

and Human Service Ministries Executive of the Year award.

Through Tom's creative leadership and hard work, UCAN has become a vital sanctuary for young people, providing security and healing for those who have suffered trauma. Over the last 29 years, Tom has built UCAN on one simple, but powerful premise: "Kids raised in violence are traumatized and trauma can be healed." Tom knows trauma better than most. As a young boy, his father, a part-time janitor at their church, was killed when a boiler he was repairing exploded. And on April 25, 1992, when kids barged into a party and started shooting, Tom lost his 15-year-old son. After the shooting, one thing became clear: "these were kids with absurdly easy access to guns." So Tom asked himself, "What am I going to do with this anger?" What he has done is become a leading voice and advocate in the campaign to reduce gun violence. Tom understands that it is not just a criminal justice issue; it is a public health crisis.

After his son's death, Tom realized that many of the troubled, neglected, and abused children that he spent his career working with had been traumatized by gun violence in their homes and community. His work through UCAN began to reflect that reality. He founded HELP for Survivors, a support group for parents who have lost loved ones to gun violence. Tom also became a founding member of the Bell Campaign, known today as the Million Mom March, which formed an alliance with the Brady Campaign in 2001. In 2002, Tom was named the Join Together Hero, which recognizes true leaders of the gun violence prevention movement. And in 2007, he received the Citizens Advocacy Award from the Illinois Council against Handgun Violence.

When asked to reflect on his career, Tom remains focused on the problems facing the community: not enough beds for impoverished kids who endure violence, a ridiculously high number of shootings, effective gun laws blocked by the National Rifle Association, and on and on. He says, "I can't sit here and say, 'Oh, my God, I've done wonderful things and its better.'" We have a long way to go and progress is hard, but no one can deny the difference Tom has made.

Just listen to those that know Tom and UCAN best—young people like Tatiara, who came to UCAN in 2012 through the Family Works program. Here is what she said: "UCAN takes you under their wing. You are not just another number but you are your own person. They really care about you. It's like you're part of a family." Or take Alexis, a 23-year-old mother, whose daughter Aliyah was born premature with multiple complications including Down's syndrome, a tethered spinal cord, and a heart defect. Here is what she said: "I would recommend UCAN because if you need something or need to get somewhere they will find the an-

swer. I would be lost without them." Alexis and Aliyah are 1 of more than 100 families that UCAN's High-Risk Infant Program provides preventive and supportive services to every year. These are just a couple of the countless success stories.

I have visited UCAN and met the children it serves. Their stories are inspiring. And I am thankful that UCAN is making a difference in the lives of so many young people in Illinois. So on behalf of all those UCAN has served during Tom Vanden Berk's tenure, I want to tell him he has done wonderful things, and because of his passion and dedication, people's lives have gotten better.

Fortunately for Chicago, Tom isn't going far. Later this summer, he will transition to CEO emeritus and will continue to fundraise and advocate for UCAN and the children and families it serves. I want to congratulate Thomas Vanden Berk on his distinguished career and thank him for all he has done—and all he will continue to do. Illinois and the country are grateful for his service.

TRIBUTE TO TERI SPOUTZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have often remarked that the education of a Senator is a daunting task. Fortunately, the U.S. Senate is blessed with many talented staff who are dedicated to that challenge.

Among them is Ms. Teri Spoutz, a professional staff member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee for the past 5 years. To read through Teri's accomplishments is to understand how fortunate the Senate is to be able to attract some of the best talent in Washington, DC.

Teri grew up in southern California and began her career as a civilian at Los Angeles Air Force Base. As a financial manager, she served in a variety of positions overseeing major acquisitions of satellites and rockets for the Air Force.

Teri and her family then left sunny California for the cold, windswept plains of the missile fields at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, WY, as her husband, Stephen, pursued his promising career as an Air Force officer. The Spoutz family landed in Washington, DC, in 2003, and Teri continued her work in the Pentagon.

By 2008, Teri had been promoted to the Senior Executive Service as the Chief of Budget Investment for the Department of the Air Force. For nearly 3 years, Teri was the top financial overseer of all Air Force procurement, research and development, and military construction funding.

In March 2011, Teri was persuaded to join the staff of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee under the leadership of Chairman Daniel Inouye. Her expert knowledge of how the defense acquisition system works—and, too often, how it does not work—has resulted in many billions of dollars for

our national defense being cut from underperforming programs and reinvested in more important ones.

As a staffer, she carried out in-depth reviews on the most important programs in the Pentagon's budget, including detailed annual examinations of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the largest weapons contract in the history of the Pentagon, and dozens of other large developmental and procurement programs.

But Teri has always held a special interest in space. On the Defense Subcommittee, she led investigations into bringing competition to space launch, which in just the last year has shown can cut the cost of rockets by half. She was also vital in stopping an effort to cut off access to rocket engines that are vital to our national security, which could have resulted in billions of additional costs to the U.S. taxpayer.

Teri is soon leaving the U.S. Senate. I thank her for her service on the Defense Subcommittee, commend her for all that she has accomplished, and wish her and her family all the best.

INTERNET GAMBLING

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, in 2011, the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel, OLC, issued a legal opinion reversing 50 years of interpretation of the Wire Act. Lawyers there concluded the act does not ban gambling over the Internet, as long as the betting is not on the outcome of a sporting event.

In effect, this opinion means the Justice Department has stopped enforcing a law it had consistently enforced for five decades. Left on its own, the DOJ opinion could usher in the most fundamental change in gambling in our lifetimes by turning every smartphone, tablet, and personal computer in our country into casinos available 24/7.

The FBI has warned online casinos are susceptible to use for money laundering and other criminal activity, and online casinos are bound to prey on children and society's most vulnerable.

It took Congress a decade to develop the Wire Act. It took Congress 7 additional years to enact the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, the 2006 law giving law enforcement new tools to shut down online casinos. DOJ's opinion gutted both laws.

Despite the wide-ranging implications of this opinion, there was no solicitation of public comment, nor any input sought from State and local officials. There is also no indication the Department considered the very significant law enforcement, social, and economic issues raised by Internet gambling.

We note that a number of States have authorized Internet gambling, despite the fact the DOJ opinion does not carry the force of law, a fact confirmed by our Attorney General, who, in response to questions posed during her confirmation proceedings, wrote, "I am not aware of any statute or regulation