

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