

meaningful action rather than empty proclamations. Congress must finally pass a Dream Act to provide Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, recipients with the protections they deserve, so they can continue their contributions to this country. It is time for the Senate to take up and pass S. 2144, legislation I introduced with Senators VAN HOLLEN and FEINSTEIN, to provide a pathway to legal permanent residency for TPS holders in the United States. We are long overdue with respect to passing comprehensive immigration reform.

We must also address systemic issues in our healthcare, tax, and education systems, many of which are particularly harmful to Hispanic communities. Like all Americans, Hispanics deserve access to quality public schools, affordable and widely available medical care, and tax reform which reduces the burden for middle and low-income workers.

We must further provide Puerto Rico with the resources and support it needs to recover. More than a year after Hurricane Maria, the situation remains desperate. Our fellow American citizens on the island deserve real support in their time of need.

Hispanic Americans are facing immense challenges, but seek the same noble goals as all other Americans. Now is the time to stand with Hispanic, Latina, and Latino Americans against prejudice, divisive rhetoric, and harmful policies. In doing so, we will better uphold the ideals of our Nation and create a better country for all Americans.

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40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on behalf of millions of people with disabili-

ties, today I wish to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, NIDILRR, and its 40 years of accomplishments and contributions to the lives of people with disabilities.

NIDILRR is the Federal agency supporting applied research, demonstration, training, and technical assistance to enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities. NIDILRR's mission is to generate new knowledge and to promote its effective use to improve the abilities of people with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community and to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for our citizens with disabilities. NIDILRR carries out its mission by building the capacity of institutions and individuals to conduct high-quality research in the major life domains, including employment, participation in the community, community integration, and health.

NIDILRR plays a unique and critical role in Federal research. NIDILRR-sponsored projects and programs target populations that include all disability types and all age groups. While other Federal research entities fund prevention, cure, and acute rehabilitation research, which are vital for people with disabilities, NIDILRR invests in applied research meant to quickly translate to greater independence, community participation, and employment for people with disabilities.

The many contributions of NIDILRR's grantees cannot be overstated. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the researchers and practitioners whose efforts empower people with disabilities to lead proud, productive lives in pursuit of independence, community living, and employment. During October, which is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, it is important to highlight the major role that NIDILRR has played in promoting and enabling the employment of people with disabilities. Over the past 40 years, NIDILRR-funded researchers have been extraordinarily productive, including in my home State of Washington. Across the United States, grantees have created more than 1,200 new products, including peer-reviewed publications, intervention protocols, measurement tools, and software and technologies that impact the field of rehabilitation and enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

NIDILRR-funded fellowship programs have trained and supported a substantial number of emerging scholars, researchers, and policy implementation experts, including a significant focus on scholars with disabilities and those from minority communities. NIDILRR-funded fellows have contributed to substantive policy development in Congress, including by serving as content experts on my staff at the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. NIDILRR supports the ADA National Network, which provides

information, guidance, and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act to businesses, employers, State and local governments, architects, disability organizations, and individuals with disabilities. In addition, NIDILRR also supports AbleData, an information center hosting an extensive database of assistive technology products and resources to increase awareness of and access to assistive devices. Finally, NIDILRR supports the National Rehabilitation Information Center, NARIC, a research library and information center that promotes access to disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research information.

The need for NIDILRR's important work will only increase in the coming decades. Demographic trends indicate a substantial increase in the number of people with disabilities as a result of the effects of injuries, illnesses, chronic conditions, developmental disabilities, and an aging population. NIDILRR will continue to play a critical role in empowering this growing population of individuals with disabilities to live the American dream. The next 40 years of NIDILRR hold much promise for the future of addressing the emerging needs of people with disabilities and the need for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

I congratulate the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research on its 40th anniversary and the significant accomplishments and contributions it has made to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities in the United States. I am proud of the work NIDILRR has funded and the dedicated researchers and practitioners that have improved employment, participation and community integration, and health and function for people with disabilities. I look forward to 40 more years of NIDILRR's continued contributions to our society.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF MULUGETA SERAW

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this November, my hometown of Portland marks a somber occasion: the 30th anniversary of the murder of Mulugeta Seraw, a 28-year-old Ethiopian college student, by racist skinheads. This horrific case galvanized the city, as well as the State of Oregon, to stand up to hate crimes and acts of violence by the neo-Nazi movement in the Pacific Northwest. While this brutal slaying happened 30 years ago, it remains fresh in the minds of many who lived through that time and for people who still experience discrimination and hate today.

Mulugeta's path to our country mirrors those of so many others who came to America. He came to the United States seeking an education. A college student in Portland, he worked multiple jobs and remitted money to Ethiopia to support his son, Henock.

Mulugeta, like many immigrants who come to America, was simply seeking opportunity. His family and friends describe him as a kind, hard-working man. He had friends and family whom he supported and loved. All this was ripped away by evil, cruel racism.

As a result of the cruelty done to Mulugeta, community members, civil rights lawyers, judges, elected officials, and nonprofits came together and demanded justice be served. They succeeded.

The case attracted national attention, and thanks in part to the great effort of the Southern Poverty Law Center, the White Aryan Resistance and its leaders who were behind this heinous crime were bankrupted and jailed. While no prison sentence could bring back Mulugeta, Oregonians stood and stand in solidarity with Mulugeta and his family and friends to make clear we will not let hate crimes and violence take over our communities.

We have to remain vigilant, and we have to continue the fight. We must recognize our own troubling present in Oregon, which unfortunately has an awful history as a home for White supremacists, because to not know our own history dooms us.

In the years since Mulugeta's death, there have been horrific acts of racially charged violence in Oregon. In May of 2017, a self-proclaimed White nationalist verbally attacked two women who were riding Portland's MAX light rail. One of these two women was wearing a hijab. The perpetrator stabbed three men who defended the women against the racist and Islamophobic rant, killing two of them.

There have been horrific racist acts throughout the Nation. The march and murder in Charlottesville is another clear example of how these White supremacist ideals and concepts continue to draw breath in our country. Like Oregonians speaking out in remembrance of Mulugeta Seraw, we must all speak out against hate. It has no place in our country, including in our White House.

This year, as we remember the 30th anniversary of the murder of Mulugeta Seraw and 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, I would like to acknowledge the many organizations in Oregon that fight for peace and justice every day on behalf of marginalized communities. I would like to especially acknowledge members of these communities who are resilient and strong. I stand with them today and every day.

In a few weeks, Oregonians will come together to remember and celebrate the life of Mulugeta Seraw during a 30th year commemoration conference organized by the Urban League of Portland. I am honored to add to this remembrance with this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. May Mulugeta and his story never be forgotten, and may we remember, learn, and change.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET BALLARD

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a dedicated and treasured member of my staff, Margaret Ballard, and thank her for her more than 21 years of congressional service.

Margaret joined my congressional staff as an intern in 1997 when I served in the U.S. House of Representatives and as she was studying for her master's degree at Boise State University. She quickly proved herself to be bright, adept, and dependable, traits that have made her an integral member of my staff. She currently serves as administrative director and has served in this position since late 2001, but she has carried out many different tasks and filled in for various State positions as we developed as an organization. Her experience, knowledge, and skill from working in so many areas enable her to understand the roles of fellow staff and effectively connect office functions.

Margaret is the glue that holds my office together. As administrative director, she oversees the day-to-day administrative work that is so critical to office functions and responsiveness to the people of Idaho. Margaret keeps track of the intricate details and requirements of operating a Senate office, including the Senate rules. Margaret also recognizes staff achievements and finds opportunities to provide levity and boost morale. She has carried out meticulous work to enhance office operations and coordinate the efforts of the staff. Her long-term dedication to this effort has been vital to ensuring office efficiency. Every organization needs Margaret's kind of continuity and know-how.

To put the many changes Margaret has been a part of over the past 20 years into perspective, she recalls that, when she started back in 1997, all State offices had to share a dial-up internet connection and she had to coordinate when each office could call in and connect for internet service. With the technological advances since, those connection phases are a dim memory. Margaret has handled each new phase with tact and proficiency as she helped build our office administratively.

Prior to joining my staff, Margaret was the State emergency response commission chief of staff for 9 and a half years. Before that position, she was an administrative assistant for the mayor and city council of Glendale, CO, for 2 and a half years. She has worked in all three levels of government, local, State, and Federal Service. On a personal note, Margaret and her husband Troy Gugel have a son and daughter. They are grandparents to a grandson and have a granddaughter on the way.

Margaret, thank you for your steady, committed, and skilled work all these years. The adjectives I could list to describe you could go on and on: well-organized, resourceful, professional. Above all, I know that I have always been able to count on you to get the job done well for the people of Idaho.

This is the core of what it means to be an outstanding member of the staff and, more importantly, a friend. Congratulations on the work milestone you have surpassed, and thank for lending your talents to working on behalf of Idahoans all these years.

TRIBUTE TO BARRY CARPENTER

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Barry Carpenter, a longtime advocate for American agriculture, on his retirement from a career that spanned five decades. Last month, Barry retired his position as president and CEO of the North American Meat Institute, the Nation's largest and oldest trade association representing U.S. meat packers and processors. Barry's retirement concludes a career in both public service and private industry. His knowledge of the industry and his collaborative, affable disposition have allowed him to connect with everyone from CEOs to those just beginning their careers.

Barry's appreciation for U.S. agriculture, his drive to serve, and his work ethic were developed at an early age, working on his family's diversified farm in central Florida that produced cattle, hogs, corn, peanuts, and melons. After graduating from the University of Florida, Barry began his career as a meat grader with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also enlisted in the U.S. Army, earning the rank specialist fifth class. Barry carried with him the sense of duty and discipline learned in these formative years in each role he held.

Over the course of his 37-year career at USDA, Barry provided reasoned and steady guidance to Secretaries of both parties in multiple administrations. In his senior role at the Agricultural Marketing Service, Barry led programs critical to reestablishing U.S. beef export access following the first U.S. case of BSE in 2003. Barry further oversaw USDA's adoption of video technology used to assign beef quality grades, an important tool in identifying those high-quality prime steaks consumers around the world enjoy.

Upon retiring from USDA, Barry continued to serve American agriculture when he was named CEO of the National Meat Association in 2007. Barry has since provided steadfast leadership to the meat and poultry industry as CEO of the North American Meat Association and as president and CEO of the North American Meat Institute, following the completion of the merger, which he successfully guided, between the American Meat Institute and the North American Meat Association in January 2015.

Barry has earned numerous governmental awards, including Presidential Rank Awards, honors bestowed to less than 1 percent of senior career employees throughout the Federal Government, from Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. He has also received