

House of Representatives several times, and Congresswoman DELBENE, who now represents the lands this bill would protect. We are fortunate to have bipartisan support for this effort, and we are fortunate as Washingtonians to have unique and beautiful natural landscapes that deserve protection from unrequited development and pressure.

This legislation would protect, in perpetuity, over 22,000 acres and provide the protections of the Wilderness Act to a richer diversity of ecosystems and lower elevation lands. These protections will ensure diverse recreational opportunities and protect one of the closest blocks of wild forests to an urban center in the country.

As I mentioned, Congressional action on public lands have been stymied in recent years. I was pleasantly surprised we were able to find a path forward, and today I wish to confirm my support for tribal treaty rights and for access to these spaces to be designated as wilderness for traditional uses by tribal members. I firmly believe the Federal government has a responsibility to uphold the treaties signed by our predecessors with Native American tribes—a fact that has been upheld by the Federal courts. As the author of this legislation I want to reaffirm that regarding lands defined within the bill located in the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, nothing in this act alters, modifies, diminishes, or extinguishes the treaty rights of an Indian tribe with respect to hunting, fishing, and gathering rights as protected by a treaty.

Again, I wish to thank Chairman WYDEN and ranking member Murkowski for working together to find a path forward to protect public spaces. And I wish to thank Senator CANTWELL for her steadfast support of this proposal. I look forward to working with my House colleagues to protect this important landscape.

I thank the Chair.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL HAROLD R. VAN OPDORP

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true patriot, and fellow U.S. Marine, Col. Harold R. Van Opdorp. While some know him as “Odie” and others as Colonel V, we all know him as Marine. After more than 3 years of service leading the Marine Corps’ Office of Legislative Affairs in the U.S. Senate, Colonel Van Opdorp has assumed the responsibilities as commanding officer of the Marine Corps’ Officer Candidate School. I would like to recognize Colonel Van Opdorp’s distinguished service and dedication to fostering a relationship of mutual benefit between the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Senate.

With more than 2 decades of dedicated service to his country, Colonel Van Opdorp has selflessly given to the cause of freedom across the globe, from Somalia to Iran, from Norway to the

South Pacific. His service leading young Marines as a platoon, company, and battalion commander, in garrison and in combat, is emblematic of the caliber of his character. His diverse service reflects the traditions of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor that he wears and the nature of the Corps.

Over the course of the last 3 years, Colonel Van Opdorp has been instrumental to facilitating the oversight responsibilities of the Senate. Known for his in-depth knowledge of legislative issues and the operational requirements of the Marine Corps, he ensured that Members of the U.S. Senate with an interest in national security were armed with timely information on Operation Enduring Freedom, humanitarian assistance in Haiti, flood relief operations in Pakistan, Marine Security Guards at our diplomatic missions around the globe, and other forward-deployed Marine forces. Colonel Van Opdorp worked hard to ensure all Senators were fully briefed of the programs which make our Corps special, programs such as the Joint Strike Fighter, the Amphibious Combat Vehicle, and the MV-22 Osprey. In 2011, I had the pleasure of working closely with Colonel Van Opdorp during our efforts to recognize the significant contributions of the Montford Point Marines, our Nation’s first African American Marines, with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Colonel Van Opdorp’s absence will be felt in the Senate. I join many past and present Senators in my gratitude and appreciation for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Marine Corps. I know my colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee wholeheartedly join me in this tribute. I wish Colonel Van Opdorp and his wife, Rebecca, fair winds and following seas as he continues to serve his Nation, charged with the great responsibility of molding our future Marine Officers. “Ooh-rah” and Semper Par, Marine.

#### RECOGNIZING PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE AND THE LOUISIANA ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and the State of Louisiana Order of the Eastern Star, who have collectively provided 225 years of continuous service and devotion to the State of Louisiana.

For 150 years and 75 years respectively, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, formed in 1863, and the Order of the Eastern Star, formed in 1938, have served the State of Louisiana through their tireless leadership and dedication. During this tenure, members of the grand lodge have served in community and elected leadership positions both in the State and throughout the Nation. During the Civil Rights movement, members provided invaluable

management, direction, and guidance to countless organizations that contributed to the effort. Throughout their illustrious years of service, the grand lodge has worked with local partners to invest in and improve communities, strengthen opportunities, and expand the impact of public service. The passing of each year brings a greater appreciation for the values of community, education, and civic activism that the grand lodge and order provide to the State of Louisiana.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star inspire noble principles, moral values, and profound convictions in the lives of each individual they touch. Through commitment they teach the principles of family; through charity and volunteerism they teach the values of community and philanthropy; and through honor, integrity, and respect, they teach the convictions of acceptance and compassion. Their teachings and work have provided outstanding support and service to the citizens of Louisiana and will continue to benefit generations to come.

The M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and the State of Louisiana Order of the Eastern Star have been and continues to be an inspiration to all those who have been impacted by their tireless efforts. It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service, heritage, and tradition of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the Louisiana Order of the Eastern Star.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING JHPIEGO’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Jhpiego, a non-profit global health affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, on the occasion of its 40th anniversary and recognize the organization for its tireless service in preventing the needless deaths of women and children throughout the developing world.

Dr. Theodore M. King, the former chairman of the Johns Hopkins Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, founded Jhpiego in 1973. The original intention was to share the latest technology, skills, and knowledge of women’s health with health professionals from Latin America, Africa, and Asia by bringing them to Baltimore for training. But Jhpiego officials realized that they could have a greater impact by educating health care providers in the providers’ own countries, so Jhpiego changed its focus to sustainability, to developing the capacity of countries to create a well-prepared network of health care professionals and a strong health system that they can build upon to care for themselves. As a result, Jhpiego and its more than 1,500 employees have brought the resources