

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA RENEE
SIMPSON

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the dedicated career and service to the Congress and the Nation of Renee Simpson, who is retiring at the end of this month after over 30 years of service in both the Executive and Legislative branches of our government. She has dedicated her life to public service helping keep our Nation and its citizens secure, and we honor her for her longstanding dedication.

Renee is leaving the Senate as a staff member for Audits and Oversight of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. During her 3 years on the Committee, Renee has been integral to the committee's oversight of the 16 intelligence agencies. She led reviews of the intelligence community's information technology modernization and classification processes, and served as a committee liaison with the inspectors general of the intelligence community. Her knowledge and insight helped both identify items of concern and proposals for improvement.

In addition to her service with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, Renee has served as a Legislative Affairs Officer in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and as the Special Senate Liaison for the United States Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs. But perhaps her most significant assignments and accomplishments came during her 24 years of service with the U.S. Naval Reserves.

Ms. Simpson's distinguished military career began as an Operations and Readiness Officer for Desert Shield/Desert Storm and her unwavering commitment to service led her to posts around the world, including to NATO's Allied Forces Southern Headquarters Command, the U.S. Embassy in Rome, Italy, the Joint Task Force in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, U.S. Joint Forces Command, and the Office of the Director of Naval Intelligence in Washington, DC.

Renee has received numerous awards for her military service including the Defense Superior Service Medal as well as many Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals.

Renee is especially close to her family and her priorities and heart lie with them in Sanford, NC. Her father, Lester Ray Simpson, is a proud Navy veteran of the Korean War who has an appreciation of fine attire with just the right bow tie. Her mom, Vivian, remains Renee's unending inspiration and role model. And according to Renee, her sister, Jane Rae Fawcett, is "a superstar and the smartest, funniest person I know." Finally, her family simply would not be complete without her anchor of a brother-in-law, Deputy Sheriff Ed Fawcett. Renee lives, breathes and loves her family above all else.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to publicly thank Renee and to note my appreciation for her dedicated and dignified efforts. We will miss your insight and experience, and your commitment to pursuing the right policies to protect our Nation.

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Subcommittee assignments.

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

UNITED STATES, SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY
113th Congress, Subcommittee Assignments,
February 27, 2014

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES, MARKETS,
TRADE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Sen. Donnelly, Chair. Sen. Heitkamp, Sen. Harkin, Sen. Brown, Sen. Gillibrand, Sen. Walsh, Sen. Chambliss, Ranking. Sen. Roberts, Sen. Boozman, Sen. Hoeven, Sen. Johanns.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON JOBS, RURAL ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND ENERGY INNOVATION

Sen. Heitkamp, Chair. Sen. Brown, Sen. Klobuchar, Sen. Bennet, Sen. Donnelly, Sen. Casey, Sen. Johanns, Ranking. Sen. Hoeven, Sen. Grassley, Sen. Thune, Sen. Boozman.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, FORESTRY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Sen. Bennet, Chair. Sen. Harkin, Sen. Klobuchar, Sen. Leahy, Sen. Heitkamp, Sen. Walsh, Sen. Boozman, Ranking. Sen. McConnell, Sen. Chambliss, Sen. Thune, Sen. Roberts.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION, SPECIALTY
CROPS, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Sen. Casey, Chair. Sen. Leahy, Sen. Harkin, Sen. Brown, Sen. Gillibrand, Sen. Bennet, Sen. Hoeven, Ranking. Sen. McConnell, Sen. Chambliss, Sen. Grassley, Sen. Thune.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY,
MARKETING AND AGRICULTURE SECURITY

Sen. Gillibrand, Chair. Sen. Leahy, Sen. Klobuchar, Sen. Donnelly, Sen. Casey, Sen. Walsh, Sen. Roberts, Ranking. Sen. McConnell, Sen. Boozman, Sen. Johanns, Sen. Grassley.

*Senator Stabenow and Senator Cochran serve as ex officio members of all subcommittees.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM
GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, no family should be forced to endure the loss of a child. In his memoir, President Dwight Eisenhower wrote that the loss of his 3-year-old son in early 1921 was "the greatest disappointment and disaster in my life, the one that I have never been able to forget completely." That is why one of the fundamental expectations that Americans have of their government is also one of the most simple: to protect America's children; to ensure that our communities, our streets, and our families are safe.

But sadly, Congress has done little to combat the gun violence that con-

tinues to devastate American children and families. Many have characterized horrific shootings affecting children in our Nation, such as the one which occurred in Newtown, CT, as somehow separate from mainstream American society. But recent studies have shown that such incidents cannot be viewed in a vacuum. Instead, as a recent Yale University study has established, they are part of a wider, disturbing trend of gun violence wounding and killing American children. This study found that every day in the United States, around 20 children sustain firearm injuries serious enough to require hospitalization. In 6 percent of those cases, the wounds prove to be fatal. Three quarters of child hospitalizations examined by the study were the result of unintentional or accidental injuries, often cases of children playing with an unsecured firearm.

The study's rigorous clinical framework, combined with the reality that it is discussing children, makes for jarring reading. The researchers found, for example, that the most common firearm-inflicted injuries on children are open wounds, fractures, and internal injuries to the thorax, abdomen, or pelvis. Injuries to the nerves or spinal cord are also frequent. Traumatic brain injury resulting from gun violence is most often found in children younger than 5. These are not statistics of soldiers on a battlefield who volunteered to face danger. These are innocent children, in our communities, right here at home.

This cycle of violence touches families around our Nation. Like in Detroit, where a recent Detroit News investigation showed that nearly 500 Detroit children have died in homicides since 2000, mostly as the result of gun violence. That investigation cited, as an example, the story of 12-year-old Kenis Green Jr. Last August, he was shot and killed on his front porch during his uncle's birthday party. In Texas, last October a 5-year-old boy shot himself with a .40 caliber pistol that his babysitter left unattended when she went to take a nap. In South Carolina, last December a 15-year-old boy accidentally shot and killed a 12-year-old while loading a magazine into a firearm.

If almost anything in the world was responsible for sending 20 American children to the hospital every day, or was frequently involved in teenage suicides, or was inflicting traumatic brain injuries on toddlers, Congress would spring into action to address what can only be described as a public health crisis. We would enact comprehensive safety standards to stop the bloodshed. But when firearms are responsible for these horrific effects, inexplicably, we do nothing.

I urge my colleagues to recognize this crisis and to act to protect our children from gun violence. I urge my colleagues to take up and pass gun safety measures already pending in this Congress to keep firearms out of