

of equal justice for all first came into the world.

I was touched to see that on June 22, 36 people became American citizens in the first naturalization ceremony held in Lincoln since February. This diverse group of people renounced their loyalty to their former countries and took an oath of allegiance to the United States. Family and friends in attendance brought homemade banners, red, white, and blue balloons, and other patriotic displays.

These 36 people, despite being citizens for only a few weeks, are just as American as you or me. And these new citizens chose to be Americans. They weren't born here, but they saw America for what it is: a shining city upon a hill, where our institutions, though they sometimes falter, strive to honor Jefferson's promise of God-given rights and equal treatment before the law for all citizens.

We are not perfect, but neither can we forget our founding purpose. The United States was the first nation in history to set this lofty standard for ourselves, and we remain its best example.

This Independence Day, as our country wrestles with both a pandemic and national unrest in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, I urge you to remember that we remain, as President Abraham Lincoln said during the Civil War, "the last best hope of earth."

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MARNY XIONG

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the life of Marny Xiong, who served as chair of the St. Paul school board and was a beloved member of the community taken from us too soon on June 7, 2020. As one person put it, Marny wasn't just well-liked, she was well-loved.

Those who knew Marny best described her as someone with a joyful spirit who was great at making other people laugh. Mayor Melvin Carter of St. Paul may have said it best when he noted that she "embodied our city's spirit, gave her heart to our students, and worked tirelessly to uplift the voices of the unheard."

The daughter of Hmong refugees whose parents fled Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand before arriving in Minnesota, Marny and her eight siblings grew up in St. Paul and attended St. Paul public schools. Her father earned a high school diploma as an adult, opening career opportunities for him and showing Marny firsthand the value of education and hard work.

Marny Xiong represented the best of us, driven by a simple mission to do good and to give back. As the chair of the St. Paul School Board, she demanded equity for her students—and fought for justice for all people across

our State. During the Covid-19 pandemic that sadly took her life, she took on the fight against hate crimes against Asian Americans and hateful rhetoric about the virus. She stood up against these acts of hate that threatened the lives and dignity of so many in Minnesota.

Marny led St. Paul's school board and Asian American elected officials in condemning xenophobia and denouncing racism, saying: "While they brew hate, we're building a powerful movement for change." Marny understood that there are more students to help, more teachers to respect, more communities to support, and more justice to deliver. Marny wasn't afraid or intimidated to take on these challenges. She was resolute and determined to enlighten those who engage in the politics of fear and division. That is Marny's legacy and what we have inherited from her.

Marny Xiong is a role model and an inspiration and will be sorely missed, but as we mourn her loss today, tomorrow we can honor Marny's legacy by building on the movement to which she committed her life, a movement to see a better, more just, vision of our communities and our country, Marny's movement.

Thank you.●

RECOGNIZING AMWAT MOVING WAREHOUSING STORAGE

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. Today, it is my distinct honor to recognize a family-owned business that not only provides excellent moving, warehousing, and storage services but also prioritizes dignified work for its employees. This week, it is my pleasure to honor AMWAT Moving Warehousing Storage of Tallahassee, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

AMWAT was founded in 1997 by college sweethearts Dean and Gloria Pugh in Tallahassee, FL. After helping several friends move residences, the couple realized they had the potential to start their own business. Initially named "A Man With A Truck," the business started as a one-man operation consisting of a pick-up truck and trailer operating out of Dean's spare bedroom. Soon after, A Man With a Truck moved into a small warehouse, hired six employees and acquired three moving trucks.

In 2008, Dean and Gloria acquired the largest, oldest moving company in the Tallahassee area and rebranded as AMWAT Moving Warehousing Storage. AMWAT has grown to include 26 employees and a 13-truck fleet. They provide long-term storage, handle shipping for local businesses, and provide shipping services nationwide. Gloria serves as president and chief executive officer and Dean is the chief operating officer.

AMWAT's high-quality work has earned awards from business groups, including the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, the Tally Awards, Angie's List, and Wheaton World Wide Moving. Dean and Gloria are also active in the American Moving and Storage Association and the Professional Movers Association of Florida.

From the beginning, Dean and Gloria have understood that providing dignified work is crucial to personal and community development. Through training, mentorship, and teamwork, they encourage their employees to feel a sense of ownership in the company and take pride in their work. At AMWAT, the employees are the most valued asset.

Locally, AMWAT is committed to addressing poverty, upward mobility, education, and the arts. Their signature charity event is the annual Summer Fill-a-Truck Food and Fund Drive, which benefits the Second Harvest of the Big Bend. They have also partnered with ECHO, Junior League of Tallahassee, and LeMoyné Arts.

Like many other small businesses, AMWAT experienced a sharp decline in revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic. When the U.S. Small Business Administration launched the Paycheck Protection Program, PPP, Gloria and Dean quickly applied. The PPP provides forgivable loans to impacted small businesses and nonprofits who maintain their payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. When their funding was approved, Gloria and Dean used it to keep their 26 employees paid and adapt their business procedures to meet public safety standards. For Gloria and Dean, the PPP was a "blessing" and a "godsend," providing the security needed to continue serving their customers, employees, and community.

AMWAT Moving Warehousing Storage is an outstanding example of the important role small businesses play in creating dignified work in their communities. I commend AMWAT for providing excellent moving, storage, and logistical services and uplifting their employees. Congratulations to Dean, Gloria, and the entire team at AMWAT. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD some of the finalist essays written by Vermont High School students as part of the 10th annual "State of the Union" essay contest conducted by my office.

The material follows:

SAMUEL DOOLEY, MILTON HIGH SCHOOL,
SENIOR

The country that we live in today is plagued with fundamental problems. Ranging from political corruption to an inefficient healthcare system, yet the single most important issue facing our country today is nationwide environmental neglect. Without

extreme actions being taken immediately, more irreversible damage will be done.

In 2018, the United States emitted 6.5 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This is an estimated 8.8% more than 1990. Between 1990 and 2010, the United States lost 949,750 acres of forest on average per year. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that 1.9 million gallons of oil are spilled into U.S. oceans every year.

Current studies show that the effects of climate change are more severe and are moving faster than was formerly predicted. What needs to happen is large scale environmental programs with legal incentives such as tax breaks, as well as punishments for not adhering to the plans like jail time and loss of government funding or subsidies. The most accurate proposal of recent years is the Green New Deal. This proposal called for a World War 2 type mobilization of the country to achieve 100% clean energy by 2030. This plan also looked to better the economy by creating jobs in sustainable industries, unlike jobs currently involved in fossil fuel industries, as well as investing in renewable public transportation and clean organic agriculture. The first step to combating climate change would be to immediately adopt this proposal, yet in March of 2019 the proposal was rejected by a Republican controlled Senate.

The very first step that should be taken is the readmittance of the U.S. into the Paris Climate Agreement. It is the duty of the United States to set an example for the rest of the world about how to combat climate change. An important idea is to make environmental agencies as nonpartisan as possible, similar to the NLRB where the members consist of nearly equal Republicans as well as Democrats at all times. This would ensure that decisions are made based on science instead of based on party ties and political affiliations.

The most important goal being to make the United States completely carbon neutral. A plan for most, if not all, energy produced to come from clean sources would be necessary to achieving that goal. Another necessity would be the implementation of programs designed to restore forests and wildlife. This would mean increased regulation on logging industries as well as oil industries. With an increased punishment for violating these regulations. These initiatives would be able to transition Americans losing their jobs in fossil fuel industries into clean energy industries, which would be a sustainable alternative. Green jobs would have higher job security than fossil fuels due to the fact that there is a finite amount of coal and oil available to be extracted, once the planet no longer has these resources available all of these millions of workers will lose their jobs with no replacement. With a program like the Green New Deal, these workers will have jobs that do not have an expiration date. It is important to remember that those first and most heavily affected by this crisis, are people with lower incomes. This is not only an environmental issue, but also a human rights issue.

It is up to all of us now to be able to preserve this planet and create a stable system which will allow all generations moving forward to prosper in a healthy environment.

MEREDITH JACKSON, BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, FRESHMAN

One issue in Vermont that doesn't get enough recognition is the cost of eating healthy. It isn't affordable for many, and the expenses can even discourage people to eat healthily. If the prices are discouraging people to eat healthily, then they might resort to unhealthy foods because they are cheaper and in more of the average price range for most.

Healthy Living and City Market both have a goal to provide local farm-fresh produce including prep items for healthy, nourishing, meals, and a selection of ingredients to cook vegan or gluten-free meals. Healthy living and City Market are great in that they provide fresh local produce, and for the quality that it is the prices make sense. On the Healthy Living website, the price for a container of raspberries can range anywhere from \$4.29–\$5.69. That may not seem like a lot but at McDonald's, you can get an entire meal for that much. That is just what many people choose to do, resort to cheaper options such as fast food.

Unlike fresh produce and wholegrain-rich foods, fast food is quick, easy, and very cheap, making it ideal for people who can't afford to shop at places like city Market or Healthy living.

According to Gallup, 80% of Americans eat fast food on at least a monthly basis, and 96% of Americans eat fast food annually. Fast food isn't bad unless a person has it often, say at least once a week. Eating unhealthy foods, too often, can cause people to become overweight or even obese. Over 99,000,000 adults in the U.S. are overweight and over 70,000,000 are obese.

Obesity can cause many health issues that could have been prevented if that person were of a healthy weight. Some risks include high blood pressure, diabetes, gout, breathing problems, such as sleep apnea and asthma, Gallbladder disease and gallstones, Osteoarthritis, Heart disease, stroke, and even cancer. Maintaining a healthy weight and lifestyle will reduce the risk of many of these health problems.

It's not guaranteed that people become obese overtime because healthy food is too expensive, eating unhealthily isn't the only factor that causes obesity, but it could very well be. If healthier foods were cheaper, it would be an option for more people and would encourage them to eat healthier reducing the risk of obesity. Having the availability of healthy meals is important.

A healthy diet is beneficial to your everyday life in so many ways. Some benefits to eating healthy are a maintained/healthy weight, reduced risk of chronic illnesses such as cardiovascular disease and cancer, more energy, and an increase in happiness. Also, a recent study has proven that having a diet consisting of plenty of fruits and vegetables and limits highly processed food, can reduce certain signs of depression.

This issue is very real and very important but thinking up solutions to this problem can be quite the challenge. There are a few solutions that seem doable and not too far-fetched or unrealistic.

First, expanding the fresh produce area in stores like Hannafords to give more options and kind of push out some of the unhealthy, overly processed items in the store. This wouldn't necessarily make it less expensive but having more options might encourage people to shop in that section more often.

Second, doing some more advertising for the Farm Share Program. The Farm Share Program provides limited-income Vermonters with access to high-quality produce on a weekly basis. The program helps hundreds of families get access to a season's worth of farm-fresh produce by reducing the cost of the shares. The program itself is already a solution to this problem, but I feel like advertising would be good because it would inform more people that they have that option. All they have to do is sign up.

Third, and last, is more of something people could do themselves or with a group of people, but people could start their own gardens or start a larger neighborhood garden. This would provide people with plenty of

fresh fruits and vegetables. All they would have to do is chip in a little hard work and time, then they could have all the free produce that was grown.

Eating healthy is expensive because a lot of work goes into growing, and getting, that local farm-fresh produce into stores. Farmers spend countless hours growing the crops from which it all comes from, people need to pick, sort, and wash everything, then, there is packaging and delivering. The list goes on. Another part is due to the fact that it is high quality, locally grown, and fresh. A lot of money goes into providing it, so a lot of money needs to be made in order for them to keep providing the produce to stores for everyone. The problem is big, the solutions are limited, but something needs to be done in order to provide farm-fresh products to the people of Vermont at a more reasonable and affordable price.

CALEB MATOSKY, RICE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

As citizens of one of the wealthiest nations in the world, we have an inherent responsibility to set an example for others to follow. America has failed to take action and address what is perhaps the greatest threat our world has faced since the beginning of recorded history: climate change. If Americans continue to deny its effects, the future of our country will be put into jeopardy. Rising sea levels, more severe weather events, rampant wildfires, devastating droughts, and disappearing winters are just a few of the effects of climate change we are already experiencing. Skeptics and deniers might argue that America is taking enough action to fight global warming: this sort of lazy and selfish thinking is what has caused the American people and our government to allow climate change to occur uninhibited until the very end of the last century. If our government does not make drastic changes within the next several years, America as we know it could be forever changed. We have the money, we have the ability to implement changes, and all that remains is for lawmakers to place the future of our planet over their allegiance to fossil fuels.

I propose widespread legislation to ensure that America is powered by 80% renewable energy by 2030, which would be a large step in the right direction for the future of our planet. We need to penalize those who profit off of destroying the environment through fossil fuels, as these energy producers produce more emissions per day than many people produce in a year. Through new laws which put a price on CO2 emissions, and government tax relief for those who produce renewable power, we can work to rid the earth of harmful coal burning. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, coal fueled power generation produces 1.15 billion tons of CO2 each year. It is also the most carbon rich fossil fuel, producing 2.5 tons of CO2 per ton of coal burned. Despite this, coal is still being used as the primary source of energy in America. This needs to change. Additionally, we need to take action to crack down on other nations who disregard the state of the world's climate, and ensure that nations such as China and India take responsibility for their role in the issue.

The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world, and if only a fraction of our military budget was used to invest in the future of our environment, the future of younger generations and the future of our species as a whole we might be able to prevent many of climate change's worst effects. There is no time left to wait, or to deny the challenges before us: we must take urgent action and do everything we can to lower CO2 emissions before it is too late.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4412, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President Pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, July 1, 2020, he has signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 4091. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for fiscal year 2020 for increased payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, and for other purposes.

At 5:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 4116. An act to extend the authority for commitments for the paycheck protection program and separate amounts authorized for other loans under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7440. An act to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons involved in the erosion of certain obligations of China with respect to Hong Kong, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 1, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 4091. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for fiscal year 2020 for increased payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, and for other purposes.

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-4937. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4938. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Conditional Approval and Disapproval; Arizona; Maricopa County; Power Plants, Fuel Burning Equipment, and Internal Combustion Engines" (FRL No. 10009-81-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4939. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 10010-73-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4940. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Jefferson County Performance Tests" (FRL No. 10010-78-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4941. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Revisions; California; Technical Amendments" (FRL No. 10011-00-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4942. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality State Implementation Plan Approval; Nevada; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 10011-07-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4943. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Redesignation of the Inland Sheboygan, Wisconsin Area to Attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standards" (FRL No. 10011-17-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4944. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department and Pima County Department of Environmental Quality" (FRL No. 10011-25-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on

June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4945. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Miscellaneous Permit Provisions Revisions" (FRL No. 10011-31-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4946. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Negative Declaration for the Oil and Gas Industry; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule" (FRL No. 10011-42-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4947. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; Connecticut; Determination of Clean Data for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Greater Connecticut Area" (FRL No. 10011-52-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4948. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Long-Chain Perfluoroalkyl Carboxylate and Perfluoroalkyl Sulfonate Chemical Substances" (FRL No. 10010-44-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4949. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning amendments to Part 126 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4950. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, a report concerning a final rule that removes Department regulations that govern the obsolete Walsh Visa Program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4951. A communication from the Board of Trustees, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2020 Annual Report on the Financial Status of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance System; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4952. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Actuarial Report Required by Section 22 of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 and Section 502 of the Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4953. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4954. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.