

RECOGNIZING THE ANTI- DEFAMATION LEAGUE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in the aftermath of September 11, Americans found strength in each other and in our common values. At a time when polarization and division seem to characterize the public debate on many of the important issues confronting our Nation, including terrorism and border security, the 10th anniversary of September 11 has been an occasion for us to reflect and refocus on the core values that unite us as Americans, including the belief that each person should be free to live without persecution, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.

It is in that spirit that I wish today to recognize the work of the Anti-Defamation League; which has carried out important work in opposition to the anti-Semitic sentiments of those promoting September 11 conspiracy theories. As we mark the 10th anniversary of September 11, we must strongly condemn the anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that blame Jews or Israel for carrying out the September 11 terrorist attacks that continue to this day.

The ADL also plays an important role in addressing the consequences of hate and fostering a dialog through its recent work with a broad coalition of groups. In its retrospective, "9/11 Ten Years Later: The Changing Face of Hate, Terrorism and Democracy in America," the ADL assesses the proliferation of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories related to the September 11 terrorist attacks, the nature and magnitude of homegrown extremism and terrorism, the growing problem of anti-Muslim bigotry, and the recalibration of the balance between security and individual rights. The ADL also has been a leader in promoting police-community partnerships and expanding training for law enforcement.

We face serious challenges in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. In meeting those challenges, we as lawmakers should be inspired by efforts like those of the ADL to transcend division and differences.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of September 11, it is an honor for me to recognize the work of the ADL and underscore the importance of their message.

RECOGNIZING THE FREEPORT FLAG LADIES

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to three truly remarkable Mainers—Elaine Greene, Carmen Footer and JoAnn Miller, affectionately known as, The Freeport Flag Ladies. It has been said that great things come in threes. That adage applies many, many times over for my friends and phenomenal Mainers, all retired and residing together in Elaine's home on School Street in Freeport. I am in awe of them and their story which is one of unabashed patriotism, limitless inspiration, and a

love of country that makes us all inex-
pensively proud.

Every Tuesday morning from 8 to 9 a.m., regardless of weather and irrespective of season, these renowned Flag Ladies have stood not far from another icon in Maine, L.L. Bean, with the presence and exuberance of not one, but three Statues of Liberty having come to life for the single purpose of paying rightful homage to those who have sacrificed for all of us—our brave service men and women and our first responders.

And incredibly, they have never, ever missed a Tuesday—not once. They have given up vacations and used the money they saved for this and other endeavors, including sending care packages to those fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. They travel to Bangor International Airport two to three times a week to join the Maine Troop Greeters, or to Pease International in New Hampshire, they attend numerous troop send-off or welcome-home ceremonies, and Elaine estimates she has taken 1 million photos of the troops when they greet them at various locations.

These women project the inescapable belief that our strength and resolve as a State and a nation have always emanated not from Augusta, not from Washington, but from the people themselves—from tireless patriots of their own volition performing the most extraordinary of deeds. I well recall when we stood shoulder to shoulder as the steel beams from the Twin Towers—bequeathed by officials at Ground Zero to the town of Freeport—journeyed this past May from their hallowed home in New York to be enshrined in a 9/11 Memorial. Elaine, Carmen, and JoAnn's leadership in bringing the steel to Maine was instrumental.

How fitting it is that this massive steel beam that once undergirded the World Trade Center now undergird our spirits, our hearts, and our memories in Freeport. After all, there are only a finite number of steel pieces that remain from the Twin Towers, and the requests for them within America and around the world far exceed what is available. To have the proud distinction of displaying this beam—in which so much meaning is infused—defies description. But behind Maine's selection was the knowledge that we would be more than custodians of this patriotic emblem—that we would in fact be its steward. What better stewards than the Freeport Flag Ladies.

The words are difficult to find to adequately convey the height of my admiration, not to mention the sense of privilege I have felt when joining them on Main Street to wave American flags. People honk as they drive by, they wave, they stop and thank them—it really is something. Let me just say, it was the highest of honors to join Elaine, Carmen, and JoAnn on the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks in Freeport.

Ever since I learned of their exceptional response to the horrific events of

9/11, Tuesdays have never been the same for me, for my staff, and for the countless individuals who have encountered them in Freeport or heard about them in the news. Indeed, after the heinous acts that occurred that Tuesday morning on September 11, 2001, when President Bush asked us all, as Americans, to walk outside and light a candle in remembrance of those individuals taken tragically from us too soon, Elaine, Carmen, and JoAnn did just that. But they also kindled a deeper flame in all of us by bringing American flags with them to wave on Main Street in Freeport. And for that we are so very grateful.

It is fitting that these three women with backgrounds in health care have taken it upon themselves—one Tuesday at a time, one greeting at a time, one photo at a time, and one good word at a time—to help heal our Nation by harnessing the best of who we are and what we stand for, whether in the best of times or when facing adversity.

When considering their stalwart dedication to our country and those who serve her, I cannot help but recall one of Maine's giants and America's military heroes, GEN Joshua Chamberlain, who once said, "I long to be in the field again, doing my part to keep the old flag up, with all its stars." The Freeport Flag Ladies, by being civilian sentinels of freedom have indeed been doing their part for 10 years. Thank you Elaine, Carmen, and JoAnn.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. C. PAT TAYLOR

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Dr. C. Pat Taylor, who has served as president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, MO, for the last 15 years, making him the longest serving president in the 133-year history of the school. Dr. Taylor already had an impressive record in higher education before coming to SBU in 1996. In the last 15 years he has added to that record of accomplishment and earned respect for his leadership and dedication to the students and community at Southwest Baptist University.

Southwest Baptist University is a very special place to me. I earned my undergraduate degree there and 20 years later served 4 years as its President. Dr. Taylor is my successor, and I have enjoyed watching the university grow and get even better under his leadership.

During his remarkable tenure at SBU:

Dr. Taylor has presented a record 11,881 degrees since 1996.

SBU has Missouri's third largest nursing degree program on its Springfield campus.

The number of student missionaries sent out in North America has doubled to more than 400 in the last decade, and Dr. Taylor hopes to see that continue to increase.