

So we have asked people to start speaking out. I am getting letters from all over the country. I am going to read Samantha Frashier's letter. They are giving me names now. It is not anonymous. It used to be anonymous, "Don't use my name." They want you to know. They want you to know and put a real face with a real name and a real person:

I will start this off by saying, I am not from West Virginia. I live in Ohio. But I felt like I could still share my story.

My dad's family is from West Virginia and I have seen the devastation of the opiate epidemic there. It is just as bad here in Cincinnati and all of the suburbs surrounding it.

I grew up in Mason, Ohio, and had a good life. We weren't rich, but we weren't poor. My parents did everything they could to take care of me and my brother.

I was very involved with the youth group in high school and just an all-around happy person. I went to a Christian university and just started drinking a lot.

That went on for a few years, and by the time I was 21, I started using pills recreationally. Stupid choice. That was in 2008 and heroin was just starting to creep in everywhere.

I used for 5 years, every day. Once I started, it was like I made a decision I could never quit, that I would use forever. I was such an evil, manipulative liar and thief. I ruined every relationship I ever had.

Finally, I got in trouble. I went on a small car chase, (stupid, I know) and was booked into jail on 11 charges, which resulted in 2 felonies, and I was sent to Monday Correctional Institute in Dayton, Ohio. It was there that I was taught the skills I needed to survive. I had to dig deep and really figure out who I was and what issues I need to really work on.

I also received letters from women at church I didn't even know. I corresponded with them over the months. These women made me feel a sense of being surrounded, even though I was in a lockdown facility.

I spent 5 months there, got a job, became a manager and ran a failing pizza restaurant. About 10 months after being released, I found out I was pregnant with identical twin boys. I had some complications with my pregnancy and was on bed rest and still dealing with issues. My boys are 7 months old now. My boyfriend and I are both almost 3 years clean, and we are blessed enough to find someone to rent a house to us.

I am currently involved in starting a non-profit recovery home here in Warren County, Ohio, called "The Next." We will help women after they detox with a recovery home.

The other part of my story is that I have also watched my family become crippled by this disease of addiction. My brother recently was using drugs. We couldn't find him help anywhere. Waiting lists, insurance copays for thousands of dollars, flying to different states, nothing local. He ended up getting in trouble and he now has a felony.

My aunt has already lost one son to a heroin overdose and 3 weeks ago we sat in the hospital with her daughter, holding her down because she had alcohol poisoning, and she was intubated and on a breathing machine.

The pain, the hurt, I see it in everyone's eyes. I can't imagine what that is like. I look at my boys and pray that I will do everything I can to steer them away. It's in their genes and they have to be careful.

My heart is big and I have spent nights crying over this. My friend Pete's funeral is next week. He died of a heroin overdose. Every few weeks, someone dies, or they are sent to jail and get no help, get released, or

go to prison and don't get help and spend their time with other people who don't want to change. They get released eventually and have no skills.

Everyone is set up for failure. This is affecting every single person in this community, and I know it is like this in so many other places.

I hope to hear of a dollar amount attached to the CARA act, and that there are changes. We need recovery homes, rehab, different laws to encourage getting help, helping those in prison that want to change to provide a reachable opportunity.

It is 100 percent possible to get clean. I want everyone to know it is possible to share the hope that a successful life is achievable. I have a huge passion to change things and to help that change. I have sent letters, e-mails, web messages to all the Congressmen, judges, prosecutors, City of Mason, Mason Police Department, and Warren County. I am doing whatever part I can.

This is killing so many young lives, and mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons, everyone, and they need to change.

This is a letter—and I want to answer this by saying we are trying. I have a piece of legislation that I have drafted. This piece of legislation is going to have permanent funding that will go directly to treatment centers—directly—100 percent to treatment centers around this country.

What it does is it asks to be charged one penny per milligram—one penny per milligram—for every opioid produced and sold in America. That will raise about \$1.5 to \$2 billion. So I would say to all of my colleagues and friends who are afraid that, oh, this is a new tax—this is a treatment center. This is a way to get people clean again. This is what we are asking people to sign on to.

I will guarantee you there will not be one family—Democratic or Republican—that would vote against you if you can help save their child and give them a place to go to get clean. This is so important.

I thank you for allowing me to speak today, taking the time to read this letter, and allowing us to share this letter with so many people because it is personal. You can now put a face, a story, and a family behind it, and that is what we all should be doing.

It is no longer the silent killer. It is still a killer, but people are speaking out. They asking for help. That help comes right here in the Halls of the Senate and the Halls of Congress. We can make a difference in America and save a whole generation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES CHESS TEAM

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the remarkable accomplishments of the U.S. Chess Olympiad team. Widely considered to be the pinnacle of international chess, Chess Olympiad is a biennial competition organized by the World Chess Federation where teams from all over the world gather to compete. This year, over 175 nations and territories in attendance were represented at the Olympiad.

For the first time since 1976, the U.S. team emerged from a talented and crowded field to claim victory and cement its spot at the top of the chess world. The team was led by U.S. champion Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana, who won a bronze medal in the individual competition, and boasted a strong lineup featuring 3 of the top 10 players in the world. Grandmaster Caruana, Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura, Grandmaster Wesley So, Grandmaster Ray Robson, Grandmaster Samuel Shankland, team captain International Master John Donaldson, and coach Grandmaster Aleksandr Lenderman dedicating themselves to becoming the best in the world, and represented the United States with honor and pride at the 42nd Chess Olympiad.

I am proud to say that Fabiano Caruana has partnered with the Liberty Science Center in my home State of New Jersey to bring chess to a new generation of students across the State. As the visiting grandmaster and "Chess Rules!" ambassador, Caruana works with the Liberty Science Center to improve children's concentration, critical thinking, memory, and analytic skills in a fun and engaging way through the game of chess. I am pleased that Grandmaster Caruana's first stop upon returning to the U.S. will be an event at Liberty Science Center to celebrate the U.S. victory and continue the important work that he has been doing.

Let me conclude by again congratulating the U.S. Chess Olympiad team, and wishing all of its members continued success in the future.

Thank you.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN N. LIMBAUGH, JR.

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr., of Cape Girardeau, MO, for his service and dedication to the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Judge Limbaugh is completing his final term as president of the society

after a distinguished tenure leading the board of trustees. He is the first leader in the society's 118-year history to serve two terms as president. It has been my pleasure to work with him as a member of the board of trustees.

Judge Limbaugh's election as president of the State Historical Society of Missouri 6 years ago follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, Rush H. Limbaugh I, who served as vice president of the society during the 1940s.

Judge Limbaugh has been a guiding force in expanding the society's network of research centers to Cape Girardeau and Springfield. In addition, he facilitated an agreement with the University of Missouri that gave the State Historical Society "sole responsibility" for the management of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection.

Judge Limbaugh successfully launched the Center for Missouri Studies, an educational initiative to advance the study of Missouri's history and culture with competitive, interdisciplinary fellowships. He worked unwaveringly to ensure passage of a bill in the Missouri General Assembly to finance the construction of the Center in Columbia, MO, which was agreed to in 2015. The building project begins a new era for the State Historical Society of Missouri and greatly enhances the Society's mission to collect, preserve, publish, and showcase material that features all of Missouri's unique history.

The leadership and dedication that Judge Limbaugh, Jr., demonstrates as president of the society is the same leadership and dedication he demonstrates in his personal and public life. He studied at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, and went on to earn his master of laws in judicial process degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. He was elected prosecuting attorney of Cape Girardeau County in 1978 at the age of 26, after beginning his legal career with the family firm of Limbaugh, Limbaugh, and Russell. After serving a 4-year term, he returned to private practice until 1987, when he was appointed circuit judge for the 32nd Judicial Circuit. Judge Limbaugh held this position until he was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court in 1992.

Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr., served for 16 years as a judge on the Supreme Court of Missouri, including a 2-year term as chief justice. He was recognized among his colleagues for his sound interpretation of the law and compassion for his fellow Missourians. In 2007, Limbaugh was nominated by President George W. Bush to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate with unanimous consent on June 10, 2008.

The judge's tireless dedication to public service has been recognized by the American College of Trial Lawyers, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, the Adoption and Foster Care Coalition of

Missouri, the National Eagle Scout Association, Professional Blackmen's Club of Southeast Missouri, and Rotary International.

He is the author of numerous historical works, including "The Antebellum History of Centenary Church of Cape Girardeau."

I am confident Judge Limbaugh will always continue to study Missouri's vibrant history and heritage and share his knowledge with individuals and groups across the great State.

In October, Judge Limbaugh will be awarded the Missouri Historical Society's Distinguished Service Award and Medallion for his significant and lasting contributions to preserving Missouri's history and fostering recognition for Missouri's distinct role in our Nation's history.

Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr., has played a major role in the success of the State Historical Society of Missouri. His legacy will continue to impact future generations through the programs and partnerships he helped put in place. I am grateful for his friendship, and I thank him for his service to the country, citizens of Missouri, and the State Historical Society of Missouri.●

#### REMEMBERING LASKER "LAS" BELL, SR.

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember the life of Lasker "Las" Bell, Sr., an iconic radio and television personality who brought music into the hearts and minds of people living in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, who passed away on September 12, 2016.

Bell was born in Homer, LA, and spent much of his childhood as a sharecropper, working alongside his maternal grandparents, who raised him. In 1944, he moved to Camden, AR, which became his home.

He honorably served his country as a corporal in the U.S. Army. When he was discharged in 1952, he returned to Camden where he put his vision to become a radio and television host into motion.

In 1967, Bell turned his passion for music into a hosting gig at KJWH in El Dorado. He continued that momentum and turned the excitement for soul music in the region into the "Las Bell Variety Show." By 1970, it was a weekly staple on the airwaves that helped define a generation of people in the region. He aimed to offer African Americans the same opportunity as the nationwide hit show "American Bandstand."

He broke barriers as the first Black interviewer for Channel 10 News and continued to pursue his other hosting responsibilities, adding a gospel show to the radio.

Bell's commitment to the community led him to serve on and establish civic organizations to help make a difference. His service includes founding the Elks Club in Camden and serving

on the Bi-racial Committee for the Camden schools. He was appointed to the Human Resources Commission by Governor David Pryor and reappointed by Governor Frank White.

As a faithful follower of Christ, Bell shared the stories of Jesus. His friends remember his smile that would brighten anyone's day.

I want to offer my prayers and sincere condolences to Las's loved ones on their loss. I thank him for his lifelong passion for entertainment and sharing that with Arkansans and the region.●

#### RECOGNIZING BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 1 OF IDAHO

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Boy Scouts of America Troop 1 of Meridian, ID, on the troop's approaching 100th anniversary.

Troop 1's former scoutmaster Richard Weight reports that research indicates that the troop was formed on or before July 20, 1917, in Meridian and was in continuous operation until 1942 when wartime needs made operation of the troop impossible. In 1944, the troop rechartered and has been in continuous operation since. Troop 1 has taken part in service projects and efforts to have a positive effect on the community.

I have been involved in scouting for almost my entire life. I am proud of the young men who have demonstrated a commitment to the principles of scouting and the communities that support them. I commend the scouts and supporters of Troop 1 for advancing leadership and informative opportunities for area youth who gain invaluable experience while contributing to bettering our communities. The many benefits from scouting activities are made possible through the significant commitment of those who are actively involved with the troop.

Congratulations to Idaho's Boy Scouts of America Troop 1 on this remarkable milestone. Thank you for your efforts to build up our communities and expand opportunities for future leaders.●

#### REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN BRUCE BLOUNT

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the memory of LTG John Bruce Blount, United States Army, Retired, who passed away peacefully on August 23, 2016, surrounded by his loving family. He was 88.

Lieutenant General Blount was born in Pawtucket, RI, on April 22, 1928, the son of Joseph Hagen Blount and Loretta Moody Blount. He played basketball in high school and set a school record that still stands today, scoring 66 points in a single game. During his collegiate years at the University of Rhode Island, John excelled in sports, scoring more than 1,000 points in basketball and serving as captain of both the basketball and baseball teams. He was selected for the All Yanks Conference and the All East Team and was