

question: Where do immigrants go to integrate into the community? Many go in to the health care community.

But then how about the neurosurgeon? He had reviewed the CT scan, ordered that I be transported to Burlington. He scheduled surgery at 4 a.m., and waited all night to perform the operation. And he was so kind to me before the operation.

My follow-up appointment with him was one month after the operation. Abi and I went to his office. A CT scan was done, which he showed us. The bleeding had stopped, the blood was all gone, and the brain had moved back to where it was supposed to be, about 2.2 cm. He then said to both of us: "You will make a full recovery." As he was leaving the room, I said to him: "Doctor, thank you for saving my life." He stopped, looked directly at me and said: "You're welcome. And thank you, Judge." I had no idea why he would thank me and asked for what. His response: "On September 11th, 2006, on the fifth anniversary of the attack on New York and Washington, at a ceremony at the State House in Montpelier, you swore me in as an American citizen. It was a very special day for me."

So what have I learned from my experience? Immigrants bring to us their stories, the richness of their cultural traditions. This makes our community so much more diverse and interesting. We all benefit so much by their presence.

But now I look at the group being sworn in as citizens in a different light. Among the group may be nurses, medical technicians and aides who care for us when we are our most vulnerable; there may be therapists and speech pathologists who work to restore us who have been injured to our previous health; there may be doctors and surgeons who make life-altering decisions that may save our lives; there may be teachers and principals who care for and educate our children; there may be civil rights lawyers who defend our liberties, and police officers who protect us in the community. With the exception of native Americans we or our ancestors made that same voyage, often with those same dreams. We are them and they are us. We need to welcome them, but we also should thank them for all they do to make our community a safer, healthier and richer place in which to live.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to take the opportunity to join communities across the country and around the globe to commemorate the 19th observance of World Refugee Day.

Let me start with two sobering statistics from the UN agency charged with protecting refugees. The first is that 25 people were forced to flee their homes every minute of last year. The second is that more than 70 million people have now been forcibly displaced by conflict and persecution, the highest number the UN refugee agency has ever seen. So suffice it to say that the global need is real.

Which is why it is so heartbreaking to see Donald Trump's repeated efforts to try and slam America's doors shut to the world's most vulnerable.

It is particularly outrageous that the Trump folks aren't even on track to admit their own historically low cap of 30,000 refugees this year.

Let's be clear: Turning away refugees isn't some cornerstone of conservatism. Ronald Reagan admitted tens of thousands of refugees, so did George W. Bush.

In another era, that would have included my family, who fled Nazi persecution in the 1930s, seeking sanctuary in this country. I would have never had the honor of representing my State of Oregon here in this body had America sent my parents away.

Now, Edith and Peter Wyden aren't exactly household names, but here are a few that should be: Madeleine Albright, Albert Einstein, Gloria Estefan, Mila Kunis, and Elie Wiesel.

America is so much the richer for their contributions to diplomacy, physics, music, film and television, literature, and more.

So there is a practical reason for accepting refugees: Doing so makes America better.

There is also a moral reason for accepting refugees. Faith traditions speak of it as a duty to repair the world or to welcome the stranger. In Oregon, we just call it the right thing to do.

America is better than the administration's cruel and callous policies. I remain committed to challenging Donald Trump's exclusionary, anti-refugee policies on all fronts, and I challenge my colleagues to do the same.

Folks are looking to the Senate for strong, principled leaders. They want more than rhetoric; they want results.

So I urge my colleagues in the strongest terms to honor this World Refugee Day by rolling up their sleeves and working to revive America's historic, bipartisan commitment to the plight of refugees around the world.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, it has been said many times before, but it bears repeating today more than ever, on World Refugee Day—ours is a country built by immigrants. We have a proud tradition of welcoming foreigners to our shores.

The first European settlers in North America—those who founded our original Thirteen Colonies—were fleeing religious oppression and persecution. Over the following decades, America became, in the words of Thomas Paine, "the asylum for the persecuted." We welcomed Irish Catholics fleeing starvation and British rule, Germans fleeing political turmoil, Eastern European Jews fleeing the pogroms, and countless others. Over the generations, America welcomed Europeans displaced by war, and later, millions of refugees seeking political asylum from Communism during the Cold War.

In 1980, we passed landmark legislation—the Refugee Act—which provided a permanent and systemized procedure for admitting refugees. This law established the concept of a Presidential determination on refugee admissions, by which the President can set the number of refugees that the United States may admit in a given year. For the past 40 years, both Democratic and Republican administrations demonstrated a commitment to robust resettlement. Prior to the Trump administration, the average annual refugee admissions cap was 95,000 refugees. Administration of-

officials of both parties took seriously the Presidential determination and worked to maintain a resettlement rate on par with it.

At nearly every juncture in history since its founding, America has been called upon to be a leader in welcoming the persecuted. More often than not, we have answered that call and today, it sounds to us louder than ever. With more than 24 million refugees around the globe, America must step into our historic leadership role, not away from it.

Now is the time to increase the refugee admissions ceiling, not cut it. Now is the time to build up our resettlement infrastructure, not decimate it. Now is the time to open our door, not close it. But the Trump administration betrayed the foundational values of this Nation by slashing our annual refugee admissions ceiling to a dismal 30,000 refugees. This was an unprecedented low, both in number and humanity. That is why I introduced the GRACE Act. This bill prohibits any U.S. President from setting an admission ceiling below 95,000 refugees each year and requires administration officials to treat that figure as a goal.

We must not be silent. We must continue to meet the global crisis of displaced persons head on, and like our forefathers, we must extend a hand to those fleeing persecution around the world. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DYLAN WICHMAN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Dylan Wichman, of Billings, for his impact on the Yellowstone community and surrounding areas.

Dylan, only a rising senior at Billings Central High School, earned second place at the State Science Fair and took first at Montana State University-Billings' regional fair for his wildfire predictive and preventative algorithm, FASTCAT. Dylan also participated in the International Science Fair in Phoenix, AZ alongside 1,800 other students from 80 countries. Dylan earned third place in his category.

Inspired by the tragic Paradise Fire in 2018, Dylan put in countless hours to develop FASTCAT. FASTCAT is an algorithm used to predict the size of wildfires before they even occur, to ensure Montanans will be safer and more prepared during fire season. Dylan's artificial intelligence algorithm utilizes a neutral network model, ensuring the algorithms ability to problem solve as more data is input and analyzed. His innovative creation is an impressive improvement in Montana's existing fire safety and prevention programs. Dylan hopes to see his system implemented State and nationwide and globally in the future. Dylan will continue to work on his program alongside a professor at University of Montana next year.

I congratulate Dylan on his outstanding achievements and willingness to give back to his community. I look forward to seeing his success in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL DOUGLAS ANDERSON

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor BG Douglas Anderson, who has distinguished himself during his more than 37 years of service to the U.S. Army and this Nation. Throughout the duration of his career, Brigadier General Anderson has served in positions of increased responsibility and trust, culminating as the commanding general of the 9th Mission Support Command at Fort Shafter, HI.

As the commanding general of the 9th Mission Support Command in the Pacific, Brigadier General Anderson has commanded the missions of 31 diverse units, encompassing more than 3,400 soldiers and civilians in three countries, five States and Territories, and crossing seven time zones. In this role, he rapidly increased the organization's readiness level to the highest levels the organization had seen in decades.

During his tenure, Brigadier General Anderson served in leadership, staff, and command assignments in light, ranger, airborne, and mechanized infantry units; commanded a Logistics Support Battalion; was the senior adviser to an Infantry Brigade of the Iraqi Army; the division director of human resources; commanded a personnel services brigade; was the director of the 80th Training; Command Operations/Planning/Training; commanded the 97th Training Brigade; commanded the Great Lakes Training Division; served as the deputy commanding general for the 63rd Regional Support Command; and was the director of the Army Reserve Engagement Cell, and deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Army Pacific. He has also served in numerous joint and overseas deployments and assignments in Iraq and Republic of Korea.

Brigadier General Anderson was commissioned in May 1988 as a distinguished military graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Washington State University. He is a graduate of numerous military courses, including Infantry Officer Basic Course, Armor Officer Advanced Course, Engineer Officer Advanced Course (Tactics), U.S. Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, U.S. Army War College, Advanced Joint Professional Military Education Course, Canadian Security Studies Program, and United Nations Senior Mission Leader's Course. He is an Army joint planner and joint qualified officer.

Brigadier General Anderson holds a bachelor's degree in political science

and public administration, a master's degree in human resources management, and a master's degree in strategic studies.

Brigadier General Anderson's leadership provided direct and tangible benefits to the Army, government and contracted civilians, citizen soldiers, and their family members. His outstanding service and contributions, coupled with a tireless devotion to duty, a strong love for this country and the soldiers and civilians who protect it, will have an enduring impact.

Brigadier General Anderson is married and has three children. He calls Atlanta, GA, home. Our Nation thanks him and his family for their dedicated service.●

TRIBUTE TO PEG SEMINARIO

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, I rise to pay tribute to Peg Seminario, a fierce advocate for working people with more than 40 years leading the AFL-CIO and the labor movement in fighting for stronger protections and safer worker conditions for workers.

Peg has led the AFL-CIO's safety and health program since 1990 and throughout her career has played a leading role in the fight to promulgate strong health and safety standards pertaining to major hazards facing workers, including asbestos, lead, silica, noise, and ergonomics. In fact, she has had a hand in every major health and safety rule adopted since 1977—almost all of which were adopted since the inception of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, OSHA.

She has pushed Congress to protect and enhance the provisions of the OSH Act; to increase Federal funding for critical worker protection Agencies, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; and worked tirelessly to see that first responders who responded after the 9/11 attack and suffered illnesses as a result received the necessary medical care they need and deserve.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Mrs. Seminario's distinguished career and thanking her for her efforts to protect the health and safety of workers in America.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ASSANTE

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Michael Assante, a leader, a visionary, and a patriot who has contributed so much to protect our Nation's critical infrastructure and our interests around the world.

Michael Assante began his impressive career as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy where he learned the intricacies of cyber security defenses. After leaving the Navy, Mike became

the chief information security officer at one of the largest U.S. utilities, American Electric Power. Mike continued to work in the private sector in the field of cyber security before he joined Idaho National Laboratory, INL, as a critical infrastructure protection specialist. At INL, Michael Assante assembled a unique team of computer experts, power engineers, control systems technicians, grid operators, infrastructure designers, law enforcement officials, and U.S. military special forces officers to tackle the most challenging cyber threats to critical infrastructure. This team has an impressive list of successes and its work continues to this day.

As Mike's accomplishments and recognition grew, he left INL and assumed senior positions at the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the Council on CyberSecurity, the Center for Internet Security, NexDefense, the SANS Institute, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. In all of these capacities, Michael Assante brought unique insights and strategies to the effort to protect our critical infrastructure from cyberattack. It was during this time that Mike became a resource to me and my staff, and he helped us better understand the magnitude of the cyber threat to our grid and opportunities for engineered solutions to interrupt the kill chain and mitigate the threat.

As a result of more than two decades of dedication, hard work, and impact, Michael Assante has a long list of noteworthy publications, collaborations, recognitions, and awards, but perhaps his greatest legacy is the thousands of professionals he trained to help protect our Nation's critical infrastructure.

Most Americans, including Mike's family and friends, will never know how much he did to protect U.S. national security interests. As a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I can tell you that he is a giant in his field, and our country is safer because of his efforts. We are grateful for his many contributions.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1719. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Modification of the Handling Regulations for Area No. 2" ((7 CFR Part 948) (Docket No. AMS-SC-18-0067)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1720. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Melamine Formaldehyde Polycondensate Resin; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL 9994-34-OCSPP) received in the