

Chief Judge Reade, Senator Grassley, Senator Harkin, Distinguished Members of the Federal and State Judiciaries, Mayor Corbett, Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

May It Please The Court:

We gather today to dedicate this, the newest United States Courthouse in these United States of America. It stands as a fitting testament to the Federal Government's Design Excellence program which employs the Nation's leading architects and designers to design the country's newest federal public buildings. In our case those professionals were William Rawn and Associates of Boston and OPN Architects of Cedar Rapids, and they have produced, with the excellent efforts of the Ryan Companies this beautiful, eye-catching, and awe-inspiring structure to house the components of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa. The Northern District is composed of the northernmost fifty-two counties in this state, with the dividing line between the Northern and Southern districts basically along Highway Thirty. The best news is that it was done on time and within the budget.

Fifty years ago there were six Congressionally authorized federal court points across this district. They were in Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Mason City, Fort Dodge, and Sioux City. Not one of them was a stand-alone United States Courthouse. All of them were buildings which principally housed the United States Post Office for that city and provided space for a courtroom and a judge's chambers, usually on the second floor, along with some jury space. Other non-court federal agencies were housed there too, and they were really federal buildings. The players in the federal court system had been and were scattered across the district as well, with the Clerk of Court in Dubuque, the Bankruptcy Referee in Fort Dodge, the United States Marshal in Dubuque; and the Probation Office in Waterloo. The United States Attorney was at times in Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, Mason City, Fort Dodge, and Sioux City. Over the years, and principally because of Judge Edward J. McManus's initiatives, the various court functions were centralized here in Cedar Rapids (for the eastern two-thirds of the district) and in Sioux City for the Western Division.

The centralization meant that the United States Post Office and Federal Building at 101 First Street SE, now City Hall, here in Cedar Rapids, soon became way too small for the Court and its offices, and we began our efforts to build a new courthouse to bring the Federal Court family under a single roof. It has taken more than twenty years' time, and a monumental flood to make this United States Courthouse a reality. It is also a reality because of the untiring efforts of the entire Iowa Congressional delegation to make it so, and of the unwavering support of this city's leaders, both public and private, for which the Courts are very grateful.

But what is a courthouse? Or more specifically, what attributes should a United States Courthouse have? Surely, as you can easily discern, a courthouse is stone and steel, glass and polished wood, art and architecture, pleasing lines and soaring columns. But it is all those things combined to inspire those who view it, those who work within it, and those who are called to it, to the pursuit of the most lofty goal of our democratic society—the attainment of justice for all. As the ancient writer in the Old Testament enjoined his readers—"Justice, Justice Thou Shalt Pursue."

But it is not justice, in some raw or abstract sense, that is to be pursued in this United States Courthouse: It is as the inscription supporting the pediment of the

United States Supreme Court Building in Washington proclaims—It is Equal Justice Under Law—that is, justice based on an equality of treatment for those who seek it here, arrived at by applying the Rule of Law. It is a justice based upon our First Principles as outlined in the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. It is a justice arrived at by employing the statutory laws, both Federal and State, that our democratically elected representatives pass and our presidents and governors approve, all of them acting in the good faith pursuit of justice. It is a justice obtained by the systematic weighing of the merits of each seeker's claim to justice, pursuant to regularly established rules of procedure by experienced and highly trained judges and well-intentioned juries of the seeker's peers, together with the assistance of able lawyers, all of whom have sworn an oath to administer justice equally and to serve the rich and poor alike. Oftentimes the line between justice and injustice is not a bright one. Statues of Lady Justice are abundant—they always show her holding a balance scale. Sometimes the scales are shown to be evenly balanced and sometimes they are out of balance.

Those who come here seeking justice for themselves will sometimes leave disappointed, and they will go away mumbling that "Justice was not done" when they really mean "I didn't win": But because one didn't win doesn't mean that justice under the Rule of Law wasn't administered in the process of deciding their claim to it. The justice to be obtained in this building is one informed by the law, based on human reason, and guided by ancient precepts and common sense. It is not an arbitrary judgment, nor is it dispensed at the whim of the one who has the power to dispense it, be it judge or jury.

Administering justice under law admits of no caprice and permits no whimsy. In order to be true to its purpose, it is to the tireless pursuit of justice that this building must be dedicated.

In his 1951 Requiem For A Nun, the American novelist William Faulker described the courthouse in his fictional Yoknapatawpha County this way:

"But above all, the courthouse: The center, the focus, the hub, sitting looming in the center of the the county's circumference like a single cloud in its ring of horizon; laying its vast shadow to the uttermost rim of horizon; musing, brooding, symbolic and ponderable, tall as cloud, solid as rock, dominating all; protector of the weak, judicate and curb of the passions and lusts, repository and guardian of the aspirations and hopes"

Much of that description can be used to describe this real courthouse. It is the center, the hub, the focus of the Third Branch of government, the Judiciary, and of those who have business with it. It is symbolic of the majesty and grace of the law. It is nearly tall as cloud, solid as the tons of rock used to build it, and it may be seen by some as rather dominating in its appearance. It is emblematic of the trust and confidence the people of the United States place in the enduring National Government Lincoln described—"a government of the people, by the people and for the people."

But it is more than it appears to be—it is more than the transcendent qualities it evokes when first seen. It is the place where the rights of all citizens are protected, where the passions of the majority are tempered by overarching fundamental principles, and as Faulkner wrote, it is a place where citizens with hopes and aspirations can repair for redress.

This courthouse is all those things and more. The "more" is a goal that those of us who helped design it made clear at the outset—it had to be as transparent as possible.

It was to be neither a castle on a hill nor a fortress of thick, impenetrable walls. Rather than Faulkner's brooding and formidable structure, we wanted one that, while imposing, was also open and inviting. We wanted the citizens to be able to see into the building, to see through it. As you approach the entry, coming down First Street, you can easily see, behind the glass wall, the entrances to each of the courtrooms. Once inside, you can appreciate the abundance of natural light everywhere. Every courtroom, every public space is filled with it. This is not a dark place, where the forces of evil can find repose. It has been purposely designed so that natural sunshine will light the way of all who enter its doors, of all who seek the truths to be found here, and of all who engage in the never ending pursuit of justice to which it is dedicated.

Thank you.

FHA EMERGENCY FISCAL SOLVENCY ACT

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to encourage my colleagues to pass the FHA, Emergency Fiscal Solvency Act, H.R. 4264.

Since 1934, the FHA has been helping stabilize the mortgage market by ensuring that qualified low-to-moderate income and first-time home buyers have access to mortgage credit. Since the beginning of the financial crisis, the FHA increased its market share from below 5 percent in 2006 to approximately 30 percent at its peak volume in 2009 in pursuit of that mission. This counter-cyclical expansion was essential to the mortgage market—especially for first-time homebuyers who comprised 78 percent of the single-family purchase loans insured by the FHA in 2011. According to Mark Zandi, Chief Economist at Moody's Analytics, without the FHA's counter-cyclical support, and I quote, "the housing market would have cratered, taking the economy with it."

However, the FHA is now facing a potential crisis of its own—but this time we have the opportunity to act. On December 6, I held a hearing in the Banking Committee entitled Oversight of FHA: Examining HUD's Response to Fiscal Challenges. Through the course of the hearing, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan described how loans made from 2000 to 2009—and especially those loans made at the height of the mortgage crisis from 2007–2009 before the ban on seller-funded downpayments took effect—were weighing heavily on the FHA's finances. As I stated in the hearing, I am very concerned about the FHA's condition and will not hesitate to take action to prevent the FHA from needing taxpayer support.

This is only an immediate first step. I fully intend to engage my colleagues on and off the Banking Committee to find bipartisan consensus to provide the FHA with the additional authorities Secretary Donovan described during our hearing and address any technical fixes to this language. While this bill is not perfect and the path forward will not be easy, it is essential that we come together to protect taxpayers and this essential program.

I yield the floor.

GREAT APE PROTECTION AND COST SAVING ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, consistent with Senate standing orders and my policy of publishing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement whenever I place a hold on legislation, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to and pass S. 810, the Great Ape Protection and Cost Saving Act.

Oregon is home to one of the eight National Institutes of Health, NIH-supported National Primate Research Centers, and it is already subject to strong local and national oversight to ensure the highest quality and ethical care for animals. These Centers provide outstanding research and powerful research tools that are vital to our understanding of human health and disease and hold enormous potential for finding treatments for life-threatening disorders.

While ensuring the highest quality and ethical care for animals is of utmost importance, there is already significant oversight and regulation of these facilities.

In addition to meeting the high standards required by NIH to obtain and retain Federal health research dollars, centers are also already responsible for meeting the lengthy, detailed and often-updated Federal requirements within the Animal Welfare Act. Facilities are subject to thorough, regular, and unannounced inspections by U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services and are subject to regulations from the Public Health Service, PHS, and Food and Drug Administration, FDA. Experiments must also be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, IACUC, at the Institution where the scientist works before research can begin.

While I support protecting animals from unethical and inhumane treatment, the NIH is in the process of reviewing and implementing related recommendations from the Institute of Medicine. At this stage, passing legislation would circumvent this ongoing process. For this reason, I object to the Senate taking up and passing S. 810.

TRIBUTE TO 405TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to welcome home some of our Nation's greatest servicemembers. This weekend, 29 soldiers from the great State of Nevada will be reunited with their families and loved ones after a grueling 9-month tour in Afghanistan. They have served our country with honor, and I am proud to welcome them home to the Silver State.

Nevada is grateful to these soldiers for their unwavering commitment to America. I want to thank them for

fighting bravely for this Nation. I am humbled for their service to our country, and it is a privilege to help welcome them home.

Earlier this year, the North Las Vegas-based Army Reserve Delta Company, 405th Civil Affairs Battalion was deployed to fight the war in Afghanistan. Each and every day of their tour, this company faced dangerous situations in order to our protect freedom and democracy. Participating in missions to some of the most volatile provinces of eastern Afghanistan, they encountered deadly firefights and roadside bombs. This company's courageous acts have been awarded with 5 Purple Heart medals, 18 Army Commendation medals, and 7 Bronze Star medals for meritorious service. These decorated soldiers have made significant sacrifices for our country, and I am so grateful they have the opportunity to return home to their families.

The brave men and women in our Armed Forces have made grave sacrifices on behalf of our Nation and we owe them a debt of gratitude. The families of our troops also deserve our heartfelt appreciation for their unwavering strength and support.

I wish these soldiers a joyful homecoming this weekend and happy holiday season with their loved ones. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring this company for their service to our country.

CONGRATULATING TEA IMPORTERS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a father and son team and their family from Westport, CT, whose company, Tea Importers, Inc., was recently recognized by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton with the 2012 Award for Corporate Excellence.

Every year, the Secretary of State honors two American owned, global companies, that are both successful and humanitarian. They are companies doing well and doing good. This year, Joseph and Andrew Wertheim of Tea Importers, Inc. were celebrated as international leaders of fair trade standards, democratic principles, and diplomacy in the small-medium sized category. Intel Corporation received this year's award in the large business category.

After escaping from Nazi Germany, Joseph Wertheim settled in Connecticut and began importing tea in 1953. Since then, he has grown his company and forged strong ties with customer tea companies in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. In 1960, he began working to market and import tea from Rwanda, and developed a particularly strong relationship with the Government of Rwanda, who requested that Mr. Wertheim partner with them in building a tea processing factory. What started as the first facility in a remote area in Kigali, Rwanda, has grown into

the largest single producer of tea in the entire African nation.

This tea factory named Sorwathe has helped the people of Rwanda make remarkable progress. Sorwathe ensures equal working conditions for its 5,242 employees, guided by the principle that every small farmer is a stake holder. In addition, Sorwathe has assisted the Government of Rwanda in building roads, bringing in water, and working with the USAID to start schools and medical clinics. The Wertheims and Tea Importers have worked with Rotary International to teach literacy to at least 15,000 adults, fund the town's public library, and provide high school scholarships. Their efforts have helped to ban child labor and facilitate collective bargaining agreements. Sorwathe has implemented environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, and organic farming, and formed alliances with important organizations in support of these efforts, to include the Rainforest Alliance and Ethical Tea Partnership. These accomplishments give you a sense of the spirit that guides this company that is financially successful, environmental conscious, and socially aware.

This small business of only six domestic employee in Westport has furthered American diplomacy around the world. As Secretary of State Clinton said in her address at last month's awards ceremonies, our businesses operating abroad are "how millions and millions of people find out about our values, what we really stand for, what kind of people we are." I saw firsthand this spirit of inclusivity when I attended this awards ceremony. Video conferencing was set up to include both employees of Sorwathe and members of Intel's office in Vietnam inviting all members of those innovative ventures to be congratulated and acknowledged.

I congratulate Joseph and Andrew Wertheim and all employees of Tea Importers, Inc. and Sorwathe in this well-deserved award, which highlights how a family-owned business can make an enormous impact on a global scale.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO C.W. FLOYD

● Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I would like to honor C.W. Floyd, Vietnam veteran, skeet-shooting champion, advocate for servicemembers everywhere, friend, and one of my longtime staff. On December 22, 2012, C.W. will retire after more than 30 years of service in and to the military. Although his retirement is much deserved, his absence will leave a void that will be hard to fill. In our extensive search to find a replacement for him, it has become clear that finding an ever-smiling, gun-collecting war veteran who provides the office with doughnuts is no easy task.

Mr. Floyd gave the U.S. Army 22 years of service, including a tour of