

community volunteer whose contributions will have long lasting impacts in the Greater Cincinnati community, and beyond.

Born and raised in Hillsboro, OR, Mr. Gardner was the only child of Vesey Gardner, a prominent community leader and a lumber company owner, and Ruth Gardner, a popular singer. He is a graduate of Oregon State University.

A proud and decorated veteran of World War II, Mr. Gardner withdrew from college to serve in the U.S. Navy the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He survived one of the largest and most brutal battles in history—the Battle off Samar—earning his unit aboard the USS Kalinin Bay the Presidential Unit Citation, one of the Navy's highest honors.

Ted was an active member of the U.S. Navy League, The Hornet Foundation, and was a member of the advisory board of the Warbird Museum. He was passionate about the importance of oral history and personally interviewed over 150 World War II veterans and recorded and videotaped their stories for the Cincinnati Public Library and for the U.S. Library of Congress.

Following his graduation from Oregon State University, Mr. Gardner got a job with a lumber distributor in Columbus, OH and then later moved to Cincinnati, where he and his wife, Naomi, raised their three children. Mr. Gardner changed careers in the 1970s and worked as a local art dealer until he retired.

Ted was a 30-year member of the Cincinnati Rotary Club, where he was involved in programs to welcome international students studying at area universities and where he participated in events benefiting children with disabilities and youth in government.

A talented musician, Mr. Gardner shared his vocal talents as a member of the Rotary chorus, the choir of the Church of the Redeemer and the Cincinnati May Festival Chorus, where he served as a board member. For 25 years, he sang all four verses of "Taps" in his rich bass voice on Veterans Day at the public library.

Ted was an historian, a lover of art and literature, a musician and an avid sports enthusiast. He is greatly missed, and his extraordinary legacy and giving spirit will not be forgotten.●

#### PUTTING OUR VETERANS BACK TO WORK

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as incoming chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, one of my top priorities will be to evaluate and improve the training and employment programs afforded to our Nation's servicemembers and veterans.

Every day, far too many young veterans face the harsh realities of unemployment. These are brave men and women who have put their lives on the line defending our country who now struggle to find employment and provide for their families. The Putting Our

Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013 will ensure we provide them with much needed support.

This legislation would reauthorize several of the transition, retraining, and employment services created by the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. That legislation is making a real impact in the lives of countless veterans by providing them with the training opportunities they need in order to secure meaningful employment.

Too often I hear from veterans that the government provides great resources for them to find training and employment opportunities, but they are not sure where to start in order to tap into those resources. Those Departments charged with helping to provide veterans with employment assistance must make certain that they are conducting appropriate outreach so that veterans know where to turn when they need help.

Assisting in this effort, the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act would also provide veterans with a new, unified, online employment portal for veterans seeking information regarding employment and job training resources. This online portal would make it easier for veterans to take advantage of the services and opportunities available to them.

At a time when 85 percent of law enforcement agencies were forced to reduce their budget, according to a 2011 survey by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, answering the Nation's public safety needs is also a priority. That is why this legislation would provide potential employers with additional grants for first responder hiring and re-hiring needs.

This legislation would also direct agency heads to favorably consider contractors that employ a significant number of veterans for all contracts over \$25 million. This provision would ensure that contractors, who are doing their part to help veterans find good paying jobs, have a competitive advantage when doing business with the Federal government.

Finally, the Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act would strengthen our commitment to protecting the employment rights of servicemembers and veterans. These commonsense provisions would build upon existing law by providing the government with additional tools to carry out its obligation to safeguard veterans' employment rights. This legislation would enable the Attorney General to investigate and file suit against a pattern or practice in violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and to issue limited civil investigative demands for relevant documentary material. It would also allow Federal agencies to suspend and debar contractors who repeatedly violate the employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services. Finally, it would provide the Special Counsel with authority to subpoena attendance, testimony,

and documents from Federal employees and agencies in order to carry out investigations related to USERRA.

Mr. President, there are a number of great training and employment programs available to veterans. This legislation would strengthen such programs and make certain that veterans have and maintain access to those programs. That is what our veterans are entitled to and that is what we must deliver.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING MARILYN AND ALAN BERGMAN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the great song lyricists Alan and Marilyn Bergman are being honored by the New West Symphony with its Bravo Award for their extraordinary leadership, their contributions to the Visions of America multimedia project, and their deep and longstanding commitment to music education and the performing arts. I look forward to paying tribute to them at the New West Symphony's event in Los Angeles.

Alan and Marilyn Bergman are two of the world's best-known and best-loved lyricists. From the 1950s calypso hit "Yellow Bird" and Frank Sinatra's "Nice 'n' Easy" to Oscar-winning lyrics for "The Way We Were" and "The Windmills of Your Mind" to themes for many of America's favorite television series, the Bergmans have been contributing to the Great American Songbook for more than 50 years. They have won three Academy Awards (including one for the score of *Yentl*), four Emmys, two Grammys, and two Golden Globe Awards.

They have also worked tirelessly to promote the arts and champion our creative community. Marilyn served for 15 years as President and Chairman of the Board of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), the world's foremost performing rights organization. In 2002, she was appointed the first chairman of the Library of Congress National Sound Recording Preservation Board.

Alan serves as a member of the Library of Congress National Film Preservation Board, the Johnny Mercer Foundation Board, the Artists' Rights Foundation Board, and the Jazz Bakery Board of Directors.

And together, Alan and Marilyn serve on the executive committee of the Music Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

They are also strong supporters of music education, including the New West Symphony's outstanding efforts to provide quality outreach and educational opportunities for our communities and our schools.

Mr. President, I know that you and all our colleagues will join me in saluting two great American artists and this year's Bravo Award winners, Alan and Marilyn Bergman.●