

than 2 years before she was required to resign because she was pregnant with her first child. She later described teaching as “the hardest work I had ever done.”

In 1975, her husband, civil rights attorney David Richards, was approached about running for Travis County commissioner. He turned it down and said he wasn't interested, but Ann Richards was.

She won that race and went on to serve two terms as a Travis County commissioner, 8 years as Texas state treasurer, and 4 years as her State's governor.

Her 1990 election as Governor—a come-from-behind victory—made her the first woman elected governor in Texas in nearly 60 years, and the first woman to win that office without following her husband in.

As Governor, Ann Richards pursued a progressive agenda and appointed an unprecedented number of women and minorities to posts they never would have dreamed of in Texas Government.

Her family said that, as Governor, she was most proud of two actions that probably cost her re-election. She vetoed legislation that would have allowed people to carry concealed handguns. She also vetoed a bill that would have destroyed an aquifer that supplies water for much of south central Texas. She paid the political price.

Years later, when a reporter asked her what she might have done differently had she known she was going to serve only one term as Governor, Ann Richards grinned and replied: “Oh, I would probably have raised more hell.”

She was not just a political hero. In speaking openly about her struggle with alcoholism, her decision, in 1980, to get sober, and the joy she discovered in sobriety, Ann Richards was also a source of inspiration as well to countless others who struggle with addiction.

Ann Richards rose to national prominence when she gave the keynote address at the 1988 Democratic National Convention. People remember a lot of things she said in that address.

That address includes some immortal lines, including her famous description of gender inequality: “Ginger Rogers did everything that Fred Astaire did. She just did it backwards and in high heels.”

In other lines from that speech that are not as well remembered, Ann Richards talked about why she believed in government.

She said:

I was born during the Depression in a little community just outside Waco, and I grew up listening to Franklin Roosevelt on the radio. It was back then that I came to understand the small truths and the hardships that bind neighbors together. Those were real people with real problems, and they had real dreams about getting out of the Depression.

She said she could still hear the voices of those “people who were living their lives as best they could.”

She said: “They talked about war and Washington and what this country needed. They talked straight talk.”

In politics and in her life after politics, Ann Richards used her power to try to solve the real problems of real people and enable them to live and raise their families with dignity and hope.

I'll close with one more story from Wayne Slater. He recalls that, during a public appearance several years after leaving office, Ann Richards was asked about her legacy.

She replied:

In looking back on my life, I could of course say the predictable thing: that the greatest thing I've ever done is bear my children and have grandchildren, and all that kind of stuff. But the reality is that the greatest part of my life was the opportunity to be in public service—to make a difference for the community I live in, for the State that I love, to be able to try to make things better, whether they turned out in the fashion I expected them to or not.

Then she added:

Sometimes it's serendipitous. Good things happen accidentally. But they're not going to happen unless well-meaning people give of their time and their lives to do that.

Ann Richards earned that legacy and more. She made a difference not only for her community and her beloved State, but to our entire Nation. She touched so many lives and changed so many lives in her life. She will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her children: Cecile, Daniel, Clark and Ellen; their spouses; and Governor Richards' eight grandchildren.

There is good news in the Richards family. Cecile received an award last night from USA Action. Of course, she couldn't be there, she was at her mother's deathbed—and that is certainly understood. But a tribute was paid to her for her active work on behalf of women across America as a leader in Planned Parenthood. She is carrying on her mother's legacy, her commitment, her family's commitment to public service. I can't think of anything that would have made Ann Richards more proud.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RURAL AMERICA MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise this evening to speak about an important resolution that passed the Senate last week. I introduced S. Res. 561, which designates September as Rural America Month.

I first thank the majority leader and my colleague, Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN from Arkansas, for their help in passing this resolution. For me, home

means Nevada. Growing up as the son of a hard rock miner in a rural community called Searchlight, far from the bright lights of Las Vegas, has shaped my love for rural America. So when I became leader, I decided I wanted to do something to show how serious Democrats are about standing up for rural America. I couldn't think of a better person to lead this effort than BLANCHE LINCOLN from Arkansas.

I appointed her the chairman of my Rural Outreach Program, and she has done a wonderful job. She is so articulate, has that wonderful smile, and she has done things we never realized would be so effective. I publicly extend my appreciation to her for her leadership in this area. The people of Arkansas are so fortunate to have this good woman serving in the Senate.

It is our love for rural America that brings us to the Chamber today. Senator LINCOLN has been here. I appreciate her remarks very much. But it is what motivates us to support 55 million people who, like us, call rural America home. These small towns and rural communities are rich in heritage and tradition, and we need to do everything we can to protect and sustain the rural way of life.

Today, as we honor rural America, I would like to talk about some steps I believe the Senate should take to enrich rural economies, bring new and better services to small towns, enhance these pieces of fabric of America we call rural America.

During the last century, our rural communities have undergone an amazing transformation. With more than 2,000 rural counties accounting for almost 85 percent of the American landscape, the definition of what is rural often depends upon arbitrary lines of distinction. As rural economies become increasingly diversified, communities strive to adapt to the demands of a constantly evolving global community and economy. Take, for example, Elko, NV. Once, Elko was a small Basque enclave. It has grown dramatically during the past decade, and for so many years it has been growing in a way we never envisioned.

Today, Elko and the immediate vicinity produces 63 percent of the world's gold. It has recognized the challenge of relying upon the highly volatile industry, but it still carries on and does so well. The people of Elko worked together to identify local resources to foster not only growth but smart growth. As it turns out, one of Elko's most valuable assets is an unused railroad spur. Today, this is being developed and will become one of the busiest transportation hubs in the West because of the mining industry and ranching industry.

That is not all. Elko is also doing something else to capitalize on the uniqueness of their setting in the American West.

One of the reasons I am so proud of this legislation is because it honors America's farmers, ranchers, and, yes,

cowboys. Farming and ranching are the foundation of rural culture in America and continue to drive the rural economy. Today, with 95 million head of cattle, beef production in the United States is an \$80 billion-a-year industry. This year, Americans will consume 25 billion pounds of beef. With the livestock they raise and the responsible stewardship of public lands, American farmers and ranchers help feed families across the country and around the world. Although less than 10 percent of the world's cattle are raised in America, we produce nearly 25 percent of the world's beef supply.

For 23 years, the Western Folklife Center has hosted the National Cowboy Poetry Festival in Elko. Each year, poets, storytellers, musicians, filmmakers, dancers, and other performers descend upon the town to celebrate these American icons. The theme for this year's gathering is "The Ranch."

If you talk to ranchers and farmers this year, one of the first topics you hear is the rising cost of energy. The high cost of gasoline and diesel affects all Americans, but it hits rural America very hard. These are men and women who make a living driving tractors and other large pieces of equipment, hauling their grain and moving their livestock from place to place. This is one area in particular where we can help rural America, and I believe we should.

Instead of making farmers pay for dependence on foreign oil, it is time they were paid to make America energy independent. It is within our grasp. We are at a real turning point for alternative energy. Alternative energy technologies are finally becoming cost competitive with conventional energy sources such as oil and gas. In 2005, the three largest technology IPOs were, believe it or not, solar companies. By 2009, it is likely alternative energy technology will capture 10 percent of all capital venture investments. All of this is possible if we work together to take us in a new direction.

Another hardship faced by rural Americans is the loss of jobs. In the wake of outsourcing, rural communities have been left with the daunting task of retraining workers whose only training had been for jobs that no longer exist. For example, the manufacturing industry, which is so vital to so many small towns, has been hit the hardest, with as much as 30 percent of that sent abroad. It is not unusual for someone to work their ranch or farm but also have another job, and that has been very hurtful, with these jobs being shipped overseas. It has been particularly devastating for low-skill workers who make up more than 40 percent of all rural workers.

The problem is made worse when young unskilled workers leave the workforce in search of opportunities only available beyond the county line. While it is clear rural communities need to be more aggressive in attract-

ing new industries, the task is easier said than done.

Prospective employers need to be assured they have a pool of talented workers. With the exodus of skilled workers and an untrained workforce, few companies are willing to roll the dice. That is too bad.

Living in rural America is something that you do not see on a balance sheet. It is only a live experience. More people should experience the joy of living in rural America.

Just as good jobs are hard to find, so is good health care and good emergency response. In many parts of the country, such as Ely, NV, when there is an emergency—whether it is a small brush fire or national catastrophe—we look to our neighbors to keep our families safe. We rely on volunteer firefighters and police officers. This fact was made painfully clear after Hurricane Katrina.

That is why I feel so strongly that the Senate must do everything it can to make sure our first responders have the tools they need to get the job done right. Volunteer fire departments depend on programs such as Fire and Citizen Corps grants. Every day, rural law enforcement officials rely on the funding that the Byrne and COPS Programs provide.

Often, when we talk about veterans issues, we are talking about rural issues. Rural America is home to many U.S. veterans. In fact, according to the Census Bureau, rural and nonmetropolitan counties account for the largest concentration of veterans.

This is true for my home State of Nevada. With more than 250,000 veterans, Nevada has the third largest population of veterans, and it continues to grow. During the last decade, Nevada saw its veterans population increase by more than 30 percent—the highest increase in the country.

That is why for so many years now, I have been pushing Congress to revisit the injustice in compensation for our nation's veterans—the ban on concurrent receipt.

As too many are well aware, disabled veterans face the obstacle of forfeiting retirement pay dollar-for-dollar if they receive disability compensation. This policy is unacceptable, and I am committed to securing fair policy to provide our veterans with the entirety of their earned compensation.

I have been fighting for five years to allow for full concurrent receipt, and despite veto threats from the administration, we have made many great strides towards fair compensation for our veterans. In 2003, Congress passed my legislation allowing disabled retired veterans with at least a fifty percent disability rating to become eligible for full concurrent receipt over a ten-year period. This measure passed despite veto threats from the Bush administration.

Most recently, I have introduced legislation—S. 558—which would provide concurrent receipt to military retirees,

with 20 or more years of service, who are rated less than 50 percent. It would also eliminate the 10-year phase-in period for veterans who draw their disability and retirement pay; it will also change my 2003 bill to give full concurrent receipt to all veterans with service connected disabilities. There are currently 29 cosponsors to this legislation.

Additionally, the CARES commission on veterans' health care recognized the need for a Community Based Outpatient Clinic—CBOC—in Fallon and an expansion of services at the Reno VA Medical Center. I am committed to providing Nevada's veterans with more access to quality health care options, including a new CBOC in Elko.

And finally, no discussion of helping rural America would be complete without a discussion of Broadband.

For rural America, competition and active participation in the local and global marketplaces not only means having a computer, but also access to high-speed internet services.

Rural areas are consistently left behind urban areas when it comes to federal investment in the infrastructure systems that are essential for any economy to thrive—including telecommunications systems.

Although the Internet has touched the lives of billions of people around the globe, most of rural America has been left behind even the least developed countries.

Less than a decade ago, the Internet meant email and chat rooms. Today, access to broadband Internet is so much more. With high speed internet, incredible amounts of information can change fingers at the speed of light.

However, even in rural areas where broadband access has been introduced, problems such as affordability and adoption rates remain huge obstacles to progress/leaving dial-up the only realistic option. Affordability and adoption rates are the biggest obstacles we have.

Broadband Internet has proven itself to be a potent catalyst in job creation, economic development, and a critical component of education and public safety. In fact, the deployment of broadband service to our rural areas may be as important to economic development as rural electrification was during the Great Depression.

And so, my colleagues and I are committed to investing in innovative broadband technologies so that rural communities can begin to form new kinds of partnerships, and reach new levels of connectivity.

For example, Senator Clinton has worked to link local businesses in St. Lawrence County to global markets using eBay. Many parts of St. Lawrence County are remote, and businesses have a hard time finding customers. But not on eBay. eBay also offered training to small business owners and their employees.

Senator Clinton has also previously secured Senate passage of tax incentives for telecommunications companies to deploy broadband to rural

areas. This technology will allow small businesses around New York to compete for customers around the globe.

We have seen how one small business has worked with several communities to bring free wireless internet service to nine cities in Eastern Oregon. The service is now being used to track cargo shipments on the Columbia River, monitor a munitions depot, and has improved the efficiency of the police department.

I have spent the last few moments talking about the joys and challenges felt by rural America.

As I've cited in examples today from Elko and Ely, Nevada, rural communities are coming together to create new opportunity themselves. But we here in Washington need to do everything we can to help them succeed.

We need solutions that make sense for the whole country—not just for Washington, D.C., but for places like Winnemucca, and Aurora, NE.

We can do it. And we'll be a better, stronger nation as a result.

#### BOXING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a momentous occasion in the history of Nevada and one of my favorite pastimes: boxing.

This September 16, 2006, marks the 100th anniversary of the longest boxing match in history fought under Queensbury rules. For more than 3 hours, 2 of the greatest boxers in the country squared off for 42 rounds in the booming mining community of Goldfield, NV. This fight's tremendous length might be important to the "Guinness Book of World Record," but for Nevada, it was also an important moment in race relations during a tumultuous period in our country's history.

Boxing promoters throughout the country billed the fight as one of epic proportions. Oscar Battling Nelson was one of the toughest fighters in the land. He was nicknamed "The Durable Dane" for his resilient and hard-hitting style. Rather than defeat his opponents with skill, Nelson preferred to absorb the blows of his opponents and outlast them in the ring. One biographer even went so far as to say that Nelson "gave new meaning to the word tough."

With such fabled abilities, Nelson was the early favorite to defeat his opponent, a 32-year-old African American named Joe Gans. The Baltimore native was the reigning lightweight champion and the first American-born Black man to win a boxing title. His style was a sharp contrast to The Durable Dane: Gans was quick and fast on his feet and known as "The Old Master." Rather than relying on brute strength, Gans tried to beat his opponents with skill.

Such a marquee match-up was a boxing promoter's dream and was expected to promote gold stock in the area. With a record \$30,000 purse prize, the fight brought national attention to Goldfield, the largest city in Nevada at the

time. But a sharp issue hung over the bout like an ominous cloud. That was the issue of race.

Before the fight began, rumors floated that Gans had thrown fights as a youth in Baltimore. So persistent were the rumors that Gans' promoter, a local saloon owner named Larry Sullivan, feared for his safety should his fighter lose. Others worried that a win by Gans could start a riot in the town.

The hostility of the town quickly evaporated once the citizens of Goldfield had an opportunity to meet Joe Gans. It was his unassuming manner—and some say a love of the craps tables—that endeared Gans to the town. Prefight negotiations only served to steer more public support to Gans' corner. Gans gave into every one of Nelson's demands, including lowering his own share of the \$30,000 purse to \$11,000 win or lose. He also agreed to drop his weight to 133 pounds—well below his normal fighting weight of 142 pounds.

The change in support was clearly evident to referee George Siler. He wrote: "The men who wield the pick think that Gans has been imposed upon by Nelson's manager, and they want to see him win." The Goldfield News reported the shift in support saying ". . . the camp finds itself in the unique position of wishing to see a Negro defeat a white man." By the start of the fight, the odds were 2-1 in favor of Gans.

The fight started in the afternoon under the hot Nevada sun. Some estimates place the ringside temperatures at more than 100 degrees. Nevertheless, more than 6,000 people—and an unprecedented 1,500 women—paid the pricey sum of \$5 to watch the fight.

Surely, none of the spectators knew that they would witness one of the greatest fights in history. As usual, Nelson tried to outlast his opponents' barrage of uppercuts, hooks, and jabs. By the end of the seventh round, Nelson was bleeding from both ears and Gans knocked him to the mat. But the Durable Dane would not give up. He tried to pin Gans against the ropes, and again Gans knocked him to the mat in the 15th round. Nelson bounced back, winning the next three rounds. After almost 20 rounds, the sun began to set over the Columbia Mountain and it was clear that the fighters were tired.

But neither man would yield. Gans broke his hand in the 27th round but refused to go down. He continued to fight back against Nelson, showing little sign of the injury. At the end of the 30th round, Nelson hit Gans after the bell, causing uproar in the crowd. The referee, who had warned Nelson about fouls throughout the fight, gave him yet another warning. Finally, the Durable Dane began to lose his famed endurance, while Gans continued to pummel him. In the 42nd round, Nelson landed an intentional low blow on Gans. The referee called the fight in Gans' favor.

The telegraph wires carried the result of the fight across the country. And the town's support for Gans held

strong. That night, the residents of Goldfield did not see Black or White: They saw a winner. Joe Gans, with his modest manner and stylish boxing, had won the town over. Siler wrote: "Goldfield is a vast camp of hero worshippers tonight, and its hero is Joe Gans . . ."

This Saturday, the boxing clubs from the University of Nevada, Reno, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, will fight 42 rounds in honor of the Nelson-Gans match. The sounds of the closing bell for each of those 42 rounds will be from the original 1906 bell from the fight. And later that evening in nearby Tonopah, the audience will be able to watch video footage of the historic bout.

Mr. President, the accomplishments of Joe Gans and the citizens of Goldfield are worthy for recognition before the Senate. I am pleased have the opportunity to honor this important anniversary today.

#### CHANGING THE TIDE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as Detroit residents cope with a rise in homicides and shootings this year, city police are joining with other law enforcement agencies in an effort to stem gun-related violence through a new program. Operation Tactical Intelligence Driven Enforcement, or TIDE, was established to help determine crime patterns, identify the city's most violent offenders and ultimately prevent crime in the city of Detroit.

Operation TIDE, which began on May 5, 2006, in the Detroit Northwestern police district, involves the coordination of 10 Federal, State and local agencies. It is designed to use the expertise of each agency to better track and share intelligence on dangerous criminals. The U.S. Attorney's Office, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Sheriffs Office, U.S. Marshals Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Michigan State Police and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration are all involved in the project. To date, 115 people tied to gun crimes and gang violence have been arrested. The program is funded by a \$600,000 grant through the Federal Project Safe Neighborhoods campaign against guns and gang violence and is currently being expanded into the other three police districts.

Operation TIDE expands upon the current Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative strategy of suppression, deterrence, prevention/intervention, investigation, prosecution and public awareness. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a long-term campaign that has assisted in taking many violent offenders off the streets of Detroit. Since its inception in 2001, Project Safe Neighborhoods has played an important role in a 34 percent reduction in violent crime and a 73 percent increase in firearm prosecutions nationally. In the Detroit area, it has resulted in more than 800 Federal gun prosecutions. Project Safe