

government's response to Cyclone Nargis; U Gambira, a young Buddhist monk who was sentenced to 68 years in prison including 12 years of hard labor for playing a key role in the 2007 demonstrations which became known as the Saffron Revolution; Ma Su Su Nway, a prominent labor rights activist who was sentenced to 12½ years in prison for criticizing the government during the 2007 demonstrations; and Min Ko Kaing, a 46-year-old activist who has spent 17 of the past 20 years in prison, most of it in solitary confinement, for his political beliefs.

At a time when the regime is intent on moving forward with new elections based on a constitution that was drafted behind closed doors and would entrench the military as the country's dominant political force, it is important for us to remember that there are those in Burma who have a different vision.

These brave activists deserve our admiration and respect. More importantly, they deserve to know that we stand in solidarity with them and we will not rest and we will not remain silent until they are free.

I urge my colleagues to read the report and to once again call on the ruling State Peace and Development Council to release all political prisoners and begin a true dialogue on national reconciliation in Burma.

SAFE STREETS CAMPAIGN

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Safe Streets Campaign of Pierce County, WA.

Twenty years ago, Pierce County residents from all walks of life banded together to form the Safe Streets Campaign and to demonstrate the willpower and strength needed to take back their streets from a plague of drug- and gang-related violence and to improve the quality of life in Pierce County.

Over the next two decades, the Safe Streets Campaign has shown itself to be an effective citizen-led initiative to pressing community problems. It has organized over 250,000 residents throughout Pierce County to fight crime, substance abuse, and youth violence in partnership with local law enforcement, State and local government, community-based organizations, faith-based groups, businesses, Native American Tribes, schools, and youth.

For example, Safe Streets established the Youth Leading Change Initiative in Pierce County high schools to empower young people to lead efforts to address the problems of youth substance abuse and violence. These young people engage their peers and community members in a number of valuable ways. They march against violence. They work to reduce blight in high-risk communities. They engage in peer education on the dangers of youth substance abuse. And they work with Washington State lawmakers to craft

innovative solutions to these social problems. I have met with many of these young leaders and been impressed with the work that they do.

The proactive community and neighborhood involvement by the Safe Streets Campaign and similar organizations improves the quality of life for families and helps provide a safe environment to raise and educate our children. Its work has led to lower crime rates, reduced 911 emergency calls, helped close thousands of drug houses, sustained ongoing graffiti removal, supported recovering addicts and healthy neighborhoods, and helped youth involved with gangs choose a life of hope rather than a life of crime.

Safe Streets is a shining example of citizen initiative where communities stand up for themselves and take their neighborhoods back from the control of drug pushers, gang members, and associated violence. It has been sustained over the past 20 years through a mix of State, Federal, and local government funding and corporate and individual donor support.

I commend the staff, founders, board of directors, and volunteers of the Safe Streets Campaign of Pierce County for the dedication that has fueled this community initiative from the beginning, and I congratulate them as they celebrate 20 years of commitment to safe communities.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship favorably reported out the President's nominations of Dr. Winslow Lorenzo Sargeant to serve as chief counsel for advocacy and Ms. Peggy Elizabeth Gustafson to serve as inspector general of the Small Business Administration.

I am pleased that President Obama nominated such talented individuals to top positions at the SBA. Their confirmation will make the SBA much closer to having an exceptional leadership team in place.

As chief counsel for advocacy, Dr. Winslow Sargeant will bring a unique background to this very important position. With a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in electrical engineering and a background as a very successful small business owner, he is not only well-educated, but well-educated about the challenges facing small businesses today.

He is currently the managing director of Venture Investors, a Midwest venture capital company with a concentration on starting up health care and technology companies. From 2001 to 2005, he served as a program manager for SBIR in electronics at the National Science Foundation. He has also worked at IBM as a staff engineer, at AT&T as technical staff, and as an associate adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

As the current general counsel for Senator CLAIRE MCCASKILL, whose in-

terest in and knowledge of oversight issues is well known and respected in the Senate, Ms. Peggy Gustafson is an excellent nominee for inspector general of the SBA. She received her J.D. at Northwestern University and, before working as general counsel for Senator MCCASKILL here in Washington, Ms. Gustafson worked for her when the Senator was the prosecutor for Jackson County, MO, as well as when she was the Missouri State Auditor.

With capable leaders like Dr. Sargeant and Ms. Gustafson at the helm, we are hopeful the agency will be more ready than ever to play an important role in assisting small businesses as they continue to lead this country to an economic recovery. We look forward to working with them and to a new era for the SBA and American small businesses.

REMEMBERING BELLE ACKERMAN LIPMAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I wish today to remember the life of an extraordinary woman.

Belle Ackerman Lipman passed away at her home in Memphis, TN, on Aug. 17, 2009, in the 100th year of her remarkable life. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, Mrs. Lipman is a model for all of us who hope to live life fully and for all the years granted us.

A daughter of Romanian immigrants, Belle Ackerman was born in 1910 in Philadelphia, where her parents owned a general store. Just five blocks away from the store lived young Mark Lipman, who would become the love of Belle's life. The businessman and his young wife moved not long after their marriage to Little Rock, AR, where Mark saw new business opportunities, and then in 1958 to Memphis, TN. There, Belle Lipman became a pillar of the community. Her work in civic affairs was extensive, including service as a trustee with the Simon Wiesenthal Center. She was president of the Little Rock chapter of Hadassah, the worldwide Jewish women's organization, among a host of endeavors in charity, service, and the arts.

But it is not those remarkable accomplishments alone that made Belle Lipman such a special woman. As years passed, her zest for life, for new experience, and to learn of new cultures grew apace. A lifelong interest in travel made her one of the first American citizens to travel to China after diplomatic relations with that Nation were reestablished in 1979. Her travels took her to a hot-air balloon over the plains of Kenya, the rivers of the Amazon, and the ancient cities of Peru. She rode the Orient Express at the age of 87. At 92, she crossed the Arctic Circle. At 95, she visited the mountains of Tibet and a host of other places. At her 95th birthday party, she celebrated the only way she knew how, with verve by dancing the Charleston.

Belle Lipman was a model—a model of how to live life to the fullest and