

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. PHOEBE STEIN

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to take a few moments to thank and congratulate Dr. Phoebe Stein for her lifetime commitment to advancing the humanities. At the end of this week, Phoebe will leave her post as the executive director at Maryland Humanities, a position she has held for more than 11 years. But Maryland's loss is the Nation's gain. Effective May 1, Phoebe will succeed Esther Mackintosh as president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The federation is the national member association of the 56 State and jurisdictional humanities councils. The Federation's purpose is "to provide leadership, advocacy, and information to help members advance programs that engage millions of citizens across diverse populations in community and civic life." I can't think of anyone better suited for the job.

Phoebe, a Maryland native, arrived at Maryland Humanities in 2008 after serving as the director of public affairs at the Illinois Humanities Council, now called Illinois Humanities. She received her B.A. in English from the University of Michigan and her M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Loyola University of Chicago.

Phoebe has effectively advocated for the humanities at the local, State, and Federal level for more than 20 years. Even though Phoebe became executive director at Maryland Humanities at the beginning of the Great Recession, she managed to expand the council's partnerships, programs, staff, financial support and other resources, and, most importantly, its reach. She hosted a radio spot, "Humanities Connection," while advancing several of the council's flagship programs, including Maryland History Day, Museum on Main Street, and One Maryland One Book. The organization now offers more than 1,000 free events annually in partnership with more than 500 organizations in more than 150 communities statewide.

Phoebe has brought Maryland History Day winners to meet with their elected representatives at the Maryland State House and here at the U.S. Capitol. She helped to foster a responsive environment following the death of Freddie Gray in 2015 and launch a Humanities Fund for Baltimore. She introduced student authors to author Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche at One Maryland One Book events in 2017. Through it all, Phoebe has been a joyful and indefatigable advocate, coming up to the Hill or to Annapolis to lobby or traveling throughout Maryland to bring the humanities to the people. In 2016, "The Daily Record" rightfully recognized Phoebe as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women.

The National Endowment for the Humanities, NEH, provides funding to State humanities councils through

NEH's Federal/State Partnership Office. The councils also receive funding from private donations, foundations, corporations, and from the States themselves. This year, we will celebrate the 55th anniversary of the NEH's creation. On September 29, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act into law. The act called for the creation of the NEH and the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, as separate, independent agencies. More than 200 people filled the Rose Garden for the bill signing ceremony, including Gregory Peck, Dumas Malone, Ansel Adams, Ralph Ellison, Walter Gropius, and Paul Mellon.

President Trump's fiscal year 2021 budget request once again tentatively proposes to terminate the NEH, the NEA, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In previous years, Congress has ignored these proposals, and I am optimistic we will do so again this year. I would note that Federal funding for the NEH peaked in 1994 in nominal terms at \$177.5 million; in inflation-adjusted terms—2019 dollars—Federal funding peaked in 1979 at nearly three times its current level.

On a per capita basis, Federal funding for the NEH amounts to less than the cost of a single postage stamp. That is a rather paltry investment since, as author and essayist Mark Slouka wrote in his book, "Essays from the Nick of Time: Reflections and Refutations," "[T]he humanities are a superb delivery mechanism for what we might call democratic values." He went on to say:

The case for the humanities is not hard to make, though it can be difficult—to such an extent have we been marginalized, so long have we acceded to that marginalization—not to sound either defensive or naive. The humanities, done right, are the crucible in which our evolving notions of what it means to be fully human are put to the test; they teach us, incrementally, endlessly, not what to do, but how to be. Their method is confrontational, their domain unlimited, their "product" not truth but the reasoned search for truth, their "success" something very much like Frost's momentary stay against confusion.

Phoebe Stein understands how important the humanities are to our individual, collective, and civic well-being. While we Marylanders will miss her at Maryland Humanities, all Americans are fortunate that she will be heading the federation, where her passionate advocacy will extend beyond Baltimore, the Eastern Shore, and the Cumberland Narrows to redound to the benefit of people and communities across our Nation.●

REMEMBERING ANTHONY J. MAY

• Mr. CASEY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the distinguished life and career of Anthony J. May, who passed away on January 20, 2020.

Tony worked for more than 30 years as a political strategist and journalist,

leaving his mark on Pennsylvania politics. He used his deep knowledge of Pennsylvania history to assist many in trying to find the best way forward, including during his time as executive director of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party. He served as the communications director and press secretary for my father, Governor Robert P. Casey, as well as press secretary for Governor Milton J. Shapp and as communications director under House Speakers K. Leroy Irvis and James J. Manderino. Most recently, he worked at Triad Strategies, a communications and public relations firm in Harrisburg, as Partner Emeritus.

Tony also served the public as a journalist and political analyst for various newspapers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New Jersey, and as an editor for the Associated Press. In these roles, in addition to being past chair of the Pennsylvania Public Television Network, he worked tirelessly to keep the public informed and to support journalists and journalism wherever and whenever he could.

Tony was a legend in Pennsylvania for decades, and his legacy will be felt for years to come. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Betsy; his children, Crispin, Amy, and Cybele; his five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and all of Tony's family and friends as they mourn his loss.●

RECOGNIZING THE WEST FARGO
PACKATAHNAS

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, the West Fargo, ND, dance team, the Packatahnas, has returned home from the National Dance Team Competition in Florida as national high kick champions.

This comes after winning championship titles competing this year with the Class A Large Varsity schools in North Dakota. It is always cause for celebration when students bring home a championship title, but this year's award is one of several the team has won.

After more than eight high kick first place finishes at the State level in the past 25 years, the Packatahnas were back-to-back national champions in 2006 and 2007. Now 14 years later and after finishing ahead of 22 other national teams, it has been especially meaningful for these teammates to place another trophy in the school's award case.

The passion, dedication, and time the Packatahnas devote to their dance team season rival that of other high school student athletes. For several hours every day, they first work to develop their routines. Then it is practice, practice, and more practice until they are ready for competition.

At their side throughout this year was their coach, Shayla Pennick, whom they credit for her commitment to them in this successful season. Shayla knows the thrill they feel as champions because she competed with