

country's progressive culinary education movement and were recognized by President Bill Clinton as first runner-up for the Nation's small business of the year in 1994. In 2000, Fran was named Vermont Citizen of the Year by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

Vermont's culinary landscape was forever changed by the New England Culinary Institute, as its students opened and worked at restaurants throughout the State.

In memory of Fran Voigt, I ask unanimous consent that the article by Stephen Mills in the May 22 edition of the Barre Montpelier Times Argus, "NECI founder revered for student model," be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Barre Montpelier Times Argus, May 22, 2018]

NECI FOUNDER REVERED FOR STUDENT MODEL
(By Stephen Mills)

MONTPELIER.—The Capital City reacted to news of the death of Fran Voigt, co-founder of the New England Culinary Institute, who died at his Cabot home Monday. He was 78.

Voigt and co-founder John Dranow, and their wives, Ellen Bryant Voigt and Louise Gluck, respectively met at Goddard College and started the legendary cooking school with seven students in the basement of the Capitol Plaza Hotel & Conference Center on State Street in 1980.

At the height of its success, the business was honored in 1994 by former President Bill Clinton as first runner-up for the nation's small business of the year. It boasted a high of 800 students, and a number of academic offerings and outlets that still include the flagship NECI on Main restaurant and La Brioché bakery and cafe, and food service at National Life and the cafeteria at Vermont College of Fine Arts, all in Montpelier. Other operations, included a second campus in Essex and NECI Commons, a restaurant on Church Street in Burlington, which were discontinued. More recent contracts included a \$200,000 contract to train cooks for the U.S. Coast Guard and a three-year contract to design and deliver a training program for culinary staff at Sandals resorts in the Caribbean. But NECI also was at the center of a protracted legal dispute in 1999 that landed in the Vermont Supreme Court after Voigt and the wives had a falling out with Dranow who was ousted, and sued but finally settled. NECI is now run by Milan Milasinovic, who is also president of Virginia Marti College of Art and Design in Ohio and merged the two schools last June after Voigt stepped down as president in January 2017. It has about 200 students. Voigt's daughter, Dudley, said there would be no public service, but the family hoped to hold a memorial service later.

"We would just say that he died at home after a long illness," she said.

"We feel that we're very proud of NECI," Dudley Voigt said. "We watched him build it, and it was a unique coalescing of all of his talents and gifts and curiosities."

According to an obituary provided by the family to be published in The Times Argus, Francis George Wilhelm Voigt was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, March 27, 1940, after his parents emigrated from Germany. He graduated from Wesleyan University in 1962 and earned a graduate degree in political theory from the University of Iowa where he met his wife, Ellen Bryant Voigt. The couple came to central Vermont as educational

idealists in 1969. Fran Voigt accepted a teaching position at Goddard College and developed some of the skills he used to build the hands-on education that became the model for NECI where students started in the kitchen in the classroom and the student-teacher ratio was 7-1. The NECI motto was: "Learning by doing."

In addition to his lifelong work at NECI, Voigt was also an active member of the Vermont Business Roundtable, Rotary International, the Cabot School and the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, which named him Vermont Citizen of the Year in 2000. He was also recognized in the community for his signature bow ties and antique Citröens.

Milan Milasinovic credited Voigt with visionary leadership and commitment to the NECI model of culinary arts and being a mentor to all at the school.

"He became a dear friend of mine in the last couple of years of his life," he said. "It's a huge loss. He was our founding father and he made NECI very innovative and a force as a culinary school in the United States. It's all because of his entrepreneurial spirit. I'm sure the people at NECI will miss him greatly. We loved this man a lot."

U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy credited Voigt with being "at the forefront of the progressive culinary education movement nationally," and said the Vermont food scene would not be what it is today without Voigt's contribution and leadership.

"His vision, hard work and dedication in founding and continually reinventing NECI leaves a lasting legacy that extends well beyond Vermont," Leahy said. "He helped give expression to Vermont's tradition of quality, taste and excellence. Vermont's culinary landscape owes a significant debt to his vision, and so do the communities that were nourished, enriched and enlivened by those trained under his leadership."

Montpelier Mayor Anne Watson added: "Fran Voigt made substantial cultural contributions to Montpelier, and I'm certainly saddened to have lost him. We send our condolences to his family."

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Voigt's name to the NECI scholarship fund or to the Vermont Foodbank.

TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you may know, I was a strong supporter of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that passed this body and was signed into law last year. With every passing day, we are hearing more about the positive effects this law is having on the economy as a whole and about companies, both large and small, making investments in their employees and in their businesses. In identifying the positive impacts that the law has had on the overall economy and for individual taxpayers, it is sometimes forgotten that small businesses have also benefited from the law. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I supported the tax law because I believed it would reduce taxes for the small businesses that employ millions of workers all across America, while allowing small business owners to invest in new equipment and increase economic growth. A few weeks ago, I began this series of speeches to bring attention to small businesses that have benefited from this law.

While many news reports have focused on the impact that the new tax

law has had on individuals and large corporations, I rise today to discuss how Quake Manufacturing, a small business in Fort Wayne, IN, has benefited from tax reform. Quake Manufacturing produces high-quality machined parts for its customers. The company uses high-tech computer numerical control, CNC, machines to manufacture several types of metal and plastic fixtures, gauges, prototype parts, and mass-produced parts. Quake Manufacturing employs 12 workers, has an 8,000-square-foot facility, four CNC machining centers, and six lathes. Hermann Quake started the company in 1990 and has watched as the company has expanded into the automotive and consumer goods sectors. In 1999, Hermann retired, and his son Paul took over day-to-day operations of the family business.

Because of the tax law that was passed last year, this family-owned small business has already been able to invest more in its employees. After the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law, demand for manufactured parts increased and business quickly picked up for the company. Due to this renewed economic confidence, Paul was able to give all of his employees a one-time \$1,000 bonus and a gym membership and increase employee benefits by adding long-term disability, short-term disability, and dental insurance to their health plans. These investments in his employees will help him to attract and maintain qualified workers, which is important in an industry that prides itself on attention to detail. Tax reform has had a tangible impact on small businesses like Quake Manufacturing and their employees. Overall, the new law has increased small businesses' confidence, allowed businesses to increase employee bonuses and benefits, while also lowering taxes and spurring new capital investment.

TANZANIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to call attention to the trend of increasing restrictions on basic freedoms in Tanzania, a country that appeared to be on a path toward greater democracy and political openness. I am deeply concerned about reports of Tanzanian security forces' use of repressive laws, decrees, and actions to harass those who disagree with the current regime and unattributed attacks on democratically elected opposition party officials. I call upon the Trump administration to increase its efforts to encourage the government of Tanzania to support individual and collective freedoms, freedom of expression, and civil liberties. Such norms are the hallmarks of a healthy democracy and are among the basic rights and duties guaranteed to Tanzania's citizens under their constitution.

These reports are troubling because, on the whole, Tanzania is among the most stable and peaceful countries in the region. Tanzania is a top African

contributor of personnel to international peacekeeping operations, and we honor the sacrifice of the Tanzanian people, who have lost nearly 50 peacekeepers during these vital missions, including 14 killed in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is one of the leading African economies and had the sixth largest GDP in Africa, according to IMF data published in April.

U.S.-Tanzanian ties have, for many years, been cordial, and U.S. bilateral aid expanded significantly under the previous two U.S. administrations. The U.S. has had a robust development relationship with Tanzania, including investments in some of our premier development programs, such as Feed the Future, the Global Health Initiative, the Global Climate Change Initiative, Power Africa, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief—PEPFAR—and Trade Africa. Since 1962, Tanzania has hosted a Peace Corps program. In 2013, Tanzania also successfully completed a Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC, funded Compact.

Upon taking office in October 2015, President John Pombe Magufuli pledged to stamp out public corruption and make his government accountable to ordinary citizens, and he has taken some steps to do so. He made an unannounced visit to the Ministry of Finance to see civil servants at work on his first day as President and redirected funds from Independence Day celebrations toward anticholera operations. He initiated corruption reviews of the Tanzanian Port Authority and Tanzanian Revenue authority, resulting in the dissolution of an ineffective board and purging of civil servant rolls of "phantom staff." According to AfroBarometer surveys, the government's handling of corruption in public office has had a positive impact, reducing citizens' perceptions of institutional corruption in key public agencies.

By many measures, Tanzania is doing fairly well. My purpose is not to offer gratuitous criticisms of Tanzania or its people, but to register my strong concern that the progress of the last decade and a half in the areas of democracy and respect for civil liberties may be undergoing a reversal right before our eyes. Tanzania's success in advancing economically and politically is what makes the current political backsliding so troubling. I fear that while we are all rightly focused on the resolving the many crises on the continent and around the globe, the gradual downward spiral of respect for civil liberties in Tanzania is proceeding unnoticed, unremarked, and unchallenged by its friends and partners. As we address crises throughout the region and the world, we must also be mindful of the maintenance of strong democratic institutions, good governance, and accountability which ultimately secure resilient communities.

The Magufuli Presidency has been marked by three troubling trends.

First is the rise in recent years in the harassment of opposition political figures and restrictions on their activities. In September 2017, Tundu Lissu, a Member of Parliament—MP—and Parliamentary chief whip of the opposition Chadema party was shot by unknown assailants and seriously wounded. Lissu, who is also the president of the Tanganyika Law Society, is a fierce critic of President Magufuli and his government, but also a longstanding critic of corruption who may face hostility from many quarters. Lissu has often been arrested for his longstanding criticism of the government.

Other opposition Parliamentarians face police harassment. In late September 2017, police arrested a Chadema MP after a party event, and at least two other MPs complained that police were prohibiting meetings with constituents.

In February of this year, the U.S. Embassy released a statement of concern about the rise in politically related confrontations after reports of kidnapping and violence in Tanzania that resulted in the death of Daniel John, who was a leader of a local opposition party, and the injury of opposition supporter Reginald Mallya.

Second is closing media space. According to the 2017 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders, RSF, Tanzania dropped 12 places between 2016 to 2017 to 83 out of 180. While this is the best score in east Africa, RSF stated that the climate for journalism "has not improved since John Magufuli's election." Tanzania was ranked alongside Turkey, which indicates just how significantly Tanzania's democratic space has shrunk under the Magufuli regime. Newspapers have faced suspension or other sanction for coverage deemed critical of the government. In September 2017, the government banned the publication of two newspapers, in one case for 90 days and in another for 2 years, and 3 months after another publication was also shuttered for 2 years. In January 2018, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported that Tanzania's regulatory commission imposed fines on five television stations for ostensibly "broadcasting seditious and unbalanced content." The stations were fined after reporting on human rights abuses by security personnel and unidentified assailants during a November 2017 ward by-election.

President Magufuli signed the controversial media services bill just a month into his tenure. The bill replaced independent media oversight mechanisms with a government-controlled one, and requires all journalists to get accreditation from a government-appointed board. This leaves them vulnerable to manipulation and undue pressure to provide coverage favorable to the state and majority party.

In April 2016, then-Information Minister Nape Nnauye ordered a halt to live broadcasts of Tanzania's Par-

liamentary proceedings, denying journalists the ability to report accurate information and denying the public the right to transparency from their government. In November, President Magufuli signed in to law the Media Service Act 2016, which, among other measures, requires media houses to "broadcast or publish news or issues of national importance as the government may direct," effectively giving the government outside influence in controlling media messaging. The government then moved to restrict online content when, in September 2017, Tanzania's National Assembly passed the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations. The regulations empower the Tanzanian Communications Regulatory Authority to monitor and surveil online blogs and internet cafes and ban "offensive, morally improper" content. This restricts debate and has a chilling effect on the expression of views critical of government.

If there is any doubt as to whether the government seeks to control the media, we have only to look at what President Magufuli himself said in March 2017: "I would like to tell media owners—be careful, watch it. If you think you have that kind of freedom, (it is) not to that extent." A day later, a rap musician was arrested after he released a song deemed insulting to the government. Magufuli's 2017 warning followed the late 2016 arrest of a founder of a corruption-reporting and whistle-blowing website, Jamii Forums, and a police demand that the site reveal its users' names. The website's cofounder was charged on several counts of obstructing justice and running an unregistered website.

These and other actions clearly demonstrate a disturbing deliberate government effort to censor the press and curtail the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression of Tanzania's citizens. I was pleased to see the announcement that the U.S. Agency for International Development or USAID, which supports good governance projects around the world, is funding a civil society and media-strengthening project that will work with media houses and radio stations in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, and other areas of the country. I am unconvinced, however, that this well justified effort alone will be adequate to address the broad range of worrying trends that I have outlined. I would welcome additional efforts of a similar nature by USAID and other organizations, such as the National Endowment for Democracy.

The third troubling trend is the closing space for civil society. In March, the President promised to crack down on anyone who participates in demonstrations deemed illegal by the government, vowing not to let his economic reforms be derailed by street protests. The reforms, some of which are not endorsed by the International Monetary Fund's most recent economic review, include reducing tax evasion,

halting copper concentrate exports, and banning imports of coal and gypsum. Prior to planned antigovernment demonstrations on April 26, a senior law enforcement official stated that “Those who plan to demonstrate tomorrow will seriously suffer . . . they will be beaten like stray dogs.” Because the Tanzanian authorities deployed a heavy police presence and threatened to use force, the protests failed to move forward.

Magufuli’s repression extends to sexual orientation and HIV policies. Homosexuality is illegal in Tanzania, and homosexuals and transgender persons have repeatedly faced threatening comments by government officials, as well as police harassment. Under previous Tanzanian governments, the country’s HIV policies called for dedicated outreach to key populations. Such efforts have been halted under Magufuli’s government. In 2016, the government raided and closed drop-in centers and private clinics that provide services to those in the LGBTI community, sex workers, and people who use drugs. Several organizations reported that the crackdown has resulted in HIV-positive men failing to access their antiretroviral treatment, while others no longer access testing and preventive services.

Young women also find themselves under attack, for reasons which remain unclear. President Magufuli forcefully endorsed a law dating back to the 1960s that allows all state schools in Tanzania to ban young mothers from attending, saying in June 2017, “As long as I am president . . . no pregnant student will be allowed to return to school . . . After getting pregnant, you are done.” He said that young mothers could opt for vocational training or become entrepreneurs, but should not be permitted to pursue formal education in public schools. Critics say the ban lacks public support, is misogynistic, and breaks international human rights conventions. It also contradicts a promise set out in the ruling party’s 2015 election manifesto, which pledged to allow pregnant school girls to continue with their studies. According to the Tanzania Bureau of Statistics, about 21 percent of Tanzanian girls aged 15 to 19 have given birth. This troubling pattern of discouraging women from completing their education inhibits Tanzania’s potential for economic growth and undermines women’s potential to contribute to Tanzania’s workforce. It also is counter to Tanzania’s commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Finally, Tanzania has, for decades, hosted refugees from various conflicts and political crises in the conflict-afflicted and densely inhabited countries in the Great Lakes region of central Africa—some for extended periods—and has played a mediating role in attempts to resolve such crises. In 2014, Tanzania also naturalized a large num-

ber of long-term Burundian refugees. Instability in Burundi has led to hundreds of thousands of Burundians to seek refuge and safety in Tanzania. In fact, Tanzania very generously hosts 245,584 Burundian refugees and asylum seekers, more than any other country, according to the latest statistics from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

In July of 2017, however, President Magufuli ordered the suspension of the registration and naturalization of thousands of Burundian refugees. He said, “It’s not that I am expelling Burundian refugees. I am just advising them to voluntarily return home . . . I urge Burundians to remain in their country, I have been assured, the place is now calm.” During the same month, the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, deployed by the U.N. Human Rights Council, reported the “persistence of serious human rights violations in a climate of widespread fear.” Such violations included “extrajudicial executions, acts of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment, sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary arrests and detention and enforced disappearances.” With peace talks stalled in Burundi—and the May 2018 constitutional referendum accompanied by widespread violence and intimidation, including 15 killings—Tanzania risks pushing refugees back to unstable and unsafe communities.

The pattern of crackdowns on civil society, media, refugee, and public health providers under the Magufuli administration are contrary to the values that the United States has long supported both at home and abroad and are cause for concern. It is essential that the United States take a strong and proactive stance on these matters. Toward that end, I recommend that the administration take several actions.

Immediately nominate an ambassador to lead our diplomatic efforts to push back against the tide of anti-democratic actions. The post has been vacant for well over a year.

Conduct a review of assistance aimed at ensuring that the democracy, human rights and governance components of our bilateral assistance programs, which are an essential complement to sustainability in other areas of development that we support, are robustly funded and adequately address current challenges.

Increase assistance to build the capacity of civil society and media stakeholders in Tanzania.

Join with likeminded partners in the diplomatic community in Tanzania and in multilateral fora to jointly condemn President Magufuli’s war on democratic freedoms and civil liberties and urge the Tanzanian Government to take concerted action to ensure that all political and civic rights guaranteed under the Tanzanian Constitution are fully respected.

It seems to me that, at the same time President Magufuli is waging a war against poor governance, there is

in fact another more pernicious effort being undertaken to roll back democratic freedoms and civil liberties. It is imperative that the United States, as a champion of democracy and freedom, raise its voice in support of Tanzanians who are pushing back against growing oppression. The Tanzanian Constitution states that “the civic rights, duties and interests of every person and community shall be protected.” Let us stand with those who are fighting to see that those guarantees are protected.

FAYETTEVILLE VETERAN AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to highlight an incident that occurred in my home State of Arkansas that has negatively impacted veterans and their families. A former pathologist at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center was found to be impaired, was immediately removed from clinical care, and has since been terminated. A thorough independent review of all cases read by this pathologist is currently underway. This review will be handled by entities outside of the Fayetteville VA Medical Center to include other VA facilities and academic affiliates. At this time, a small percentage of cases have been found to be misdiagnosed. In total, 33,000 samples will be reviewed using a tiered risk prioritization.

In response, I have submitted an amendment cosponsored by the entire Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma delegation. This amendment would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the congressional committees of jurisdiction a Departmental response plan that can be applied in Fayetteville and in all future incidents and for recommendations about changes necessary to prevent such incidents in the future.

I am very concerned with the procedures and policies that allowed this situation to occur. As the chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee and member of the Senate VA Committee, I am intent on working with the VA to ensure that we enact policies and put in place procedures to prevent such misconduct in the future, both here in Fayetteville and around the country. It is clear that our veterans deserve the best care available, and it is our duty to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs is providing that service. This is an issue that I will continue to monitor, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages