

The need today is very great. Scholars around the world are facing fresh repression and conflict. More scholars are fleeing Iraq and Syria, a new crisis looms in Turkey, and increasing threats to academics have emerged in countries as diverse as Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

Today, I would like to tell you about developing a new partnership. Over the past few weeks, several colleagues and I have met with Theresia Bauer, Minister of Science, Research and Art for the state of Baden-Württemberg, of which Heidelberg is a part. We have discussed an innovative idea to add to Germany's current scholar rescue efforts by joining together SRF, private funds, and the state of Baden-Württemberg. We are happy to have the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung as a partner who, with the Ministry, will support a new group of persecuted academics to be placed specifically in this state. The supervisory board of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung just decided last week to join the program. I am happy to welcome the Executive Director, Christoph Dahl, today.

While the details of such a unique multi-lateral partnership remain to be confirmed, and we all look forward to guidance from our friends at the Humboldt Foundation, I can say a few things. First, this very much follows in the tradition of Baden-Württemberg, under Minister Bauer, showing leadership on such issues, most recently with a new program to provide scholarships to refugee students. Second, such a new program makes best use of SRF's power to find and vet persecuted academics from any country and every field. Third, it shows both the power and promise of private philanthropy to bring different groups together to find creative solutions to urgent problems. It is just this type of collaborative thinking that we need in our inter-connected world.

What we see now as a refugee problem may well become an even greater deluge in the near future as climate change devastates ever more of our planet, and technology enables tyrants to maintain power more cruelly.

We live on a tiny ball spinning through a largely empty space. And if we don't share this small world that we inhabit, it will be its end. Building walls is futile; equally bad, they put the people on each side into prisons, no matter how prettily they are wall-papered.

We in the so-called first world are, with our ferocious energy consumption, deeply implicated in the changes we see today, and the greater ones we will see tomorrow. More and more people will come to us, dragging their young children across the seas and the mountains to come to a place they don't know a continent away. We should feel deeply honored, but we must live up to it. If we don't, the liberties they hope we have will be lost to us all.

"Giess Wasser zur Suppe und heiss alle willkommen" ("Add water to the soup and make everyone welcome") is an old German folk saying. Those ancestors well understood that a meal cannot be enjoyed, a peace not maintained, and one's own not protected without sharing and compromise. It is a bit of German folk wisdom that has survived all imperializing regimes and their detriments.

Once again, I thank you for the great honor of this award and commit myself, in the spirit of true and authentic partnership, to do this critical and urgent work together.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PAQUIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Robert Paquin is retiring after 40 years working as a dedicated public servant in

Vermont and on Capitol Hill in Washington. Bob has committed his entire career to making the Federal Government a positive force in the lives of individuals and communities. He has accomplished much, particularly on behalf of our State of Vermont.

Bob, as Marcelle and I have always known him, was my longest serving staff member and is among the longest serving personal staff members in U.S. Senate history. He began in my Washington office in 1977 and then moved to Vermont to serve as one of my outstanding field representatives. He ended his congressional staff service 32 years later, in 2009, to take a leadership role at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, in the Obama administration.

On my staff in Washington, Bob worked on defense, foreign policy, and appropriations, and in Vermont, he supported my work on agriculture, conservation, energy, and environmental protection. He also helped to manage my Vermont offices and provided constituent services to countless Vermonters.

Bob brought Vermont values on conservation, sustainable and organic agriculture, dairy, and rural development to my work on many farm bills, affecting national agricultural practices, policy, and economics to this day.

Bob also helped to develop the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990, worked on its reauthorization in 2001, and supported my efforts every year to maintain sufficient Federal support for the Lake Champlain cleanup efforts. He worked day in and day out to nurture and grow important partner organizations in Vermont, including the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, the Lake Champlain sea lamprey control program, and many more that have helped to leverage Federal investments in conservation and the cleanup of Lake Champlain.

I strongly believe that land conservation is an important part of the heritage of every Vermonter. Bob worked on the ground to help establish the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, the Nulhegan/Conte National Wildlife Refuge and the Upper Missisquoi and Trout National Wild and Scenic Rivers. He also helped me as I fought for the addition of more than 100,000 acres to the Green Mountain National Forest, protection of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and establishment and expansion of eight Federal wilderness areas in Vermont. He also worked on the delivery of Capitol Christmas trees from Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest to Washington, DC.

Time does not allow me to catalogue all of Bob's accomplishments while on my staff, but his greatest impact may have been his simple and honest interactions in helping thousands of Vermont constituents with problems and requests over so many years. Bob

is known for his troubleshooting and advocacy for Vermonters in every corner of the State.

In 2009, I gave my highest recommendation to the incoming administration of President Obama for Bob to be appointed as executive director of the Farm Service Agency in Vermont. Bob has distinguished himself in that role—helping Vermont farmers recovering from Tropical Storm Irene, implementing new programs under the 2014 farm bill, assisting new Americans from the refugee community to start farms, supporting our dairy farmers through tough times, and nurturing his dedicated USDA staff across Vermont.

Robert Paquin has been a truly exceptional and dedicated public servant for Vermont and the Nation for four decades. I will continue to seek his advice, and Marcelle and I wish him and his wife, Theresa, all the best in the future.

#### TRIBUTES TO HARRY REID

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, as a young man growing up in Searchlight, Nevada, HARRY REID was an accomplished amateur boxer. During his 30 years of service in this Chamber, Senator REID has demonstrated time and again the qualities of skill, hard work, and determination that he learned in the ring all those years ago.

Prior to joining the Senate in 1987, Senator REID established a deep commitment to public service in the House of Representatives and in State and local offices. And before that, he served Congress and supported his young family working nights as a Capitol police officer while attending law school at George Washington University. As a Senate leader, serving as Democratic whip, majority leader, and, currently, Democratic leader, he has been a formidable advocate for his caucus.

In the Senate, Senator REID has been a passionate voice for education, environmental protection, health care, and renewable energy. His commitment to those who serve our Nation in uniform is evident through his support for military readiness and for our veterans.

The great Jack Dempsey defined a champion as "someone who gets up when he can't." In his many years of service to the people of Nevada and to our nation, Senator HARRY REID has proven himself to be a fighter who always answers the bell. I wish him and his wife, Landra, health and happiness for many more years to come.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I have had the honor and privilege of serving with HARRY REID for all of my 16 years in the Senate. He has been a resolute leader for our Caucus, a fearless legislator who has brought landmark legislation to the floor and a tireless advocate for Nevadans and all Americans. More importantly, I am proud to call HARRY a friend.

We all know the story of HARRY's journey to elected office from that small mining town in Nevada. The