC Memorial Society is education and to preserve the legacy of those who had been POWs of Imperial Japan. Our mission is to preserve their history accurately. We see this apology today as an acknowledgment that their use of forced labor for Mitsubishi Mining violated their human rights and their dignity. This apology is important to silence those who deny these facts.

It is obvious that this decision to apologize did not happen overnight. It took people with the same mind, the same goal, and the same courage to make this happen.

Mitsubishi Materials Corporation should be a role model for other Japanese corporations: to come forward and apologize. We hope the citizens of Japan will support today's action. The employees of Mitsubishi

Materials Corporation should be proud of their company.

We thank Mr. Kimura for his sincere apology and we hope today starts a relationship between the ADBC Memorial Society and Mitsubishi Materials Corporation to further our goal of reconciliation and education for generations to come.

We see this apology as one very important step forward and we cannot let what happened today die or be forgotten.

STATEMENT BY MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORPORATION SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER HIKARU KIMURA IN THE MEETING WITH A FORMER AMERICAN POW AND FAMILIES OF FORMER POWS

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, speaking on behalf of Mitsubishi Materials, thank you very much for this opportunity to meet with you today at the Museum of Tolerance.

Mitsubishi Mining Company Limited, the predecessor of Mitsubishi Materials, was engaged in coal and metal mining during World War II. As the war intensified, prisoners of war were placed in a wide range of industries to offset labor shortages. As part of this, close to 900 American POWs were allocated to four mines operated by Mitsubishi Mining in Japan.

I joined Mitsubishi Materials as a postwar baby-boomer and have worked in the company for 34 years. I have read the memoirs of Mr. James Murphy, who is present here at this ceremony, and those of other former POWs, as well as records of court trials. Through these accounts, I have learned about the terrible pain that POWs experienced in the mines of Mitsubishi Mining.

The POWs, many of whom were suffering from disease and injury, were subjected to hard labor, including during freezing winters, working without sufficient food, water, medical treatment or sanitation. When we think of their harsh lives in the mines, we cannot help feeling deep remorse.

I would like to express our deepest sense of ethical responsibility for the tragic experiences of all U.S. POWs, including Mr. James Murphy, who were forced to work under harsh conditions in the mines of the former Mitsubishi Mining.

On behalf of Mitsubishi Materials, I offer our sincerest apology.

I also extend our deepest condolence to their fellow U.S. POWs who worked alongside them but have since passed away.

To the bereaved families who are present at this ceremony, I also offer our most remorseful apology.

This cannot happen again, and of course, Mitsubishi Materials intends to never let this happen again.

We now have a clear corporate mission of working for the benefit of all people, all societies and indeed the entire globe. Respecting the basic human rights of all people is a core principle of Mitsubishi Materials, and we will continue to strongly adhere to this principle.

Our management team wishes for the health and happiness of our employees every day, and we ask that all of them work not only diligently, but also with a sense of ethics.

Mitsubishi Materials supplies general materials that enrich people's lives, from cement to cellphone components and auto parts, all of which are closely related to people's lives. We also place a strong emphasis on recycling for more sustainable societies, such as recovering valuable metals from used electrical appliances and other scrapped materials.

Here in the United States, we have plants for cement and ready-mixed concrete, and a sales headquarters for our advanced mate-

rials and tools business, all in California, as well as a polysilicon plant in Alabama. We believe that our company provides fulfilling jobs for local employees and contributes to host communities through its business.

The American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Museum in Wellsburg, West Virginia archives extensive records and memorabilia of POWs. These records and memorabilia will be handed down to future generations for educational purposes.

I will visit the museum the day after tomorrow to view the exhibits and visualize how POWs were forced to work under harsh conditions. For now, however, I am pleased to announce that Mitsubishi Materials has donated 50,000 U.S. dollars to the museum to support its activities.

Finally, I sincerely thank Ms. Kinue Tokudome and the members of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society for creating this opportunity to meet with you today. I also express my sincere thanks to Rabbi Abraham Cooper for offering the Museum of Tolerance as a venue for the ceremony. And I express my deep gratitude to all others involved in arranging this gathering.

I would also like to thank the family members of a non-U.S. POW [Mr. Stanley Gibson from Scotland, whose late father James Gibson, a private in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders captured in Malaya in 1942, was also a slave laborer in the Mitsubishi Osarizawa mine] who have come from very far away to attend this ceremony.

I truly hope that this gathering marks the starting point of a new relationship between former POWs and Mitsubishi Materials.

Thank you very much.●

TRIBUTE TO MELBA CURLS

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating my good friend Melba Curls on her retirement from her many years of service to the city of Kansas City and the State of Missouri.

Melba's journey as an agent of change began early in her life as a member of one of the first classes to integrate Kansas City's Central High School. Soon thereafter she found herself active in the NAACP's Youth Program. It was through that involvement that she met her future husband and my good friend State senator Phil B. Curls. While Phil passed from us far too soon, it was not before spending 43 wonderful years wed to Melba.

Melba began her career in public service as a valued staff member to former Kansas City mayor Charles Wheeler and then to U.S. Senator Tom Eagleton. She then dedicated nearly 15 years of her life to improving the lives of countless Missourians, through her work at KCMC Child Development Corporation and its Head Start Program.

The people of Missouri's 41st House District elected Melba to represent them in the Missouri House of Representatives in 1999. Her 7 years in the general assembly saw her work across the political aisle, with both urban and rural legislators and with officials from executive departments in order to make her community and her State a better place for us all.

In 2007, Melba was elected as city councilwoman for the third District,

At-Large in Kansas City, MO. In typical fashion, Melba jumped in feet first to tackle a wide range of issues facing the city. Whether it was housing, transportation and infrastructure, or issues pertaining to public safety, Melba was going to be a leader fighting for the good of her community.

Melba is now completing her second and final term on the city council. During her time in elected office, she has earned the respect of her colleagues, civic organizations, and the community at large.

I know Melba is now looking forward to traveling and spending more time with her beautiful family. However, I also know Melba—when she sees work that needs to be done, she will be there. While her time as an elected official may be coming to an end, her time as a force for good is not. Thanks to her lifelong passion and drive, her neighborhood, the city of Kansas City, and the State of Missouri are, and will continue to be, better places for us all.

I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating Melba Curls on a job well done, and wishing her nothing but the best in the years to come.●

STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, taking place this week in Sturgis, SD. No single week in the entire year boasts a greater influx in the State's overall population than the week of the annual event the first week of August. During that week, motorcyclists gather together in perhaps the largest bike gathering of all time. This year, more than 1 million visitors from across the world are estimated to attend the rally—more than the entire population of South Dakota.

What began as a single motorcycle race in 1938, the weeklong rally takes place in the small town of Sturgis in the Black Hills of western South Dakota, a normally quiet town with a population of just over 6,000. During the week of the rally, however, Main Street Sturgis evolves into a platform for chrome, leather, and denim, where motorcycle enthusiasts and other tourists come to enjoy like-minded company, various forms of entertainment, the South Dakota landscape, and local food and grub.

The economic impact of the rally is impressive. A study conducted by the Rally Department of the city of Sturgis gauged the economic impact of the 2010 rally, which hosted 466,000 attendees, as generating roughly \$817 million dollars in economic activity for the State. That is just in 1 year.

And not just the city of Sturgis benefits. Though the rally only lasts a week, the magnificence of the State often compels visitors to stick around even longer. Many attendees travel to South Dakota weeks before the rally begins or extend their stay afterward