

gaming laws, casino operations, regulation, and public policy.

In 2011, Bill Eadington was given the honor of being inducted into the American Gaming Association Hall of Fame and was honored with a Special Achievement Award for Gaming Education. Mr. Eadington was a board member on the National Council on Problem Gambling for 30 years, and in 2012 the board presented him with the Goldman Lifetime Award for Advocacy.

Gaming is a uniquely important industry in Nevada, and Mr. Eadington's academic contributions and expertise in this field have been invaluable to the State of Nevada and to UNR. Coupled with the tourism industry, it is our economic backbone, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs. I have been proud to support policies to keep Nevada's gaming industry and economy growing and prosperous and thank Mr. Eadington for all his work on an issue vitally important to our State. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of this honorable Nevadan.●

REMEMBERING FABIAN CHÁVEZ, JR.

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, on Sunday, January 20, my State lost a great leader and a great friend. It is my privilege to pay tribute today to Fabian Chávez, Jr. He was blessed with a long life, 88 years old when he passed away. More important though was the impact of his years, the impact of his remarkable life. Fabian Chávez, Jr., made a difference in the lives of so many people in New Mexico.

Fabian was a formidable, and very colorful, figure in the history of New Mexico politics. His story was one of triumph and of defeat, and of an unwavering determination to serve. He will be long remembered as an advocate for justice, for the disadvantaged, and for ethical government. He was also instrumental in passing legislation to establish the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, which has done so much for improving health care in our State.

Fabian Chávez, Jr., was born on August 31, 1924. His father was a carpenter, and moved the family from Wagon Mound to Santa Fe, where Fabian was born and would live most of his 88 years. Early on, the New Mexico Capitol would dominate his life. And he would dominate it in return.

His father worked as the building superintendent at the old capitol building. As a young boy, trying to earn pocket money during the Great Depression, Fabian could be found there shining shoes. He later told his biographer that while other kids were playing marbles, he was watching legislators at work, following their every move. He observed, "I had it all memorized years before I was even elected to my first term in the house."

Fabian was an independent spirit. Even as a youngster, he charted his

own course, sometimes perhaps to his parents' dismay. The story is told of his hitchhiking to California at age 12. He joined the Army at age 16, determined to see battle during World War II. He fought at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

At the age of 25, Fabian met Coral Jeanne, the love of his life. Fabian and Coral Jeanne were married in 1954. Of his beloved wife, Fabian once said, "I started dancing with Coral Jeanne in 1949, and we've been dancing ever since." She would be his unflinching support through the victories and defeats to come, until she died in his arms over a half century later.

Most of us, in public life or out, are shaped by our wins and our losses. This was certainly true in Fabian's long career. He first ran for elective office in 1948, at the age of 24, for a seat in the New Mexico House. He came in second in the primary. He was undeterred, as he would show time and again. He was elected 2 years later. He ran unsuccessfully for the New Mexico Senate in 1952, but was elected in 1956. And within a few years, at age 37, he became the youngest Senate majority leader in the history of our State. In 1968, Fabian was the Democratic candidate for Governor, and lost by less than 3,000 votes. He later served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce under President Jimmy Carter.

The title of David Roybal's biography of Fabian Chávez, Jr., "Taking on Giants," is telling. Fabian was a reformer, and a tenacious one. He fought to change the old justice of the peace system in New Mexico, fought to establish a Judicial Standards Commission, fought powerful insurance and liquor industries, fought early on, and courageously, for civil rights. Whatever the opposition, he stayed the course. Elections would come and go. Some he would win. Some he would lose. But he stayed true to his commitment to the people of New Mexico.

My dad once said that there are two stories of our lives. One is the person you wanted to be. The other is the person you are. While none of us gets that exactly right, I would suspect that Fabian came pretty close. He held true to his principles. He fought for what he believed was right. He leaves behind a legacy of accomplishment and integrity, a legacy that his family, and our State, can take great pride in.

Jill and I extend our sincere condolences to Christine and to all the Chávez family. Fabian Chávez, Jr., was a true son of New Mexico, and he did all of us proud.●

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH AND ROY PERATROVICH

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, there are few names in Alaska's history that exemplify progress and timeless impact more than Elizabeth Peratrovich. She is remembered as one of the greatest civil rights activists and female leaders Alaska has ever

seen. Elizabeth and her husband Roy are to the Native peoples of Alaska what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks are to African Americans. Everybody knows about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, but hardly anyone outside the State of Alaska knows about Roy and Elizabeth Peratrovich. Today, I wish to again share the Peratrovich legacy with the Senate because February 16, 2013, the State of Alaska will observe Elizabeth Peratrovich Day for the 24th time. Activities to celebrate the legacy of Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich are taking place in schools and cultural centers throughout Alaska this week. The Alaska State Museum in Juneau is already honoring this remarkable woman in an exhibit entitled "Alaskan. Native. Woman. Activist," which will run until March 16, 2013.

In addition to the annual observance of Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, the State of Alaska has acknowledged Elizabeth's contribution to history by designating one of the public galleries in the Alaska House of Representatives as the Elizabeth Peratrovich Gallery.

Elizabeth, a member of the Lukaaxáadi clan, in the Raven moiety of the Tlingit tribe, was born in Petersburg in 1911. After attending college she married Roy Peratrovich, a Tlingit from Klawock, Alaska, and the couple had three beautiful children. In 1941 the young family moved to Juneau, excited by the new opportunities the move would present. When the family found the perfect house, they were not allowed to buy it because they were Native. They could not enter the stores or restaurants they wanted. Outside some of these establishments, there were signs that read "No Natives Allowed." History has also recorded a sign that read "No Dogs or Indians allowed."

On December 30, 1941, following the invasion of Pearl Harbor, Elizabeth and Roy wrote to Alaska's Territorial Governor:

In the present emergency our Native boys are being called upon to defend our beloved country. There are no distinctions being made there. Yet when we patronized business establishments we are told in most cases that Natives are not allowed.

The proprietor of one business, an inn, does not seem to realize that our Native boys are just as willing to lay down their lives to protect the freedom he enjoys. Instead he shows his appreciation by having a "No Natives Allowed" sign on his door.

In that letter Elizabeth and Roy also noted:

We were shocked when the Jews were discriminated against in Germany. Stories were told of public places having signs "No Jews Allowed." All freedom loving people were horrified at what was being practiced in our own country.

In 1943, the Alaska Legislature, at the behest of Roy and Elizabeth, considered an antidiscrimination law. It was defeated, but Roy and Elizabeth were not. Two years later, in 1945, the antidiscrimination measure was brought back before the Alaska Territorial Legislature. It passed the lower

house, but was met with stiff opposition in the Territorial Senate.

One by one, Senators took to the floor to debate the closely contested legislation. One Senator argued that “the races should be kept further apart.” This Senator went on to rhetorically question, “Who are these people, barely out of savagery, who want to associate with us whites with 5,000 years of recorded civilization behind us?”

Elizabeth Peratrovich was observing the debate from the gallery. As a citizen, she asked to be heard and in accordance with the custom of the day, was recognized to express her views.

In a quiet, dignified and steady voice this “fighter with velvet gloves” responded, “I would not have expected that I, who am barely out of savagery, would have to remind gentlemen with 5,000 years of recorded history behind them of our Bill of Rights.”

She was then asked by a Senator if she thought the proposed bill would eliminate discrimination. Elizabeth queried in rebuttal, “Do your laws against larceny and even murder prevent these crimes? No law will eliminate crimes but at least you as legislators can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak your intent to help us overcome discrimination.”

When she finished her speech the room burst into thunderous applause. The territorial Senate passed the bill by a vote of 11 to 5. On February 16, 1945, before Alaska gained statehood, and before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and spoke of his dream for equality, Alaskans passed an anti-discrimination bill that provided for full and equal enjoyment of public accommodations for all Alaskans.

That night, Roy and Elizabeth celebrated. The two went dancing at the Baranof Hotel, one of Juneau’s finest. They danced among people they didn’t know, in a place where, the day before, they were unwelcome.

There is an important lesson to be learned from the battles of Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich. Even in defeat, they knew that change would come from their participation in our political system. They were not discouraged by their defeat in 1943. They came back fighting stronger than ever and enjoyed the victory 2 years later.

Elizabeth would not live to see the United States adopt the same law she brought to Alaska in 1945. She passed away in 1958, at the age of 47, 6 years before civil rights legislation would pass nationally.

Roy Peratrovich saw that event. He passed away in 1989 at age 81. He died 9 days before the first Elizabeth Peratrovich Day was observed in the State of Alaska. But the Peratrovich legacy and family live on. This past summer I had the opportunity to welcome Nathan Peratrovich, great-grand-nephew of Roy and Elizabeth, to Washington DC. I was awestruck at the

magnitude of his visit. Here was a young man who never knew the discrimination his ancestors knew. He was never told he could not enter a store because of his race. He was never denied access to a school because of who his parents were. As we looked down on the Senate floor from the Senate gallery, I encouraged Nathan by stating that one day he could represent Alaska in the United States Senate. Nathan grew up with all the rights and liberties every young boy should have. All of this was possible because of his family. Seeing his face and knowing what a significant impact his family had on his current wellbeing struck me with a sense of appreciation. It is with that appreciation I honor Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich today.●

VERMONT ESSAY FINALISTS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I submit to the record these essays written by Vermont High School students as part of the Third Annual “What is the State of the Union?” Essay contest conducted by my office. These 13 finalists were selected from over 300 entries.

RILEY FORBES, MT. ABRAHAM UNION HIGH SCHOOL (FINALIST)

The most important issue for the government to solve today is human rights.

Everybody deserves equal opportunities in life. The State and Federal Government should help to make sure that everyone is free from torture, has the right to adequate food, clothing and housing, and has the right to health care. The most significant issue for the government to solve today is human rights.

Human rights are the basic rights that everyone who is human has. Human rights are important for everyone in the world to have. An important right is the right to have basic items, adequate clothing, food and housing. The United Nations has a right that gives everyone the basic items that they need, (clothing, food and housing). Whereas the United States does not have a right giving everyone basic supplies that is needed to live. “A man in India without access to clean water dies of a treatable disease” (Pinheiro). Everyone deserves adequate clothing, food, water and housing, but the problem is that these things are limited. There are homeless shelters and water, but there may not be enough for everyone. The Government should try to help provide people with the basic needs that are needed to survive.

The government should act to protect all people from torture. The United Nations and the United States believe that people should have the right to be safe from torture. A guard watches as a man is assaulted by an inmate in a jail Texas (Pinheiro). This man gets assaulted and the guard does nothing. The guard is watching; he should help to protect the people and not let them suffer even though they are in jail. The Government should pay attention and try to help people feel free and safe from torture.

In order for everyone to get a long life, people need to have their basic needs. The United Nations and the United States do not have any kind of right that says that everyone should have healthcare or be able to have health care. Obamacare will allow more people health insurance that they can afford (Marston). People who couldn’t afford health care before now have a health care that is more affordable. The Government is helping

to provide people the access to an affordable health insurance.

The Government should help to support the people and their rights.

Bibliography: Pinheiro, P.S. Choices Program On-line Scholar Brown University, Real Lives Computer Game. Marston, C. Class Notes. MAUHS: Bristol, VT. November 2012

DAMON FULCHER, SOUTH ROYALTON HIGH SCHOOL (FINALIST)

The state of the Union is the most difficult to decipher in years. We, as a nation, are stuck in a time where the war in Afghanistan is dwindling, and we’re trying to climb out of an abysmal fiscal pit. In a nation that has made its name for moving forward, controversies over human rights like the right to marry and the right to have an abortion are still as prevalent as ever. However, all is not lost, and this great nation will continue to forge on, despite these setbacks.

The land of the free still does not grant rights to every group of people. Gay marriage is one of the most hotly debated subjects in our country right now. Even though our Constitution states that all men are created equal, we as a nation do not always abide by this principle. Half of the American population is brushing a group of people under the rug, just because they have a different sexual orientation than themselves. The most recent example of this is North Carolina amending its state constitution to say that same-sex couples do not have the right to marry. This act takes the issue to a whole new level past legality. However, not all is bad. Several more states have begun adding to the pool where same-sex couples have the right to marry. The United States’ highest court is taking on a case concerning a California proposition to ban gay marriage. This case will decide the fate of the issue in the years to come. Unfortunately, the most serious issue our country faces is not even marriage equality.

The most pressing issue currently is the economy. The great debate is whose taxes should be cut and whose taxes should be raised. The nation is greatly divided along partisan lines in this respect. These opinions are exemplified by our current President Barack Obama and our Speaker of the House John Boehner. One believes that taxes should be raised on the wealthy and cut on the middle class and the other, vice versa. This is the nation’s problem. We simply need to get over which party we are a part of and work toward a common goal. There is guaranteed success if all of Congress works together to move forward.

The current state of the Union is complex, containing many positives and negatives. With the idea in mind that working together is necessary for the betterment of this nation, the President and Congress will move forward and fix the dilemmas that this country faces.

BENJAMIN GILBERT, MILTON HIGH SCHOOL (FINALIST)

This country faces one of the most important stages of change and development it has ever seen. The decisions we make as a nation in the next few years will shape not only the future of our own lives, but the lives of every citizen of this world. We won’t be able to do this unless we come together. We are humans. It is in our nature to disagree. We are a democracy. It is a democracy’s nature to disagree. Disagreement is a sign of a thriving democracy. It is also in our nature to solve problems, to be civil, to be fair, and to provide for a better tomorrow.

In the coming years, we need more doctors and researchers, to finally find a cure for cancer. We need more books to inspire. We