

corner of the pond, and the fact that we were able to both in the Senate and the House navigate that pond and deal with respectfully with one another—and also recognize in some cases our different points of view couldn't be included—I think, is a great credit to the process.

Governors, teachers, superintendents, Republicans and Democrats, wanted us to do this, and we've done it so far. There's not only consensus on the need to fix it, but we have now shown today that in the House and Senate of the United States, there is consensus on how to fix it. And that means we'll keep the important measures of student achievement, but we will restore to states, communities and classroom teachers the responsibility with what to do about the results of the tests.

This would not have happened without your leadership and Rep. Bobby Scott, who has been a terrific partner in all this, and the cooperation of the members of the House and Senate on this committee.

I've complimented Senator Murray perhaps excessively over the last year, but she has been absolutely key to this. So I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this.

I came to the Senate not just to make a speech but also to try and get a result and today we've gotten one.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE CARROLL

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, last week President Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor, to my longtime friend and fellow Alaskan Bonnie Carroll. In my judgment, this is a recognition long due. While America may have first heard the name Bonnie Carroll last week, our military families have long viewed her as a lifeline, a true woman of valor.

Bonnie is the founder of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, TAPS. She founded TAPS after the death of her husband, Alaska Army National Guard BG Tom Carroll, in a military plane crash on November 12, 1992.

TAPS is an organization that provides support to military families who have lost a loved one. TAPS welcomes anyone who is grieving the death of someone who died in the military. Its families have experienced loss in a variety of ways—from combat, suicide, terrorism, homicide, negligence, accidents, and illness. Our survivors include mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, fiancés, and other relatives of those who have died.

Since its launch in 1994, TAPS has cared for the more than 50,000 surviving family members through a national network of peer-based emotional support services, a 24/7 helpline available to those grieving a loss, connections to community-based care throughout the Nation, and casework assistance for families navigating all of the resources and benefits available to them.

One of TAPS' most respected programs is its "Good Grief Camp," which is offered to young people who have lost a loved one. This program pairs

young survivors with Active-Duty military mentors. Military mentors help the young survivors learn how our Nation honors those who have served and sacrificed and companion these children during their grief journey.

I suspect that many of our fellow Americans had never heard of Bonnie Carroll or TAPS before. Unlike some of the others honored at last week's ceremony—people like Barbra Streisand, Steven Spielberg, and James Taylor—Bonnie is not a celebrity. She does not seek attention for herself. Her laser focus is on helping military families, and she does nothing to distract herself or her organization from that mission. But that doesn't make her any less a rockstar. And now America knows why.

Incredible as it may seem, Bonnie Carroll's road to distinction did not begin with her work at TAPS. Her resume includes service to America as a member of the Air National Guard, the U.S. Air Force Reserve, as a senior staff member in the Reagan White House Cabinet Affairs Office, and the VA's White House liaison in the administration of President George W. Bush. She relocated to Baghdad to serve with the Coalition Provisional Authority. She has served on countless boards and commissions related to military health, suicide prevention, and grief therapy.

Bonnie reflects the very best of the Alaskan spirit, a spirit of community and service before self. I am honored to join with the President in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of Bonnie Carroll, my dear friend, fellow Alaskan, and great American.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE WATERS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alice Waters, groundbreaking chef, restaurant owner, author, and activist who was recently awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama for her pioneering role in the sustainable food movement.

As a student at the University of California, Berkeley, in the 1960s, Alice developed a passion for social activism. While studying abroad in Paris one semester, she began to realize the impact food can have on our daily lives. Exposed to lively discussions over fresh, locally sourced home-cooked meals, a simple yet revolutionary idea took root, and in 1971 she and a group of friends opened Chez Panisse in Berkeley.

It was a concept that took off almost immediately: fresh, local, and organic food that changed with the seasons. As the restaurant's success grew, Alice and her staff created a network of local farmers and producers whose dedication to sustainable agriculture supplied Chez Panisse's fresh ingredients, helped to pioneer farm-to-table cuisine, and served as a model for future generations of restaurant owners.

Alice's influence spread far beyond the kitchen. In 1996, she created the

Edible Schoolyard Project to help schools develop community gardens, so students can better understand the origins of their food and how to create fresh, local, and healthy meals. Today there are more than 5,000 Edible Schoolyard Project locations worldwide, and the effort helped inspire First Lady Michelle Obama to plant a vegetable garden on the South Lawn of the White House.

Alice has said that "good food is a right, not a privilege," and her work is helping to make that a reality. She has revolutionized the way our country cooks, eats, and thinks about food—and we are all better because of it.

I am proud to congratulate my friend, Alice Waters, on this incredible honor and wish her many more years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American Medical Women's Association, AMWA, the first national organization of women physicians.

One hundred years ago, less than 6 percent of all physicians in the United States were women. Recognizing a crucial need to provide support for these pioneering women and to bring diversity to the medical field, Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen founded the AMWA on November 18, 1915, in Chicago.

The AMWA quickly established a network and support system for women in the medical profession and documented their lack of opportunities in postgraduate training, internships, and academic appointments.

Over the years, the AMWA successfully advocated to increase leadership roles for women doctors, sponsored research and panel discussions on medical women in the workforce, and established scholarship and mentorship programs to encourage the next generation of women leaders. The AMWA has also worked to improve women's health by addressing issues from human trafficking and affordable contraceptive care, to childhood obesity and osteoporosis risk across the globe.

For the past century, the American Medical Women's Association has served as the vision and voice of women in medicine. As we celebrate their extraordinary milestone, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the AMWA for their tireless efforts to open the door for generations of women physicians. Because of their work, countless men, women, and children have benefited from the dedicated service of AMWA members, and for that we are all grateful.

OBSERVING WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 28th World AIDS Day. This day is a time to recognize the tremendous progress we have