

job as a substitute teacher at Sandy Hook—something she had longed to do since age 6. She found a home in this community and gave her life caring for its children. A graduate of the University of Connecticut, she cheered on the women's basketball team and enjoyed going to Broadway shows.

Rachel D'Avino was an intern at Sandy Hook—a 29-year-old who was in the process of learning how to help children with special needs. She was studying at the University of Saint Joseph for an advanced degree in applied behavior analysis and provided one-on-one instruction to various students. Her boyfriend was planning on asking for her hand in marriage on Christmas Eve.

Victoria Soto loved going to work each day as a first grade teacher at Sandy Hook Elementary and was, in turn, beloved by her students. She was raised in a family of public servants and graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University. She was attending night school at Southern Connecticut State for a master's degree. When the gunman shot his way into her classroom, she protected the children under her care without hesitation. Her story and those of her colleagues, who put their lives on the line, will be remembered around the Nation.

During this holiday season, we pray that the Newtown community can find peace and solace. This tragedy reminds us of both the fragility and preciousness of life, and the healing grace of love.

RECOGNIZING THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, in 2010, Senators GILLIBRAND and SCHUMER passed a resolution honoring the Hudson River School painters for their contributions to the United States. Today, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to this significant, historic artistic movement and recognize its ties to Connecticut.

The Hudson River School of Painting originated in the Hudson River Valley in the 1920s and consists of landscapes featuring highly detailed and realistic scenes of American wilderness. Painters attributed to this style include Thomas Cole, Asher Durand, Jasper Cropsey, Sanford Robinson Gifford, George Inness, Worthington Whittredge, Albert Bierstadt, and Thomas Morgan.

Two of the most influential painters of the Hudson River School have Connecticut roots: John Kensett and John Frederic Church. Born in Cheshire, Kensett worked in New Haven as an engraver and traveled throughout New England, painting scenes of his cherished homeland. At his home on Contentment Island near Darien, he painted some of his most notable works. Church was born in Hartford and became famous for his landscapes of exotic locales of South America, Western Europe, and the Middle East.

The Long Island Sound—a treasure of Connecticut and the East Coast—was a common subject lovingly portrayed by Hudson River School painters, in particular by Kensett, who would frequent the Sound to or from his studio in Darien. Famously, Kensett's "Twilight in the Cedars at Darien," portrays a serene sun setting over a dense swath of forest in Connecticut.

The Hudson River School has not only inspired painters for generations, but led to the development of the National Park Service under President Theodore Roosevelt. In Connecticut and throughout the Nation, this influential style has inspired environmental conservation efforts historically and to the present day.

These beautiful, idyllic landscapes, untouched by man, inspire us to protect our land, air, and water; future generations must not look at these paintings as ancient artifact. Connecticut is closely tied to the Hudson River School, and we must continue to preserve its legacy now and in the future by learning more about the School and its painters. I encourage my colleagues and their constituents to engage in this worthwhile pursuit.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-8730. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Guard Youth Challenge Program 2012 annual report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8731. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Relocation of Regulations" (RIN2590-AA56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8732. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8733. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8734. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8735. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to blocking property of the Government of the

Russian Federation relating to the disposition of highly enriched uranium extracted from nuclear weapons that was declared in Executive Order 13617 of June 25, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8736. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ohio; Redesignation of the Ohio Portion of the Huntington-Ashland 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area to Attainment" (FRL No. 9764-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8737. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9734-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8738. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Revisions to the Total Coliform Rule" (FRL No. 9684-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8739. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rule on Certain Chemical Substances; Removal of Significant New Use Rules" (FRL No. 9369-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8740. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Determination of Clean Data for the 1987 PM10 Standard for the Ogden Area" (FRL No. 9765-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8741. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Alaska; Eagle River PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request" (FRL No. 9764-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8742. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; Determination of Attainment of the 2006 24-hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard for the Philadelphia-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9765-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.