

that addresses the challenges of our day. Through successes and failings, Trent has always been true to this purpose. Most important to him, he has also been true to his constituents, and to his family. I trust that these priorities will continue to guide him, and know they will bring him success for many years to come.

SAFETY OF SLAUGHTER FACILITIES

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I wish to highlight a recent undercover video produced by the Humane Society of the United States. This video displays the appalling methods used by employees at the California-based Hallmark Meat Packing Company during the processing of cattle, as well as the unacceptable state of USDA's oversight of meat packing operations.

The video documents horrifying scenes of employees using electrical prods to shock animals, pulling them with chains, and carelessly driving over them with a forklift in an effort to bring sick or injured cows to their feet. These cruel actions amount to nothing less than torture. There was even a case of using a hose to forcibly spray water into a cow's nose to get it to rise to its feet to avoid the sensation of drowning.

Currently, the State of California has laws in place that specifically prohibit the kinds of activities taking place at Hallmark. In addition, because of the health hazards associated with so-called "downer" cattle, which are those unable to stand and walk due to either injury or illness, USDA in 2003 passed a regulation prohibiting the processing of such animals. According to USDA's own reports, there is a much higher incidence of mad cow disease in these animals, and they are also much more susceptible to pathogens like *E. coli* and salmonella.

The actions of this slaughterhouse, and possibly countless others, in violation of established laws, have put our most vulnerable and important assets in danger—children. The animals processed by this facility are supplied to the Westland Meat Company, which is the second-largest provider of beef to USDA's Commodity Procurement Branch. This arm of USDA distributes the meat to needy families and also to more than 100,000 schools across America through the National School Lunch Program. I shudder when I think of how many other of the Nation's 6,200 slaughterhouses could be evading oversight and endangering the lives of countless Americans.

The two daily scheduled USDA inspections at the Hallmark facility are obviously no deterrent to the abhorrent practices being performed there. In fact, the very short and superficial nature of the inspections serve to encourage workers to do anything they can to bring a sick animal to its feet just long enough to pass inspection before being slaughtered.

In order to ensure the safety of our Nation's food supply, ensure animals are treated humanely and with respect, and protect our families and children from possible life-threatening illnesses, we must act. Atrocities such as those exposed by the Humane Society must be swiftly abolished, and effective oversight measures put in place immediately.

USDA needs to shore up inspections, hold slaughterhouses accountable and uphold food safety standards, and ensure that cattle and dairy farmers are aware that nonambulatory cattle will not be accepted for processing. It is also imperative that we, Congress, ensure that downer livestock is unable to enter our food chain, and the best way to accomplish this task is to codify the prohibition of downer livestock from entering our food supply.

I introduced S. 394, the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act, to fill a gap in the current USDA and the Food and Drug Administration regulations. It calls for the humane euthanization of nonambulatory livestock. The euthanization of nonambulatory livestock would remove this high-risk population from the portion of livestock reserved for our consumption. Due to the presence of other prion diseases found throughout other species of livestock, all animals that fit under the definition of livestock are included in this bill.

The benefits of my bill are numerous, for both the public and the industry. On the face of it, the bill will prevent needless suffering by humanely euthanizing nonambulatory animals. The removal of downed animals from our food chain will insure that it is safer and of better quality. The reduction in the likelihood of disease would result in safer working conditions for persons handling livestock. This added protection against disease would help the flow of livestock and livestock products in interstate and foreign commerce, making commerce in livestock more easily attainable.

We must act now and call upon USDA to make the necessary changes to ensure that the atrocities demonstrated at this slaughterhouse are not repeated elsewhere. In addition, I urge my colleagues to support passage of the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act.

RETIREMENT OF MARTIN PAONE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, Marty began in the House Post Office to help pay his way through graduate school at Georgetown. He then worked to the Senate parking office. Then, in 1979, 29 years ago, Marty began working in the Senate Democratic Cloakroom. Marty worked his way up the ranks until being appointed Secretary for the Minority in 1995.

It is impossible to overstate Marty's importance to everything that we have done on the floor of the U.S. Senate: what comes to the floor, what gets off the floor, what gets amended or not.

But Marty has not just been indispensable on procedure and tactics. Marty has also been an invaluable strategic adviser to me, to the Democratic leadership and, I say with confidence, to every Democratic Senator and to more than a few Republican Senators.

There just aren't many people I could say that about.

We have relied on him and will miss him because of his tireless work ethic, his excellent judgment and his ability to be the calm in the middle of the storm. And for anyone who has been in the middle of a storm around here, staying calm is no easy task.

Marty has also put in the hours. Early days and late nights were the norm. But, he is always been here. For that, we will always be grateful.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention his family and our gratitude to them for all the time he was here helping us rather than at home with them.

His wife Ruby is part of our Senate family and has endured Marty's very tough job, as have his children: Alexander, Stephanie, and Tommy.

To each of them, I want to say thank you for putting up with him and our demands on him.

I also want to mention Marty's mother, Evelyn, who is 95 years young. His mother is very proud of him and all that he has accomplished. And I want her to know that we are all very proud of him as well.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge Marty's successors. We are all so pleased that Lula Davis is our new secretary. Having more than 25 years of Senate service and many years of working with Marty, we all know she will fill these very big shoes and serve us all well.

Tim Mitchell is replacing Lula as Assistant Democratic Secretary. He has 16 years of Senate service and a wealth of experience and we look forward to working with him as well in his new capacity.

And Jacques Purvis will move from the cloakroom and join Trish Engle as one of our floor assistants and I congratulate him on that move as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE ANNE HEART

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor one of the most dedicated advocates for health care treaty rights for American Indian tribes in my State and throughout the United States, Carole Anne Heart. Carole Anne was the executive director for the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board. The Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board operates several programs for native people in a 4-State region that represents 18 tribes including the 9 treaty tribes in my home State of South Dakota. During her tenure with the Chairmen's Health Board, programs such as Healthy Start, Tobacco Prevention, and Asthma Prevention expanded to serve hundreds of Native

men, women, and children. With her assistance, the Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center opened and serves the tribal nations through its many projects and partnerships with the Indian Health Service and other Federal agencies.

A Sicangu Lakota and Ihanntonwan Dakota, Carole Anne grew up with the Lakota culture all around her; as a young child, she spent much time with her grandmother and great-grandmother, learning the Lakota values. She went to boarding school in Marty, SD, and then on to high school at Saint Francis Indian School on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation. Her life's work included water rights and women's rights, and, most recently, health care advocacy. As the executive director to the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board, she worked to incorporate traditional customs into the contemporary programming so the language and the culture would continue. She led many conferences and workshops around the United States on tribal health care issues. Carole Anne was well known for her humor—she would light up a room with her jokes and laughter. Oftentimes her sense of humor interjected itself as she led some of the most serious discussions on health care disparities. Her use of the phrase "Don't get sick after June" was in reference to the lack of funding the Indian Health Service has at that time of the fiscal year which meant that services were unavailable to many tribal members. While this is a very serious issue, Carole Anne was able to make light of the situation and remained focused on bettering health care for native peoples throughout Indian Country.

Her Lakota name was Waste Wayankapi Win, meaning "When People See You, They See Something Good." How fitting a name for someone who would spread "good" throughout Indian Country. On Friday, January 25, 2008, after a courageous battle with cancer, Carole Anne Heart made her journey to the spirit world. I extend my sympathy to her family and those close to her. She will be missed greatly by everyone she touched on her journey through this world.●

HONORING ESTHER G. KEE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of the Senate the work of Mrs. Esther G. Kee as she retires from the presidency of the US-Asia Institute. Mrs. Kee came to Washington, DC, in 1977 to raise awareness of the unique role Asian Pacific Americans could play in facilitating communication and interaction between the United States and the countries and people of East Asia.

Following the first national gathering at the White House in 1978 of Asian American leaders throughout the United States, Mrs. Kee and her colleague, the late Joji Konoshima, were encouraged by then-President Jimmy

Carter to work closely with the Honorable Richard C. Holbrooke, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. An advisory council on East Asia was formed to provide insight to the State Department on issues impacting the region. From this, the U.S.-Asia Institute was established as a nongovernmental organization in 1979 to serve as an independent voice for the U.S.-Asia relationship. Mrs. Kee and Mr. Konoshima played a key role in the historic visit of Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping to the United States, traveling with him to New York, Houston, and San Francisco, and represented the U.S. overseas on numerous delegations.

Mrs. Kee has worked steadily and effectively through the years to build awareness and foster mutual understanding between the United States and countries of East Asia. This quiet diplomacy has earned her the respect of many on Capitol Hill, in various administrations and in East Asia diplomatic, business, and academic circles. She has asked for no public recognition, but as she retires from the organization she cofounded, we feel it is time to say thank you for her commitment to the U.S.-Asia relationship.

From small interpersonal exchanges to facilitating contacts through international conferences at the U.S. Department of State and on Capitol Hill, the Institute has strived to strengthen ties by promoting two-way dialogue between the United States and countries of East Asia. One cornerstone of the institute's engagement was the establishment of congressional staff delegations to Asia. Since 1985, these official visits have greatly increased the awareness, knowledge and understanding of Asian and U.S. views, providing invaluable opportunities for U.S. congressional advisers to gain a firsthand view of the region, its culture, its governments, and its people. More than 800 staff members have traveled to China alone since 1985 on 70 delegations.

Mrs. Kee leaves an important legacy of mutual communication and understanding, and even in her retirement, she remains determined the work she began almost 30 years ago will continue. The U.S.-Asia Institute will carry on Mrs. Kee's work, promoting dialog on international issues of common interest to the United States and participating Asian nations, whenever and however possible.

As she retires, we say thank you to Mrs. Kee for her sage counsel, her vision, her quiet behind-the-scenes diplomacy, and her unwavering commitment to the U.S.-Asia relationship.●

RECOGNIZING THE INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I honor a small business whose admirable goal is to educate citizens about personal finance. The Institute for Financial Literacy, headquartered in Maine's largest city of Portland, pro-

vides a valuable and unique resource for taxpayers and business owners alike—specifically those who have gone through bankruptcy—to better understand their economic situation.

Founded in 2002 by Leslie Linfield, the Institute for Financial Literacy has grown exponentially in the past 6 years, and now has a team of 50 employees. The institute employs a multitude of programs and formats to train clients on various issues related to the betterment of financial aptitude. Its Personal Finance Series is a combination of three books that aim to demonstrate the principles of budgeting, credit and debit management, and investment and retirement planning. The company's Web site contains several instrumental tools, including a budget worksheet and a financial goal action plan, free for anyone wishing to monitor their finances closely. The Web site includes several papers on legal matters and money management strategies by the company's employees. Additionally, it offers users the ability to sign up for the institute's electronic newsletter.

Above and beyond the invaluable information provided on its Web page, the institute provides critical counseling services to assist those in need of financial advice. In 2007 alone, the institute's employees served over 50,000 individuals throughout the country, helping them make better and more informed decisions about their personal financial decisions. Services for people who have filed for bankruptcy include both pre- and post-filing FreshStart counseling and education programs, all delivered over the Internet, phone, or in person, to give clients the financial management skills and principles necessary to succeed in their future endeavors. To make its employees' expertise available to the largest number of people, the institute is open for 13 hours each weekday with additional hours on Saturdays.

Furthermore, the institute partners with nonprofit, educational and governmental organizations to integrate its programs into their existing services. These partners include groups with a notable influence in the realm of financial responsibility, including the "Save For Your Future" campaign that urges Americans to develop private individual pensions to supplement their Social Security earnings, and the American Bankruptcy Institute, an organization dedicated to research and education on matters related to insolvency. Similarly, the Institute for Financial Literacy has partnered with local organizations to create programs that help Mainers improve their financial and employment opportunities.

In its short history, the Institute for Financial Literacy has already benefited tens of thousands of people struggling to recover from bankruptcy. By developing high-quality, user-friendly financial literacy programs, its educational and counseling assistance renders an enormous boon for those looking to advance in life. I thank Leslie