

church. They serve the families of patients in a nearby hospital and homeless people who come over from the neighborhood shelters.

Let me tell you another thing about Sylvia. She is a great cook and a great baker. If you ask anyone in my Springfield office, they will tell you that her cookies and cakes are the best.

We have seen Sylvia dressed up in full regalia as a clown, which she does once a while to bring cheer and fun to parties and events in her community. She is a happy person and it is a joy to be around her.

She also has a great talent for decorating. One of her last responsibilities in my office, before her official last day before retirement, was setting up the Christmas decorations. Thanks to her, our office in Springfield is in full swing for the holidays.

We are going to miss Sylvia in our office. I speak for everyone there and countless people when I thank Sylvia for the outstanding 12 years of service she has dedicated to helping people in Illinois.

Sylvia is the mother of two beautiful grown daughters, Danette and Genaire. She is a proud grandmother of three grandchildren, ages 15, 13, and 11. She now has to make the tough choice of which daughter she will join and live with. They both want her. She has to decide whether to go with Danette in Portland, OR, or stay with Genaire in Davenport, IA. Whatever her choice, she told me there is one thing she wants to make sure of—that she has a reservation for the ticket of Barack Obama's second inaugural. She made the first, and she wants to be at the second one too. I made that promise to her.

Wherever she goes, I know Sylvia Gillespie will continue to be an inspiration to everyone she meets, and will, as long as she lives, reach out a helping hand to people who need a little assistance, a little encouragement, and that great Sylvia Gillespie smile.

Sylvia, thanks for 12 years of wonderful service in our office in Springfield. I wish you and your family the very best for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN J. STEWART

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Helen J. Stewart, a brave and extraordinary Nevadan who lived during the early days of Las Vegas. On December 3, 2011, there will be a dedication of the statue erected in her honor at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park.

In 1882, Helen arrived in the Las Vegas Valley with her husband Archibald and their three young children. After her husband died of a gunshot wound in 1884, she managed their isolated ranch while caring for five young children. A business-savvy woman, Helen sold 1,832 acres of the ranch to the railroad in 1902 for \$55,000. This land became the area from which the City of Las Vegas developed.

Helen had a pioneering spirit, and she is considered to be the "First Lady of Las Vegas." Among her numerous accomplishments in the community, she was the first Postmaster, the first woman to serve on a School District Board, and the first woman to serve on a jury. In addition, she was an advocate of women's rights, a charter member of the Mesquite Club, one of the founders of the Christ Episcopal Church, and the president of the Las Vegas chapter of the Nevada Historical Society.

Helen also developed strong friendships with the Southern Paiutes. They were her neighbors and some were workers on her ranch. In 1911, she deeded 10 acres of her land to the Federal Government for use as an Indian school. That land established what is now known as the Las Vegas Indian Colony for the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe.

I am pleased to stand today to recognize Helen's outstanding achievements. She was a remarkable mother, rancher, businesswoman, and community leader, and she serves as an inspiration to us all.

HOLD ON H.R. 3012

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to inform my colleagues that I am placing a hold on H.R. 3012, the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act. This bill would eliminate the per-country numerical limitations for employment-based visas and increase the numerical cap for family-based immigrants. I have concerns about the impact of this bill on future immigration flows, and am concerned that it does nothing to better protect Americans at home who seek high-skilled jobs during this time of record high unemployment.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS H. MILLER

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize and honor the service of Thomas H. Miller as he retires as the executive director of the Blinded Veterans Association. Mr. Miller has been an outstanding servant to his country and an advocate for his fellow veterans. He is truly an example of courage and perseverance. He has demonstrated throughout his career that the blindness he sustained through combat injuries does not impede his ability to have an impact here at home.

Mr. Miller served his country honorably in Vietnam and lost his eyesight during a 1967 combat mission. He was honorably discharged a year later and returned home to find limited resources for veterans suffering from blindness. Following his own struggle to adjust to life at home, Mr. Miller dedicated himself to ensuring that all blinded veterans share in the resources, services, and support than can bring new hope and opportunities.

As executive director of the Blinded Veterans Association, Mr. Miller

helped dramatically improve the lives of blinded veterans nationwide. In 2006 he helped launch Operation Peer Support a program aimed at ending the isolation suffered by many blinded veterans returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. This program provides veterans with valuable information regarding rehabilitation, employment, and self-help activities. Most importantly, Operation Peer Support has provided many blinded veterans with the opportunity to interact with one another and make lifelong friendships here at home.

Mr. Miller was also instrumental in raising awareness for blinded veterans. During his time with the Blinded Veterans Association, Mr. Miller worked with the Veterans Health Administration to improve care for the vision impaired. He testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs about the challenges facing blind veterans and served as the chair of the Federal Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special Disabilities Programs. In 17 years of leadership, the Blinded Veterans Association made vital contributions to legislation that has greatly expanded benefits and services for vision impaired veterans.

Our Nation is fortunate to have veterans as selfless and dedicated as Mr. Miller. While he could have allowed his combat injuries to slow his career, Mr. Miller instead saw his experience as an opportunity to help improve the lives of thousands of his fellow veterans. He has given honest and faithful service to his country and those wounded veterans transitioning to life back at home.

WALL STREET PROTESTS

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article written by Mallory Factor and published in Forbes magazine.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OCCUPY WALL STREET . . . NEXT STOP, ATHENS?

In the past few weeks Americans have watched with interest, bemusement and anger as protests and sit-ins on Wall Street have sparked similar demonstrations around the country. With vague goals of combating corporate greed and calls to rectify all manner of social and economic inequality, this movement seems, to the press at least, to capture a mood of deep discontent among the American people.

But if you think a thousand protesters on Wall Street is a trouble sign for our nation, wait until you see the civil unrest that follows the reforms and cuts to government programs needed to bring our national debt under control. Just look at Greece, where government is being reformed, drastic cuts are being made—and the society is unraveling. In Greece a series of severe austerity measures has been imposed as conditions for recent bailouts by the International Monetary Fund and the other members of the single European currency, the euro. Yet the economy continues to spiral downward.