

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would say to my distinguished friend from Wisconsin, I was delighted to hear those words about Gaylord Nelson. I had the privilege of serving for a term with Senator NELSON. He was down-to-earth, respected by all in this body, and he had a commitment to the environment rarely ever matched. The Senator from Wisconsin has said it far more eloquently than I could. But I think how fortunate we are that we have this Senator from Wisconsin who has carried out that commitment to the environment, that commitment to the best ideals of our government. I know our dear, departed friend Gaylord Nelson would be so proud to have the Senator here representing Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, let me thank the Senator from Vermont for his kind words, for his remembering Gaylord Nelson, and, of course, for the incredible legacy of his own for the environment, coming from one of the most beautiful States in this country, Vermont. I thank him.

#### 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we teach our children that genocide, wherever it occurs, is a crime against humanity that must never be tolerated or ignored. That is why it is so important for the United States to always recognize genocide for what it is and acknowledge when it takes place.

Between 1915 and 1923, the Ottoman Empire carried out genocide against the Armenian people. However, the United States has yet to recognize this stain on history by its rightful name despite an irrefutable body of evidence documenting the atrocities.

Diplomats, members of the military, humanitarians, journalists and others from the United States and around the world saw with their own eyes the deportation, starvation, drowning and murder of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians. And there are countless testimonies from victims who lived to tell of their experiences.

The American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, wrote:

When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact.

There were great efforts made by Americans to relieve the suffering of the victims of what would become the first genocide of the 20th century. Powerful leaders of industry and government did speak out. Schoolchildren and poor families contributed mightily to try to save lives by donating whatever they could. American farmers sent food to reduce starvation.

Yet in the 95 years since the Armenian Genocide began, the word "genocide" has not been used by the United States to describe the atrocities carried out against the Armenians.

The United States has always been a beacon to the world—standing up for what is right and just. Now is the time for the United States to join countries such as Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, and more than 40 U.S. States and unequivocally affirm the Armenian Genocide.

#### TRIBUTE TO RITA McCAFFREY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a distinguished and giving Vermonter will be retiring after nearly 40 years of working on behalf of Vermont's prisoners and former prisoners. Rita Whalen McCaffrey is stepping down in May as the Executive Director of Dismas of Vermont, a residential program that helps former prisoners transition and reintegrate into society. Opened in Burlington in 1986, Dismas of Vermont has grown to provide supportive housing in three homes and three satellite apartments in the Burlington and Rutland communities, and has served more than a thousand men and women in the past 25 years.

Rita has engaged hundreds of Vermonters from all walks of life through the years to actively participate in the Mission of Dismas: to reconcile former prisoners with society and society with former prisoners through participation in a supportive family-like community. The Dismas model Rita founded in Vermont is powered by volunteers who cook and share the evening meal, choose to live in the community with the residents, and participate as active board members. The act of mutual reconciliation happens because community members come into the home and become a part of the Dismas family.

Rita's strong commitment to building and encouraging community support for former prisoners exemplifies the charitable spirit that has made Vermont one of the best places in the country to live. Her efforts have changed the direction of many lives and encouraged many to work towards reconciliation and respect. By steering former prisoners away from crime and toward a more constructive path, her work has also made the community a safer and better place to live. She leaves a legacy that is as inspiring as it is impressive, and her successor will have large shoes to fill.

As she moves on from a career path that began in 1974, I congratulate Rita for her invaluable service and leadership and I wish her a happy retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM TORTOLANO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of my fondest memories of my undergraduate days at St. Michael's college was getting to know both Dr. William Tortolano and his extremely accomplished wife Martha.

I could tell many stories about the Tortolanos and the times they were also part of the Leahy family. I would rather let a story in the Burlington Free Press about his retirement after a 50-year career at St. Michael's speak for me, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, April 20, 2010]

#### ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE PROFESSOR DEPARTS WITH CONCERT

(By Matt Sutkoski)

St. Michael's College emeritus professor William Tortolano has made big, varied contributions to the school in his 50-year career there.

He's taught humanities and music, directed the chorus, gave and organized countless performances, and even designed the organ in St. Michael's chapel.

So it stands to reason his going-away gift to the community is just as varied.

The free concert at 7:30 p.m. today in the chapel will feature his beloved organ, even more beloved family members, the Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola, the St. Michael's College Chorale and a wide range of musical selections.

Tortolano, 80, is founder and first chairman of the St. Michael's College fine arts department. He also founded the St. Michael's Chorale and was its director for 28 years.

Music extends deeply into his personal life. He married a musician, his three children are accomplished musicians and his grandchildren are headed in the same direction, he said. "They were not forced into it, obviously. This was something they wanted to do," Tortolano said.

Tonight's concert will feature two of his children, and a grandson, a senior majoring in music at Boston College and a cellist.

Tortolano said he had some experience with organ design because he took a course on the subject while at the New England Conservatory of Music, and he has always been interested in the instrument.

He designed the organ for the Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel with the structure's acoustics in mind. "It has to fit the acoustics, the reverberations. You don't buy it at Walmart or anything," he said.

He completed the organ's design in 1962; the chapel opened in 1964; and the organ was installed in 1966, he said. At the time, it cost \$13,500, which in today's dollars would be more than \$97,000, according to the Consumer Price Index inflation calculator. That's not particularly expensive for a custom-made organ, he said.

St. Michael's College's student body was strictly male when Tortolano joined the faculty. He was in charge of the chorus, but as more women became students, he created a new St. Michael's Chorale in 1970, when the college became co-ed and eventually disbanded the all-male group.

Tortolano said the Chorale is among his best memories of his career. True, he performed for the Pope, and at Notre Dame, and Cambridge University. But he said he takes great joy in remaining in touch with past Chorale members and attending reunions.

This semester, Tortolano is teaching humanities, but this will be his last year, and the concert is his official retirement.

He won't just sit back. "I feel very good, and I keep very busy," he said. He'll continue in music; he'll do workshops and recitals. And, Tortolano says, he'll look back fondly at his five decades at St. Michael's.