

their entire careers. He helped improve the Family Violence Prevention Program. Justice Freeman also improved the educational program for judges statewide and pushed for the creation of a special committee to study the death penalty and reforms.

While Justice Freeman was a great jurist, his legacy is also reflected in his efforts to promote a diverse judiciary. He appointed 11 of the 16 African Americans who have served on the First District Appellate Court since 1990. It was important to him that people saw in the courtroom judges and lawyers that reflected society. He mentored so many in the field.

During his career, Justice Freeman received many awards for his service, including the Freedom Award from the John Marshall Law School, the Seymour Simon Justice Award from the Jewish Judges Association, the Earl Burrus Dickerson Award from the Chicago Bar Association, and the Ira B. Platt Award and the Presidential Award from the Cook County Bar Association.

Charles Freeman is survived by his son Kevin and daughter-in-law Cami, by two grandchildren, and by his brother James. I want to extend my sympathies to his family and loved ones. The loss of Justice Freeman is a loss for our State and for the whole country.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of Northern Illinois University, or NIU, a renowned institution with a long record as a public research university and the proud home of Huskies.

Like many great State universities across this country, Northern Illinois University began as an expansion of the normal school program, otherwise commonly known as a teachers college. Near the end of the 19th century, as our Nation's population continued to experience rapid growth, the State of Illinois recognized the need to prioritize teacher training in Northern Illinois to increase access to education in the burgeoning community. NIU was founded in DeKalb, IL, in 1895 to help more students receive a high-quality education, and it still serves those same goals today.

NIU is a university of diversity. From its very first day, NIU has charted a course of inclusion and accessibility that focused on the students and their education. NIU has proven its commitment in this area by expanding opportunities and pathways to college for students from underserved communities and to those that are the first in their family to attend college. Over the years, NIU has been at the forefront of recognizing the unique challenges of these communities and has worked tirelessly to identify ways to address them as part of its strong commitment to students.

NIU is a university of opportunity. Today, nearly three quarters of NIU students fall into one or more of the following categories: about 45 percent of the students are Pell grant-eligible, 50 percent are students of color, and 50 percent are first-generation college students. I would like to commend NIU for its work to make higher education more accessible for families from all communities and walks of life.

NIU is a university of excellence. NIU has a nationally recognized faculty that includes prominent experts and leading scholars from a variety of disciplines, including science, East Asian studies, and visual and performance arts. After receiving a first-class education at NIU, over 200,000 alumni have gone on to make a difference in the Midwest and across the world, teaching people about the value of NIU as they do.

The State of Illinois has been enriched by NIU, and I look forward to the school's many contributions in the years ahead. It is my distinct honor to congratulate President Lisa Freeman and the entire NIU community on its 125th anniversary.

SUNSHINE WEEK

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate a statement in support of Sunshine Week, an annual event that spotlights the key need of a government-transparency. Without openness and access to how all levels of government spend tax dollars or make key decisions, accountability and oversight will lack.

Where transparency is lacking, waste, fraud, and duplication tend to proliferate. The Government Accountability Office-GAO-regularly cites "lack of transparency" as a chronic problem across many agencies and programs. This can have serious consequences. This causes increased taxpayer spending and improper payments. This hinders competition. In turn, a lack of transparency can affect everything from public health to our national defense.

Given the profound and far-reaching impacts of Federal programs and policies, the people need to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

Without access to reliable, accurate information, how can we be sure good decisions are being made when it comes to spending the tax dollars of hard-working families? Sure that the policies we craft in this Chamber are working as intended? Sure that our limited resources go where they are needed most? Sure that the programs we create aren't causing harm?

Well that is why, as the chairman of the Budget Committee, I have focused the last several years on enhancing transparency and improving both the quality and quantity of data available for all decisionmakers. I am extremely gratified that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, along with key organizations and experts, so often join these efforts.

One step in the right direction is the Senate Budget Committee has started to publish regular scorekeeping reports. These are available for the public on the committee's website and track the budgetary impact of legislation approved by Congress against current spending levels. This helps provide other committees, Members of Congress, and taxpayers with ongoing updates about the fiscal implications of recently agreed upon legislation.

In addition, there are obviously many unknowns when it comes to agencies implementing the laws and programs already on the books. To address this concern, I led a bipartisan group of 15 Senators last July, along with Senator LANKFORD, to urge the White House Office of Management and Budget to make a complete list of all Federal programs publicly available in a central, governmentwide website. This would help to identify and eliminate program waste and duplication. Because, believe it or not, there is no comprehensive list of each and every program the Federal Government funds. It still isn't available.

The fact that legislators and taxpayers don't even know how many programs we have or what they do is troubling, particularly as we continue to create and fund new ones.

In the past, GAO has identified massive amounts of duplication across the Federal Government, including more than 12 programs on financial literacy, 160 Federal housing assistance programs or activities, 94 green building initiatives, 253 crime prevention programs, 14 diesel emission reduction programs, 45 early learning and child care programs, and 163 STEM programs.

Most recently, GAO's 2019 annual report on duplication found six different government programs engaged in quantum computing research. Clearly, all of these programs could be improved by some basic coordination or consolidation.

This simple inventory has been on the to-do list for almost a decade. There have been previous attempts, but those have fallen short. We will continue working with GAO and OMB until the list is actually published.

Most importantly, last fall, I joined with Senator WHITEHOUSE to introduce bipartisan budget process reform legislation—the first bipartisan budget reforms approved by the Senate Budget Committee since 1990.

The Bipartisan Congressional Budget Reform Act would increase transparency in the congressional budget process in a number of ways—by having Congress develop a fiscal plan that is easy to understand and offers the public a chance to view if Congress is living within its means, encouraging other committees to review the programs in their jurisdiction that are in most need of review, directing both GAO and the Congressional Budget Office to review program portfolios—portfolios are groups of programs with

similar efforts. This has to be done on an ongoing basis.

But that is not all the bill would do. We also need to require CBO to review and report to Congress on the accuracy of its past projections and cost estimates, along with an annual plan outlining their efforts to enhance transparency. We need to make public the information underlying cost estimates of major legislation and reports related to the debt-to-GDP ratio agreed upon in the budget resolution. We need to require CBO to provide more information to help better understand the true costs of our actions by including projected interest costs in estimates for mandatory spending programs, revenue changes, and supplemental appropriations bills.

We need CBO to include 10 years of cost estimates for spending subject to appropriations, doubling the current practice of 5 years. We need to bring budget gimmicks into the light. CBO would have to produce public estimates of appropriations legislation that include the costs associated with doling out money before the revenue comes in. We should expose gimmicks like budget bait and switch.

In Washington, we like to say that “sunlight is the best disinfectant,” and that is true, but sunlight does far more than disinfect. It lights the way. Opening the books and reforming the budget process will help make us better equipped to face the enormous fiscal challenges looming just ahead.

AUSTRALIAN WILDFIRES

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, for over 100 years, Australia and the United States have enjoyed a mateship made possible by our mutual commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

After signing 1951's Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty, or ANZUS, Treaty, our two nations entered into a new level of cooperation on military matters; and for the past 15 years, we have shared our firefighting resources with one another.

In August 2018, over 100 Australian firefighters rushed to our aid as wildfires threatened to destroy communities in California, Oregon, and Washington.

When our Australian friends asked for support last year as they struggled to contain devastating bushfires, we were happy to return the favor.

I am especially pleased today to honor two Tennesseans who heard the cries for help and, in spite of the danger, asked, Where do I sign up?

Janan Hay Sharp, who serves with the Forest Service, and Tommy M. Barnes, who serves with the National Park Service, embody the values that set Tennesseans apart: bravery, compassion, and an eager willingness to lighten another's load.

This month, I was happy to support S. Res. 527, a resolution led by my friends Senator JOHN BARRASSO and

Senator BEN CARDIN recognizing the longstanding partnership between the United States and Australia and honoring firefighters like Janan and Tommy, who rushed toward the flames to save a friend in danger.

They are a rare breed indeed, and today, I encourage all Tennesseans to take a moment to reflect upon their bravery and their commitment to a very special ally.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ELEANOR ELKIN

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Eleanor Elkin, who passed away at the age of 103 on December 4, 2019. Eleanor served as one of Pennsylvania's most distinguished disability advocates. It is important that we remember a remarkable life dedicated to the betterment of others. Eleanor transformed the love for her family into a life of advocacy whose impact will be felt for decades to come.

Eleanor's commitment to equality was evident long before her time as one of Pennsylvania's most prominent disability rights leaders. Born in 1916 in Philadelphia, she graduated from Germantown High School in 1934 and married Philip Elkin in 1939. They raised two adopted children, Margo and Richard. Richard was born with a disability, and Eleanor came face to face with the discriminatory laws experienced by those with disabilities. The State of Pennsylvania did not realize, however, that it was about to confront a true fighter. Jim Wilson, former president of the Arc of the United States, said it best when he described Eleanor as “a white glove, tenacious fighter who would not accept ‘no’ for an answer.” That fighting spirit served Eleanor well when the State put up roadblocks to adopting Richard simply because he had a disability. When Richard was 2 years old, he was forcibly placed in a State-run institution. Eleanor went to court to get Richard back home. From that point on, she fought for his rights, beginning with a fight for him to attend preschool. At a time when it was common to deny children with disabilities access to education, Eleanor persuaded his elementary school to create a classroom for him and other children with disabilities.

The numerous obstacles faced by Richard convinced Eleanor to expand her advocacy beyond her family. She was among a group of parents who joined together and created The Arc of Philadelphia in 1948. She founded a mothers' support group in Bucks County, which became The Arc of Bucks County in the 1950's. She was integral to the development of The Arc of Pennsylvania, and became the organization's president in the 1960's. She went on to become president of The Arc of the United States in 1967 and 1968.

At a time when the norm was to force children with disabilities into in-

stitutions, Eleanor was a leader in the fight to bring people with disabilities into the community. She partnered with the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia to expand the rights of people with disabilities. She helped to win a significant victory in 1971 with the ruling in *PARC v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, which overturned a Pennsylvania law that permitted schools to deny public education to children with disabilities. This battle established the principles that eventually led to the Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975, which is now referred to as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Eleanor also joined forces with the Public Interest Law Center in one of the most consequential fights of her life, the closure of the Pennhurst State School and Hospital. Pennhurst was an institution in Pennsylvania for people with disabilities that was exposed in the 1960's as a center of abuse and neglect and which came to symbolize the shameful belief that people with disabilities should be isolated and hidden from view. Eleanor contributed her advocacy to the landmark 1974 case *Halderman v. Pennhurst*, which ruled that the constitutional rights of the residents of Pennhurst were being violated. This was a stark break from the common beliefs of the time which afforded people with disabilities little respect and even fewer rights. The case helped fuel the larger movement away from institutions and was an important step in the eventual closure of Pennhurst in 1987.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania and our grateful Nation, we extend our belated condolences to the family of Eleanor Elkin. Throughout her life, she fought for the dignity and well-being of people with disabilities. Whenever she saw injustice, she also saw an opportunity to make the world a better place. Celia Feinstein, director Emeritus of the Temple Institute on Disabilities, said that Eleanor was once asked how she would like to be remembered, and Eleanor replied simply that, “I don't know that I need to be remembered as much as I would want to know that what I've been doing [will] continue.” I have no doubt that thousands are ready to continue her work on behalf of people with disabilities. Pennsylvania and all of America are better places because of Eleanor's commitment and extraordinary efforts. We may have lost Eleanor Elkin, but we will never lose the positive change she brought to countless lives and the impact she had on disability policy in our country.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.