

Ignoring and denying abuse and accountability delays the progress of nation building and the creation of the stable, multiethnic democracy it seeks.

A truly independent international investigation with credible accountability will give Sri Lanka the ability to reconcile its past and build a peaceful future. The people of Sri Lanka deserve to know the truth.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET HAGEMAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, it is fitting that Harriet Hageman will be inducted into the 2011 Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Harriet is known across Wyoming and across our Nation as a stalwart promoter and defender of agriculture. With this honor, she is following in the footsteps of her father Jim Hageman, who was previously inducted in the Agriculture Hall of fame in 2002.

Harriet comes from a long history of agricultural producers. Her great grandfather homesteaded in Wyoming in 1879 and her parents bought their first ranch near Fort Laramie in 1961. Harriet grew up on the family's cattle ranches in the Fort Laramie area. Rather than pursuing a career in agriculture, she earned a law degree from the University of Wyoming. Yet she did not stray from the agriculture industry. Much of her legal practice has been focused on protecting agriculture's land, water, and natural resources. She uses her Ag background coupled with her fine mind to effectively argue on behalf of Wyoming's ranchers and farmers in courtrooms at all levels of the judiciary.

A few of her many accomplishments should be noted. Harriet was the lead attorney for the State of Wyoming in protecting its share of the North Platte River. She fought the USDA to protect Wyoming's access to national forest lands. She successfully defended Wyoming's Open Range Law before the Wyoming Supreme Court. Her clients include ranchers, farmers, irrigation districts and grazing permittees. Harriet represents them with a passion that can only come from love of agriculture.

I have had the honor of working with Harriet Hageman and have benefitted from her wisdom. I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Harriet on this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO NIELS HANSEN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, at Wyoming's State Fair, I will have the honor of inducting Niels Hansen into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Forty-eight percent of Wyoming's 97,100 square miles are managed by the Federal Government. Often, a Wyoming ranch will consist of a checkerboard of public and private lands. Running a profitable ranch, while negotiating various Federal and State regulations, is a challenge. However, Niels Hansen has done just that operating

the PH Livestock Company. Niels is known as the public lands ranching leader of Wyoming. He has dedicated himself to building relationships with Federal land managers. He creates partnerships and opens lines of communication with fellow ranchers and government agencies. According to my friend, Wyoming Stock Growers Association vice president Jim Magana, Niels is highly recognized for his relentless efforts to maintain sustainable public land ranching.

Niels' efforts not only benefit his four-generation Wyoming ranch, he is also an asset to agriculturalists across Wyoming. He has worked closely with the Bureau of Land Management's, BLM, field office range staff and has been a State leader on agreements in conjunction with the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the Wyoming State Grazing Board. Realizing that energy is the backbone of Wyoming's economy, Niels has brought oil and gas developers to the table.

Anna Helm, Niels' sister and ranch partner, said, "Many ranchers have come to depend upon his insightful wisdom, understanding of the issues and willing leadership to help them through difficult times of their own."

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Niels Hansen, the 2011 inductee into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Wyoming lands—both public and private—are better because of his service.

NIORRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Centennial of Niobrara County, WY.

The residents of Niobrara County are fortunate to live in such a timeless and scenic place. Nearly 2,500 residents live in the communities of Lusk, Manville, Lance Creek, and Van Tassel. Its many natural wonders that fill the landscape make Niobrara one of the top places to visit in the State. Part of the county includes land set aside and known as the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. This area provides a valuable habitat for Wyoming's wildlife and numerous recreation opportunities for its residents. Two rivers, the Cheyenne and the Niobrara, run through the county and can be credited for creating rich, fertile soil in the area.

Although Niobrara County is one of the smallest counties in the State, it certainly has one of the most fascinating histories. The county boasts a wide array of prehistoric dinosaur fossils at its premier Spanish Diggings site. Several rare artifacts have been found and are displayed in national exhibits. The region also saw heavy traffic from Native Americans who used the grasslands as prime hunting and camping areas. Members of the Lakota Sioux, the Cheyenne, and the Kiowa tribes settled in the area many years ago.

With the great westward expansion came the greater urbanization of the

West. Niobrara County was not immune from such development—instead, it embraced the changes. The grassland area of the county became a popular area for fur traders, homesteaders, and other emigrants caught in the throes of gold rush excitement. One popular stage stop, Running Water, was located along the banks of the Niobrara River and was used by several travelers as a spot to rest and refuel. The Cheyenne-Deadwood Stage Route, which traveled the length of the county, provided important transport of freight, gold, and passengers. This important route and the additional stage lines which passed through were essential to the development of the county.

Today, the residents of Niobrara County have capitalized on that industrious spirit. Thanks to the temperate climate and the fertile soil in the Powder River Basin, Niobrara County's primary industry is agriculture. The county's farmers consistently produce profitable crops like grain, wheat, and beans, and its ranchers work diligently in livestock production. The county's vast mineral resources played a key role in the county's robust economy. Several minerals and precious metals have been discovered and mined in the grasslands of Niobrara County. Both gold and silver were discovered and mined in the early days of settlement. Later, uranium was discovered near Lusk, a discovery which sparked a statewide boom in uranium drilling. Finally, the discovery of oil in Lance Creek was perhaps the most profitable of all mineral extraction. During World War II, Lance Creek was one of the country's important oil rigs, producing vast amounts of oil needed for the American war effort.

It is an honor to help the residents of Niobrara County celebrate their 100th anniversary. I invite my colleagues to visit this enterprising community in person. The residents of Niobrara County should be proud to present this heritage to visitors from all over the world.

UCON, IDAHO

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the centennial anniversary of the founding of the city of Ucon, ID. On August 13, 2011, the citizens of Ucon will gather at Simmons Park to commemorate its 100th year and unveil a monument to its founders. This is a very historic and special day for this community.

Once a barren wilderness, the city of Ucon is an example of the Western spirit and determination in making the desert bloom. First colonized in 1884 by George Simmons, early settlers were confronted with challenging terrain. Despite the harsh conditions, the settlement quickly grew. Within 13 years, a church, school, amusement hall, and several dozen homes were built. In 1898, the power of steam and iron transformed the town with the introduction

of the Oregon Short Line Railroad. In order to take greater advantage of commercial opportunities provided by the railroad, the main town site was moved a mile west. Within a decade several businesses sprang up around the railroad tracks and the community began to take shape. On April 16, 1911, it was officially incorporated as the city of Ucon.

In the ensuing decades, changes in the railroad and the effects of the Great Depression transitioned Ucon from a commercial hub to a residential community. Today, many in southeastern Idaho can trace their roots to the pioneers and patriots who settled Ucon. Congratulations to the people of Ucon for 100 years of success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUSTICE DOUGLAS GRAY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I honor the memory of the late Douglas Gray, a former New Hampshire Superior Court justice and an extraordinary public servant who dedicated his life to serving the Granite State.

Originally from Portsmouth, Justice Gray moved at the age of seven to Rye, where he resided for the remainder of his life. He graduated from Portsmouth High School and served his country in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1954. After graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 1959, he earned his juris doctor from Boston College Law School, and went on to pursue a successful career practicing law in Portsmouth. During 1973–1983, he served as part-time special justice in the New Hampshire District Court system.

In 1983, he was appointed by Governor John H. Sununu to serve as associate justice of the New Hampshire Superior Court, where he presided until 1998. He was then elected to serve as a senior justice and presided on a part-time basis until his retirement in 2003.

As a judge, Justice Gray possessed exceptional intelligence and a deep respect for upholding the rule of law. And as a prosecutor, I had the privilege of trying cases before him. In fact, I tried my first murder case before Justice Gray. He was tough, but always fair, and I know that I and many of my peers in the New Hampshire bar learned a great deal from him. I deeply admired his integrity and his principled dedication to the law.

With Justice Gray's passing, New Hampshire has lost a devoted public servant and Rye has lost a beloved member of the community. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Cornelia and his entire family. At this sad time, we celebrate his life—grateful to have known a person who exemplified the very best of New Hampshire's tradition of public service.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH CONKLIN LANIER, II

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today, August 2, 2011, I wish to thank Joseph Conklin LaNier, II for his service to the United States of America as a member of the U.S. Navy during World War II, and for choosing to make Colorado his home. His has been a life of service for Colorado and for all Americans.

A native Southerner, Mr. LaNier was among the first African Americans to serve in the Navy with the rating of seaman, before President Truman signed the Executive order that desegregated the Armed Forces. He fought with the 23rd Special CB, "Seabee", unit, a part of the 3rd Marine Division, in some of the most horrific battles of the South Pacific.

I had the honor of meeting Mr. LaNier this past week during his visit to Washington, DC, with The Greatest Generations Foundation, a Colorado nonprofit organization that organizes trips for WWII veterans to return to locations where they have served.

We can all learn from Mr. LaNier. He entered the Armed Forces at the age of 17 in order to help support his family and serve his country. He served bravely from 1944 to 1946, supporting operations in Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and achieved a rank not commonly held by African Americans at the time.

Upon returning home from the war and finding strict laws and practices of segregation still in place throughout the South, Mr. LaNier followed the advice of his father regarding the importance of education as the primary tool for bettering one's future, and finished high school. With the aid of the G.I. bill, he enrolled in the Pharmacy School at Xavier University in New Orleans and took heavy course loads to make sure he completed his degree in 4 years. Despite the challenges of segregation, he studied and succeeded in his career, while keeping a constructive attitude, a trait he attributes to the teachings of his father.

Mr. LaNier is a role model for the many servicemembers who reside in Colorado and the veterans who elect to make Colorado their home after serving in the Armed Forces. His story exemplifies the successful transition that many returning veterans have made from active duty to civilian life.

Although he is a native of the South, and has traveled to a number of locations in the United States, it struck me as interesting that, out of all the places he traveled while in the Navy, Mr. LaNier chose to make Denver, CO, his home. In his autobiographical essay, "My War on Two Fronts," LaNier recalls that during a period of leave, he had a stopover in Denver, where in a relatively brief period of time, the State showed him its character. A White female clerk at a drugstore seemed to sense his hesitation about sitting down, and invited him to take a seat and enjoy his ice cream. Later, when visiting a local movie the-

atre, he was surprised and delighted to find that there was no sign directing him to sit in segregated seating in the balcony. Mr. LaNier felt so welcomed by our State that he decided to make Colorado his home after the Navy. Following his graduation from pharmacy school, he moved to Denver and worked in pharmacies and in hospitals, and eventually opened up his own drugstore. Mr. LaNier found that, in Colorado, his voice could be heard on critical issues of the day, including the fight for fair housing measures to end discrimination in housing. Today, Mr. LaNier and his wife of more than 50 years, Eula Inez Long, continue to make Colorado their home.

Mr. President and all other Members here today, please join me in honoring the life and continued work of Joseph Conklin LaNier, II. A man who, despite all the discrimination he faced, is proud to be an American. A man who, despite returning home after the war and being denied his right to vote while wearing his uniform, is proud of his distinguished service in the Navy. A man who recognizes that even in the face of adversity, one can find a way forward and help our country to become a better place, a more perfect union. For his perseverance, hope, service and patriotism, I thank and commend Joseph LaNier, a great citizen of Colorado.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL SANDOVAL

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, on behalf of all Coloradans, I want to recognize the extraordinary character and lifetime achievements of Colorado native Paul Sandoval. His far-reaching accomplishments—from civil rights to community organizing to business and to his passion, education—show an unwavering commitment to making Colorado a better place, and reflect, in noblest form, the enterprising spirit of the West.

I am sad to tell my colleagues that Paul has contracted locally advanced pancreatic cancer, and the Sandoval family is going through a difficult time now. And as he struggles to beat this terrible disease—and we need him to prevail—I cannot help but be reminded of all he has achieved in life, and all the social change he has helped bring about. To honor Paul and his many contributions, I would like to share a few moments from his life.

Paul and his wife Paula have for decades run a tamale shop in Denver—La Casita—that has served as the city's unofficial epicenter of political activity. According to Wellington Webb, the former Denver mayor whom Sandoval first met while the two worked delivering groceries, Paul could always be found "holding court" at his restaurant with firemen and city officials.

"I'm just a lowly tamale maker," Sandoval has grown accustomed to saying. But his life suggests there is