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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We praise You, O God, for the good Earth out of which sustenance comes. Thank You for the fertile fields, for the productive seeds, for the Sun and the rain, for the strength for our tasks, and for the harvest that comes from our labors.

Sustain our Senators today in their legislative work of sowing and reaping. May they faithfully plant and water the seeds of truth in our laws. Help them to cultivate the soil of debate with kind words and courteous actions. Lord, whatever they do in word or deed, may they do all in and for Your honor.

Continue to sustain our military men and women who sacrifice daily for freedom.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, we are opening with a period of morning business to allow Senators to make statements. At 3 this afternoon we will begin consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Chairman WARNER will be here at 3 to begin debate on this important measure. Later this afternoon, following the opening remarks of the ranking member, we expect our first amendment to be offered. Although we have stated that no votes will occur today, we hope to debate an amendment and then set a vote at a time certain tomorrow morning.

Tomorrow morning we have set aside another period of morning business. Following that time, we will return to the Defense bill with the expectation of a rollcall vote prior to the policy meetings.

I remind my colleagues that we have scheduled our official Chamber photograph for 2:15 tomorrow afternoon, and Senators should be seated at their desks at that time.

Following the photograph, we have debate on the nomination of Richard Stickler to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. A cloture vote will occur on that nomination around 3:30 or so on Tuesday.

I also announce that the House will take action on the supplemental appropriations conference report Tuesday, and, therefore, we expect to begin consideration of that measure on Tuesday as well. We will try to reach an agreement for debate and a time certain for a vote on that emergency spending bill.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today marks an extraordinary—extraordinary—milestone in the history of the Senate and in the life of one of our most distinguished colleagues.

Today, ROBERT C. BYRD, the senior Senator from West Virginia, becomes

the longest serving Senator in the history of the United States.

Today, he will have served 17,327 days in office, and outlasted 1,885 Senators who have graced this Chamber since 1789. He has cast more votes than any other Senator. And this year, Senator BYRD is running for an unprecedented ninth term.

Our distinguished colleague has amassed an astonishing record of service, and it is my privilege and honor to pay tribute to the Dean of the Senate—one of the greatest orators in the grand tradition of this august institution.

Senator BYRD won his first election to the Senate back in 1958. Lyndon Johnson was the majority leader. Dwight Eisenhower was President. And the Soviets had won the space race with the launch of Sputnik.

Senator BYRD joined the Appropriations Committee and quickly got to work learning the ins and outs of parliamentary procedure.

Senator BYRD has been called a walking encyclopedia of Congress. Indeed, in his career he has authored a four-volume history of the U.S. Senate.

In 1971, Senator BYRD was chosen Senate Democratic whip. In 1977, he was elected Democratic leader, a position held for six consecutive terms.

He led the Senate as majority leader for 6 years, and served as minority leader for another 6.

Senator BYRD has twice been elected President pro tempore.

All told, ROBERT C. BYRD has held more leadership positions in the Senate than any other Senator in history.

But even having attained this extraordinary influence, Senator BYRD has never forgotten where he came from or who sent him here.

From early on in his career, he demonstrated his deep commitment to the people of West Virginia. His loyalty, closeness, and respect have been rewarded. Senator BYRD has won overwhelming majorities in each of his reelection campaigns, winning with 78 percent in 2000.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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He is known across his State for his unflagging support for his constituents and the future and welfare of those people of West Virginia. In 2001, he was named by his State "West Virginian of the 20th Century."

Today marks a great achievement for the senior Senator, but in some ways it is also bittersweet.

Today, Erma Byrd, the Senator's wife of nearly 7 decades, would have turned 89 years old. The Senator has said that his love for Erma was greater than anything in his life. Without her, he could not have reached such great heights, nor could he have endured the inevitable rough patches of political life.

On the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary, the Senator paid an eloquent tribute to his high school sweetheart. His words:

Erma and I are complete and whole, a total that is more than the sum of its parts. In my life, Erma Byrd is the diamond. She is the priceless treasure, a multifaceted woman of great insight and wisdom, of quiet humor and common sense.

Senator BYRD has said that, for him, today's achievement will pass with little fanfare or pride. Today, he will do what he has always done on June 12. He will honor his dear wife Erma, remember her and pray for her.

So we will celebrate on his behalf and pay honor to them both—Senator BYRD for his lifelong service to his country, and Erma for her quiet and steady support for the country gentleman from West Virginia.

When history is written, I am certain that Senator BYRD will hold a prominent place as a Senate legend—and in no small part because of the love of a kind and gentle lady, Erma Ora Byrd.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. The minority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is Monday. The Galleries do not have many people in them. We have a new batch of pages. Others graduated recently. But everyone here—pages and those in the Gallery—should recognize that today is a day of history in America.

Public service is about personal sacrifice for the greater good. It is about reaching for the better angels of our human nature.

That quote is a great quote for today, but that quote is from ROBERT BYRD, which should come as no surprise because the description fits him to a tee.

As we have heard from the distinguished majority leader, Senator BYRD passes Strom Thurmond, who I had the good fortune to serve with, and becomes the longest serving Senator in American history, with 17,327 days—17,327 days—of service in the Senate.

You add that to his 6 years in the House of Representatives, and ROBERT

BYRD has served in the Congress 25 percent of the time we have been a nation. Seventy-five percent of the time other people served in the Congress. But this one man has served 25 percent of the time we have been a country. This gives us some perspective of what a significant day this actually is. The U.S. Senate first met in New York City in 1789.

ROBERT C. BYRD has served a distinguished career. His career in the Senate is significant, important, and impressive. But his life is impressive.

America is a place where everyone has a chance. It does not matter that you are an orphan at age 1. It does not matter that you are raised with an aunt and uncle. It does not matter that your new parents work very, very hard in the coal mines of West Virginia. Because, you see, in America people can succeed no matter what the status of their parents.

ROBERT BYRD is testimony to that. He graduated valedictorian of his high school class. He went to work in the depths of the Great Depression because he had no way of paying to go to college. He worked at a number of different jobs. He worked odd jobs wherever he could find them, pumping gas, selling produce, working as a meat cutter, a butcher, and even during World War II doing some welding on "Liberty" and "Victory" ships.

After the war, he returned to West Virginia and began his distinguished career of public service.

The West Virginia House of Delegates was his first elected position. Then he was elected to the West Virginia Senate. Then he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in the early 1950s. In 1958, he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

His career of leadership is unsurpassed and will always be unsurpassed. He has been a mentor to me for all these many years and a leader for whom all of us in this body have the highest respect.

But as we have already heard, for all of his accolades—and there have been many—Senator BYRD himself will tell you his greatest success truly came on a late day in May, 1937, when he put on his best suit, traveled to the nearby town of Sophia, WV, and married his high school sweetheart, Erma. Today is her birthday.

Now, I had the good fortune to travel, on a couple of occasions, with Erma Byrd and the Senator. We had work to do around the world. What a wonderful, wonderful woman. She was kind, thoughtful, and quiet, but with a great presence about her. I remember having the honor, really—and it was that—of Senator BYRD asking me to go to West Virginia. We had a parliamentary exchange with the British Parliament.

I had heard this song, "West Virginia Hills," but it never meant anything to me until that occasion in a mesa in West Virginia where we gathered with those British parliamentarians for an evening event to listen to some blue-

grass music, to watch the Sun go down in those West Virginia hills. That is something I will always remember of ROBERT BYRD and his lovely wife Erma.

There has been no greater advocate in the almost 18,000 days this man has served in the Senate, and the more than 18,000 days he has served in the Congress, no greater advocate for the State of West Virginia than Senator ROBERT BYRD.

He has fought to improve access to education and health care. The things he has done for transportation in West Virginia are legend. He has brought jobs there. He has done things to protect pensioners.

We just passed on May 24 an example of what Senator BYRD does for West Virginia. The Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 was passed on May 24. President Bush will sign this into law. Again, it is important legislation for miners across the country. It means a lot to me. I have spoken to Senator BYRD about miners. My father was a miner. And I am proud of the work Senator BYRD has done for West Virginia because it helps all miners.

I asked, as I was coming here, my long-serving personal assistant Janice Shelton: What do you want me to say about Senator BYRD? She has worked with me all the time I have been in the Senate.

She said: No Senator comes and talks to the country like Senator BYRD.

The Fourth of July you prepare your own speech; you read your own speech about the Fourth of July. Thanksgiving, if we are here, you give a speech on Thanksgiving. Christmas, Mother's Day, wonderful—I can still remember your speeches on Mother's Day. The reason those speeches are so important to every one of us—of course, they are important to you; they reflect upon your mother, the woman who raised you—is because it causes us to reflect on our own mothers. Every time you gave one of those speeches, I thought of my red-haired mother working so hard, taking in wash so that I could have clothes like the other kids. So every speech you give is not only for the people of West Virginia. It is for the country. It is for the people who work here with you.

I have had the good fortune—in fact, I visited with one of my friends who I practiced law with for 12 years. A brilliant man, he is so smart. He reads books, has from the time he was a boy until now, many books each week. I have always admired Rex Jemison and how smart he is. But Senator BYRD, to those of us who have worked with you, you have no peer.

I can remember as if it were yesterday when you decided you were going to take over the Appropriations Committee and no longer have a leadership position. We had an event in the Russell Building, the caucus room. There was no press, Senators, very limited staff. You stood and talked to us a little bit. You told us things we thought

we always knew, and I have retold this story so many times. I am going to retell it again. You told us you could get in your car in Virginia, drive to West Virginia and back—and it takes about 8 hours—reciting poetry over and back without stopping and never recite the same poem twice. Think about that. Calculate it for a minute. How many people have read the Encyclopedia Britannica from cover to cover? Senator ROBERT BYRD. How many people have sat down when we have a break and read the dictionary? This man has done this. How many people can recite poetry as he did? I have just talked about this. How many people can recite Shakespeare verse after verse, passages out of Scripture?

Senator BYRD gave a series of speeches here, 10 speeches, each lasting for 1 hour. The subject was the line-item veto was going to ruin the Senate. The comparison was to the Roman Empire, the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. Senator BYRD gave 10 speeches. When I was not able to listen personally, I listened to the recording. So tremendous were those speeches that the head of the political science department at UNV-LV, Dr. Randy Tuttle, taught a course on ROBERT BYRD based on these 10 speeches.

I asked Senator BYRD: You gave those speeches, you quit right on time, you had an hour set aside. How did you know when to stop?

He said: It was easy. I memorized all 10 of them.

When we met with the British parliamentarians, as I just recounted, in West Virginia, the blue grass music stopped, and Senator BYRD had staff pass out a little tablet and pencil to everybody. He said: If I make a mistake, write it down. And he proceeded to give us a demonstration of memory that I have never seen before, starting with the first ruler in Great Britain, the years the person served, the name, how to spell it, and very briefly what was accomplished during that period of time, from the beginning to the present Queen Elizabeth. Those parliamentarians were dumbfounded. How could an American do something they had never even thought about without a note?

There are some professors, I am sure, who are experts on ancient Rome, but I would tell all those academics, they don't have anything on the Senator from West Virginia as far as knowledge of the Roman Empire.

I consider myself so fortunate to have been able to serve in the Senate with ROBERT BYRD. And not only serve in the Senate with ROBERT BYRD, but all the time I have been here, I had the good fortune of serving on his Appropriations Committee.

The great Senator Daniel Webster said that ours:

... is a Senate of equals, of men of individual honor and personal character, and of absolute independence. We know no masters, we acknowledge no dictators. This is a hall for mutual consultation and discussion; not an arena for the exhibition of champions.

The prayer that was uttered today by Reverend Black, our Chaplain, says exactly what Daniel Webster said. That was a wonderful prayer, tremendously well done for this occasion. But I would say in response to the great Daniel Webster, there are champions among us. There are giants as well. I have served in public office a long time, but no one can dispute the fact, as far as I am concerned, that ROBERT BYRD is a giant.

I want him to know how much I appreciate all he has done for me. I care a great deal about this man. I love ROBERT BYRD. I love ROBERT BYRD. He is a person who sets a standard for all of us.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with each Senator permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to our distinguished colleague from West Virginia who, as the majority leader and the Democratic leader pointed out, celebrates today truly a momentous occasion, becoming the longest serving U.S. Senator in the history of our country.

Senator BYRD's record and achievements have been covered by the majority leader and the Democratic leader. I would like to make a few different observations.

When Senator BYRD came to this body in 1959, he was a member of a very large Democratic class. His party had had a very good day. It was the second term of President Eisenhower. In his class were such people as Eugene McCarthy and Tom Dodd and Phil Hart. Lyndon Baines Johnson was the leader of his party in the Senate at the time. In fact, Senator BYRD was accompanied to the well on his first day in office not by the senior Senator from his State, as is tradition, but by Majority Leader Johnson, his future mentor.

Shortly before the distinguished Senator from West Virginia got here, Majority Leader Johnson had appointed a committee to pick out the five greatest United States Senators in history. John F. Kennedy was appointed to be the head of that committee. After due deliberation, they picked out five Senators: Henry Clay from my State of Kentucky, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Robert La Follette, and Robert Taft. Those five Senators, who were designated as the five greatest Senators of all time, are depicted out here off the Senate Chamber in the waiting room.

Six or 8 years ago, we decided to consider adding two more to the list. I had the opportunity to be on a committee that reviewed the possibility of adding two more. We concluded there were two more who should be added, one Democrat and one Republican.

Our colleagues on the Democratic side picked Robert Wagner of New York, who was the author of most of President Roosevelt's New Deal legislation. After due deliberation, the Republicans on the committee, of which I was one, concluded that Arthur Vandenberg was the appropriate selection for us, based upon his willingness in the late 1940s to make the Truman containment policy, the Marshall plan, and other initiatives at the beginning of the Cold War that basically set out the strategy that we followed until the Berlin Wall came down in 1989. We thought that Arthur Vandenberg would be the appropriate one for us. So two more Senators were added—Arthur Vandenberg and Robert Wagner.

Today I think it is safe to predict that some day in the future, some Senate will decide to revisit the issue of what other great Senators might be added to this pantheon off the Senate floor that now includes seven United States Senators in our history. I think I can confidently predict that near the top of the list, if not at the top of the list, some day down the road will be the distinguished Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. President, today, June 12, 2006, is our good friend from West Virginia's 17,327th day in the Senate, making him the longest-serving Senator ever.

Senator ROBERT C. BYRD's first day as a Senator was January 3, 1959, when he was 41 years old. He is the 1,579th Senator. Some of his contemporaries were John Sherman Cooper, Hubert Humphrey, Everett Dirksen, John F. Kennedy, and Richard Russell.

Over his nearly 50 years of service here—he has been elected to eight full terms—Senator BYRD has served with 405 Senators, out of a total of 1,885 Senators who ever served. That is 21.5 percent of the total number. Over a fifth of all Senators who ever served can say they served with Senator BYRD.

And I add that Senator BYRD is only the second Senator ever to be elected to eight full terms.

As the Senators from two coal-producing States, Senator BYRD and I have worked together on a number of issues over the years to ensure that coal remains a safe, cheap, and plentiful source of energy, and that coal miners and their families can continue in this industry. Together we ensured that the Capitol complex would continue to be heated by coal. And we work together as members of the Appropriations Committee. I thank the Senator for his friendship over the years.

As astounding as the Senator from West Virginia's service in this body is, I must point out that he has even more experience representing the people of West Virginia. Senator BYRD served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1947 to 1950, the West Virginia Senate from 1951 to 1952, and the U.S. House of Representatives from 1953 to 1959. He was elected to his first office in 1946.

He was also elected assistant majority whip here in the Senate in 1965. In 1971, he was elected majority whip. I have heard that can be a tough job.

In 1977, Senator BYRD succeeded Senator Mike Mansfield as majority leader. He has also served as minority leader and Senate President pro tempore, meaning he has held every major position in the Senate.

After serving as majority and minority leader, Senator BYRD became chairman of the Appropriations Committee in 1989, and has been chairman or ranking member ever since. Our colleague from Alaska, the current Senate President pro tempore, has served with him on that committee since 1973.

Senator BYRD set the record for number of Senate votes cast at 12,134 on April 27, 1990, breaking a record set by Senator William Proxmire. He cast his 17,000th vote in March 2004, and continues to set the record every time he votes. As of the opening of the Senate today, he has cast 17,666 votes.

As his constituents in West Virginia know so well, Senator BYRD is the son of a coal miner. Before government service, he worked as a welder in wartime shipyards and as a meat cutter in a coal company town.

Senator BYRD is also an expert on Senate history. He wrote, with the assistance of Senate historian Richard Baker, a four-volume collection of history, speeches and statistics titled "The Senate" 1789-1989. He also wrote a history called "The Senate of the Roman Republic," and a 2005 autobiography titled "Child of the Appalachian Coalfields."

And my good friend from West Virginia is an accomplished fiddle player as well. He has performed on the television variety show "Hee Haw," at the Grand Ole Opry, and at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He even recorded an album called "Mountain Fiddler."

Senator BYRD earned his law degree from American University in 1963, while serving in the Senate. He attended night school while doing a full day's work here. President Kennedy presented him with his diploma and gave the commencement address.

President Kennedy received an honorary degree from American University at the ceremony. So he began his commencement address with these words:

President Anderson, members of the faculty, Board of Trustees, distinguished guests, my old colleague Senator Bob Byrd, who has earned his degree through many years of attending night law school while I am earning mine in the next thirty minutes, ladies and gentlemen . . .

In 1994, Senator BYRD was awarded his B.A. *summa cum laude* by Marshall University, which he had attended for one semester in 1951. He had earned A's in all his classes, but could not afford to continue. So he actually received his law degree before his bachelor's.

Senator BYRD is the first West Virginian in history to win all 55 of that State's counties in a statewide race. I

am sure many of his fellow West Virginians know of his knowledge and reverence for the Constitution, and that he always carries a copy in his left breast pocket.

Senator BYRD's legacy in this body is felt every day. Martin Gold, author of "Senate Procedure and Practice," wrote:

Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) is a giant in the field of parliamentary history and law. No Senator has had a greater impact on Senate rules and precedents.

And Michael Barone, in *The Almanac of American Politics*, said this of Senator BYRD:

Robert Byrd, the senior member of the United States Senate, may come closer to the kind of senator the Founding Fathers had in mind than any other.

Now, these comments from scholars are certainly to be respected. But I think Senator BYRD said it best at a spirited rally near the end of one of his recent campaigns for office. Senator BYRD said:

West Virginia has always had four friends: God Almighty, Sears Roebuck, Carter's Liver Pills and Robert C. Byrd.

Mr. President, Senator BYRD would be the first to tell us he could not have accomplished all he has without the love of his life, his partner, and his best friend—his wife, Erma Ora James Byrd. Erma passed away this March, 2 months shy of what would have been their 69th wedding anniversary.

The daughter of a coal miner, today would have been her 89th birthday. I am sure she is watching down on us from Heaven today as we honor her husband, the Senator from West Virginia.

Stories of enduring love are part of the history of any nation. ROBERT and ERMA were made for each other, and were together for nearly 69 years. Mr. President, I believe they are one of our Nation's great love stories.

I say to my friend and colleague from West Virginia, no one has had a greater career here. Your service is of great distinction. We all admire you very much, and we are here today to honor you on this most important occasion.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks time?

The President pro tempore.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I join those who honor my great friend, our great friend, the Senator from West Virginia. This has been a tradition. Each time a Senator has reached the position where he has served longer than anyone else before, we have had tributes such as this. It is my honor to be here with my good friend today.

Having known Carl Hayden and Strom Thurmond, both of whom have the distinction that Senator BYRD has had in my lifetime and my service in the Senate, I believe he joins a small but distinguished group of dedicated public servants, people who have devoted their lives to serving our country.

I had the honor of being the whip for 8 years, 4 years in the minority and 4

years in the majority. I remember so well what I called the Byrd history lessons. Maybe Senator BYRD didn't call them that, but each evening in those days Senator BYRD would come to the floor and give another statement about the history of the Senate. I believe those became the framework for the volumes he has written on the history of the Senate. I didn't need to read them; I listened to them. As a matter of fact, I think I listened to every one the Senator made because the then majority leader, Howard Baker, would say to me: Teddy, it is your turn. I would be in the chair listening to Senator BYRD.

Winston Churchill once said:

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

I don't know anyone in my lifetime that I would say has given so much as Senator BYRD.

Others have talked about what he did before he came into public life. I know he attended college while he was in the West Virginia House of Delegates and State Senate and finished law school as a working Member of the Senate.

He has truly given more than he ever received. But, really, I would say of my friend from West Virginia that I know of no man who has done so much to make the Senate a family. When I first came here, that was one of the first things that Senator Mike Mansfield said to me—that you have to realize you are living in a family. This is a family. Senator BYRD has made that his sort of mantra, and to be the person who represents the family, reminding us that we are part of a family.

I remember so well, Senator BYRD, when you made such kind remarks about my wife Ann after she passed away in an aircraft accident. I also recall the days that you congratulated me on getting remarried, and then on the birth of our daughter Lily when, again, Senator BYRD took the floor. I will never forget the time you came to the floor and talked about the fact that my first grandchild had been born. Senator BYRD told me at that time that I had my first taste of immortality. Now that I have become the grandfather of 11 children, I have touched immortality a little bit more than most people perhaps. I stand in awe of the honor of being a grandfather. I will never forget what he said. That means you are going to go one generation beyond the generation you helped bring into the world. You have seen your children produce children, and that really matches your love for the Senate family.

I don't know of anybody here who has had a sorrow or an achievement when Senator BYRD hasn't taken the time to seek us out and either commiserate with us in our sorrow or tell us what a great achievement it was. It is a great achievement to be part of the Senate family and to be nurturing our own families.

Others have spoken about your dear wife Erma. I know how close the two of

you were. I know that because of conversations we have had about Erma. We were all saddened when she passed away earlier this year, but I know she is looking down on you today, Senator BYRD. I know she is proud of your service and, if she were here, she would be right up there in the gallery. But she is up there somewhere looking at all of us.

Actually, many of you may not know this, but I met Senator BYRD during the Eisenhower administration. I remember sitting in the gallery the day you were sworn into the Senate in 1959. You were already in the House. When I got to the Senate, I was talking to the wife of Bob Bartlett, my predecessor, the Senator's good friend. I was told that the one person in the Senate I could trust would be BOB BYRD. Coming from her, that meant a great deal to me personally. We have worked together for 35 years now on the Appropriations Committee. I wish I could count the days when we were chairmen; when Senator BYRD was chairman, I would wander over to his room, and when I was chairman, he would come to my room. I remember one day—and he will not like this—he came over and said someone had given him some cigars, and he suggested that we ought to smoke a cigar. I had not smoked a cigar in 20 years, but I said it would be a good idea. When Senator BYRD makes a suggestion, it is a good idea. I joined him then. About 6 months later, I had somebody give me a couple of cigars, and I wandered over to Senator BYRD's office and said, "Let's share a cigar again." Senator BYRD said, "I have quit."

I was on that trip to London, too, at the British Parliamentary Conference, and in West Virginia when Senator BYRD was the host. I don't know if you know this, Senator.

I have a video of you when we were in London when we sat around, those Members of the American Senate who were there, after meeting with our colleagues from Britain, and we talked and you told us about your own history. I remember that so well. I remember asking you to recite the poem about your dog. We talk about this prodigious memory of Senator BYRD. I have never known anything that I could ask him to recite that he didn't have the ability to recite.

Having been here so long together, I come back to where I started. You have kept alive the spirit of family in this Senate. I think without the spirit of family, we would lose the essence of what it is to be here. I tell people that sometimes I sort of pinch myself to realize that I really am a Member of the Senate. Others can talk about their backgrounds. I don't talk about mine very much, but I certainly never had any reason to believe I would ever be standing here, and I think Senator BYRD could say the same thing.

We are here to honor the son of West Virginia, the patriarch of our Senate family. He is, as Senator MCCONNELL

said, a symbol of our history. I am here to thank you, Senator, for being a good friend. I think you have been one of the best friends I have had in the Senate, and you have really sustained me in times of sorrow and encouraged me in times of joy. I am here to honor you for your service; it is a great service. But mostly I am here because I am honored to be able to call you my friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, this is truly a unique day in the life of the Senate, with the spotlight shining on Senator ROBERT BYRD in recognition of an enormous achievement, being the longest serving Senator in the history of the body. It is a remarkable achievement.

Senator BYRD started his political career with an election in 1946, 60 years ago, and is still going strong. He served in the Senate at the same time that Harry S. Truman was President of the United States.

Just think about that for moment. This is a man whose service has spanned the Presidencies of President Truman, President Eisenhower, President Kennedy, President Johnson, President Nixon, President Ford, President Carter, President Reagan, President Bush, President Clinton, and President Bush. It is quite an accolade. And Senator BYRD accurately states that he hasn't served under any President, however, he has served with Presidents. He is a scholar and devotee of the doctrine of separation of powers, something which seems to have been forgotten lately. But when the issue arose as to the line-item veto and the constitutional amendment for the balanced budget, Senator BYRD has been vociferous in defending the prerogatives of the Congress of the United States. He even goes so far from time to time to remind people that article I of the Constitution is for the Congress. You don't get to the executive branch until you get to article II. You don't get to the judicial branch until article III. In many ways the Supreme Court has rewritten the sequence of the Constitution taking primacy. There is an effort on the expansion of Executive power, but Senator BYRD is the bulwark for separation of powers. To think that he was here when Jack Kennedy was here, as well as when Lyndon Baines Johnson was here—about whom so much has been written as the master of the Senate. There will be a sequel to that, and it will be about BOB BYRD. Senator BYRD was here when great men like Lyndon Johnson and Jack Kennedy strode these corridors for so many years. It is an enormous slice of history.

As a newcomer to the Senate, I watched Senator BYRD very closely. There is a lot to be learned from Senator BYRD. Senator BYRD was chairman of the Appropriations Committee when I was one of the younger members of the Appropriations Committee. One day, I thought Senator BYRD's alloca-

tions didn't match the budget resolution and I told him. It is sort of untoward to disagree with the chairman. I saw a magnanimity in Senator BYRD to listen to one of the younger Senators. I even called for a vote. The vote was 26 to 3. People said it was a great accomplishment to get two other Senators to join me, Alfonse D'Amato and Bob Kasten. We only lost 26 to 3, but it was considered a victory, which is a testament to Senator BYRD's power.

Senator BYRD said to me on that day: Some day, you will be chairman of the Appropriations Committee and you can make the allocations. I thought it entirely farfetched at that time that I would ever be chairman of the Appropriations Committee, but it may happen. I am next in line behind Senator THAD COCHRAN. It will be quite a formidable challenge because Senator BYRD continues to be ranking Democrat on the committee. To come up against this titan, this legend, he will probably do more to make the allocations if, as, and when I become chairman.

Senator BYRD has been a master tactician. I recall one early morning, about 3 a.m., when we Republicans were carrying on a filibuster. I believe it was on campaign finance reform. Senator Dole gathered us all together in a remote spot and said: Guys, don't show up on the Senate floor. Make Senator BYRD maintain a quorum.

For those who don't know the Senate rules, they are sufficiently complicated and we would not expect C-SPAN II watchers to know, if anybody is watching on C-SPAN II. But you have to have a quorum on the floor to conduct business, or somebody can suggest the absence of a quorum, and it just stops. So Senator BYRD had this idea about having some Republicans on the floor. Knowing the rules as he did, he directed the Sergeant at Arms to execute warrants of arrest for absent Senators. I have never seen this in my long tenure. Remember that, Senator BYRD?

Mr. BYRD. Yes, I do.

Mr. SPECTER. Now we have confirmation. I have called a witness here. The Sergeant at Arms was a little fellow, Henry Giugni. He started to patrol the halls. He came upon Senator Lowell Weicker. Now, Henry was about 5-foot-4, and Lowell Weicker was 6-foot-4. Lowell was at his fighting weight of about 240 at the time. It was about 3:30 in the morning. Do you know what happens with Senators at 3:30 in the morning? I won't say on the Senate floor. The Sergeant at Arms decided not to arrest Lowell Weicker. He made a very wise judgment. Instead, he went knocking on Senate doors. Senator Robert Packwood made the mistake of answering the door. Senator Packwood compelled them to carry him out of his office. He agreed to walk here, but he insisted on being carried into the Senate Chamber. I don't think Senator BYRD got his quorum, but he got his man, Senator Packwood.

I once had the temerity to engage Senator BYRD in a debate. I have

watched Senator BYRD very closely when he would control the floor with the parliamentary maneuver of getting unanimous consent before yielding the floor, which gave him the right to the floor.

I had read the rule book, and Senator BYRD contended that he could do that without unanimous consent if there had been no objection. I thought I had watched him with the rules to the contrary and engage him in a lengthy debate. I did not win that debate, but it was a great learning experience.

Senator BYRD commanded the floor with great authority. In the old days, we used to have sessions that went all night. Senator BYRD was sitting in that chair, and he rose at about 12:18 a.m.—this is another true story; you get very few true stories out of Washington. We were all enervated. Some of us were even tired, but not BOB BYRD. He rose from his chair and he said: I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as long as I choose.

A Senator in this chair, whom I will not identify, rose as if to object. Senator BYRD looked at him as if his eyes like were laser beams, and the Senator sat down. Past midnight, Senator BYRD had unanimous consent to speak as long as he chose. It wasn't too long, but it was a great display of fortitude and authority.

My final comment about Senator BYRD is about the debates we have had on constitutional law. His scholarship on the institution is unparalleled, and that is a record which will never be broken. It is pretty hard to say "never," but when one looks at the volumes of his work, when one looks at the magnitude of his speeches—he used to speak every Friday afternoon for as long as he liked. He spoke to an empty Chamber, but he spoke to a full history book.

Senator BYRD once said to me that if he became President, he would make me his Attorney General. May the RECORD show that Senator BYRD is nodding in the affirmative, and Senator BYRD, if you become President, I expect you to live up to that promise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate my good friend, Senator ROBERT BYRD, on becoming the longest serving Senator in the history of our great Nation. Senator BYRD has now served as Senator for 17,327 days. That is almost as long as I have been alive. I fully expect to continue serving with him for many more days.

I know that during those 17,000-plus days in the Senate, Senator BYRD has inspired many. I also know that as we continue to witness his service in the days ahead in the Senate, he will continue to provide inspiration to this body and to all of my colleagues and to me. I am sure that in those days, just as he has in the past, Senator BYRD will continue to implore our colleagues to respect the wisdom of the Founders

and the brilliance of our Constitution, which he so proudly carries as a symbol on his lapel every day, and during those days in the future, he will continue to remind us all in the Senate of how much we can and should learn from the history of our great country and the experience of this democracy.

He will continue, as he always has, fighting for the hard-working people of his beloved West Virginia, and he will, as he always has, continue to provide generous counsel to those of us who have far less experience than he does, for Senator BYRD truly has been and continues to be a mentor to all of us, and always, with his grace and with his dignity, setting an example for all Senators to act with that dignity, with that courtesy, and with that eloquence which is truly a legacy of ROBERT BYRD in the Senate. For me, as the No. 99 Senator and as one of the most junior in this body today, I am personally inspired and grateful to Senator BYRD for his achievements and for his example.

Just as my family has given me strength in my life, I know Senator BYRD's remarkable service would not have been possible without the love and support of his own family. I have often been moved by Senator BYRD's words about the power of the love and the bond he and his late wife Erma shared for decades. So as we honor Senator BYRD today, as we honor this institution, we also honor the memory of Erma, and we honor the rest of Senator BYRD's family as well.

It is a great privilege for me to represent the people of Colorado in this great Chamber. It is also a true honor to be a colleague to a historic figure in the name of Senator ROBERT C. BYRD of West Virginia.

Once again, I congratulate him.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues who came to the floor earlier today to mark a historic milestone. It isn't just a milestone for one man, it is a milestone for our Senate and our Nation.

Today our colleague, ROBERT C. BYRD of West Virginia, who just left the Chamber, becomes the longest serving Senator in the history of the United States of America. Today marks Senator BYRD's 17,327th day in office; that is 47 years, 5 months, 1 week, and 2 days spent in service in the Senate on behalf of his beloved people of the State of West Virginia.

Many of us know Senator BYRD's impressive official biography. He has held more leadership positions in the Senate than any other Senator in our history, including 6 years as Senate majority

leader, 6 years as minority leader, twice Senator BYRD has served as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and twice he has been elected by his colleagues as President pro tempore, a position that places him third in line to the Presidency of the United States.

In many ways, Senator BYRD's life is the story of the 20th century of America. He started from the most humble origins and has risen to the greatest heights, and he has done this not on the backs of others but by the sweat of his brow and the power of his massive intellect.

To me, one of the most impressive facts about Senator BYRD is that he studied for his law degree while he was serving as a Member of Congress. He would make law by day and study it at night. True to form, Senator BYRD not only earned his doctorate of jurisprudence from American University in 1963, it was awarded cum laude.

Senator BYRD may also be one of the last great orators in the U.S. Senate, and whether the topic is the war in Iraq or the Peloponnesian War, the basic ingredients of a great speech are always present in Senator BYRD's address: clear, substantive thinking and the rhetorical skills to effectively express it.

For Senator BYRD, noble purposes are foremost as his motive and objective. He doesn't take the easy road, and he doesn't pander. When President Bill Clinton signed the line-item veto into law in 1996, it was immediately challenged in court by a group of six Senators, the first of whom, of course, was Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. Senator BYRD, though loyal to his party and loyal to his President, was loyal first to his view of the Constitution. He believed the law was unconstitutional and concentrated too much power in the executive branch of Government. Ultimately, the Supreme Court agreed with Senator BYRD and disagreed with the Congress and the President who enacted the law.

Almost 10 years later, Senator BYRD took to the floor of the Senate, speaking out and facing the wrath of popular sentiment in opposing the invasion of Iraq. At the time, it wasn't easy for him to vote no, nor was it a comfortable decision to defend at home, but Senator BYRD didn't shrink from the challenge—he never has—and he did something which has become quite rare in American politics: He stood up and led. He said that of all the thousands of votes he has cast—more than 17,000 to be exact—that vote opposing the war in Iraq is the one in which he takes the greatest pride.

I might add just parenthetically, I share that sentiment. In this case, too, I believe ultimately history will prove all of us right who voted no on the use of force in Iraq.

Senator BYRD has an unquenchable willingness to serve, a willingness to lead and carry the burdens and responsibilities of leadership. Above all else,

he has done these things while continuing to be a truly honorable man. When all is said and done, the most important words that will be spoken about ROBERT C. BYRD will not be that he was a great speaker or great statesman or great U.S. Senator—he is certainly all of that—the true measure of this man will not be found in recounting the number of days he has served in this body; rather, it will be found in his strength of character and in his integrity.

That character and integrity are evidenced in so many ways: his love of his beloved late wife Erma. He was such a devoted husband and partner. Even as she suffered serious illness in the last years and months of her life, he never left her side. To his children and grandchildren, he remains a loving father, a caring grandfather, and a wise teacher. To his friends, he is a man whose word can always be counted on. To his country, he is a leader who found power only in the commitment to service. And to his State, he is a shining example of the very best that is in all of us.

I am honored to be counted as one of those who call ROBERT C. BYRD a friend, and I know this about my friend: Today he marks a milestone that no other Senator in the history of the United States has marked, but his success will be measured in terms of his faithfulness to the people who placed him here and the trust of the people of West Virginia. They have never been betrayed by this great man.

Although he has risen to the highest levels of power, he has never forgotten where he comes from, who sent him, and what his mission is.

If my colleagues will allow me two personal observations about Senator BYRD and to tell two stories that I think really are symbols of his view of the world and the great power of his intellect. One of the first involved a debate on the floor of the U.S. Senate about the National Endowment for the Arts. It occurred a few years ago. A Senator on the other side of the aisle offered an amendment to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts with the argument that there were art displays or exhibits that were being funded with Federal dollars that were embarrassing. This Senator went on to argue that it really made no sense for us to subsidize the arts in America because they were out of the reach of the common man and we should allow the patrons of the arts, those private benefactors, to take care and not our Government.

I came to the floor to argue against that position, telling the story of how my immigrant mother used to take me in the car across the bridge to the art museum in St. Louis, this woman with an eighth grade education, to show me works of art and talk about artists she knew very little about but wanted to learn more about. As I was telling my story, I saw Senator BYRD come on to the floor, and I assumed he was coming to talk about some other issue, but he

asked for recognition. He stood here at his desk, as he has so many times, and completely enthralled this Chamber as he told the story of his simple life in West Virginia where he was orphaned and raised by other members of the family and how one fine day, his new stepfather took him out and bought him a fiddle. With that fiddle, he started taking music lessons and developed a passion for music. He talked about what music and the arts meant to him growing up as a poor boy in a small town in West Virginia. It was a classic ROBERT C. BYRD moment, taking a chapter in his life from many years ago and bringing it to application today.

The second experience I recall is one that I have told over and over to friends in Illinois. If I hadn't been there to see it, I would not have believed it. It goes back to the days when I was a Member of the House of Representatives on the Appropriations Committee. Senator BYRD, a leader in the Senate, had a Transportation appropriations bill that passed the Senate that had several noteworthy projects for his State of West Virginia. A Republican Senator across the Rotunda took exception to these earmarks for the State of West Virginia and vowed that when he came to conference between the Senate and the House, he would take out these projects for the State of West Virginia. They were excessive, in his view. He was interviewed by several news media, including *The Washington Post*.

The day of the great confrontation took place just a couple floors—one floor below us in the appropriations conference room. It is a long room with a huge table. The Senate conferees sit on one side of the table. Senator Mark Hatfield was then chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, of which Senator BYRD was a member, and I sat on the other side of the table with House Appropriations Committee members, waiting for this classic, historic confrontation between Senator ROBERT C. BYRD and his critic from the House of Representatives. It was interesting because as we all sat down, there was one chair that was left empty. Directly across the table from his House critic was the empty chair Senator BYRD would occupy. The moment came when finally the House member was recognized, and he stood up and with a lengthy speech took exception to the fact that Senator BYRD was putting these projects in for the State of West Virginia. When he finished and had exhausted himself—no one interrupted him—and sat down, Senator BYRD asked for recognition in this appropriations conference room.

I am going to get a few of these facts wrong because I didn't write them down. Senator BYRD would never get them wrong. But I trust that at the end of the story, you will understand what happened that day.

Senator BYRD reflected for a moment, as he often does, looking to the ceiling, and then he spoke. He said: In

1830, Daniel Webster wrote his famous letter to Mr. Hayne. And then he paused, and Senator BYRD said: If my memory serves me, it was January that he wrote the letter. January the 28th, Senator BYRD said. And if I am not mistaken, he said, it was a Thursday. And he went on to explain how Webster wrote the letter to Hayne explaining the basics of our Constitution, explaining that in the House of Representatives, a State as small as West Virginia doesn't stand a chance with a limited population and very little political power to get things done; the State of West Virginia has to rely on the Senate, where every State has two Senators. And if he, ROBERT C. BYRD, didn't stand up for his small State of West Virginia in the Senate, who would? What chance would a small State have?

It was the classic argument that really was the foundation for the creation of Congress. Senator BYRD that day won the argument, won his case before the conference committee.

I thought at the time, years before I was elected to the Senate, I wish I had a videotape of that moment. That was one of those great moments which I have seen here in the Congress. So when I came to the Senate a few years later, I went up to Senator BYRD and I said to him: I will never forget that day when you had the debate in the appropriations conference committee about the projects for West Virginia and how you not only recalled the exchange between Daniel Webster and Mr. Hayne and the historical and constitutional significance, you not only recalled the year and the day, but you recalled the day of the week it occurred. I said: When you said, "I believe it was a Thursday," I was just absolutely amazed. Senator BYRD reflected for a moment, and he said: Well, I believe it was a Thursday. I said: I am not questioning you; no, I am not questioning you; I am just telling you that I thought that detail brought more to that debate than anyone could imagine.

So as luck would have it, 2 hours later, we had a vote on the floor here, and Senator BYRD at this desk called me over. I came over to his desk, and he said: Senator DURBIN, I was almost certain it was a Thursday, and I asked my staff to pull out a perpetual calendar, and if you will look here, January 28, 1820, was, in fact, a Thursday. I said: I never doubted you for a moment.

I have heard him stand on the floor reciting poetry at length. I have heard him recount the debates of this Senate and the history of this Nation in the type of detail that puts all the rest of us to shame. He is truly not just an institution of West Virginia, not just an institution of the Senate; he is a national treasure. He brings to debate in this Chamber—what little debate we have anymore—a certain gravity, a certain importance that reminds us

why we are here, that we have been fortunate enough to be called by the people who vote in our States to be one of the few men and women to serve in this great Chamber, and in serving, we not only represent them, we represent a long line of history, of great men and women who have had this opportunity to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Today, of course, is recognition of his special place in the history of our Nation and in the history of the Senate: 17,327 days in office—47 years, 5 months, 1 week, and 2 days—not only witnessing the parade of history but being such a major part of it.

Senator BYRD, I salute you and your service to the people of West Virginia and this Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I have been very much looking forward to this moment.

First, I ask unanimous consent that an article which appeared in the Charleston Gazette on June 12, 2006, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this article embraces the comments of many dear friends of the Senator, and I say with some humility, a few of my own comments as well.

I think back to reminisce on the 28 years that I have been privileged to have represented the Commonwealth of Virginia in this Chamber.

There is no single individual for whom I have greater reverence or respect than my dear friend, the senior Senator from West Virginia. We were bonded together early on. When I arrived here, he sought me out, and I sought him out because our two great States at one time, were one State, the State of Virginia. But now, even though we are two States, our states have so many issues in common.

How many times Senator BYRD and I have come to this floor with regard to the subject of the coal miners, their safety, their ability to operate and provide that essential component to America's energy needs, coal; how dangerous is the profession, how much we respect their families and other ones who share the risk that the miners take every day.

Then, more specifically, I remember so well how we have worked together all of these many years in support of clean-coal-burning technology.

Coal is the largest single reserve of energy that this Nation possesses—the largest, far beyond petroleum, far beyond natural gas, far beyond the other renewables, and so forth. Coal is there. Our research and industrial base works year after year to try to see how we can consume these vast coal reserves and thereby become less and less dependent on importing our energy needs, but burning it in such a way that it does the least possible harm to the environment, be it the air we

breathe or the problems associated with acid rain, and so forth.

I commend my dear friend for all the work that he has done and will continue to do for years on clean coal technology.

Virginia and West Virginia also share a common border that is basically established by the Appalachian Mountains. This part of Virginia and West Virginia has its own magnificent qualities, particularly the sturdy lifestyle of the people who choose purposefully to live in those hills and valleys and those mountains which are so often ravaged by heavy floods and so often ravaged by other natural disasters, such as snowstorms.

Senator BYRD and I many times have gone to visit those regions in the aftermath of a natural disaster. We find no desire on the part of those people to leave those regions, only to remain.

Senator BYRD was instrumental in passing legislation which provides recognition for those geographic areas of the Appalachian range that are deserving of financial assistance and other forms of assistance because of the rigorous, challenging lifestyle in these regions. He has seen that funding has remained these many years equitably allocated between the several States.

I think of him foremost as one who is a family man. How often he has reminisced about the members of his family. He speaks with a great sense of pride and humility on how his family, much like every Member of this Senate, is closely involved in the life of the Senate, closely involved because of the commitments the families make: the many long hours Senators are required to either be in the Chamber or traveling throughout their States, traveling throughout the 50 States, or, indeed, around the world. It is a challenge for the families, and BOB BYRD is a family man, along with his beloved wife Erma.

I remember so well early on in my career, I had the privilege to be invited by Senator BYRD, to join him on a number of codels to various parts of the world. We served together on the Senate Committee on Armed Services these many years. So often we would visit the troops and others throughout the world.

One trip I remember ever so vividly, he took the first congressional codel to the then-Soviet Union to visit with Gorbachev, who had risen to a powerful position in the Soviet Union after a lot of strife and turmoil. That man exhibited extraordinary courage. I so looked forward to our important visit, as did every member of that codel—I think there were about a dozen of us who joined Senator BYRD to go over to the Soviet Union.

Senator Strom Thurmond, whose record Senator BYRD, with a sense of humility, passes today, was on that codel. And as we flew to the Soviet Union, I had the privilege—and maybe with one or two others—of working with BOB BYRD on remarks he wanted

to make. That was an important set of remarks. Strom Thurmond represented the Republican side of that delegation. We were basically equally divided. I remember working through that statement well into the wee hours of the night as that plane was traversing that long distance.

The following day, Gorbachev announced he was going to allocate an hour and a half time to meet this delegation. The time was carefully allocated by Senator BYRD and Senator Thurmond to members of the delegation.

I recall that I was the junior man on that delegation. When he got to me, I had 2 minutes. I was proud to get 2 minutes. Our dear colleague and friend, the retiring Senator this year, Senator SARBANES, senior, of course, to me at that time, turned to me and said: I will give you my 3 minutes so you can have 5 minutes because you are on that Committee on Armed Services, and there is nothing more important to be covered today than the issues relating to national defense. I will never forget that act of courtesy by Senator SARBANES.

Senator BYRD delivered his remarks flawlessly. Gorbachev listened very carefully. Gorbachev made a few notes on a pad. He was followed, then, by Strom Thurmond, who delivered one of his thunderous, heartfelt remarks, beginning with how he stormed the shore on D-Day and how the Soviet Army was pressing on Germany from another direction. It was a confluence of primarily those two forces and Great Britain and, of course, their allies and the free French who brought a conclusion to the war. Gorbachev's father had been in the war. Strom reminisced, jokingly saying that he hoped he had not hurt his father. I recall Gorbachev very much was moved by that comment.

That was the type of thing for which Senator BYRD was so famous: putting together those delegations, going to those places in the world around which the axle of history was evolving at that time, or the spokes of history around that axle. What a privilege it was to travel with this great man.

I think of him as a historian. This Senator does not have the temerity, and I don't know of anyone who would challenge BOB BYRD on the history of this great institution. No man hath greater love for this Senate than ROBERT BYRD. He has expressed that with a sense of humility many times in speeches in the Senate.

When he reaches into his pocket and pulls out a copy of the Constitution—he almost knows it by heart—he always opens that little book. He can, as quickly as anyone in this Senate, find those passages that are relevant to the debate at hand or the issues at hand. Those are things we remember about him with such great respect.

He is a humorist. He can be tough. He can be firm. But, oh, can he bring a chuckle about in the hearts of all of us.

Sometimes in this Senate when things hit the high point of stress, I have seen BOB BYRD take to the floor with his very soft voice, dispel tension, dispel some of the rancor, and inject a note of humor.

BOB BYRD is also, it might surprise Members, an artist. One painting he did many years ago, some of us through the years have been privileged to get a copy of that painting. He has an eye for art. He also has an eye for music. I do recall the times when he played the fiddle, the music that he loved and still loves. I think he composed a little bit on the side from time to time.

I can recount so many things where he is far more capable than I. I have never considered myself a poet, but BOB BYRD can recall from memory hundreds of poems and recite them at times when it seems most appropriate.

He is a family man, historian, humorous, artist, musician, composer, poet, and then we think back always to his respect for the Bible, and second only to the Bible, his respect and love for the United States Constitution.

I went back and checked a little history. This Chamber honored me the other night after I cast my 10,000th vote, a very modest accomplishment in the face of BOB BYRD's accomplishment, my 28 years. He has been here just short of twice as long.

Also, someone thoughtfully said that I was the second longest serving Senator from Virginia. Lo and behold, who was the longest serving Senator from Virginia? None other than BOB BYRD's close friend of years past, Harry F. Byrd, Sr. I repeat, senior, because when I came to the Senate, Harry F. Byrd, Jr., was the Member of the Senate with whom I was privileged to serve as his junior Senator. But it is interesting, Harry F. Byrd, Sr., was born in Martinsburg, Berkeley County, WV. There you have it. He was the longest serving Senator and remains with that record at 32 years and 8 months for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Now BOB BYRD takes it not only for the State but for the whole of the history of the Senate.

There has to be something, I say most respectfully, in the water down in West Virginia, or the lifestyle, the hardiness, or the courage of the people that enabled these two distinguished Virginians, ROBERT C. BYRD and Harry Flood Byrd, Sr., to become the longest serving in their respective States.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Charleston (WV) Gazette, June 12, 2006]

THE PILLAR OF THE SENATE: 10 PRESIDENTS LATER, BYRD LONGEST-SERVING SENATOR (By Paul J. Nyden)

Sen. Robert C. Byrd becomes the longest-serving member of the U.S. Senate today, having represented West Virginians for 17,327 days in the chamber.

Byrd began serving in the Senate more than 47 years ago, on Jan. 3, 1959, after spending six years in the House of Representatives and six years in the West Virginia Legislature.

He also has cast more votes by far than any member of the Senate: 17,662 times, as of last Friday.

"I consider him to be the pillar of the Senate," says Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md. "His commitment to the United States Senate and its history, customs and procedures is equaled only by his commitment to the state of West Virginia, our nation and our Constitution."

Byrd's impact on fellow senators personally rivals his institutional role, some of his colleagues said.

"Senator Byrd has been a very, very important figure in my life," said Sen. John Warner, a Virginia Republican. "He is such a magnificent teacher of the history the Senate."

Warner recalls a conversation he had with Byrd when Warner was new to the Senate. "He said, 'At one time, our states were together. I don't want to put them back together, but I want to work together as full and equal partners,'" Warner said.

"I enjoy the man," Warner said. "He is wonderful."

Up to now, the Senate's longest-serving member had been the late Strom Thurmond, R-S.C. The third- and fourth-longest-serving members are Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, both of whom have been there more than 43 years.

"Byrd epitomizes the role that the framers of our Constitution envisioned for the legislative branch," Sarbanes said.

In fact, *The Almanac of American Politics*, a widely consulted volume on federal politics, describes Byrd as the politician who "may come closer to the kind of senator the Founding Fathers had in mind than any other."

Since President Bush took office, Byrd has been one of the Senate's leading voices on challenging the war in Iraq, preserving Social Security and protecting workers' jobs and safety.

Despite his strong positions, however, Byrd said he regrets the increasing animosity in both legislative bodies. He said he has always worked to be bipartisan.

"I thank the people of West Virginia for having repeatedly expressed their faith in me," Byrd said. "I never lose sight of that. Every morning of every day of my life, my first thought is, 'What can I do today for West Virginia?'"

Byrd's contribution to the state has been immense, said Gov. Joe Manchin and members of West Virginia's congressional delegation.

"I don't know of a person in West Virginia who has not been touched, or benefited in a most positive way, by Senator Byrd's service," Manchin said. "I mean, Democrats, Republicans, independents and people who don't vote—they all benefit."

Byrd has long been known as a "legend" in West Virginia, said Jay Rockefeller, Byrd's junior Democratic colleague for the state. "But now he has surpassed even the great legends of the Senate to become the longest serving senator in U.S. history."

He can take credit for "highways, dams, bridges, federal facilities and jobs, health centers and educational institutions," Rockefeller said. "And the best part is, he's not finished."

"What do you get when you multiply the power of the beacon by the strength of a workhorse by the steadiness of an anchor? Robert C. Byrd," said Rep. Nick J. Rahall, D-W.Va.

Byrd's "ability to deliver for our state" is awe-inspiring, said David Hardesty, the president of West Virginia University. "His votes are guided by his understanding of the Constitution and by his dedication to the people of this state."

Manchin also emphasized Byrd's future.

"People also need to know that Senator Byrd has a lot of years of service left in

him," he said. "When people ask about what he has done, he says, 'I want to talk about people who can help me do what we still need to do.'"

Born in Wilkesboro, N.C., in 1917, Byrd grew up in a coal mining family in Sophia, Raleigh County.

Nearly 20 years later, he married Erma Ora James, who passed away on March 25 of this year. Today, Mrs. Byrd would have turned 89.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is an extraordinary honor to be able to speak a few words about my friend, the senior Senator from the State of West Virginia, as he makes history yet again.

There are precious few opportunities in life to recognize greatness in our midst, but today we have that opportunity. We honor our friend not simply because he's become the longest-serving Senator in our history, but also because there's no doubt that he's earned his rightful place besides Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, John Calhoun, and other giants in Senate history.

BOB BYRD's life is a tribute to the power of the American dream—rising from humble beginnings, this son of the Appalachian coal fields reached the pinnacle of power and accomplishment through decades of hard work and unwavering dedication.

His life is also a tribute to the power of love and commitment. BOB BYRD's commitment and love for the Senate and the country is total and complete, just as they are for the people of West Virginia and his beloved Erma, with whom he shared one of America's great love stories.

Erma and BOB would have celebrated her birthday today—and we're saddened that she could not be here to share this extraordinary moment. But we know she's looking down from heaven with a smile for the young boy who once shared his chewing gum with her more than 70 years ago.

This is a special day for me as well, because it's a time to tell my friend how much he means to me, and how much I believe his service means to our Nation.

For longer than I've been in public life, I've known ROBERT C. BYRD. I first came to know him during the famed West Virginia Presidential primary of 1960.

BOB was a new Senator and moving up through the ranks as a protege of Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson. My brother Jack and BOB were colleagues in the Senate, but Jack knew it was inevitable that BOB would be looking out for LBJ in the Mountain State, and hoping to deny us the victory we needed.

Jack had won the Wisconsin primary, and the stakes were high in West Virginia.

It was a spirited campaign in which all of us in the Kennedy family got to see the extraordinary qualities of the people of West Virginia—kindness, compassion for their fellow citizens, and perseverance even in the face of enormous obstacles—the qualities that BOB BYRD knew and loved. Jack campaigned extremely well in the state and

came love the people too, and he never forgot the boost they gave him during that hard-fought campaign.

President Kennedy and ROBERT C. BYRD formed a powerful partnership, and one of Jack's first official acts in office was to authorize the shipment of emergency rations to help the people of Appalachia recover from a disaster.

They worked together to create the Appalachian Regional Commission, which lifted thousands out of poverty, and eliminated many of the barriers that had isolated the region from the economic mainstream of the Nation. They invested in the people, and it worked. President Kennedy and Senator ROBERT C. BYRD understood that if you give Americans opportunity and hope, there is no limit to what they can accomplish.

For me personally, it's impossible to imagine the Senate without Senator BYRD. He defeated me for Majority Whip in 1971. We both thought we had the votes lined up to win, and it was BOB who taught me how to count votes as he went on to become an outstanding Whip and later an outstanding Majority Leader. My consolation prize was being set free to focus on the legislative issues I care most about.

Over the years in the Senate together, we've all come to rely on Senator BYRD as the great defender of this institution and the champion of the Constitution.

He doesn't defend the Constitution simply when it's in fashion to do so. He doesn't yield when political convenience suggests that the Legislative Branch should demur for the sake of comity or to accomplish a popular goal.

BOB BYRD understands that the founders intended each branch of government to have powers that could place them in conflict, and that the powers Congress cedes to the executive today may have dire consequences for the Nation tomorrow.

In this role, he is the guardian of the Senate and the ideals that Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton fought to enshrine when they created our government.

I have many warm memories of BOB BYRD as leader, as friend, and as scholar. One that comes to mind now is our barnstorming trip through West Virginia during the 2004 Presidential campaign.

We traveled by bus around the state from Charleston to Mingo and Logan counties and wherever we stopped, you could feel the love and respect that the people of West Virginia had for BOB BYRD. At one stop, he even jumped up onto the back of a flatbed truck to deliver a stemwinder. I was committed to the campaign as well, but that was a tactic I thought best be left to BOB.

In the end we came up short in the West Virginia on election day, but I'll never forget the fun we had those last few weeks of October, and I'm eternally grateful to BOB for inviting me. I'll cherish the memory forever.

Of all the remarkable attributes of Senator BYRD, few have impressed more than his ability to memorize and recite poetry. As a child, this was always one of my greatest challenges at school and I'm awed by BOB's extraordinary talent.

His mind must hold hundreds of verses that he can recite at a moment's notice. One of my favorites describes the responsibilities we have as public servants to address the causes of the problems that confront us, not just the consequences of those problems.

It's about whether it's better to build a fence around the edge of a cliff, or keep an ambulance ready in the valley below.

I can't recite it from memory like he can, but this is how it goes. It was written by Joseph Malins in 1895:

Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;

But over its terrible edge there had slipped
A duke, and full many a peasant.

The people said something would have to be done,
But their projects did not at all tally.
Some said "Put a fence 'round the edge of the cliff,"

Some, "An ambulance down in the valley."
The lament of the crowd was profound and was loud,

As the tears overflowed with their pity;
But the cry for the ambulance carried the day

As it spread through the neighbouring city.
A collection was made, to accumulate aid,
And the dwellers in highway and alley
Gave dollars or cents—not to furnish a fence—

But an ambulance down in the valley.
"For the cliff is all right if you're careful," they said;

"And if folks ever slip and are dropping,
It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much
As the shock down below—when they're stopping."

So for years (we have heard), as these mishaps
occurred Quick forth would the rescuers sally,

To pick up the victims who fell from the cliff,
With the ambulance down in the valley.

Said one, to his pleas, "It's marvel to me
That you'd give so much greater attention
To repairing results than to curing the cause;

You had much better aim at prevention.
For the mischief, of course, should be stopped at its source;

Come, neighbours and friends, let us rally.
It is far better sense to rely on a fence
Than an ambulance down in the valley."

"He is wrong in his head," the majority said;
"He would end all our earnest endeavour.
He's a man who would shirk this responsible work,

But we will support it forever.
Aren't we picking up all, just as fast as they fall,
And giving them care liberally?

A superfluous fence is of no consequence,
If the ambulance works in the valley."

The story looks queer as we've written it here,
But things oft occur that are stranger.

More humane, we assert, than to succour the hurt

Is the plan of removing the danger.

The best possible course is to safeguard the source

By attending to things rationally.
Yes, build up the fence and let us dispense
With the ambulance down in the valley.

That's the principle BOB BYRD has followed throughout his brilliant career in the Senate. He's a Senator for the ages, and it's an extraordinary honor and privilege to know him, to serve with him, and to learn from him.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I will soon have been here 34 years. That is not very long compared to the man about whom I rise to say a few words. I understand this was the day. I was in my office and, having heard the eloquence that was spoken today to my good friend, Senator BYRD, I figured that I couldn't do him justice just coming down at this very moment, as I am. But everybody knows why we speak today when we attempt to honor him for his devotion to his colleagues, to the institution, to the Constitution, and to the United States of America.

The distinguished Senator knows what each of us thinks of him. He knows, better than we each do, what we think of him. He could tell me what PETE DOMENICI thinks about BOB BYRD, and probably be close to right. And vice versa. He has occasionally spoken about what he thinks of me. I don't think he takes it lightly. I think what he says he means. He has been far too generous in what he has said. But I will choose, among all the things, for just a moment, to say what I think mostly about him, as I think about his time here and reverse it.

First, there is something about learning to appreciate what the Senate is as a place, as a house, as an institution. Woe be it any man or woman who is elected to this place and who serves for any length of time and doesn't feel it, doesn't understand it, doesn't quite grasp what a rare place this Senate is. It is hard to say why it is. One could talk about the men and women who made it like this. We could talk about the rules of the Senate that made it like this. We could talk about the two or three great qualities, the fact that you can offer amendments freely—which has been known as one of those real attributes of this place. You can come down here on an afternoon while something is being debated on health, and if you can get the floor you can offer an amendment about Iraq. Somehow or another, you get the feel of the place, the limitation on trying to get things done that this threat to filibuster offers, and how that plays, and the minority and majority and what it means in this place.

You know at some point in time if you have ever had to make a decision on the floor of the Senate that was important just because it was important to the Senate, then ROBERT BYRD would be there to stand up and congratulate you. That is, if as chairman of the Budget Committee I had to get up and say to the Senate: I want to ad-

monish you that if you do this or that you are challenging the rules of the Senate—if I would look around and expect some help, the walls would give me help. And it would be ROBERT BYRD saying: Listen carefully, if you are talking about the Senate.

That is why I came here because, of all the qualities, I think he will best be known as a man of the Senate, as a man who understood the Senate—what made it great and different, unique. He is noted for his great ability to manifest so many great historic concepts, of modern times and ancient times, and today debate them, deliver them, state them from memory, and truly inform us what they mean.

His understanding of freedom is legendary, what American freedom is. But today I chose to congratulate him for not letting up, in all his years—never letting up on the proposition that the Senate is a special place. He will go down in history because he has regularly, habitually, without hesitation informed us of what a special place the Senate is by virtue of what we have been given, what was bestowed upon us in the Constitution, how our Founding Fathers have accredited this place, what its rules have become through its leaders of the past, and how the halls just reek with all of that past and just keep making it the Senate.

That is what he is; that is what he has done. He is the Senate. The longer he is here, the more he is that. I don't know how many years it took him to become it, to know it, to relish it as he has passed it on to each of us. Certainly, by the time I came in 1972, and I have been here 33 going on 34 years, he already was there and was preaching that to all of us. Some of us began to understand it to where we could stand up and say: Hey, don't forget, fellow Senators, this is the Senate. Let's not do an injustice to it. Let's not violate it.

I won't state names, but I remember very young Senators who wouldn't think of talking that way. But 10 years later, that is the way they talked, that is the way they behaved. I venture to say each and every one who comes to my mind, if you ask them where they got that feeling, that rapture for this place, probably among the very few things they would mention, they would mention ROBERT C. BYRD.

Congratulations for all the times spent in breaking all the records for the time, but most of all congratulations from me, to a Senate man, a man who makes the Senate what it is and likes to tell everybody else around what it is, and in particular likes to make sure Senators grow up and begin to relish it as he has, and never forgets what it is.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I first came to the U.S. Senate 40 years ago next year, not as a Senator but as

a legislative assistant. Senator KENNEDY was here then in his second term. Senator BYRD had been in the Congress since 1953. I was working for Howard Baker, the first Republican Senator to be elected from Tennessee.

I noticed over the years how he and Senator BYRD became good friends. The strength of that friendship was demonstrated in 1980 when the Republicans gained control of the Senate—which surprised virtually everyone, gaining 12 seats. Among the shocks that would occur is that Howard Baker, who was then the Republican leader—he refused to call himself the minority leader, but the Republican leader—was to become majority leader and ROBERT BYRD, who was the Democratic leader, would have to be the minority leader.

I remember two stories Senator Baker tells about that incident which had a lot to do with shaping what happened in the Senate shortly after that.

Senator Baker went to see Senator BYRD, and as I have been told, he said: BOB, I wonder if you would be willing to keep your office. Well, that got him off to a good start with BOB BYRD. I am sure that incident must have caused the Senate to work much more smoothly over the next few years. Senator Baker kept the minority leader's office and expanded it, and Senator BYRD kept the majority leader's office even though he was the minority leader.

But the second thing that happened was this: The new majority leader, Howard Baker, said to the stepping down majority leader, BOB BYRD: BOB, I would like to make an arrangement with you. Senator BYRD said to Senator Baker: What is that, Howard? He said: I would like to make an arrangement about surprises. I will not surprise you if you won't surprise me. According to Senator Baker, Senator BYRD replied: Let me think about it. They got back together the next day, and BOB BYRD gave Howard Baker his word: No surprises. According to Senator Baker, that word was never broken during the entire time Senator Baker was the majority leader and Senator BYRD was the minority leader. I am sure the Senate and this country benefitted greatly because of the trust those two men, who usually had very different opinions on issues, had with one another.

The other thing I would like to say about Senator BYRD is this: I came to the U.S. Senate as a Senator many years later, the same year the Presiding Officer came from Texas. It was in 2003 when we were sworn in, and that was exactly a half century after BOB BYRD came to the Congress. Each of us in our class made what I believe we still call maiden speeches—our first speech on the subject that was most important to us. The subject that was most important to me—and still is—is what it means to be an American, concepts that unify our country. I find it absolutely remarkable how our country, among all others, has accumulated

this magnificent diversity but has found a way to bind it into a single country based on a few fragile principles that are found in our founding documents and by our common language and by our saga of American history.

There is no one in the Senate—even though many of us try—no one in the Senate who understands and expresses that better than Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. He understands what it means to be an American. He votes that way. For example, when the No Child Left Behind Act came up in the Senate before I was elected to this body, the legislation focused on reading and math. Senator BYRD insisted that the Senate bill include a \$100 million authorization for the teaching of what he called traditional American history. Our seniors in high school are scoring lower on U.S. history than on any other subject. In other words, our high school seniors don't score lowest on math or science; they score lowest on U.S. history. Those are the worst scores our seniors have. In focusing on the need to do a better job of teaching history to young Americans, Senator BYRD is making an effort to make sure we remember where our country came from.

When I made my maiden speech and then introduced a modest bill to try to create summer academies for outstanding teachers and students of American history in 2003, Senator BYRD came to the floor. Senator BYRD cosponsored the bill, and then he showed the great compliment to me of showing up at the hearing before the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to testify for the bill. As I said, it was my first year in the Senate; it was his 50th year in Congress.

So I congratulate him for his service. I congratulate him for his relationship with other Senators, his word being his bond, as it was in the example with Senator Baker, and I admire his work in helping to remind us in this body and all of us in this country of what it means to be an American. That will be one of his lasting legacies.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I cannot be in the Chamber on this somewhat historic day without recognizing the fact that one of our colleagues today becomes the longest serving Member of the U.S. Senate. Senator BOB BYRD is a special Member of this body and has been a good friend to all 99 current Members, as well as all the previous Members of the Senate who have had the pleasure of serving with him.

I will never forget the first week I was here making my rounds of the other Senators I did not know. When I came to Senator BYRD, he, of course, knew immediately who I was and engaged in a conversation about some facts regarding my service in the House and some other issues that were personal that let me know how much he cared about the Senate by taking the

time to research the background of individuals who become Members of the Senate.

I will always cherish the fact that during that conversation and in subsequent conversations I have had with him, he shared with me the fact that his favorite Member of the Senate has always been Senator Richard B. Russell of my home State. Senator Russell served in this body for 34 years, and I happen to hold the class of the seat of Senator Russell. I have an office in the Senate Russell Building. So I have a number of ties to Senator Russell, and I also have such great respect and admiration for him. To hear Senator BYRD talk in such glowing terms about a man from my State for whom I have such respect gave me a warm feeling about this man with whom I was about to engage in service in the Senate.

He is a remarkable man. He is a man who, without question, believes in the Constitution of the United States and thinks we ought to be more bold in our adherence to that Constitution.

In that respect, again, in that same first week I was here, I received in my office mail a copy of the U.S. Constitution from Senator BYRD, along with a letter from him saying that as a Member of the Senate, I should always remember that this has been our guiding light and has served us well during every single day that our country has been free and democratic.

As we help share and celebrate with him on this historic day, I extend my congratulations to him on his service to our country and his service in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before the distinguished Senator departs, I thank him for his kind remarks and thank him for his service on the Armed Services Committee.

He mentioned Richard Russell. Indeed, he had many years of service on the Armed Services Committee. I know he would be very proud of what Senator CHAMBLISS has done to carry on the traditions which he instituted.

I earlier shared my respect for ROBERT BYRD and that great class of Senators with whom he worked in this institution, among them Harry F. Byrd, Sr., Richard B. Russell, and John Stennis. They were quite a team, and we have all learned from them. I must say, Senator CHAMBLISS carries on those traditions with his great State.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I congratulate my good friend, ROBERT C. BYRD, on becoming the longest serving Senator in American history. Senator BYRD is an institution within this institution that we all dearly love. For more than 47 years in the Senate, he has served America and his beloved West Virginia with firm purpose, confident that his work is to do their work. He has done it extraordinarily well.

Senator BYRD's place in history was assured long before this milestone. He is distinguished more by his love for

the Senate than by the length of his service. Senator BYRD knows the history and rules of the Senate better than any of us serving today—perhaps better than anyone who has ever served this body. He has defended the traditions and prerogatives of the Senate as strongly as any Senator ever has. Senator BYRD reveres our Constitution, a copy of which he always carries in his pocket, and is as firmly committed to our Constitution as any American ever has been.

To just give one example, I saw that commitment in our work together against the line-item veto, which Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law in 1996. In the floor consideration of that bill, Senator BYRD illuminated the debate, as he so often does, by reaching back into history. He quoted the 18th century English jurist, Sir William Blackstone, who wrote:

In all tyrannical governments, the supreme magistracy, or the right of both making and enforcing the laws, is vested in one and the same man, or one and the same body of men. And wherever these two powers are united together, there can be no public liberty.

After the bill became law, despite that opposition, I joined Senator BYRD and Senator Moynihan in filing an amicus brief at the Supreme Court, arguing that the line-item veto was an unconstitutional surrender of legislative power to the executive branch. In June 1998, the Supreme Court agreed in a 6-to-3 decision. Senator BYRD came to the Senate floor, and he declared:

This is a great day for the United States of America, a great day for the Constitution of the United States. Today we feel that the liberties of the American people have been assured. God save this honorable Court.

Well, we are honored to have this giant in the Senate—a true living legend—among us and guiding us in our daily work.

The determination with which Senator BYRD approaches his work in Washington is born of his devotion to the people of West Virginia.

Through his arduous work, he has brought needed infrastructure to an area that has lacked for economic development. He has fought, first and foremost, for the working people and particularly the coal miners of West Virginia. Just last week—I guess the week before now—the Senate passed the mine safety bill that he championed along with his colleague, Senator ROCKEFELLER. West Virginia has had no finer advocate in its history than ROBERT BYRD, a fact the State recognized when it selected him “West Virginian of the 20th century.”

In addition to his service in the Senate, Senator BYRD has lived, and hopefully will continue to lead for many years, an amazing and an amazingly full life. He is a man of great abilities and many passions. He plays the fiddle, he reads the classics, he is a master orator, he has worked as a butcher and welder, he is a writer and historian, he

has lived in a shack with no electricity, and now keeps the company of Presidents and of Kings.

He has known true and deep love with his cherished wife Erma whose birthday they would have celebrated today. His life and his love for the Senate and for the Constitution is exceeded only by his love for Erma.

When I was elected to the Senate in 1978, ROBERT BYRD was majority leader. The first vote I cast was on a Robert Byrd motion. And since that day, I have learned more about this institution from ROBERT BYRD than I have from anyone or from anywhere else. The greatest tribute we can pay to ROBERT BYRD is to stand firm for Senate procedures which have made the Senate the most notable place in the world of democratic institutions where the protection of minority rights to debate and to amend legislation are the most protected. There is no other place like the Senate in the world. It is here where the right to debate is given a privileged position, a protected position so that minority views can be aired fully and so that, hopefully, consensus can be arrived at rather than just simply adopted by prompt majority votes.

So that is the tribute we can all pay to ROBERT BYRD: to defend this institution, to stand for its procedures, and to carry, as he does, at least in our hearts, the Constitution, as he carries the Constitution on his body.

Congratulations to Senator BYRD on this historic milestone in his lifetime of service to our Nation and his now record length of service to the Senate of the United States.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am pleased to come to the floor today to pay my personal tribute and the tribute of all Georgians to the service of ROBERT BYRD in the U.S. Senate. Today marks the 48th year of his service, and now, today, he is the longest serving U.S. Senator in history.

I am distinctly honored to be in Senate and to have been elected here, and there are many reasons why I am honored. But one of the most wonderful experiences since my election has been the chance to come to know ROBERT BYRD. He, obviously, is a legend. He, obviously, is a great orator. But he is also a wonderful human being.

On Fridays it is my occasion to preside over the U.S. Senate for 3 hours. As the other Members of the Senate know, on Friday mornings we are not always in business. Therefore, Friday is the day where a lot of Members come to make speeches about issues of importance to them and their constituents.

On occasion, I have had the chance to hear ROBERT BYRD make one of his famous Friday morning speeches, probably the most enjoyable of which took place three Fridays ago when I was presiding over the Senate. Senator BYRD arrived in the Chamber, asked for recognition, and then spoke, basically without notes, for 48 minutes. I remember counting the minutes because I did

not want it to be over because he gave his famous Mother's Day speech. He paid tribute to his mom and all moms in the United States of America.

ROBERT BYRD is a wonderful, unique institution, a man of great honor, great intellect, and great capacity.

One of my other great experiences since coming to the Senate has been to work with him on the bill we recently passed and is now on the President's desk, the mine safety bill. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Occupational Safety, it fell my lot to deal with the tragedies of the Sago mine disaster and subsequent disasters that took place in Kentucky.

Obviously, the Sago mine is in West Virginia, and I traveled to West Virginia and met with those mine families. But I also met with ROBERT BYRD on numerous occasions, talking about what we as the U.S. Senate could do to try to see to it that we reacted to where there might be shortcomings in the mine safety laws and to help institutionalize better practices not only in our inspections but in the operations of those mines.

With all the energy of a teenager, love and compassion for those widows, and with great effort on his own part, Senator BYRD worked closely with us over the last 6 months since that disaster, and a couple weeks ago we passed in this body—and the House passed 2 days later—the mine safety bill.

Today, mining is a safer profession because of ROBERT BYRD and his compassionate love for the people of West Virginia and the coal miners who work there.

I could go on and on telling personal stories, but I will not do that. I simply close by saying, of all the great distinctions and honors I have had to serve in this body, none is greater than to get to know the great man of great capacity and great compassion, the honorable ROBERT BYRD from the State of West Virginia—now the longest serving Senator in the history of the U.S. Senate.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD).

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, on January 3, 1959, ROBERT CARLYLE BYRD entered his first term as West Virginia's junior Senator. Today, June 12, 2006, after serving 17,327 days representing West Virginians, ROBERT C. BYRD is now the longest serving U.S. Senator in our Nation's great history. He has surpassed giants and legends of the Senate to be in a class by himself. Although his 47 plus years and 17,666 votes are what we celebrate today, we also know that he is just as much West Virginia's future as he has been part of its past.

During his tenure, Senator BYRD has brought over \$1 billion to West Virginia's highways, dams, educational institutions, and more—earning him the moniker of West Virginia's billion-dollar industry. Senator BYRD has also

created a number of other health care and educational opportunities across the State such as the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, based at Marshall University, the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center at West Virginia University, and the Scholastic Recognition Award for West Virginia's public and private school valedictorians. Senator BYRD's projects are so numerous it would take me hours to name them all; however, the improvements he has brought to West Virginia are immeasurable. And West Virginia's future is much brighter as a result of his years of service and his continued desire to work for our State.

His dedication to the people of West Virginia is unmatched, and in the years to come, we all look to Senator BYRD to continue to fight for a State that would have much less without him. Today he is working to secure a Federal prison in McDowell County, continuing to improve our State's highways, updating the safety laws for our miners, protecting the checks and balances in our government structure, securing our borders, and creating opportunities for the youth of West Virginia.

Sadly, this year, Senator BYRD lost a pillar of strength and the most beloved person in his life—his wife Erma Ora Byrd. When Senator BYRD earned his law degree while serving in Congress, Erma and his children sacrificed time with him for the betterment of our Nation. Erma served as a spiritual companion and as an emotional support for him. When elected as Majority Leader, many said that his life was the Senate, but those who know him, know that the love of his life and his eternal companion truly was Erma. Her values and strengths are those of all West Virginians. She was a coal miner's daughter and a daughter of Appalachia. She provided Senator BYRD with everything he needed throughout his life, and provided unfailing support during his lifetime of public service.

Senator BYRD's love for West Virginia and its people is extraordinary. Throughout his unprecedented public service in the West Virginia House of Delegates, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate, ROBERT C. BYRD has never lost an election—a tribute to his resounding support in our State of West Virginia and something very few of his colleagues can say. One reason for this perfect record is that he never fails to work for the future of our State—he is on the cutting edge of West Virginia's needs, and he is fast to respond to new problems, such as border security, and homeland security, with new solutions.

Senator BYRD's contributions to this country extend far past West Virginia's mountains. He has served as a leader on the Senate Appropriations Committee, worked to create a Federal compensation system for black lung victims, worked to secure passage of the Panama Canal treaties, led the effort to pass legislation keeping the So-

cial Security system solvent, worked to ratify the INF treaty with the Soviet Union, went to court to block the recently passed line-item veto, among many other historic pieces of legislation, treaties, nominations, and resolutions. Most recently, Senator BYRD has worked tirelessly to help pass the MINER Act in light of the tragedies at the Sago and Alma mines.

In addition to his stellar legislative record, Senator BYRD has been a proven leader in the Senate, holding more leadership positions in the Senate than any other Senator of any party in Senate history. He has held leadership positions including secretary of the Democratic Conference, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Democratic whip, Democratic leader, majority leader, and minority leader. On three occasions Senator ROBERT C. BYRD has served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, demonstrating the tremendous amount of respect that the Senator has from his colleagues and placing him in direct line of succession to the Presidency.

Throughout his career, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD has remained a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. A man of deep faith, his dedication to our country and our State is exceeded only by his dedication to his family. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Senator ROBERT C. BYRD for the incredible amount of time and effort he has given to our Nation and to the State of West Virginia. I know my colleagues join me in hoping that he will continue to serve West Virginia for many more years to come. ●

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to add my voice in tribute and recognition of the continuing service of our distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from West Virginia, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. Today he becomes the real dean of the Senate, the longest serving of all the 1,855 men and women who have served in this body.

It will not surprise any of my colleagues that others will make more of this remarkable milestone than the Senator from West Virginia himself. For him, Day 17,327 is just another day serving the people of West Virginia and the United States here in the Senate. But for the rest of us, this milestone recognizes not simply the length of Senator BYRD's tenure, but what he has done with that tenure.

The Senator from West Virginia brings a sense of history and perspective to the politics of the moment. He is as determined as anyone here to achieve his political goals, but his emphasis on the institution's history and prerogatives helps us place the immediate in a larger context. In that sense, he is not just a Senator, not just a colleague, but he is a teacher for the many Senators who have walked on this floor for the first time since he came here so long ago.

The Senator from West Virginia is truly an original. I ask my colleagues:

do you know anyone else who feels equally comfortable, giving a discourse on the Roman Senate and appearing on the television show "Hee Haw"?

Many Senators, for example, receive academic degrees during their service in this body. Most, however, are honorary degrees. The Senator from West Virginia received a law degree from American University in 1963, but he earned it after taking night classes for a decade.

Senators have written books during their service in this body. The Senator from West Virginia, however, has written books about this body. He is widely known as the author of a four-volume work on the history of the U.S. Senate, published in 1987 for the Senate's bicentennial. Those are not simply history books. The project began as a series of speeches about this institution and its history, delivered right here on this Senate floor. A book about Senate history arising while participating in that history.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Inside the front cover of volume two of his work on the Senate is a photograph of the Senator from West Virginia and his wife, whom he has so often simply called "my dear Erma," standing on a staircase in the Senate. We all mourned Erma Byrd's passing just a few months ago and today would have been her birthday. That photograph was on the occasion of their 50th anniversary in 1987. I do not doubt that in his left breast pocket was that familiar copy of the U.S. Constitution which, I might add, was celebrating its own bicentennial that same year. How fitting that one photograph would capture these loves of his life, the institutions to which he was so committed: his marriage, the Constitution, and the Senate.

So much more could be said, but I just want to pay tribute and honor to my colleague of nearly 30 years, a man of character and integrity, a caring man passionately devoted to his faith, his family, and his country, a good man, a great Senator.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Senate's most enduring figure, Senator ROBERT BYRD, of West Virginia. Today marks the day that Senator BYRD becomes the longest serving member in the history of the U.S. Senate, with almost 50 years of senatorial experience. I extend to Senator BYRD my congratulations on this momentous occasion.

Born in 1917, Senator BYRD had a hardscrabble childhood. After the death of his parents when Senator BYRD was just 1 year old, he was raised by his aunt and uncle in various communities in West Virginia. He graduated at the top of his high school class in the 1930s, in the midst of the Great Depression. Taking work wherever he was able to find it, Senator BYRD pumped gas, sold produce, and cut meat. These jobs grounded Senator BYRD in the realities of the working world. During World War II, he became

a welder and worked on the Liberty and Victory ships.

After the war, Senator BYRD began his political life with a successful run for the West Virginia House of Delegates. After serving two terms, Senator BYRD was elected to the West Virginia Senate, then to the U.S. House of Representatives. Finally, in 1958, Senator BYRD was elected to the U.S. Senate. He has subsequently been reelected by large margins again and again. In numerous elections, he has carried all 55 counties in West Virginia and in 2000 carried nearly every precinct in the State, an unheard of achievement. Additionally, Senator BYRD has held more positions in the Senate leadership than any other Senator in the history of the institution, including 12 years as Democratic Leader.

While outside of the Senate Chamber, Senator BYRD became the first member to initiate and complete the courses needed for a law degree while simultaneously serving in Congress by taking night classes from American University over the course of 10 years. In May 2001, Senator BYRD was named "West Virginian of the 20th Century" by Gov. Bob Wise and both houses of the West Virginia Legislature. He is also blessed with two daughters, six grandchildren, and five-great granddaughters.

I am pleased to recognize my colleague, Senator BYRD, on this historic day. The work he has done throughout his life has bestowed countless benefits to the people of West Virginia and to the Nation. It is a pleasure to work with such a creative and dedicated lawmaker, and I once again congratulate Senator BYRD on reaching this milestone.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my longtime friend and colleague, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, on his landmark accomplishment of becoming the longest serving member of the U.S. Senate. Today is Senator BYRD's 17,327th day in office—that is 48 years. And he is still going strong—gearing up for his race for a ninth term this fall.

Senator BYRD's life shows the power of America's unique opportunity structure. His mother died when he was a baby. He was raised by his aunt and uncle, a coal miner, during the Great Depression. In his early life, he worked pumping gas, cutting meat, and even welding war ships in various ports—including in my own hometown of Baltimore. Yet Senator BYRD never forgot his roots, and he never forgot those miners. In fact, his new mine safety legislation—the MINER Act—just passed the Senate last week. Like me, he stands up for the little guy.

Senator BYRD and I have a long history together. When I first came to the Senate in 1986, one of the people who was most welcoming to me was Senator BYRD. I reached out to him. I told him I not only wanted to be a fighter—I wanted to be an effective player. I wanted to be there not only to change the law books. I wanted to be sure

there was money in the Federal checkbook for my State and for the national priorities that would help ordinary families. ROBERT BYRD said to me, "You should come on my Appropriations Committee."

Senator BYRD helped me become the first woman on the Appropriations Committee and one of the first freshman members of the Senate on the Appropriations Committee. With Senator BYRD as the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee and I as a member, we have been working together ever since to build coalitions to get things done.

Senator BYRD's home State of West Virginia is right next door to Maryland. We share a common border—with Allegheny, Garret, and parts of Washington Counties just across the State line in Western Maryland. But we share more than a common border. We share a common set of values—rooted in faith, family commitment and patriotism.

Senator BYRD is no stranger to breaking records. He has done this before. He has already cast more votes and held more leadership positions—including serving as minority leader for 6 years and serving two stints as President pro tempore—than any other U.S. Senator in history. Today's record is further evidence of Senator BYRD's unwavering dedication to his State. When asked about this accomplishment, Senator BYRD told the press: "Records are fine. But what's important is what I do for the people of West Virginia. They are the ones who sent me here 48 years ago." It is this dedication that keeps the people of West Virginia voting for Senator BYRD. I like to say that I am the "Senator from Maryland and for Maryland," and it is this kind of shared value that makes me feel so close to Senator BYRD.

So today—June 12, 2006—we congratulate Senator ROBERT C. BYRD for his historic contributions to his State and to our Nation.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a longtime friend and colleague, the esteemed senior Senator from West Virginia, Senator ROBERT BYRD. This is a historic day in his career and a historic day in the history of the Senate. Today Senator BYRD adds to his many accomplishments and honors the distinction of becoming the longest-serving Member in Senate history.

Senator BYRD's years of service to this country are an inspiration to all of us. His lifelong devotion to the institution of the Senate sets an example that we can only try to emulate. For almost half a century, he has been a tireless advocate for the people of West Virginia and the Nation. He believes that government can improve the lives of the citizens that it serves, and that we can all be advocates for justice. We are better Senators and better citizens when we attempt to live up to the legacy that he has established.

I first worked with Senator BYRD during the early days of my husband's

administration. At the time, he had already served in the Senate for 34 years. I remember him being stately and silver-haired when we met. He was already the unofficial historian of the Senate, famous for standing in the well of the Chamber and dazzling his colleagues with quotations from the classics. I also learned then that he was a strict disciplinarian when it came to procedural rules and decorum, a quality that he retains to this day.

It is his devotion to the institution of the Senate that has made him a mentor to so many of us, and I am honored to include myself among the ranks of those who he has counseled.

When I was elected to the Senate, it took me only a minute to conclude that I should start my preparation by going to see the great sage and historian of the Senate, Senator BYRD.

To this day I still very fondly remember the visit that I paid to Senator BYRD's office in the Capitol in late November of 2000. I will be forever indebted to him for the guidance that he provided when I first came to the Senate.

Of course, I am not the only recipient of his kind advice and guidance. In fact, Senator BYRD has codified his vast knowledge of the history of the Senate into a multi-volume book. The four volumes published in 1989, 1991, 1993 and finally in 1995 were a labor of love for Senator BYRD. They will continue to be a resource and a treasure for many generations to come.

And let me tell you what Senator ROBERT BYRD did for the people of New York in the aftermath of the attack on lower Manhattan in 2001.

After that terrible day, the White House sent up a supplemental spending bill to finance the war, and there was not a single penny in it for New York. I told the President of the United States in the Oval Office that we were going to need at least \$20 billion to rebuild Ground Zero.

And thanks to the leadership and dedication of Senator BYRD, who chaired the Appropriations Committee at that time, we got that funding for New York. Thanks to his commitment, our firefighters, police officers, first responders, and volunteers who came to the rescue that day will have some help as they continue to cope with the health effects of exposure to the site.

Because of Senator BYRD's efforts, where once a pile of rubble stood, one day a tower will stand.

Because of Senator BYRD, our businesses and homeowners who lost everything are on the road to recovery.

As Senator BYRD has himself said, New York gained a third Senator on that day, and we are unquestionably better off for it.

ROBERT BYRD was born in North Wilkesboro, NC, and raised in West Virginia by his aunt and uncle. He is an avid fiddler, steeped in the rich musical traditions of the Appalachian folk life. He grew up in the coal mining community that he proudly defends

today. As a member of the HELP Committee, I continue to be impressed by his vigilance on behalf of the coal miners of West Virginia and elsewhere in the Nation.

He was first elected to this Senate in 1958. He became a member of the Senate leadership in 1967, when he was selected to be secretary of the Democratic Conference. He was chosen to be Senate Democratic whip in 1971 and Democratic leader in 1977. He has held more leadership positions in the Senate than any other Member in Senate history.

Through all of his years of Senate service, there was one person who was always by his side, as his partner, friend, and as he said on many occasions, his teacher.

Erma Ora James was born in Floyd County, VA, and moved from there to the coal mines of West Virginia with her family. It was there that she met ROBERT BYRD at Mark Twain High School over 70 years ago. He first tried to woo her with gifts of bubble gum that he took from a classmate and stored up for her. And apparently it worked, because they became high school sweethearts and were married on May 29, 1937. Over the years, their family grew to include two daughters, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

It is a tradition of Senator BYRD's to go to the floor of the Senate each Mother's Day and pay tribute to the Nation's mothers. When he does that he has often mentioned Erma and the joy that they shared together for so many years.

They had been married nearly 69 years when she passed away 3 months ago on March 15, 2006, after a long illness. Theirs has been called one of the great American love stories.

On his 63rd wedding anniversary he went to the Senate floor and said of her, "I have to frankly say that what little I have amounted, if it is anything much, I owe for the most part to [Erma.]" I know that today, as his colleagues who respect and admire him so very much come to the floor to praise his service in the Senate, Erma is looking down on us as well.

It is truly an honor to serve in the Senate with Senator BYRD. I wish him all the best on this day and I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of the American people.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOND). Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 3 o'clock having arrived, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 2766, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2766) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no one seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we are now on the bill. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent if I may depart from the bill to speak as if in morning business regarding our distinguished colleague, Senator ROBERT BYRD of West Virginia.

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

(The remarks of Mr. WARNER are printed in the RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, to accommodate Members, we will be on the bill for some period of time. I will be joined by the distinguished ranking member, Mr. LEVIN, shortly after 5 o'clock today. In the meantime, we are open for statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I appreciate this.

I rise today to discuss several noteworthy provisions in the fiscal year 2007 Defense authorization bill. I will provide an overview of a couple of amendments I will offer.

First, I commend the managers of this bill, Senators JOHN WARNER and CARL LEVIN, for the work they have put into this legislation. I also recognize in a public way the fine work Chairman WARNER has done. I have had an opportunity to work with the chairman both as a member of the Committee on Armed Services, and after leaving that committee to serve on the Committee on Appropriations. I found Senator WARNER certainly has been very gracious and helpful on many issues and has certainly kept the men and women of the Armed Forces primary in his mind.

It is comprehensive and addresses many of the issues important to our Armed Forces. Indeed, many of the provisions in this bill are essential to the health and well being of our soldiers and are needed in order to defeat terrorism and defend our Nation from future attacks.

In the missile defense arena, for example, the Senate Armed Services Committee took several steps to encourage the Department of Defense to focus on near-term missile defense systems over longer-term next generation

systems. I support this direction and agree that MDA is not investing enough time and money in those systems that may be able to provide limited defense capability in the near term.

I personally believe we need to be conducting more tests within the missile defense mid-course intercept program. Although the Missile Defense Agency will be conducting two flight intercepts later this year, the agency only requested funding for one intercept in fiscal year 2007. This test plan is insufficient in my eyes and should be greatly expanded.

We need to conduct many more flight intercepts, much more often. We need to be challenging the system with our tests and working on the areas we need improve upon. I do not expect perfection. In fact, I expect some failures. But, in the context of several missile defense intercepts tests per year, one or two failures only means that we are pushing to find out the real capabilities of the system. They do not mean missile defense is not possible.

The bottom line here is that I do expect for the Missile Defense Agency to try. We all know that hit-to-kill technology works. We have used it successfully in the Patriot and Aegis Programs. We now need to further develop the mid-course system and introduce greater capability to that system.

Let me turn to another provision in the Senate version of the defense authorization bill that I thought was appropriate and deserved mention. That provision pertained to the Department's request for \$127 million for the development and procurement of Trident conventional submarine launched ballistic missiles. Under the Pentagon's proposal, the Navy would equip several of its Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines with Trident missiles tipped with conventional warheads.

These missiles are intended to give the President a real option for a responsive, global strike capability in the short term.

I support the concept of developing a conventional ballistic missile capable of reaching almost any target in the world in under an hour. In an era when targets of opportunity shift rapidly, there is a real need for systems that can reach these targets within narrow time frames. A conventional ballistic missile is perhaps the best option for this purpose in the near term.

That being said, this is still a very new concept, and the Department of Defense has yet to work out all the details. Of particular concern is the fact that the Department is still developing a variety of transparency, confidence building, and operational measures to ensure, there is no confusion about our intentions. The last thing we want is for Russia or China to think we are launching a nuclear strike when we use one of these submarine-launched conventional missiles.

To address this concern, the Senate Armed Services Committee included a

provision in this bill that prohibits the expenditure of this funding until the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State submit a joint report that discusses potential alternatives, describes the discrimination capabilities of other nations, and states how the United States would work with other nations to prevent an inadvertent nuclear attack by another country.

I believe this provision is a reasonable approach to this issue and still allows the Department of Defense to go forward with the development and procurement of this system. I think there might be other less challenging global strike options available, such as land-based conventional ballistic missiles in California or Guam, so I look forward to the Department's discussion about possible alternatives.

I next wish to address the Senate Armed Services Committee's decision to increase by \$30 million the Department of Defense buffer zone conservation projects account. These projects help military bases around the country address the growing problem of encroachment from residential and industrial development. At Fort Carson, CO, we have seen the fruits of conservation projects such as those funded under this account.

Fort Carson's southeastern and southern borders are now protected with money from this account. I believe as more conservation projects come on line, competition for the funding in this account will grow exponentially. We needed extra money to meet this demand, and the funding provided by this bill is a step in the right direction.

Now let me turn to another provision in the bill that I think should be highlighted. Section 372 provides the Secretary of Defense with authority to include incentivized clauses in contracts for the destruction of chemical weapons within the U.S. stockpile.

To my extreme disappointment, the Department of Defense announced last April that it most likely would not be able to comply with our treaty obligations under the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention. I was displeased by this announcement because the way the Department had managed its chemical demilitarization program virtually assured our Nation's noncompliance.

Nevertheless, I still believe if we use the incentivized contracts this section provides, we might be able to complete the destruction of our chemical weapons stockpile earlier than what is currently expected. Those contractors who can meet a more aggressive schedule should be rewarded for their effort. At the same time, I believe that the penalties for safety or environmental violations should also be increased.

At Rocky Flats, a former Department of Energy plutonium pit production facility located just outside of Denver, we have seen the value of these contracts. This facility was initially expected to cost as much as \$70 billion and take over 30 years to clean up. The

Department of Energy was able to find a contractor who was willing to accelerate the contract in return for a huge incentive. I am pleased to tell you today that the contractor safely completed the cleanup of Rocky Flats last December, over a year ahead of schedule and several hundred million dollars under budget.

This incentive provision puts the Department of Defense in position to use similar contracts to encourage contractors to finish earlier and cheaper than expected while protecting the environment and ensuring safety. I strongly support it and commend the managers of the bill for including it in the bill before us.

The last provision I would like to discuss is section 911. This provision creates an office for the management and acquisition of operationally responsive space capabilities. I support this provision because the Department of Defense has not done enough to investigate the value of operationally responsive space.

One of the reasons why this has occurred is because of the absence of a dedicated office to manage our operationally responsive space, known as ORS, efforts. The GAO recently reported that the absence of a strategic direction within the Department on operationally responsive space activities was hindering the program. This provision solves that problem and should encourage the Department to move forward with ORS types of systems.

Over the next couple of days, I plan to offer several amendments which I hope will be accepted by the managers of this bill. Most of these amendments should be noncontroversial and helpful but are important to the global war against terror and to helping the families of our servicemembers. I look forward to working with Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN so we can get these amendments cleared as quickly as possible.

Again, I thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his exceptionally good work on this bill. I know he has put in hours of thought and deliberation on this bill, and his committee, working with him, has done a good job.

So, I say to the Senator, I want to recognize that I believe this is your last year as the chairman of the Armed Services Committee because of our term limits, and I am sorry to see you have to step down because I think you have done a tremendous job as chairman. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to work with you as chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before the Senator parts the floor, I say thank you for your kind remarks.

Yes, I do graciously and willingly step down. It is the rules of our caucus, and I respect that. But it has been a marvelous opportunity for me to have

this 6 years, and, indeed, a year or 2 before that as chairman. But I want to particularly comment on the long association and continued association of the senior Senator from Colorado with respect to issues of national security. The Senator has served on our committee, I think, about 8 years.

How many years?

Mr. ALLARD. Six years, I believe, yes.

Mr. WARNER. That is correct. And you are distinguished in your steadfastness on the subject of missile defense and how to protect this country. How many times have you taken the floor and asked and received silence from the Senate: Do we have one—one system that can knock down an intercontinental ballistic missile should we have the misfortune, be it accidental or otherwise, to have it targeted against our country? There has been silence in this Chamber until we started the missile defense program, and you steadfastly fought for that.

I say to the Senator, I also commend you for Rocky Flats. Year after year after year, you shepherded through the Senate, in the appropriations cycle, the funds to do that because of not just the importance of Rocky Flats but the importance of the overall program, what we call the cleanup program, the environmental program, in the Department of Defense to clean up a lot of the former military installations and particularly those associated with the production of fissionable material.

So I commend the Senator.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank the chairman. We do these things by working together as a team, and the Senator is a great team leader. I appreciate all the support of my efforts in trying to get some of these things done. The Chairman has always set a good example for the rest of us by way of his diligence and working through legislation. So I want to thank him publicly for a job well done.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague.

Mr. President, it is my privilege to bring forward on behalf of the Armed Services Committee, and now on behalf of all of our colleagues, the annual Defense authorization bill. I do so with my longtime colleague and dear friend of 28 years serving on this committee, the senior Senator from Michigan, Mr. CARL LEVIN, who is currently the ranking member of the committee. He has been a working partner of mine, and I have been a working partner of his. He was once chairman of this committee. We have always been able to put aside such differences that we may have. I respect his difference of views, and he respects mine. We work as a team on behalf of our committee and all of our colleagues in producing this annual bill, and in all of these 28 years we have been together.

I thank all members of the Armed Services Committee. We have one of the larger committees. I thank our senior staff, particularly Mr. Charles

Abell, my current chief of staff, and Rick DeBobes, the current chief of staff of the minority, and each and every one of their team, because it is a team effort. Our committee, I think almost more so than any others I know of, relies on this professional staff. It is really a professional staff that we have, in many respects, to put together this bill.

The bill before the Senate was unanimously reported out of the committee on May 9 after holding 36 hearings and receiving numerous policy and operational briefings on the President's budget request for fiscal year 2007 and related Defense issues. I commend my colleagues for their hard work and the swift manner in which they contributed to developing and writing this important legislation, not only at the hearings we had but in the subcommittee structure that worked so effectively to produce this bill.

Since the Armed Services Committee reported out this legislation, the United States remains engaged in the global war on terrorism, now in its fifth year.

Currently, the central battlegrounds in the war on terrorism are in Iraq and Afghanistan. But there are many, many other areas throughout the world where quietly, yet no less effectively, the men and women of the Armed Forces are stationed and joining in this collective effort of all uniformed personnel to perform the duties necessary to let this country remain free and those of our allies in the face of this terrorist threat.

It is so important, as we go through this bill, to pay our respects collectively to the men and women in uniform and their many civilian counterparts. There is an enormous cadre of civilians in the Department of Defense and serving elsewhere who are alongside the uniformed men and women throughout the world. But I want to pay particular respect to the Guard and Reserve who have risen to the call far beyond expectations in these conflicts of terrorism and have done their duties time and time again with great honor and distinction.

For each of the countries, the road to peace and stability and democracy has been marked by historical milestones, including a referendum in both Iraq and Afghanistan that adopted a constitution, elections that chose a democratically elected representative government, the formation of a unity government, and progress in building security forces capable of protecting their nation's freedom. Those are landmark and historical accomplishments in the course of world history, and they would not have been achievable without the sacrifices—regrettably, the loss of life, the loss of limb—by so many men and women in the Armed Forces and the support their families, by their side, have given them.

These accomplishments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the global war on terrorism are a tribute to the dedication

and skills of our uniformed men and women who are willing to respond to the call of duty, and to the military leaders who lead them.

The successes achieved in Iraq and Afghanistan have come at a great sacrifice, as I said, in life and limb. These sacrifices and service of our men and women in uniform have also removed obstacles to freedom and democracy in regions of the Middle East and elsewhere in Asia.

Throughout my many years of service I have never seen—and I repeat, I go back some 60 years, to the closing year of World War II, when I was a young 17, 18-year-old sailor—but I have had the privilege of being associated with the men and women in uniform in these 60-plus years, and we have never as a nation witnessed a finer, more dedicated professional force, both Active and Guard and Reserve, than we have today.

As I look back over the history of the U.S. Armed Forces, the challenges and responsibilities have never been greater than those that rest upon the shoulders of today's generation of the military—their leaders, their civilian leaders in the Department of Defense, with the Secretary of Defense and others, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy—all of this team that puts together our national security.

As such, we must take our responsibilities equally as serious to ensure that those who serve have the resources and authorities they need to win the global war on terrorism.

Again, drawing on my modest contribution in active service during World War II and again in Korea and time in the Reserve, I must say, it is so different, in this span of over a half century that I have had the privilege to be associated with these men and women, the challenges that face them today. In World War II we knew precisely who the enemy was. We knew the nations that sponsored the aggression. We knew generally the capabilities of their military, and we knew with greater specificity what we needed to do in America to arm ourselves, first and foremost, with the finest trained men and women—16 million responded in World War II to serve in uniform—and the equipment that they needed.

But today's war on terrorism is largely nonstate-sponsored. We do not know the origins of the hatred that is in the minds of those people who proudly claim the role of terrorist, what it is that engenders that hate such that they wish to strike out, often sacrificing their own life to do harm to those who love and cherish freedom. That is a particular challenge that our young men and women face today, unlike any other conflict of the magnitude we are now engaged in in Afghanistan and Iraq principally, unlike any other conflict in the history of our country. Therefore, we ask much of that individual in uniform today.

It is our privilege as Members of this venerable and distinguished Senate to,

at least once each time every year, and then, of course, in the subsequent appropriations process, provide nothing but the finest equipment obtainable, fair pay and allowances and health care and other requirements that the young men and women and their families of the Armed Forces so richly deserve. What a privilege it is to do that.

With our Armed Forces deployed in distant battlefields and countless others standing watch at home, we are committed to providing the necessary resources and authorities for each of them and their families.

Accordingly, this bill provides \$467.7 billion overall in budget authority for fiscal year 2007—that is an enormous sum of money—an increase of \$26.2 billion or 4.1 percent in real terms over the amount authorized by Congress for fiscal year 2006; additionally, \$50 billion in emergency supplemental funding for fiscal year 2007 for activities in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere in the global war on terrorism.

That is a new concept unlike any I have experienced in the early years in this Chamber, where we literally put in a block sum of money. Since we cannot anticipate with full specificity the needs and special requirements that flow from these operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is prudent and a necessary plan.

The bill further includes many important legislative provisions that would set forth critical policies for the Department of Defense. I would like to highlight a few provisions that would continue to support the modernization and transformation of the Armed Forces and highlight other provisions that would strengthen interagency operations abroad and at home.

The Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld, is to be commended. When he first came to office we had no way of envisioning the magnitude of the war on terrorism. But he set in place the transformation, particularly of the United States Army but other areas of the Department of Defense. And that same transformation and modernization has gone ahead largely parallel to the efforts that we have undertaken in the actual combat of the world war on terrorism.

First of all, my colleagues and I on the committee and others in the Senate remain particularly concerned about the size of the Navy's fleet. In the past 15 years, there has been a declining trend in shipbuilding and a diminishing capacity in the shipbuilding industrial base. The fleet has been reduced to its smallest size since before World War II in terms of number of ships. There are fewer ships today than before World War II. That is an accurate statistic. But it would be incorrect if I didn't say that the smaller number of ships that we have today far exceeds the capabilities of the ships that we had when we entered World War II. So it is not just a numbers game. But it is interesting to point out that statistic in terms of the numbers.

The fleet has been reduced as a result of budget necessities and the extraordinary cost of the individual ships. That has dictated fewer ships, regrettably. But the current Chief of Naval Operations and the current Secretary of the Navy are determined to try, together with the support of the Congress, to turn that curve around and begin to increase the number of ships in the Navy. The time has come to reverse that current trend, and I commend the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, and all others working to try to reverse the trend. Indeed, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Gordon England, former Secretary of the Navy, has been at the helm in trying to increase the size and number of the United States Navy. Each of those individuals is mindful of what the Constitution says. It is the duty of the Congress to maintain—I repeat, maintain—at all times a United States Navy, and then an Army and the size of the Army in accordance with what the needs are. We raise that Army depending upon the threats facing the country. But it is interesting that the Framers clearly recognized the importance of this Nation having maritime supremacy, which we do have today.

In many respects, we are an island nation—yes, bordered by our friends to the north, Canada, and our neighbors to the south. But nevertheless, with two mighty oceans on either side, it is imperative that this country maintain maritime superiority. So we worked diligently to strengthen the shipbuilding program and the industrial base which provides us those ships.

We fund the construction this year of eight warships, one above the President's request, and two new warship classes, the DDX destroyer and LHA(R) amphibious assault ship. We implement a long-range plan for the procurement of three ships of the future aircraft carrier class CVN-21 to improve the affordability of the future aircraft carrier class by authorizing multiple ship material procurements over 4-year increments. So that ship, indeed, is coming to life. The parts are being brought together to build that mighty warship of the future, the CVN-21.

We lay the groundwork to increase the submarine build rate to ensure our continued underseas superiority and increase our investment in the National Shipbuilding Research Program. The bill also includes a provision that would increase investment in unmanned systems to provide more flexible capabilities to the warfighter by requiring the Secretary of Defense to develop a departmentwide policy for development and operation of unmanned systems.

I am very proud of the record of our committee in encouraging the use here year after year of great numbers of unmanned platforms and to provide the research and development to achieve more new platforms. The recent extraordinary military accomplishment

of, at long last, putting to rest the threat from Zarqawi was made possible by the use of an unmanned system in part, together with all elements of our intelligence collection, both military and civilian, and, indeed, finally the execution of a plan with great professionalism by those flying aircraft and those manning ground responsibilities. We will have further to say about that operation as this bill proceeds.

The bill further includes a provision that would continue the development and sustainment of the Joint Strike Fighter Program. After holding 2 days of hearings, I remain concerned that relying on a sole engine supplier for single-engine aircraft to do multiple missions for multiple services and multiple nations presents, indeed, a very serious challenge to the industrial base, the designers, and the manufacturers and all involved. I felt that we could not take the risk of this important program by limiting the engine base to but one single consortium of companies; rather, that we should have the two.

This concern is not a new one that I share, nor is it a concern of mine alone. Ten years ago, a decade ago, I and other colleagues on the Armed Services Committee expressed concern regarding the lack of engine competition for aircraft. In response to that concern, the committee included a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996 that directed the Secretary of Defense to "evaluate at least two propulsion concepts from competing engine companies." Now a decade later, my colleagues and I on the committee continue to have that same concern, and we want to have competition for this engine, in the development of this engine and eventually in the manufacture, because competition historically has produced a better product.

Competition requires both competitors to constantly try to improve the technology of the engine, constantly to try to find means to reduce the cost of the engine. This is an enormously expensive program. Hopefully, we will procure more than several thousand airframes of different types, some to operate on carriers, some from land, some a mix, some with destall capabilities.

It is essential that the magnitude and complexity of this program rest on a solid foundation of propulsion, propulsion provided by two very competent and capable industrial base consortiums competing not only in cost but the continuing competition of design to perfect the best engine man and woman can make for this complicated aircraft. I am proud of what the committee has achieved on this program.

Therefore, the bill includes a provision that would add \$400.8 million—that is not in the President's budget but in the committee's mark, now the bill before the Senate—for the development of the interchangeable engine during fiscal year 2007. Two models will

continue to strongly compete, one by one consortium, another by a second consortium of manufacturers. Indeed, I think by doing that we better serve those nations which have signed up and committed their dollars to the development of this aircraft, nations that are dependent upon this aircraft being designed and built and at a cost that they can afford.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to continue the development and sustainment of the Joint Strike Fighter Program with two competitive propulsion systems throughout the life of the aircraft or enter into a one-time, firm-fixed price contract for a single propulsion system throughout the life of the aircraft.

In addition to modernizing and transforming the Armed Forces to meet current and future threats, we must also strengthen interagency operations abroad and at home. The challenges posed by the Second World War led to increasingly more joint and combined operations within the U.S. military.

Now operations have become more interagency and coalition in nature and will be for the foreseeable future. The success of the U.S. efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the global war on terrorism will depend on coordinating all instruments of our national power to achieve peace and security in troubled regions around the world.

This will include deploying civilian personnel of each agency of our Government with expertise in the areas of rule of law and administration of justice, economic development, and civil administration to partner with U.S. military forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations to secure hard-won military successes and to preserve peace and freedom.

To strengthen interagency operations and to provide greater flexibility in the U.S. Government's ability to partner with nations in fighting terrorism, the bill includes provisions that would require the President to develop a plan to establish interagency operating procedures for Federal agencies to plan and conduct stabilization and reconstruction operations; provide to the heads of all executive branch agencies the same authorities the Secretary of State has with respect to providing allowances, benefits, and death gratuities for Foreign Service or civilian personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; expand authorities for geographic combatant commanders to train and equip foreign military forces, and to provide urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction assistance to foreign nations; expand authority to the Department to lease or lend equipment for personnel protection and survivability to our allies and coalition partners; and expand authority to provide logistics support, supplies, and services to our allies and coalition partners.

With the increased role of the Armed Forces in homeland security, I also re-

main concerned about whether current authorities on the use of the Armed Forces are adequate to deal with a serious or widespread breakdown in public order caused by a terrorist attack or natural disaster. The bill includes a provision that would update the provision in title 10 known as the Insurrection Act to clarify the President's authority to use the Armed Forces to restore order and enforce Federal laws in cases where, as a result of a terrorist attack, epidemic, or natural disaster, public order has broken down beyond the ability of local law enforcement or the State Guard, or a combination thereof, to effectively bring about law and order.

To more effectively support local, state, Federal agencies in response to manmade or natural disasters, the bill includes provisions that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to approve the deployment of Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams to Canada and Mexico, if requested.

We have perfectly equipped teams—at least one for each State—to deal with these problems. We should share them with our neighbors to the north and to the south, if so requested.

It would expand the types of emergencies for which the Secretary of Defense may prepare or employ Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams; and add \$13.5 million to provide for the training and equipment of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams.

They were a concept developed in the Armed Services Committee, and I am very proud. It has taken us many years to get the funding stream to provide these teams so they cover adequately the best we can equally all 50 States.

These are just a few of the essential authorities among the more than 300 provisions included in this year's bill. I believe the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2007 sustains the advances made in recent years, and provides the necessary investments to prepare for the security of our Nation in the future.

I urge my colleagues to debate this bill in a constructive manner and to bring forth those amendments which you believe would further strengthen this bill. They will be fairly considered, I assure you. Therefore, I am anxious that this bill be established and passed by the Senate, having been amended where it is necessary. It has been the tradition of the Senate for 45 years to pass this bill each year.

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

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer opening remarks on

the 2007 National Defense Authorization bill. Chairman WARNER and Ranking Member LEVIN, as well as the entire committee, worked very hard during the markup process to produce a bill that would support our troops and would provide what our military needs to fight and win the global war on terrorism, and I am pleased to say this bill does just that. This bill provides our service men and women with the resources necessary to continue the war on terrorism, keep our country safe, and will greatly improve the quality of life for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, as well as their families.

Despite what one reads or hears in the news sometimes, it is absolutely clear to me that we are winning this war on terrorism; specifically, that we are winning the war in Iraq. I have heard recently from soldiers of the Third Infantry Division at Fort Benning, GA, about the great progress they made during their recent deployment to Diyala Province in Iraq. Over the course of their year there, the security situation in Diyala Province improved dramatically, as did the rule of law and the presence and capability of Iraqi security forces and police.

As we all know today, Diyala Province was where U.S. forces found and killed the leader of the anti-Iraqi insurgency, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and I believe it was the hard work that the Third ID did in improving the security and developing relationships with the Iraqis in Diyala Province that allowed for the intelligence and network of information that allowed our forces to track Zarqawi down. I am very proud of the situation of the members of the Third ID in that effort.

We need to realize this is hard work that all of our troops are doing in Iraq and that successes often take a long time. But if we stick with it and follow the course we are on, that success will come, and this operation against Zarqawi proves this is the case.

Mr. President, having been briefed in the Intelligence Committee at the end of last week on the takedown of Zarqawi, I think it is one of the great successes, without question, we have seen in this war. Military operations are often sophisticated. The planning is very detailed, and that was exactly the case in this situation. It was a perfectly executed plan that was carried out by our military that allowed Zarqawi—one of the meanest, nastiest killers ever to inhabit this Earth—to be taken down.

We absolutely must stay the course and finish the job because the future of the Middle East, as well as our own future security, lies in the balance. I believe there might be some amendments filed to this bill that seek to immediately withdraw troops or set a timetable for troop withdrawal. Clearly, both these approaches are extremely unwise, and I hope my colleagues will join me in voting down those amendments overwhelmingly.

Related to some specific issues in the bill, I have received numerous letters and phone calls from both Active-Duty soldiers and retirees who are concerned with the proposed increases in TRICARE premiums. So I am pleased to see that the Senate bill does not approve DOD's proposed increases in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees. In my home State of Georgia, there are a large number of military personnel and retirees living in rural areas where quality health care is often not as readily available as in more urban areas. This bill will help to improve health care access for those individuals by authorizing incentive payments for civilian health care providers who provide services to TRICARE beneficiaries in rural and medically underserved areas. This is a good provision, and I commend the chairman and ranking member for its inclusion.

This legislation will authorize \$45 million in supplemental education funding for local school districts that are heavily impacted by the presence of military personnel and families, including \$30 million for impact aid, \$5 million for educational services to severely disabled children, and an additional \$10 million for districts experiencing rapid increases in the number of students due to rebasing, activation of new military units, or base realignment and closure.

This provision is of particular importance to my State. As a result of the 2005 base closure and realignment round, Fort Benning and the school systems in the surrounding area will experience an influx of approximately 10,000 students into their school systems over the next several years as new troops arrive.

This funding will ensure that areas such as Fort Benning have the facilities and teachers in place to provide the children of our Armed Forces members with a top-notch education when they do arrive.

This bill also requires DOD to report to Congress on their plan for working with other Federal agencies and local school districts to accommodate this growth. Unfortunately, DOD has been slow to recognize the burden that such unprecedented growth places on small communities, and it is important that DOD do the necessary planning and coordination in advance to ensure that military families are taken care of when they move to a new installation.

During the war in Iraq, our intra- and inter-theater airlift assets have gone above and beyond the call of duty and have been used at a much greater rate than we ever planned to use them. These airplanes played the critical role of airlifting supplies, vehicles, and other equipment to our troops. In order to recapitalize some of the losses and overuse of these airlift assets, this bill authorizes \$2.6 billion for strategic airlift capability, including an increase of two C-17 aircraft above the budget request and advance procurement for continued C-17 production. These are

superb airplanes and have proven to be extremely reliable and, along with the C-130, have become the backbone of the airlift fleet.

This bill also provides a well-deserved pay raise of 2.2 percent for all military personnel effective January 1, 2007, and approves targeted pay raises for midcareer and senior enlisted personnel and warrant officers effective April 1, 2007. I have heard directly from troops in the field and personnel at Georgia military installations about how important these targeted pay raises are to retaining our men and women in uniform in the service and taking advantage of their hard-to-replace skills. So I commend the chairman and ranking member for including this provision in the bill.

In order to clarify the role and use of the Armed Forces for domestic use during natural disasters or other events, the bill also includes a provision that would update the Insurrection Act to make explicit the President's authority to use the Armed Forces to restore order and enforce Federal law in cases where public order has been broken. In light of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes along the gulf coast last year, this provision is especially important in clarifying the role that Federal troops have in these situations.

I am also pleased that the committee adds \$1.4 billion for the F-22A aircraft in order to fully fund procurement of 20 aircraft, as well as fully fund the C-130J multiyear contract which this committee has worked so hard to support, even as the contract is restructured from a commercial to a traditional contract.

This is a good bill that the Chairman and ranking member have crafted with the needs of our troops and the national security of our Nation foremost in their minds. I hope my colleagues will join me in expeditiously considering this legislation so that our men and women in uniform can get the equipment, the benefits, and the support they need and deserve.

(The remarks of Mr. CHAMBLISS and Mr. WARNER are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to comment on the F-22. It is a magnificent aircraft. It is absolutely essential for our inventory of weapons.

Stop to think that any use of our Armed Forces, wherever they may be in the world, is dependent on air superiority. The United States has that air superiority, but there are nations night and day trying to fashion airplanes or instruments that could take away that air superiority. This Nation is banking its future on that aircraft.

I am very pleased that our committee has marked up a strong bill on that issue. The Senator from Georgia may have some additional thoughts on it, which we will turn to in the course of the deliberations on this bill.

I salute the Senator from Georgia, Mr. CHAMBLISS, for doing everything he can to ensure that the United States of

America maintains its air superiority so that the men and women of the other Armed Forces, be they at sea, on the land—wherever they may be—have the sense of confidence that the skies above will not become some instrument of war in harm's way to them.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I thank the chairman for his comments and for his leadership. It is a pleasure to serve with him in this body. It is a pleasure to serve with him as a member of the Armed Services Committee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, we have before the Senate the extremely important Defense authorization bill, led in the Armed Services Committee by my friend, the Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, and the Senator from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN. I look forward to these next several days debating this issue. I commend them, as we begin this debate, for the way they considered the various recommendations and suggestions that have been made by the members of the committee in developing this bill.

I ask unanimous consent to proceed for a few minutes in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Mr. KENNEDY are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President: Is it appropriate that I ask for 5 minutes as in morning business?

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

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. I am pleased, once again, to join the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator WARNER, in bringing the National Defense Authorization Act to the Senate floor. This bipartisan bill was favorably reported by unanimous vote of the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 4, 2006, as our distinguished Presiding Officer is well aware, since he had an important role bringing this bill to the floor.

This is the sixth Defense authorization bill that Senator WARNER has brought to the Senate floor as chairman of our committee. Under the 6-year term limitation imposed on committee chairmen under the Republican Conference, it will also be his last.

Senator WARNER served this country as an enlisted man in the Navy in World War II, as an officer in the Marine Corps in the Korean war, and as Secretary of the Navy during the Vietnam war. He has continued that service as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee since his election to the Senate in 1978.

As Senator WARNER has pointed out on many occasions, he and I came to the Senate together. We have now served side by side on the Senate Armed Services Committee for more than 27 years.

As chairman of our committee, Senator WARNER is unfailingly patient, courteous, and thoughtful. He has always been willing to listen. He has always tried to work out constructive solutions to even the most difficult problems. And when he is unable to work out those solutions, he is always up front and is always protecting the opposition's procedural rights. Senator WARNER has consistently shown his dedication to providing the resources that are needed for our national defense and meeting the needs of our men and women in uniform.

Senator WARNER has served in the finest tradition of our committee, a tradition of bipartisan dedication to the national defense established by previous giants such as Richard Russell, John Stennis, and Sam Nunn, and we thank him for it. He is now and will, hopefully for a long time, be on that list of giants—but after this year and after this bill, not as chairman of our committee.

Every Senator in this body trusts JOHN WARNER. Perhaps this is the highest of all the tributes that one can pay. The unanimous vote of the committee on the bill we bring before the Senate today is a fitting statement about Senator WARNER's chairmanship.

This bill contains many important provisions that will improve the quality of life of our men and women in uniform.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I wish to say with a deep sense of humility how much I appreciate his comments. To the extent I have had achievements as chairman of this committee, and before that as ranking member, it was largely due to the long-term friendship and confidence we share in each other's decisions.

Mr. LEVIN. Again, we all thank the Senator. His service on the committee is not over, and his service as chairman is not over. We still have a long way to go, through the floor of the Senate and through conference, but we have no doubt about the outcome of either the floor debate or the conference. He will pull this bill through again, as he invariably has.

This bill contains many important provisions that will improve the quality of life of our men and women in uniform. It will provide needed support and assistance to our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world, and make the investments that we need to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

First and foremost, the bill before us continues the increases in compensation and in quality of life that our service men and women and their families deserve as they face the hardships that are imposed by continuing mili-

tary operations. For example, the bill contains provisions that would prohibit increases proposed by the administration in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees and require the Comptroller General to conduct a comprehensive analysis of Department of Defense health care costs and savings proposals.

The bill rejects cuts proposed by the administration for the National Guard budget, ensuring that National Guard end strength will be fully funded.

The bill would repeal provisions of the Survivor Benefit Plan that reduces military retirement payments by amounts received for dependency and indemnity compensation, and the bill would require an audit of pay accounts of wounded soldiers and actions to correct erroneous payments, including a toll-free hotline for military personnel and next-of-kin who are experiencing pay problems.

The bill also includes important funding authorities needed for our continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and our efforts to secure our Nation against terrorism.

For example, the bill contains provisions that would authorize over \$2 billion for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund to facilitate the rapid development of new technology and tactics and the rapid redeployment of equipment to counter the IED threat.

The bill authorizes an additional \$950.5 million for force protection equipment including \$559.8 million for up-armored High Mobility Multi-purpose wheeled vehicles and \$100.0 million for counter-IED engineer vehicles;

The bill provides \$115.2 million over the President's budget request for combating terrorism and enhancing domestic preparedness;

The bill authorizes \$50.0 billion supplemental to cover the cost of ongoing military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism in fiscal year 2007, and it provides expanded authorities for regional combatant commanders to train and equip foreign military forces, provide logistics support, supplies and services to allies and coalition partners, and lease or lend equipment for personnel protection and survivability to foreign forces participating in combined military operations with U.S. forces.

I am pleased that the bill contains a provision requiring that Congress be provided a coordinated U.S. Government legal opinion on whether certain specified interrogation techniques would constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005 and other applicable provisions of law. This provision is necessary because the administration has refused to provide Congress existing legal opinions on the conduct of interrogations and detainee operations and failed to live up to its responsibility to provide clear guidance to our troops in the field on these issues.

Finally, the bill contains a number of provisions that will help improve the

management of the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies. For example, the bill contains provisions that would improve the management of major defense acquisition programs by increasing the authority and responsibility of program managers and linking the payment of award and incentive fees directly to program outcomes; help identify and address problems with major information technology programs by establishing cost, schedule and performance requirements similar to those applicable to the acquisition of major weapon systems; ensure that the public receive accurate information on the department's budget requirements by prohibiting the "parking" of funds in one budget account when the funds are intended for a different purpose; continue the committee's oversight of interagency contracting by extending the current series of joint DOD inspector general audits to include interagency contracts managed by the National Institutes of Health and the Veterans' Administration; and address abusive contracting practices by requiring the Secretary of Defense to prescribe regulations prohibiting excessive pass-through fees charged on contracts and subcontracts;

For example, recent press articles have described a process in which work was passed down from the Army Corps of Engineers to a prime contractor, then to a subcontractor, then to another subcontractor—with each company charging the government for profit and overhead before finally reaching the company that would actually do the work.

In one such case, the Army Corps reportedly paid a prime contractor \$1.75 per square foot to nail plastic tarps onto damaged roofs in Louisiana. The prime contractor paid another company 75 cents per square foot to do the work; that subcontractor paid a third company 35 cents per square foot to do the work; and that subcontractor paid yet another company 10 cents per square foot to do the work.

In other words, we paid the prime contractor \$1.75 per square foot for their work. He used a sub, who used a sub, who ended up paying the people who actually did the work 10 cents per square foot to do the work that we and the taxpayers paid \$1.75 per square foot to accomplish.

In a second such case, the Army Corps reportedly paid prime contractors \$28 to \$30 per cubic yard to remove debris. The companies that actually performed the work were paid only \$6 to \$10 per cubic yard. A representative of one of the companies was quoted as saying:

Every time it passes through another layer, \$4 of \$5 is taken off the top. These others are taking out money, and some of them aren't doing anything.

We have many important issues to address as we consider this bill over the next few days. For example, I am sure that we will deal with amendments addressing the way forward for

our forces in Iraq. My own view, consistent with the long-held advice of our senior military commanders, is that there will be no military solution to the violence in Iraq and no way to defeat the insurgency until a political solution is achieved and accepted by the Iraqis themselves.

And we must find ways to press the Iraqis to make those political accommodations.

The good news that we received about the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and perhaps the more important news that the Iraqi parliament had approved the nominees for ministers of defense, national security, and the interior will hopefully foster greater cooperation among the various Iraqi parties.

The Iraqis must now turn to the difficult but critical task of making their constitution a unifying and inclusive document. The administration needs to be pressing the Iraqis to complete this essential task within the timeline which is provided by the constitution itself. Only the Iraqis can reach a political settlement that unifies their country.

Among the amendments that we will deal with in the coming days is one I intend to offer to reduce funding provided in the bill for ballistic missile interceptors and related deployment sites for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense—GMD—program. The GMD system has yet to have a single successful intercept test, yet this bill would provide funding for the final 10 operational interceptors requested by the Department of Defense. The flight tests that have occurred to date have shown the program to be immature and developmental in the test failures and numerous problems remaining to be solved. The Department's proposal to complete the acquisition of operational missiles before these missiles have been successfully tested puts us at risk of spending hundreds of millions of dollars on the deployment of a system that may not work.

I look forward to debating these and other issues as we move forward with this bill over the next few days.

As of today, more than 130,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are engaged in taking on an aggressive insurgency and helping the Iraqi security forces to prevent civil war in Iraq, almost 20,000 remain in harm's way in Afghanistan, and tens of thousands more are supporting the war effort through deployments thousands of miles from home. Our Armed Forces have also played a critical role in responding to the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina and other disasters both at home and overseas.

Senate action on this bill will improve the quality of life of our men and women in uniform. It will give them the tools that they need to remain the most effective fighting force in the world. Most important of all, it will send an important message that we, as a nation, stand behind them and appre-

ciate their service—and that is true regardless of one's position on the wisdom of our Iraq policy.

I again congratulate our chairman, Senator WARNER, for bringing forth this bill in a unanimous way, as he has and always does. I look forward to working with our colleagues to pass this important legislation as promptly as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I again thank my long-time friend, the ranking member of this committee.

We shall now be available for amendments. The bill is open for amendment. I intend to remain here for a while this evening. I think there is a strong likelihood that I will have an amendment to be offered on behalf of colleagues on our side very shortly relating to the military operation which resulted in the extinguishing of the life of al-Zarqawi.

Mr. LEVIN. We look forward to that amendment. I am sure there will be a lot of support for that operation on both sides of the aisle. We haven't seen the language, but I am sure we will support it.

Mr. WARNER. I anticipate that. The Senator from Michigan will have it as soon as it is in final form.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Mr. ISAKSON are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. CORNYN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from Georgia withdraw his suggestion of the absence of a quorum?

Mr. ISAKSON. I withdraw my suggestion of the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, thank you.

Mr. President, I express my gratitude to the Senator from Georgia for his remarks.

Mr. President, I rise to speak on the National Defense Authorization Act for 2007, the bill that is on the floor. Passage of the bill is critical to ensuring that our military has the resources necessary to accomplish the demanding missions we have asked them to undertake around the globe.

I am privileged to chair, on the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, and to work closely with my colleague on the other side of the aisle, the ranking member, Senator JACK REED. Together, we ensured that this year's National Defense Authorization Act would make a number of important contributions in the areas of combating terrorism, homeland defense, nonproliferation, and investments in defense science and technology.

I want to spend a few minutes highlighting the subcommittee's work as part of this larger Defense authorization bill. But before addressing those specifics, I commend Chairman WARNER for his outstanding leadership of the Armed Services Committee in the time I have been in the Senate.

This markup, as has already been noted, is his last markup as chairman of the committee. But I am confident that Senator WARNER will continue to contribute in many ways and play a key role in the work of the committee, even after he no longer is chairman. We are fortunate to have his expertise in the Senate, particularly on the Senate Armed Services Committee. And I congratulate him for a job well done.

This bill builds on the President's budget request of \$11.1 billion for science and technology by adding \$362 million in authorization language to these important programs. This year's additional science and technology investment is focused on unmanned systems, energy and power, information assurance, combat medicine, force protection, transformational technologies, and basic research.

The bill sustains the committee's investment in research and technology to defeat improvised explosive devices, otherwise known as IEDs, that are having such a devastating effect on our troops and civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Reflecting a focus on transformational technologies, the bill directs the Secretary of Defense to develop a Department-wide unmanned systems policy, and to give preference to unmanned systems and vehicles in development of these new systems. The bill also directs the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint technology office to coordinate, integrate, and manage hypersonic research, development and demonstration projects and budgets.

To support the Department's commitment to combat terrorism and to protect our homeland, this bill authorizes nearly \$150 million above the President's budget request in this area. The bill adds \$13.5 million for homeland defense research, equipment and operations, and \$17.3 million to meet unfunded priorities of the Northern Command responsible for the area, including the continental United States.

The bill provides additional resources and authorities for the Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support

Teams, including adding \$8.5 million for the development of a sustainment training program for the 55 congressionally authorized WMD-CSTs—Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Teams—and an additional \$5 million to address equipment upgrades for the first 32 of those teams to ensure standardization of equipment for all teams.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense to approve the deployment of these teams to Canada and Mexico, with the consent of appropriate authorities in each of those countries, and expands the types of emergencies for which the Secretary may prepare or employ these civil support teams.

The recent arrests of terrorists in Canada make it all too easy to imagine a circumstance in which we might want to employ these Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Teams beyond our borders when requested by our neighbors either to the north or to the south.

Reflecting the importance the committee places on information assurance and cyber-security, the bill requires the Department to report to Congress on progress in addressing a list of identified deficiencies in the area of cyber-security, information assurance, and network protection.

In recognition of the critical and growing role of Special Operations Forces in the global war on terrorism, this bill adds \$102.4 million for Special Operations Command to address unfunded priorities, and includes a provision to enhance acquisition oversight for the Special Operations Command to make sure the dollars it does spend are spent well.

Our troops must be prepared for the possibility of a chemical or biological attack by terrorists at home or on the battlefield. Accordingly, the bill adds \$68 million for chemical-biological defense, including \$30 million to procure equipment to address shortfalls in National Guard units for chemical agent detection equipment and monitors, and \$38 million for chemical and biological defense research, development, test, and evaluation programs to counter the threat of chemical and biological weapons.

In the area of nonproliferation and weapons of mass destruction threat reduction, this bill fully supports the President's budget request, authorizing \$1.7 billion for the Department of Energy nuclear nonproliferation programs and more than \$372 million for the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. These important programs are preventing weapons of mass destruction from getting into the hands of terrorists.

Finally, the bill includes several provisions to extend and expand the Department of Defense counterdrug authorities, including those relating to support of Colombian efforts against terrorist organizations involved in narcotics activity; DOD support of the counterdrug activities of other U.S. Government agencies; and Department

of Defense support of the counterdrug activities of other countries.

Before I conclude, I would like to spend just a couple minutes on a section of the bill with which I strongly disagree. The committee bill recommends a 1-year delay in the production of the Joint Strike Fighter. I share my colleagues' concerns and commitment to acquisition reform, and I am pleased that the committee bill contains many provisions to improve our acquisition process. We have to get acquisition costs under control if we are going to be able to procure the weapons systems our Nation needs to meet the threats of the 21st century. But I am deeply concerned that the committee's recommendation will undermine the Joint Strike Fighter Program in terms of cost increases and schedule slips.

The Joint Strike Fighter Program is the largest acquisition program in the history of the Department of Defense. There are legitimate questions regarding the level of concurrency between research and development and procurement in this program that have been subject to criticism by the General Accounting Office. The committee recommendations closely follow those recent GAO reports on the Joint Strike Fighter. But I would note that the GAO recommendations have not been subject to a business-case analysis. In fact, implementation of the General Accounting Office recommendations could likely cost more and result in further delays of the program.

In short, I am concerned that the committee recommendation of a 1-year production delay may be penny-wise and pound-foolish. For example, do we know how the proposed 1-year delay in production will affect the overall cost of the Joint Strike Fighter program? Do we know how the proposed 1-year delay in production will affect the Initial Operational Capability of the Joint Strike Fighter? And, finally, do we know how the proposed 1-year delay in production will affect our international partners?

These are questions raised at the committee level and I think still are deserving of good, solid answers. I strongly believe we need the answers to these questions before undertaking major changes in this important program. I am hopeful that as we move forward we can get the answers Congress needs in order to help, and not hurt, this important program.

I have highlighted those elements of the fiscal year 2007 national Defense authorization bill that were developed by the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities. There are, of course, many other important provisions in this bill which my colleagues on the committee will have the opportunity to describe.

I urge all Senators to support the legislation and, in doing so, send a resounding signal of support to our men and women in uniform.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, before I begin talking about the legislation before us today, I would like to thank Chairman WARNER and Ranking Member LEVIN who have continued their tradition of strong bipartisan leadership of the Senate Armed Services Committee. In particular, I want to commend my dear friend and colleague, Senator JOHN WARNER, for his service to this distinguished committee. As chair, he has been a true statesman and shown how Congress should work. He understands the issues that come before this committee are ones that should not be caught in party bickering. It has truly been an honor to work with him to ensure that our men and women in the armed services have the tools necessary to successfully meet the challenges of today and into the future. While this will be the last Defense Authorization bill that he will oversee as the chairman of the committee, it surely will not be the last one where his expertise will be felt. Again, I thank him and look forward to working with him in the future on issues before this committee.

This bill exemplifies what can be achieved through the spirit of bipartisan cooperation to address a number of important defense priorities. For example, this bill makes sure the Department of Defense has the resources it needs to combat terrorism by authorizing an additional \$115.2 million over the President's budget request. And it includes a number of provisions designed to protect the quality of life of our service members.

But I have several concerns related to this bill. First and foremost, I am concerned that the administration continues to fund this war through emergency supplemental appropriations. While I support our soldiers currently serving overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan and I am pleased that this committee has authorized an additional \$81.9 billion for ongoing operations, I believe that the administration's current policy is fiscally irresponsible. Unlike true national emergencies and natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the funds required for these ongoing operations can be assessed, identified and included in the regular budget process. It is time for this administration to make the true cost of war transparent to both the Congress and the American public.

Just today, I returned from Iraq where I had an opportunity to meet and speak with our brave men and women in the Armed Forces in Iraq. They are truly doing an excellent job in a difficult and often dangerous environment. Thanks to the efforts of our soldiers, the people of Iraq are better equipped to begin the task of self-governance. During this trip, I spoke to the new Iraqi Minister of Defense and Iraq's National Security Advisor who are both optimistic about Iraq's progress toward democracy. I, myself,

witnessed the advances made by the Iraqi people who are building a strong democratic foundation for the future of their nation. However, more needs to be done. While I do not believe that we should leave before the Iraqi people are equipped with the tools necessary to support a stable democratic society, we must ensure that the progress already started with the recent election of the Iraqi Minister of Defense and the Minister of Interior continues. At the same time, whether we leave Iraq tomorrow, or in 6 months, or longer, it is important for the President to inform Congress and the American people as to when and how our troops will be coming home.

I am also disappointed that this year's authorization bill reduced the amount of funding for corrosion prevention and control programs. Corrosion is a costly problem. In fact, it is one of the largest costs in the life cycle of weapons systems. In addition, corrosion reduces military readiness as the need to repair or replace corrosion damage increases the downtime of critical military assets. Consequently, I firmly believe that cohesive corrosion control programs are integral to maintaining military readiness. This critical maintenance activity increases the life of multimillion dollar weapons systems and ensures their availability during times of crisis. Effective corrosion control should be made a key component of the Department of Defense's resetting strategy and funds should be allocated accordingly.

Despite these concerns, I feel that this year's authorization includes a number of significant provisions that will greatly benefit our military personnel. I am particularly pleased to see provisions that address issues related to the quality of life of military members and their families. I believe that it is our responsibility, as Government leaders, to guarantee that our men and women in uniform are appropriately compensated. Consequently, I support the committee's approval of a 2.2 percent pay raise for all military personnel and targeted pay raises for mid-career and senior enlisted personnel and warrant officers. I am also encouraged that the committee prohibited increases in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees in fiscal year 2007 and authorized \$10 million for pilot projects related to the treatment of post traumatic stress disorder. In addition, I am glad to see a number of provisions that directly benefit the children of our Nation's soldiers such as the authorized \$45 million in supplemental education aid to local school districts that are affected by a large increase of students due to base realignments or the activation of new military units. I also support a 3-year pilot education program on parent education to promote early childhood education for military children who have been affected by their parent's deployment or relocation.

As the ranking member of the Readiness Subcommittee, my colleagues and

I included a number of provisions in the bill that are vital to the near-term readiness of our Armed Forces. Most notably, this bill includes several provisions designed to address problems related to the DOD's acquisitions policies. One key provision would give DOD program managers more authority while at the same time holding them accountable for results—a best practice currently employed in the private sector. A provision requiring DOD officials to certify that the cost estimate for programs are reasonable and funding is available prior to initiating a major defense acquisition program was included as well. This bill also makes provisions that address DOD contracting policies and practices. For example, the DOD would be required to track and report cost overruns and schedule delays on major information technology purchases.

I am also encouraged by our ability to provide support for programs and projects funded through the operation and maintenance account which directly impact the readiness of our troops. These include an additional \$52.9 million for force protection, including combat clothing and field medical equipment and \$97.3 million for training resources. In addition, the Readiness Subcommittee included an increase of \$400 million for critical military construction projects that were identified by military installation commanders as top priorities.

I am pleased that the bill also contains my legislation to establish a National Language Council to develop a long-term and comprehensive language strategy and oversee the implementation of that strategy. In 2004 the Department of Defense hosted a conference on foreign language education and the development of such a council and strategy was the number one recommendation of those in attendance—including administration officials. Without a comprehensive strategy addressing all of our language needs, combined with a real investment in language education, the strength and security of the United States remains at risk. It is imperative that our education system produce individuals in a broad spectrum of occupations who are able to effectively communicate and understand the cultures of the people with whom they interact. This includes scientists, lawyers, doctors, and educators, in addition to diplomats, law enforcement officers, and intelligence analysts. Moreover, I believe that we must focus on more than just the languages deemed "critical" today. Rather, we should learn all languages in order to develop long-term relationships with people all across the world. To do this, we need a cross-cutting and comprehensive plan that states where we are today, where we want to be, and how we are going to get there. My legislation that establishes a National Language Council goes a long way toward providing a national language strategy that reflects the views of all

stakeholders—academia, industry, language associations, heritage communities, and governments at all levels—because this is an issue that impacts every segment of society and is too big for only one sector to handle.

I believe that the Senate Armed Services Committee has created a bill that will provide the necessary funds required to support our servicemen and women and that allows the military to continue to meet our Nation's future defense needs.

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

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, by previous agreement between the distinguished majority leader and the Democratic leader, the chairman and ranking member of the committee will, for the remainder of this evening, as well as tomorrow morning, follow this protocol.

I will put forth an amendment momentarily on behalf of myself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. REID, and Mr. LEVIN, and it is a joint, hopefully bipartisan, accepted amendment to be debated further in the morning.

The military operation that resulted in the death of Zarqawi was a stunning accomplishment for U.S. forces. It displayed the precision, perseverance and professionalism of our Armed Forces supported by a sophisticated and superb intelligence apparatus that included U.S, Iraqi, and Coalition intelligence organizations. Behind the details that were made public, I can tell you, were months of coordinated, hard work by analysts, human intelligence operatives, and military planners.

The death of Zarqawi will hopefully lessen, but not end the violence in Iraq, but it is certainly a significant blow to the terrorist network in Iraq, to Osama bin Laden, and the al-Qaida organization.

Zarqawi was the most prominent insurgent in Iraq and the most active of bin Laden's affiliates. While bin Laden hides in mountain caves, capable of making occasional audio tapes, Zarqawi was working to trigger a civil war, disrupt the democratic process of the new unity government in Iraq, and then use Iraq as a base to launch attacks throughout the region. There is proof of that intent.

He had eluded capture for 3 years, he was indeed cruel, cunning, and cagey—and now gone.

I proudly salute the brave and professional work of our military forces as well as the formidable efforts of our military, civilian, and allied intelligence operations. This success is one that the entire intelligence community

should find very satisfying. The combined efforts of the Directorate of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, and all of our defense intelligence capabilities, and our military forces in Iraq, collaborated on this effort. I believe this success displays that reforms are working.

AMENDMENT NO. 4208

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this amendment is regarding the successful operation by our military forces, the coalition forces, the civilian and military intelligence both abroad in Iraq, as well as those teams here in the United States, in the successful elimination of what is regarded as the No. 1 terrorist in all Iraq, Zarqawi. He is no longer able to operate as he once did.

At this time, I send this amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], for Mr. FRIST, for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. LEVIN, proposes an amendment numbered 4208.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of Congress that the Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, as well as the coalition partners of the United States and the Security Forces of Iraq should be commended for their actions that resulted in the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization in Iraq and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq)

At the end of subtitle I of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE COMMENDABLE ACTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) on June 7, 2006, the United States Armed Forces conducted an air raid near the City of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, that resulted in the death of Ahmad Fadeel al-Nazal al-Khalayleh, better known as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist organization and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq;

(2) Zarqawi, as the operational commander of al-Qaeda in Iraq, led a brutal campaign of suicide bombings, car bombings, assassinations, and abductions that caused the deaths of many members of the United States Armed Forces, civilian officials of the United States Government, thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians, and innocent civilians of other nations;

(3) Zarqawi publicly swore his allegiance to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda in 2004, and changed the name of his terrorist organization from the “Monotheism and Holy War Group” to “al-Qaeda in Iraq”;

(4) in an audiotape broadcast in December 2004, Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda’s worldwide terrorist organization, called Zarqawi “the prince of al-Qaeda in Iraq”;

(5) 3 perpetrators confessed to being paid by Zarqawi to carry out the October 2002 assassination of the United States diplomat, Lawrence Foley, in Amman, Jordan;

(6) the Monotheism and Holy War Group claimed responsibility for—

(A) the August 2003 suicide attack that destroyed the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad and killed the United Nations envoy to Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello along with 21 other people; and

(B) the suicide attack on the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf that occurred less than 2 weeks later, which killed at least 85 people, including the Ayatollah Sayed Mohammed Baqr al-Hakim, and wounded dozens more;

(7) Zarqawi is believed to have personally beheaded American hostage Nicholas Berg in May 2004;

(8) in May 2004, Zarqawi was implicated in a car bombing that killed Izzadine Salim, the rotating president of the Iraqi Governing Council;

(9) in November 2005, al-Qaeda in Iraq attacked 3 hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing at least 67 innocent civilians;

(10) Zarqawi and his terrorist organization were directly responsible for numerous other brutal terrorist attacks against the American and coalition troops, Iraqi security forces and recruits, and innocent Iraqi civilians;

(11) Zarqawi sought to turn Iraq into a safe haven for al-Qaeda;

(12) to achieve that end, Zarqawi stated his opposition to the democratically elected government of Iraq and worked to divide the Iraqi people, foment sectarian violence, and incite a civil war in Iraq; and

(13) the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, along with coalition partners and the Iraqi Security Forces, should be commended for their courage and extraordinary efforts to track down the most wanted terrorist in Iraq and to secure a free and prosperous future for the people of Iraq.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) commends the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, along with coalition partners, for the actions taken through June 7, 2006, that resulted in the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist organization and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq;

(2) commends the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies for this action and their exemplary performance in striving to bring freedom, democracy, and security to the people of Iraq;

(3) commends the coalition partners of the United States, the new government of Iraq, and members of the Iraqi Security Forces for their invaluable assistance in that operation and their extraordinary efforts to secure a free and prosperous Iraq;

(4) commends our civilian and military leadership for their continuing efforts to eliminate the leadership of al-Qaeda in Iraq, and also commends the new government of Iraq, led by Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki, for its contribution to that achievement;

(5) recognizes that the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is a victory for American and coalition forces in the global war on terror and a blow to the al-Qaeda terrorist organization;

(6) commends the Iraqi Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki on the finalization of the new Iraqi cabinet;

(7) urges the democratically elected government in Iraq to use this opportunity to defeat the terrorist enemy, to put an end to ethnic and sectarian violence, and to achieve a free, prosperous, and secure future for Iraq; and

(8) affirms that the Senate will continue to support the United States Armed Forces, the

democratically elected unity government of Iraq, and the people of Iraq in their quest to secure a free, prosperous, and democratic Iraq.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this be the pending business, with the understanding that it be laid aside tomorrow, in the morning, for such time as the distinguished ranking member seeks to gain recognition for the purpose of introducing an amendment from his side.

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

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—S. 2766**

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes debate on the Defense authorization bill on Tuesday, the time between then and 12:15 be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or their designees; provided further, that at 12:15, the Senate proceed to vote on amendment No. 4208, with no amendments in order to the amendment. That is the amendment I just introduced.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the matters with regard to this bill are concluded for tonight. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. LEVIN are printed in today’s RECORD under “Morning Business.”)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I yield the floor. I 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. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT RICHARD A. BLAKLEY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave man from Avon. Richard Blakley, 34-years-old, was killed on June 6 from small arms fire while on patrol near Al Khalidiyah, Iraq. With so much of his life before him, Richard risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Richard was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of Company E, 38th Main Support Battalion, Indianapolis. This brave soldier leaves behind his wife Patricia and two children, Whitney, 11, and Richard Jr., 9. He also leaves behind his mother, Janice Schauwecker, and father, James Blakley.

A medic in the Indiana National Guard, Richard's devotion to duty had been commemorated just months before his death, when he was presented with a Purple Heart following a wound from an enemy sniper in January. Because of his injury, Richard was offered a trip home and was urged to take time off to recuperate. Instead, he chose to return to active duty the same day.

Richard joined the Indiana Guard out of high school in 1989 and volunteered to serve in the Persian Gulf war and at U.S. ports in 2003 and 2004. In civilian life, Richard was a journeyman millwright, putting together machinery and heavy equipment. An avid Colts fan, Richard always wore a team shirt on game days, even if he was on patrol. He was wearing one on the day he was shot in January, and the Colts had planned to sign the bloodstained shirt and return it to him. Richard was also known for being a devoted father who was driven by a desire to help others! A friend and fellow Indiana National Guard member recalled to the Indianapolis Star Richard's dedication to those around him, saying "It was just who he was. He wanted to be where the action was. He wanted to help people . . ." His wife called her husband "the strongest person I've ever known in my life."

Today, I join Richard's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Richard, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Richard was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Richard will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Richard's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain

that the impact of Richard's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Richard Blakley in the official RECORD of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Richard's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Richard.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I honor the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. In 1956, the people of Hungary stood in the face of adversity and expressed their passion for democracy and independence. They had a vision of what a free and democratic Hungary would look like—a vision that finally came to fruition after nearly 35 years. Only 10 years prior the revolution, Hungarians participated in free elections. Through those elections, the people felt the hope and promise of democracy. The perseverance of these strong people can be seen in their remarkable journey toward freedom.

On October 23, 1956, tens of thousands of Hungarians stood in the streets, demanding independence from the Soviets. The revolt began as a peaceful gathering of student protesters that spread to the general population, and the first day ended with clashes between the police and the demonstrators. Those on the streets were advocating for basic principles of liberty—free elections, freedom of the press, withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary, and the return of their Prime Minister Imre Nagy, who had been forced out of office because of his democratic policies.

In an attempt to calm the uprising, on October 26, 1956, the Central Committee of the Communist Party reinstated Nagy as Prime Minister. He promised the people of Hungary political freedom and vowed to revive the democratic process. He began by vowing to withdraw Hungary from the Warsaw Pact and declaring neutrality on November 1, 1956. As Nagy was working to satisfy those revolting, the Soviets were working on a plan to counter the revolution. Even though some members of the Hungarian Army defected and worked against the Soviets, ultimately it was not enough to fight off the ever-powerful Soviet regime.

Only 12 days after the revolution began, the Soviet Air Force started a counterrevolution, bombing parts of

Budapest on November 4, 1956. The hope of the Hungarian people for freedom quickly slipped away. In the days and weeks following the revolution, many of those involved fled to other countries. Prime Minister Nagy tragically, however, was tried in secret and executed in June 1958, paying the ultimate price for his involvement in the revolution.

Today, we reflect with Hungarians around the world, including many proud Hungarian Americans, 50 years after this significant time period and celebrate the promise it held for the future of Eastern Europe.

DECOMMISSIONING OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CUTTER "MACKINAW"

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw*—WAGB 83—and her crew for their years of service to the United States, the State of Michigan, and the Great Lakes. Today, after 62 years of service, the *Mackinaw*'s commissioning pennant will be lowered, and the Coast Guard will pass the honor of keeping the Great Lake's shipping lanes open to her namesake and legacy, the new U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw*—WLB-30.

On March 20, 1943, construction of the *Mackinaw* began at the Toledo Ship Building Company. When commissioned on December 20, 1944, the *Mackinaw* was the most powerful icebreaker in the world. The ship measures 269 feet from bow to stern, and it is still the largest cutter in the Great Lakes. The "Big Mac," as it is affectionately known, set the standard for other icebreakers to live up to.

The *Mackinaw* began her service at the end of 1944 breaking ice and keeping the shipping lanes open to ensure the flow of steel during World War II. The cutter's design was state of the art and gave her the ability to break channels 70 feet wide through 4 feet of ice. The *Mackinaw* once broke through an astonishing 37 feet of ice. During her first season she made 17 passes through the Straits of Mackinac.

While the Big Mac's primary mission was to keep the shipping lanes open during the winter months, she also conducted search and rescue, aid to navigation, law enforcement, and public relations missions. On a tragic day in 1965, the U.S. *Cedarville* and Norwegian *Topdalsfjord* collided in Lake Huron, and the *Mackinaw* rushed to aid survivors and take on casualties. When performing its primary mission from December to April, the *Mackinaw*'s motto is "we move ships when no one else will." In 1948, the *Mackinaw* freed 12 ice-locked ships in Buffalo, N.Y., and in 1984 opened a channel through the St. Clair River Ice Jam freeing 13 vessels stuck in the ice and opening a passage for 75 other freighters waiting for passage. For these and other feats, the *Mackinaw* also became known as the "Great White Mother."

Today, I also pay tribute to the men and women, past and present, who have served on the *Mackinaw*. The Big Mac and its crew spent many months away from home from home in the bitter cold navigating the frigid waters of the Great Lakes. This was often lonely duty for her crew, but the Big Mac's efforts were crucial to keep Great Lakes commerce moving during the winter months.

The "Big Mac" is being replaced but not forgotten. I am pleased that the Big Mac will remain in Michigan as an attraction and educational experience so that everyone can enjoy the wonders of this legendary ice breaker. The new *Mackinaw* will perform as an ice-breaker and will also maintain navigational aids. I am sad to see the Big Mac retired but am excited the torch will pass on to such a fine ship.

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* and its crew have done a remarkable job over the years. I thank them for their service to their country, Michigan and the Great Lakes. Finally, I say thank you and goodbye to the Big Mac.

COMMEMORATING THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF JERUSALEM'S REUNIFICATION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues in the submittal of S. Res. 98 congratulating the Israeli people on their celebration of the 39th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and calling for the United States to relocate its embassy in Israel from the city of Tel-Aviv to the recognized capital city of Jerusalem.

This year, Israel celebrates the 39th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. Starting in 1948 Jerusalem was a divided city. Under Jordanian rule, many of the holy areas were off limits to Israelis of any religion and to Jews of any nationality. In 1967, during the Six Day War, Israeli troops reunified the city of Jerusalem. Then, people of all religious faiths have been guaranteed full access to holy sites within the city, and the rights of all faiths have been respected and protected.

In 1995, the U.S. Congress declared that Jerusalem should remain the undivided capital of Israel. I was proud to cosponsor the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, and I am proud today to join my colleagues in urging the administration to move our Embassy to Israel's rightful capital. The President of Israel, Israel's Parliament and the Israeli Supreme Court are all located in Jerusalem. What is not located in Jerusalem is the Embassy of the United States. Every sovereign country has the right to designate its own capital and the United States maintains its Embassy in the functioning capital of every country. The one exception is Israel, a great friend and ally to the United States.

Israel is a steadfast strategic ally of the United States. The United States

conducts official meetings and other business in the city of Jerusalem in de facto recognition of its status as the capital of Israel. It is time for the U.S. Embassy to be relocated to Jerusalem, the recognized capital of Israel. With this resolution, the Senate calls on President Bush to discontinue the waiver contained in the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, and reaffirm U.S. policy that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of Israel.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JAMES D. DARNELL

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize the Honorable James D. Darnell of Orange, VA, who has served as a member of the Orange town council for 14 years. For 2 of those years, Mr. Darnell also held the position of vice mayor.

As a member of the town council, Mr. Darnell has helped the town of Orange live up to his motto, "Sweet Living, Steady Progress." In part because of Mr. Darnell's dedicated leadership, the town of Orange has witnessed positive growth. Mr. Darnell helped implement such developments as the design and completion of a raw water storage basin, the improvement of the town's infrastructure, the completion of a public works facility and meeting room, the launch of the town's first public transit system, and the construction of a road to the new middle school.

Mr. Darnell, who is a respected businessman and farmer, brought a spirit of innovation and commitment to the town of Orange. I am grateful for his contributions to the town and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.●

RECOGNIZING MAYOR RAYMOND C. LONICK

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize the Honorable Raymond C. Lonick of Orange, VA, who has served as mayor of Orange for 10 years and as a member of the Orange town council for 16 years.

Since 1990, when he was first elected to the town council, Mayor Lonick has brought innovative and motivated leadership to the town of Orange. He has made countless contributions, and as a result the town has thrived. It was during Mayor Lonick's tenure as mayor that the town adopted the motto, "Sweet Living, Steady Progress," demonstrating Orange's commitment to finding a balance between maintaining the town's charm and history while encouraging its growth. Mayor Lonick and the town of Orange have celebrated many other achievements during the past 16 years, including improvements to the town's infrastructure, the completion of a new public works facility and meeting room, and the launch of the town's

first public transit system. One of Mayor Lonick's most notable accomplishments as mayor was helping the town acquire a \$300,000 grant in 2002 that will be used for the design and completion of a raw water storage basin.

In addition to playing a significant role in the governance of the town, Mayor Lonick has served Orange in many other capacities. He is a dedicated member of St. Isidore the Farmer Catholic Church, a substitute teacher with the Orange County Public Schools, and a loyal supporter of the Orange Downtown Alliance. I am grateful for his contributions to the town of Orange and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.●

HONORING DENNIS MANSFIELD—AN OUTSTANDING HOOSIER DAD

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I am proud to have the opportunity today to honor Dennis Mansfield, an outstanding Hoosier dad, whose dedication to his 11-year-old daughter, Alison, was demonstrated in a heart-warming essay that she wrote recently.

Last month, in anticipation of Father's Day, I asked young people from across Indiana to write essays about their own outstanding fathers as a way of recognizing Hoosier men who working hard to be good fathers. Alison wrote a touching essay illustrating her father's commitment to helping her achieve her God-given potential, by encouraging her to excel in school and teaching her how to be a good citizen.

As a nation, we have far to go to reverse the trend of absentee fathers, but there are millions of men, including Dennis, who are already going the extra mile for their children, and they deserve our thanks this Father's Day. By holding men like Dennis up as responsible fathers, I also hope to encourage other men to play a bigger role in their children's lives.

Despite holding a demanding job in a hospital emergency room, Dennis always makes time for his daughter and has instilled in her the value of helping others. There is no question that the world would be a far better place if every child was able to have the support of a father like Dennis. By building strong family bonds, he has earned not only his daughter's love but serves as a role model for the community as well.

Today, I thank Dennis for his devotion to his daughter and for setting an example for all of us of what it means to be an outstanding dad. It is my honor to read Alison's essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States:

I think my dad is outstanding for three reasons. First, he is always there for me. Even when he is busy, Dad can always find time to do something fun with me.

Second, Dad has taught me many important things. He has been a great teacher from riding a bike, to being a good citizen, to medical terminology and good character.

Third, Dad is also a good role model. He works in the emergency room and sometimes has to work at night and sleep during the day. I think it would be very stressful to handle emergencies and keep a calm demeanor, but he always does. Dad does this because he wants to help people. I admire him for that.

Dad is outstanding because he is there for me, has fun with me, teaches me, helps others and because he is simply a great dad!—Alison R. Mansfield, age 11.●

HONORING AMITAV THAMBA—AN OUTSTANDING HOOSIER DAD

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I am proud to have the opportunity today to honor Amitav Thamba, an outstanding Hoosier dad, whose dedication to his 9-year-old daughter, Aish, was demonstrated in a heart-warming essay that she wrote recently.

Last month, in anticipation of Father's Day, I asked young people from across Indiana to write essays about their own outstanding fathers as a way of recognizing Hoosier men who working hard to be good fathers. Aish wrote a touching essay illustrating her father's commitment to helping her achieve her God-given potential, by encouraging her to excel in school and become a good citizen.

As a nation, we have far to go to reverse the trend of absentee fathers, but there are millions of men, including Amitav, who are already going the extra mile for their children, and they deserve our thanks this Father's Day. By holding men like Amitav up as responsible fathers, I also hope to encourage other men to play a bigger role in their children's lives.

I echo Aish's concluding sentence about her father, which reads, "He is the kind of Dad I wish every kid in the world had." There is no question that the world would be a far better place if every child was able to have the support of a father like Amitav. By building strong family bonds, he has earned not only his daughter's love, but he serves as a role model for the community as well.

Today, I thank Amitav for his devotion to his daughter and for setting an example for all of us of what it means to be an outstanding dad. It is my honor to read Aish's essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States.

I was 3 years when my Dad first read to me "The Lion King." Today, I still enjoy the story!

In school, there is a program where we read books and take tests on them. My Dad, in spite of his heavy work schedule, has never missed any Reading Night or school function and has motivated me to do my best. Thanks to Dad, I am an avid reader and read more than 2,000 books in 3 years and the Top Star Reader in my school since 2nd Grade.

My father a hard worker has taught me to be truthful, kind, and respectful. My Dad has inspired me to donate supplies and food to the Wheeler Mission and at the Marion County Juvenile Center.

My father is a very important factor in all my success. He is the kind of Dad I wish

every kid in the world had.—Aish Thamba, age 9.●

HONORING FREDERICK RICHARDS—AN OUTSTANDING HOOSIER DAD

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I am proud to have the opportunity today to honor Frederick Richards, an outstanding Hoosier dad, whose dedication to his 16-year-old son, Corey, was demonstrated in an inspiring essay his son wrote recently.

Last month, in anticipation of Father's Day, I asked young people from across Indiana to write essays about their own outstanding fathers as a way of recognizing Hoosier men who are working hard to be good fathers. Corey wrote a touching essay illustrating his father's commitment to his country and his family.

Despite being overseas while serving our country in Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan, as an inspector general, Frederick worked hard to stay in touch with his son and let him know how much he cares. A hero to our country and his son, Frederick has taught Corey to understand the difference between right and wrong and instilled in him the importance of helping people in need.

As a nation, we have far to go to reverse the trend of absentee fathers, but there are millions of men, including Frederick, who are already going the extra mile for their children, and they deserve our thanks this Father's Day. By holding men like Frederick up as responsible fathers, I also hope to encourage other men to play a bigger role in their children's lives.

There is no question that the world would be a far better place if every child was able to have the support of a father like Frederick. By building strong family bonds, he has earned not only his son's love but serves as a role model for the community as well.

Today, I want to thank Frederick for his devotion to his son and for setting an example for all of us of what it means to be an outstanding dad. It is my honor to read Corey's essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States:

"My dad is an 'Outstanding Dad' because he is a great role model. He is caring, loving, and helpful. My dad is always open for a conversation and always willing to listen. He is a hard worker and looks out for people in need.

"My dad is an 'Outstanding Dad' because he has served in the war. He was located in Afghanistan at Camp Phoenix and was Inspector General. Even though my dad wasn't here, he was still extremely supportive of me. Not only is he my dad, but he is my hero too.

"My dad is an 'Outstanding Dad' because he knows right from wrong. He doesn't just give me whatever I want, he makes me work for it. If I do something wrong, he will help correct me. I look up to my dad everyday and he truly is an 'Outstanding Dad.'"—Corey Richards, age 16.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKINGS CHAPTER OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate the Brookings chapter of Disabled American Veterans on their 25th anniversary, which will be celebrated on July 1, 2006.

Disabled American Veterans, an organization with over 1.2 million members, is focused on building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. The organization strives to meet this goal by providing free assistance to veterans in an attempt to obtain benefits and services earned through their military service. Because it is not a governmental agency, Disabled American Veterans is fully funded by membership dues and public contributions.

At the conclusion of World War I, Disabled American Veterans was created to help ease the suffering caused by the effects of World War I. Since the beginning, Disabled American Veterans has continually grown and adapted to the needs of disabled veterans. Today, Disabled American Veterans is committed to making sure the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are well cared for upon their return from service.

In 1986, the Disabled American Veterans transportation program was initiated in South Dakota. The following year, this program quickly expanded to become nationwide. This program is designed to provide free rides for all veterans to VA facilities so that they may attend scheduled appointments. In 2005, the South Dakota program alone transported over 20,000 veterans to VA hospitals.

On July 1, 2006, the Brookings chapter of Disabled American Veterans will celebrate their 25th anniversary. This celebration, which will be held at the Brookings Pizza Ranch, is designed to honor the 11 surviving charter members. Mr. President, I am proud to have the opportunity to honor these members and their committed service. I strongly commend their years of hard work and dedication and am very pleased that their extensive efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.●

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DETROIT SALT MINE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Detroit Salt Mine, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on reaching this important milestone.

In 1906, the Detroit Salt and Manufacturing Company began constructing the Detroit Salt Mine. The first few years were tumultuous, as the construction itself was so challenging and

costly that the company went bankrupt before it began to mine salt. Fortunately, the company quickly rebounded and completed its first mining shaft in 1910. The mine has passed through many hands over the years but is currently operated by the Detroit Salt Company, which has owned it since 1997.

Today, the Detroit Salt Company solely produces highway deicing salt, the salt that is used to melt the ice that covers roadways during the winter. It provides this salt not only for Michigan roadways but for other roads throughout the Midwest. Without this valuable product, our roadways would be repeatedly crippled during the winter months, causing massive and regular shutdowns of schools and businesses.

It is also important to recognize the Detroit Salt Company's efforts to keep its mine safe for its many workers. The Mine Health and Safety Administration has recognized the Detroit Salt Company for its excellent safety standards with the Sentinel of Safety Award for 3 of the last 6 years. Additionally, the company is part of the Detroit Local Emergency Planning Committee, taking an active role in keeping not only its employees, but also the citizens of its community safe and secure.

I know my colleagues join me in recognizing the historical significance of the Detroit Salt Mine and congratulate all of those who have contributed to its success.●

HONORING ALABAMA'S PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I commend four students from my home State of Alabama who have been named members of the 42nd class of Presidential scholars. Since its creation in 1964, the Presidential Scholars Program has honored over 5,000 graduating high school seniors for academic excellence, artistic accomplishments, and civic contributions. These remarkable young people have proven to meet rigorous standards of academic excellence and leadership. This year, I am proud to announce that Alabama has three Presidential scholars and one Presidential scholar in the arts.

Students designated as Presidential scholars are among only 121 selected for this high honor out of over 2,700 applicants invited to apply. Alabama students selected this year include Amanda R. Long of Oxford High School in Anniston, AL; Adam M. Trettel of Briarwood Christian School in Birmingham, AL; and, Kelly M. McConnaughey of Virgil I. Grissom High School in Huntsville, AL.

I am also very pleased to share that Sarah C. Campbell, of the Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham, AL, has been named one of only 20 Presidential scholars in the arts. These recipients are selected from a pool of over 6,500 students for accomplishments in the visual, literary, and per-

forming arts, in addition to their scholarship, leadership, and public service.

The Presidential Scholars Program not only seeks to honor Our Nation's finest students but also recognizes the teachers who have been influential in these students' lives. Each student had the opportunity to nominate one exceptional teacher to receive the program's Teacher Recognition Award. Teachers play an essential role in our society and give of themselves selflessly in aiding the development of their students. I applaud the work of these fine teachers: Mrs. Angela L. Dickert, nominated by Amanda R. Long; Mr. Barry Walker, nominated by Adam M. Trettel; Ms. Suzanne Bailey, nominated by Kelly M. McConnaughey; and, Mr. D. Bradford Hill, nominated by Sarah C. Campbell.

It is fitting and appropriate that we recognize these fine students for their accomplishments and to recognize the teachers that have meant so much to their success.●

HONORING MARY HAND AND PHILIP HOLLEY

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to make some remarks today about two remarkable educators, Mary Hand and Philip Holley, recipients of the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is the Nation's highest honor for teaching in mathematics and science. Only 100 7th to 12th grade teachers across the Nation are chosen for this remarkable award, which was established by Congress in 1983.

Ms. Mary Hand, mathematics teacher at Liberty Middle School in Madison, AL, aims to make students comfortable in her classroom and encourages them to work in groups. Ms. Hand establishes a classroom environment that is optimal for student learning, and she aims to equip her students with teamwork skills that are essential in the workplace.

Mr. Philip Holley, science teacher at Mountain Brook Junior High School in Birmingham, AL, strives to let students experience science and apply what they learn. He uses real-world examples to bring science to life in his classroom, which undoubtedly motivates his students and enhances their understanding of the importance of science.

As a former educator and the father of three children, I realize the important role teachers play in our society. I am proud to know that teachers such as Ms. Hand and Mr. Holley are striving to develop students' math and science abilities. These skills will surely take students far in the workplace where math and science are increasingly in demand.

I commend Ms. Hand and Mr. Holley for their leadership and professional excellence in education. Their work has impacted the lives of many students, and their influence will surely spread for years to come.●

HONORING MARK LEVIN

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Levin, who is celebrating his 25th year with the NCSJ.

In his time with NCSJ, Mark Levin has accomplished a great deal. A consummate professional, Mark has spent 25 years moving through the ranks from a professional staffer all the way to executive director.

As the mandated central coordinating agency of the organized Jewish community on behalf of the estimated 1.5 million Jews of the former Soviet Union, the NCSJ comprises nearly 50 national organizations and over 300 local federations, community councils, and committees.

Mark has represented NCSJ at conventions, summits, and also here in the Halls of Congress.

A distinguished scholar and policy expert, Mark is unmatched in his knowledge of the Soviet Jewry, and he was instrumental in restructuring NCSJ's tactics following the breakup of the Soviet Union.

But while Mark's résumé is overflowing with remarkable accomplishments, it is the relationships that he has forged over the years that are his finest achievements.

For 25 years, Mark has been more than an advocate—he has been a friend.

It is those friendships that have made his time with NCSJ special. They are what have taken him from merely influencing policy to significantly impacting people's lives.

And it is those friendships that have brought us all together to honor Mark for 25 outstanding years of service.

With that, I would like to thank NCSJ for an opportunity to speak on behalf of Mark, and I would like to offer my thanks and my congratulations to an outstanding colleague and an even better friend, Mark Levin.●

RECOGNIZING HOWARD E. LEFEVRE

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Howard E. LeFevre, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and the founder of The Works: Ohio Center for History Art & Technology in Newark, Ohio.

Founded in 1996, The Works is a remarkable center of discovery that helped introduce an appreciation for industry, innovation, and the creative process for students and learners of all ages, including the 45,000 who visited the facilities last year alone. Through a unique blend of traditional museum programs, computer labs, art galleries, craft demonstration areas, and interactive classrooms, The Works strives to stimulate analytical thinking and enhance the quality life in Licking County and beyond.

Through Mr. LeFevre's leadership, The Works has been a catalyst for restoration of downtown Newark, rescuing

in its first decade four historic buildings that formed the heart of Newark's oldest manufacturing area. The Works has been an invaluable resource for students of Licking County and the community as a whole.

Mr. LeFevre has been an exemplary leader in his community. He is a past president of Newark Area and Licking County Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Newark Rotary Club, past chairman of the United Way Annual Campaign, and past president of the board of directors of the Licking County United Way. Mr. LeFevre is trustee emeritus of and past chairman of Governing Committee of Licking County Foundation. He is director of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and a former member of the Ohio State Development Advisory Council.

He was honored by a Distinguished Service Award at the Ohio State university in 1976 for his efforts in connection with establishing the Newark campus of the university. He was also honored by Licking Memorial Hospital with their Lifetime Achievement Award in 1990. In 2002, Mr. LeFevre was awarded the "Man of the Century" by the city of Newark during its 2002-2003 bicentennial summer festivities.

Mr. President, thanks to LeFevre's dedication, The Works will celebrate its 10th anniversary on June 17, 2006.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and commending Howard E. LeFevre on his lifetime of commitment to the residents of Licking County as well as people all over the State of Ohio.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5252. An act to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services.

H.R. 5522. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5252. An act to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5522. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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-7051. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Income Attributable to Domestic Production Activities" ((RIN1545-BE33)) (TD 9263)) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7052. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Computer Software Under Section 199(c)(5)(B)" ((RIN1545-BF57)) (TD 9262)) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7053. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Necessary to Facilitate Electronic Filing and Burden Reduction" ((RIN1545-BF26)) (TD 9264)) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7054. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bureau of Labor Statistics Price Indexes for Department Stores—March 2006" (Rev. Rul. 2006-28) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7055. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Qualified NMWHFIT Exception Extension" (Notice 2006-30) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7056. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement of Rules to be Included in Final Regulations Under Sections 897(d) and (e) of the Code" (Notice 2006-46) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7057. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure to Eliminate Impediments to e-filing Consolidated Returns and Reduce Reporting Requirements" (Rev. Proc. 2006-21) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7058. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Methods of Determining W-2 Wages for Purposes of the Section 199(b)(1) Limitation on the Section 199 Deduction for Income Attributable to Domestic Production Activities" (Rev. Proc. 2006-22) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7059. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to information for 2005 on the country of origin and the sellers of uranium and uranium enrichment services purchased by owners and operators of U.S. civilian nuclear power reactors; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7060. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2005 Annual Report for the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7061. A communication from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Sixteenth Annual Report to Congress relative to the health and safety activities relating to the Department of Energy's defense nuclear facilities during calendar year 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7062. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Energy's annual report to Congress concerning operations at Naval Petroleum Reserves; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7063. A communication from the Deputy CHCO/Director, OHCM, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7064. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities" (Order No. 676) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7065. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Status for 12 Species of Picture Wing Flies From the Hawaiian Islands" (RIN1018-AG23) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7066. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Preparation for Sale" (RIN1004-AD70) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7067. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Utah Regulatory Program" (UT-043-FOR) received on June 5, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7068. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Missouri Regulatory Program" (MO-038-FOR) received on June 5, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7069. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Director, Office of Federal Housing

Enterprise Oversight, received on May 31, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7070. A communication from the Senior Vice President for Resource Management, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7071. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the U.S. Department of the Treasury Fleet Alternative Fuel Vehicle Acquisition Report for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7072. A communication from the Acting Chairman, Appraisal Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2005 Annual Report of the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7073. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to obligations and allocations for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7074. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, the report of proposed legislation entitled "Community Development Block Grant Reform Act of 2006" received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 687. A bill to regulate the unauthorized installation of computer software, to require clear disclosure to computer users of certain computer software features that may pose a threat to user privacy, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-262).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 3490. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to initiate and complete an evaluation of land and water located in northeastern Pennsylvania for future acquisition and inclusion in a potential Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 3491. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and to ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Con. Res. 99. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the policy of the United States at the 58th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. Con. Res. 100. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that an artistic tribute to commemorate the speech given by President Ronald Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate on June 12, 1987, should be placed within the United States Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to expand access to preventive health care services that help reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce the number of abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1046, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 1537

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1537, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence.

S. 1840

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alabama

(Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to amend section 340B of the Public Health Service Act to increase the affordability of inpatient drugs for Medicaid and safety net hospitals.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to establish a joint energy cooperation program within the Department of Energy to fund eligible ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons in the national interest, and for other purposes.

S. 1896

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1896, a bill to permit access to Federal crime information databases by educational agencies for certain purposes.

S. 1934

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1934, a bill to reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the Social Security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

S. 2423

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2423, a bill to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

S. 2424

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2424, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the contribution limits for health savings accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 2465

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2465, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 2467

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2467, a bill to enhance and improve the trade relations of the United States by strengthening United States trade enforcement efforts and encouraging United States trading partners to adhere to the rules and norms of international trade, and for other purposes.

S. 2554

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2554, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the permissible use of health savings accounts to include premiums for non-group high deductible health plan coverage.

S. 2566

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2566, a bill to provide for coordination of proliferation interdiction activities and conventional arms disarmament, and for other purposes.

S. 2592

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2592, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve the nutrition and health of schoolchildren by updating the definition of "food of minimal nutritional value" to conform to current nutrition science and to protect the Federal investment in the national school lunch and breakfast programs.

S. 2599

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2599, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to prohibit the confiscation of firearms during certain national emergencies.

S. 2635

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2635, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the transportation fringe benefit to bicycle commuters.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility of Indian tribal organizations for grants for the establishment of veterans cemeteries on trust lands.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2707, a bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exempt qualified public housing agencies from the requirement of preparing an annual public housing agency plan.

S. 2810

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2810, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate months in 2006 from the calculation of any late enrollment penalty under the Medicare part D prescription drug program and to provide for additional funding for State health insurance counseling program and area agencies on aging, and for other purposes.

S. 2822

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2822, a bill to authorize the Marion Park Project and Committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion.

S. 3122

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3122, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve loans for members of the Guard and Reserve, and for other purposes.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3238, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

S. 3275

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3275, a bill to amend title 18, United States code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

S. 3481

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3481, a bill to require the Government Accountability Office to submit a report to Congress on the compliance of the Postal Service with procedural requirements in the closing of the postal sorting facility in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and for other purposes.

S. 3487

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3487, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize and improve the disaster loan program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 12, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S.J. RES. 38

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 96

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 96, a concurrent resolution to commemorate, celebrate, and reaffirm the national motto of the United States on the 50th anniversary of its formal adoption.

S. RES. 303

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 303, a resolution calling for the Government of Nigeria to conduct a thorough judicial review of the Ken Saro-Wiwa case, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 503

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 503, a resolution mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquake that occurred on May 27, 2006, in Indonesia, expressing the condolences of the American people to the families of the victims, and urging assistance to those affected.

AMENDMENT NO. 4192

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4192 intended to be proposed to S. 2766, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 3490. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to initiate and complete

an evaluation of land and water located in northeastern Pennsylvania for future acquisition and inclusion in a potential Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation requiring the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to conduct a study evaluating a pristine area in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania, called Cherry Valley, for its potential designation as a national wildlife refuge. Known for its unspoiled wetlands and riparian forests, Cherry Valley provides an important habitat for one of the largest known populations of the threatened bog turtle, as well as for a plethora of endangered and rare species. Also, due to its location along the Kittatinny Ridge Migration Corridor, Cherry Valley is centrally located along an important migration route for eagles and the broad-winged hawk.

Recognized as an environmental treasure by local officials and residents, there is widespread support for Cherry Valley's designation as a wildlife refuge. Some landowners have, however, expressed private property concerns with the proposed designation. It is my hope that by requiring a study, during which the Secretary must consult with landowners and other interested parties, we can fully understand the value of the Cherry Valley area, as well as address any concerns landowners may have.

Representative PAUL KANJORSKI introduced similar legislation in the House. I ask for the support of my colleagues in authorizing this study to determine whether beautiful Cherry Valley should be preserved and designated a national wildlife refuge.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 3491. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and to ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Securing America's Future Economy Commission Act, which I am introducing today. I ask unanimous consent that my statement and bill be printed in the RECORD.

This legislation stems from the need to address our Nation's current and future fiscal health. The fact is, we are in dire straits. In the simplest terms, the Federal Government continues to spend more than it takes in. In case anyone has forgotten, the deficit for fiscal year 2005 was \$318 billion—the third largest deficit in our Nation's history. If we were to take out the Social Security surplus, the deficit would be nearly \$500 billion. And if we were to use accrual accounting, the accounting method used by American businesses, the deficit would be approximately \$760 billion.

These deficits only continue to add to our national debt. When I came to the Senate in 1999, the national debt stood at \$5.6 trillion. Since then, it has increased 50 percent to \$8.4 trillion. As a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, GDP, our national debt has grown from being 58 percent of GDP at the end of 2000 to an estimated 66.1 percent of GDP by the end of 2006.

In fact, the debt continues to grow so quickly that the House of Representatives' fiscal year 2007 budget resolution raises the Federal debt ceiling to nearly \$10 trillion. This is only a few months after Congress was forced to raise the debt ceiling.

These ongoing deficits, coupled with the expected tidal wave of entitlement spending, will soon put our Nation in a very unenviable position if thoughtful action is not taken. Moreover, the trust funds for Medicare and Social Security will be exhausted even earlier than previously thought. According to the most recent trustees' report, the cost of Social Security and Medicare will grow from nearly 7.4 percent of the economy today to 12.7 percent by 2030, consuming approximately 70 percent of all Federal revenues, crowding out all other discretionary spending and some other mandatory programs.

While entitlements are a major component of our Nation's future fiscal health, it is not the only portion. Just as we must look at how we must reform our entitlement programs to maintain our nation's competitiveness, we must also review our arcane Tax Code.

What we should be doing is spending our time on tax reform. We all know that fundamental tax reform is critical. Just as we know the entitlement tidal wave is coming, we know that more and more middle class American families are being swept up in the AMT. So I simply cannot understand why some of my colleagues want to make so many provisions of the current Tax Code permanent or add new tax cuts when we very well may be eliminating precisely the same provisions as part of fundamental tax reform. No homeowner would remodel their kitchen and bathroom right before tearing down the house to build a newer and better one.

Simplifying the code to make it more fair and honest could, by some estimates, save taxpayers over \$265 billion in costs associated with preparing their taxes. That would be a real tax reduction, and it would not cost the Treasury one dime. It would be a tax cut that would guarantee that people are paying their fair share and would bring more money into the Federal Treasury.

Anyone in the know who is watching us has got to wonder about our character, our intellectual honesty, our concern about our national security, our Nation's competitiveness in the global marketplace now and in the future, and last but not least, our "don't-give-a-dam" attitude about the standard of living and quality of life of our

children and grandchildren. We know the long-term fiscal challenges that are facing our nation. We know that if we continue to move forward blindly, we will walk off a cliff.

The simple fact is that we can't have it all—we need to set priorities and make hard choices—otherwise our children will end up paying for it. Last week I voted against the repeal of the estate tax and called on Congress to heed Americans' demand for fundamental tax and entitlement reform. The SAFE Act shows that I am serious about making this a priority for Congress.

The legislation will establish a commission comprised of 15 voting members, 3 of which will be appointed by the President, 3 by the Senate majority leader, 3 by the Senate minority leader, 3 by the Speaker of the House and 3 by the House minority leader. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office and the Comptroller General of the United States will be appointed as non-voting ex-officio members of the Commission to lend their expertise.

The Commission will bring together the best minds associated with budget and economic policies to examine the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States and recommend reforms. A minimum of six public town hall meetings will be held throughout the country within year to determine the scope of the problem and consider solutions.

At the conclusion of the town meetings, the Commission will present a report to Congress detailing the fiscal problems facing future generations as well as a framework of long-term solutions. Within 60 days of the presentation of their report to Congress, the Commission will transmit to Congress a legislative proposal designed to: address the imbalance between long-term Federal spending commitments and projected revenues; increase net national savings to spur domestic investment and economic growth; and improve the budget process to place greater emphasis on long-term fiscal issues.

The administration and Congress will each have 120 days to review the proposal and develop equivalent proposals if they deem necessary. Congress would then be required to vote on the proposals.

America's fiscal situation is dire. Nothing is off the table when it comes to ensuring our longterm prosperity and increasing our competitiveness in the global marketplace. The task is daunting, but now is the time to act. I am thinking not only about the present, but about our children and grandchildren and the legacy—or burden—we will leave them.

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

S. 3491

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Securing America’s Future Economy Commission Act” or “SAFE Commission Act”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a commission to be known as the “Securing America’s Future Economy Commission” (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

(a) **MANDATORY LEGISLATION DEVELOPMENT.**—

(1) **ISSUES TO ADDRESS.**—The Commission shall examine the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States and develop legislation designed to address the following issues:

(A) The unsustainable imbalance between long-term Federal spending commitments and projected revenues.

(B) Increasing net national savings to provide for domestic investment and economic growth.

(C) Improving the budget process to place greater emphasis on long-term fiscal issues.

(2) **POLICY SOLUTIONS.**—Legislation developed to address the issues described in paragraph (1) may include the following:

(A) Reforms that limit the growth of entitlement spending to ensure that the programs are fiscally sustainable.

(B) Reforms that strengthen the safety net functions of entitlement programs.

(C) Reforms that make United States tax laws more efficient and more conducive to encouraging economic growth.

(D) Incentives to increase private savings.

(E) Automatic stabilizers or triggers to enforce spending and revenue targets.

(F) Any other reforms designed to address the issues described in paragraph (1).

(b) **OPTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF COST ESTIMATE ALTERNATIVES.**—The Commission shall by an affirmative vote of 5 members develop not more than 2 methods for estimating the cost of legislation as an alternative to the method currently used by the Congressional Budget Office. Any such alternative method must be designed to address any shortcomings in the method currently used with regard to estimating the positive economic effects of legislation.

SEC. 4. INITIAL TOWN-HALL STYLE PUBLIC HEARINGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall hold at least 1 town-hall style public hearing within each Federal reserve district, and shall, to the extent feasible, ensure that there is broad public participation in the hearings.

(b) **HEARING FORMAT.**—During each hearing, the Commission shall present to the public, and generate comments and suggestions regarding, the issues described in section 3, policies designed to address those issues, and tradeoffs between such policies.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

The Commission shall, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report to Congress and the President containing the following:

(1) A detailed description of the long-term fiscal problems faced by the United States.

(2) A list of policy options for addressing those problems.

(3) A summary of comments and suggestions generated from the town-hall style public hearings.

(4) A detailed statement of any findings of the Commission as to public preferences regarding the issues, policies, and tradeoffs presented in the town-hall style public hearings.

(5) Criteria for the legislative proposal to be developed by the Commission.

(6) A detailed description of the other activities of the Commission.

SEC. 6. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date the report is submitted under section 5 and by a vote of 3/4 of the members, the Commission shall submit a legislative proposal to Congress and the President designed to address the issues described section 3.

(b) **PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS.**—The proposal must, to the extent feasible, be designed—

(1) to achieve generational equity and long-term economic stability;

(2) to address the comments and suggestions of the public; and

(3) to meet the criteria set forth in the Commission report.

(c) **INCLUSION OF COST ESTIMATE.**—The Commission shall submit with the proposal—

(1) a long-term CBO cost estimate prepared under section 14 for the proposal; and

(2) if an alternative cost estimate method is developed by the Commission, a 50-year cost estimate using such method.

SEC. 7. MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall be composed of 15 voting members appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) and 2 nonvoting members described in paragraph (2).

(1) **VOTING MEMBERS.**—The 15 voting members of the Commission shall be appointed as follows:

(A) The President shall appoint 3 members, one of whom the President shall appoint as chairperson of the Commission.

(B) The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members.

(C) The Minority Leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members.

(D) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members.

(E) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members.

(2) **NONVOTING MEMBERS.**—The Comptroller General of the United States and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall each be nonvoting members of the Commission and shall advise and assist at the request of the Commission.

(b) **LIMITATION AS TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**—Each appointing authority described in subsection (a)(1) who is a Member of Congress may appoint not more than 1 Member of Congress to the Commission.

(c) **DATE FOR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT.**—The appointing authorities described in subsection (a)(1) shall appoint the initial members of the Commission not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **TERMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The term of each member is for the life of the Commission.

(2) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled not later than 30 days after the date on which the vacancy occurs and in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(e) **PAY AND REIMBURSEMENT.**—

(1) **NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the Commission may not receive pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Commission.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Each member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of its voting members.

(g) **QUORUM.**—Six voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

SEC. 8. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.

(a) **DIRECTOR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (c) and to the extent provided in advance in ap-

propriation Acts, the Commission shall appoint and fix the pay of a director.

(2) **DUTIES.**—The director of the Commission shall be responsible for the administration and coordination of the duties of the Commission and shall perform other such duties as the Commission may require.

(b) **STAFF.**—In accordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission, subject to subsection (c), and to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the director may appoint and fix the pay of additional personnel.

(c) **APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.**—The director and staff of the Commission may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that pay fixed under subsection (a) may not exceed \$150,000 per year and pay fixed under subsection (b) may not exceed a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) **DETAILEES.**—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of their regular employment without interruption.

(e) **EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), in accordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission and to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the director may procure the services of experts and consultants under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **EXCLUSION OF LOBBYISTS AND AGENTS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.**—In no case may any individual who is a registered lobbyist or an agent of a foreign government serve as an expert or a consultant under this subsection.

(f) **RESOURCES.**—The Commission shall have reasonable access to materials, resources, statistical data, and other information the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out its duties from the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Secretary of the Treasury, and other agencies and representatives of the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government. The Chairperson shall make requests for such access in writing when necessary.

SEC. 9. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) **HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.**—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold such hearings in addition to the town-hall style public hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers appropriate. The Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it.

(b) **POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.**—Any member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action which the Commission is authorized to take under this section.

(c) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide

to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

(e) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—To the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Commission may enter into contracts to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under this Act.

(f) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

SEC. 10. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate 60 days after submitting its legislative proposal.

SEC. 11. ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL OF THE PRESIDENT.

The President may, not later than 120 days after the Commission submits its legislative proposal, submit to Congress an alternative to the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

SEC. 12. ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.

The Committee on the Budget of either House may, in consultation with the relevant committees of their respective House and not later than 120 days after the Commission submits its legislative proposal, have published in the Congressional Record an alternative to the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

SEC. 13. CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.

(a) **INTRODUCTION.**—On the first legislative day after the Commission submits its legislative proposal, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate shall introduce (by request) the legislation submitted by the Commission.

(b) **IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(1) **PRIVILEGED CONSIDERATION.**—In the House of Representatives, if a committee to which the legislation has been referred has not reported the legislation before the expiration of the 120-day period described in section 12, then—

(A) that committee shall be discharged from consideration of the legislation;

(B) the legislation shall be placed on the appropriate calendar; and

(C) a motion to proceed to the consideration of the legislation is highly privileged and is not debatable.

(2) **AMENDMENTS LIMITED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an amendment to the legislation may not be offered in the House of Representatives.

(B) **PERMITTED AMENDMENTS.**—(i) Any Member may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the alternative legislative proposal submitted by the President.

(ii) Any Member may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

(iii) The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the alternative legislative proposal published in the Congressional Record by the House Committee on the Budget.

(C) **POINT OF ORDER.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An amendment offered under subparagraph (B) is subject to a point of order if—

(I) the amendment is not accompanied by a long-term CBO cost estimate of the amendment or a long-term revenue estimate of the amendment by the Joint Committee of Taxation (including the information described in paragraph (1) and (2) of section 14(b)); or

(II) the long-term CBO cost estimate of the amendment is greater than the long-term CBO cost estimate of the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

(ii) **WAIVER OF POINT OF ORDER.**—A point of order raised in accordance with clause (i) may only be waived or suspended in the House of Representatives by a resolution devoted solely to the subject of waiving that point of order.

(D) **MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS.**—If more than one amendment is offered under this paragraph, then each amendment shall be considered separately, and the amendment receiving both a majority and the highest number of votes shall be the amendment adopted.

(3) **TRANSMITTAL TO THE SENATE.**—If legislation passes the House pursuant to subsection (b), the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall cause the legislation to be engrossed, certified, and transmitted to the Senate within one calendar day of the day on which the legislation is passed. The legislation shall be referred to the Senate Committee on the Budget.

(c) **IN THE SENATE.**—

(1) **AUTOMATIC DISCHARGE OF SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE.**—If the Senate Committee on the Budget has not reported the legislation before the expiration of the 120-day period described in section 12, then—

(A) the committee shall be discharged from consideration of the legislation; and

(B) a motion to proceed to the consideration of the legislation is highly privileged and is not debatable.

(2) **CONSIDERATION.**—Consideration of such legislation shall be pursuant to the procedures set forth in section 305 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(3) **AMENDMENTS LIMITED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an amendment to the legislation may not be offered in the Senate.

(B) **PERMITTED AMENDMENTS.**—(i) Any Member may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the alternative legislative proposal submitted by the President.

(ii) Any Member may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

(iii) The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the alternative legislative proposal published in the Congressional Record by the Senate Committee on the Budget.

(C) **POINT OF ORDER.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An amendment offered under subparagraph (B) is subject to a point of order if—

(I) the amendment is not accompanied by a long-term CBO cost estimate of the amendment or a long-term revenue estimate of the amendment by the Joint Committee of Taxation (including the information described in paragraph (1) and (2) of section 14(b)); or

(II) the long-term CBO cost estimate of the amendment is greater than the long-term CBO cost estimate of the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

(ii) **WAIVER OF POINT OF ORDER.**—A point of order raised in accordance with clause (i) may only be waived or suspended in the Senate by an affirmative vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Members duly chosen and sworn.

(D) **MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS.**—If more than one amendment is offered under this paragraph, then each amendment shall be considered separately, and the amendment receiving both a majority and the highest number of votes shall be the amendment adopted.

(d) **APPLICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT.**—To the extent that they are relevant and not inconsistent with this Act, the provisions of title III of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 shall apply in the House of Representatives and the Senate to legislation considered under this section.

(e) **RULES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—This section is enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and is deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a bill introduced pursuant to this section, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

SEC. 14. LONG-TERM CBO COST ESTIMATE.

(a) **PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION.**—When the Commission, the President, or the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of either House submits a written request to the Director of the Congressional Budget Office for a long-term cost estimate by the Congressional Budget Office (referred to in this Act as a “long-term CBO cost estimate”) of legislation proposed under this Act or an amendment referred to in section 13(b)(2)(B), the Director shall prepare the estimate and have it published in the Congressional Record as expeditiously as possible.

(b) **CONTENT.**—A long-term CBO cost estimate shall include—

(1) an estimate of the cost of each provision of the legislation or amendment for the first fiscal year it would take effect and for each of the 50 fiscal years thereafter; and

(2) a statement of any estimated future costs not reflected by the estimate described in paragraph (1).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 99—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE 58TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 99

Whereas whales have very low reproductive rates, making many whale populations extremely vulnerable to pressure from commercial whaling;

Whereas whales migrate throughout the world's oceans and international cooperation is required to successfully conserve and protect whale stocks;

Whereas in 1946 a significant number of the nations of the world adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, which established the International Whaling Commission to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks;

Whereas in 2003 the Commission established a Conservation Committee, open to all members of the Commission, for the purpose

of facilitating efficient and effective coordination and development of conservation recommendations and activities, which are fully consistent with the conservation objectives stated in the 1946 Convention;

Whereas the Commission adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982 in order to conserve and promote the recovery of whale stocks, many of which had been hunted to near extinction by the commercial whaling industry;

Whereas the rights of indigenous people to whale for subsistence purposes has been specifically recognized under the 1946 Convention;

Whereas the Commission has designated the Indian Ocean and part of the ocean around Antarctica as whale sanctuaries to further enhance the recovery of whale stocks;

Whereas many nations of the world have designated waters under their jurisdiction as whale sanctuaries where commercial whaling is prohibited, and additional regional whale sanctuaries have been proposed by nations that are members of the Commission;

Whereas two member nations that lodged objections to the Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling when it was adopted continue to hold such objections, a third member nation asserted a reservation to the moratorium on rejoining the Commission, and one member nation is currently conducting commercial whaling operations in spite of the moratorium and the protests of other nations;

Whereas the Commission has adopted several resolutions at recent meetings asking member nations to halt commercial whaling activities conducted under reservation to the moratorium and to refrain from issuing special permits for research involving the killing of whales;

Whereas one member nation of the Commission has taken a reservation to the Commission's Southern Ocean Sanctuary and also continues to conduct unnecessary lethal scientific whaling in the Southern Ocean and in the North Pacific Ocean;

Whereas one member nation is conducting unnecessary lethal scientific whaling in the Atlantic;

Whereas whale meat and blubber is being sold commercially from whales killed pursuant to such unnecessary lethal scientific whaling, further undermining the moratorium on commercial whaling;

Whereas the Commission has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the scientific need for such lethal research and recognizes the importance of demonstrating and expanding the use of non-lethal scientific research methods;

Whereas more than 9,150 whales have been killed in lethal scientific whaling programs since the adoption of the commercial whaling moratorium and the lethal take of whales under scientific permits has increased both in quantity and species, and a new program would take minke, Bryde's, sei, fin, humpback, and sperm whales;

Whereas, one member nation is harvesting whales on an unprecedented scale in the name of scientific research, and plans to take up to 935 minke whales, 50 humpback whales, and 50 fin whales in the Antarctic, and 220 minke whales, 50 Bryde's whales, 100 sei whales and 10 sperm whales in the North Pacific. Sei, sperm, humpback, and fin whales are all endangered species;

Whereas engaging in commercial whaling under reservation and lethal scientific whaling undermines the conservation program of the Commission;

Whereas discussions are taking place within the Commission on a Revised Management Scheme (RMS) that would regulate any possible future commercial whaling;

Whereas any decision to lift the moratorium against commercial whaling, or to allow commercial whaling in any other form, must be taken independently from negotiations and adoption of an RMS;

Whereas any RMS must include or be conditioned on the concurrent adoption of provisions similar to those in other international agreements related to fisheries and marine mammals, including transparent and neutral observer mechanisms, and effective compliance and dispute settlement mechanisms;

Whereas to be effective, if an RMS is adopted, any future commercial whaling must take place pursuant to the RMS, and without reservation to any of its substantive provisions; and

Whereas any decision to lift the moratorium against commercial whaling must be conditioned on the immediate cessation of lethal scientific whaling: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring) That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) at the 58th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission the United States should—

(A) remain firmly opposed to commercial whaling and any linking of adoption of a Revised Management Scheme (RMS) to the lifting of the commercial whaling moratorium or allowing commercial whaling in any other form;

(B) initiate and support efforts to ensure that all activities conducted under reservations to the Commission's moratorium or sanctuaries are ceased;

(C) seek to ensure that any RMS includes, or is conditioned on the concurrent adoption of provisions similar to those in other international agreements related to fisheries and marine mammals, including transparent and neutral observer mechanisms, and effective compliance and dispute settlement mechanisms;

(D) insist that any future commercial whaling must take place pursuant to the RMS without reservations to any of its substantive provisions, and that lethal scientific whaling must immediately cease upon the commencement of any commercial whaling;

(E) uphold the rights of indigenous people to whale for subsistence purposes, and firmly reject any attempts to compromise such rights or to equate commercial whaling with such rights;

(F) initiate or support efforts to end the lethal taking of whales for scientific purposes, seek support for expanding the use of non-lethal research methods, and seek to end the sale of whale meat and blubber from whales killed for unnecessary lethal scientific research;

(G) support proposals for the permanent protection of whale populations through the establishment of whale sanctuaries and other zones of protection in which commercial whaling is prohibited;

(H) support efforts to expand data collection on whale populations, monitor and reduce whale bycatch and other incidental impacts, and otherwise expand whale conservation efforts;

(I) support the adoption of an active program of work by the Conservation Committee to address the full range of threats to whales, and otherwise expand whale conservation efforts;

(J) call upon the Contracting Parties to the Convention to submit to the Commission for discussion within the Conservation Committee national approaches, including laws, regulations and other initiatives, that further the conservation of cetaceans; and

(2) the United States should make full use of all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, Federal law, relevant international laws and

agreements, and other appropriate mechanisms to implement the goals set forth in paragraph (1).

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution that is vital to the protection of our oceans' large whale populations. Representatives from 69 nations will gather this month in St. Kitt's for the 58th meeting of the International Whaling Commission. The debates in which they will engage will address the future of the moratorium on commercial whaling and other limitations on worldwide whale hunting. For many years, the United States and our allies in the fight to conserve whales have held a majority position in this body, but indications suggest that this year our majority may be lost. In light of this, it is more imperative than ever that the United States clearly expresses its adamant opposition to any resumption of commercial whaling and continues to set an example as a leader in the fight to uphold whale conservation policies.

Before the current commercial ban was instituted in 1982, member states attempted to manage whaling with a quota system. Due to ineffective reporting of catches by whaling nations, this program was an abject failure, and it directly necessitated implementation of the commercial ban. Yet over the past year, countries that favor lifting the ban on commercial whaling have continued their efforts to convince nations with no inherent interest in whaling to join the IWC and support measures to reduce whaling restrictions. The ultimate goal of these member states is to lift the moratorium on commercial whaling. While it appears that the prowhaling states may have a majority at this year's meeting, they likely lack the three-quarters majority required to lift the ban. However, a majority would enable these states to make procedural changes that could facilitate their efforts in years to come. Any efforts to remove or weaken the prohibition would set whale conservation efforts back decades and fly in the face of the United States and other like-minded countries' well-established position in support of sound, effective whale conservation.

My colleagues and I introduce this resolution to express our ardent support for the U.S. negotiators as they work to prevent prowhaling states from lifting the ban, and as our delegates attempt to enhance existing conservation methods. Even now, with commercial whaling prohibited, certain IWC member states plan to continue to expand their killing of large numbers of whales—including some endangered species—for so-called scientific purposes. However, the IWC and leading marine mammal scientists have found that lethal whaling is no longer necessary to advance scientific research. In addition, some member states continue to whale commercially, harvesting an increasing number of whales with every passing year, by taking reservations to the moratorium.

Such activities directly undermine the effectiveness of the IWC as a whole and weaken our hard-fought conservation efforts.

Although opponents of the commercial whaling ban are unlikely to overturn the moratorium this year, we understand that such a ban is unlikely to last forever. To this end, the IWC may again consider a movement towards a revised management scheme, or RMS, to govern future whaling conservation and management decisions, including a framework for a sustainable harvest. But certain provisions must be part of any RMS if the United States is to support such an action. We must ensure that any RMS contains an increased reliance on sustainability of populations and legitimate scientific knowledge and research. It must also close any existing loopholes—such as the scientific exception—that allow take of whales outside the scheme, had include appropriate compliance, enforcement, and transparency measures.

I thank my colleagues who have signed on as cosponsors of this resolution for their ongoing support of marine conservation: Senators CANTWELL, KERRY, DOLE, BOXER, FEINGOLD, REED, LAUTENBERG, MCCAIN, LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, WYDEN, DODD, FEINSTEIN, MENENDEZ, LEVIN, BIDEN, DAYTON, JEFFORDS, and LANDRIEU. Their actions will help ensure that whale populations, so critical to our marine ecosystems, continue to grace our oceans for generations to come.

We must continue to support and strengthen the international agreements that govern activities detrimental to the well-being of some of the world's most threatened large mammals. Changes in the political climate have made our commitment to the protection of these species more vital than ever before, and I urge my colleagues to support swift passage of this resolution.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I am pleased to join the chairwoman of the subcommittee, Senator SNOWE, in submitting a resolution regarding the policy of the United States at the upcoming 58th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission, IWC. I wish to also thank my Senate colleagues Mr. KERRY, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DODD, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. KENNEDY for cosponsoring as well.

The resolution we introduce today comes at a time when the United States and other like-minded nations are facing new and intensifying challenges within the IWC to adopt policies detrimental to our stated opposition to commercial and lethal scientific whaling.

In 1982, due to the severe impacts of whaling on the populations of large whale species, the IWC adopted an indefinite moratorium on all commercial whaling. Although Japan, Iceland, Norway, and other countries in favor of commercial whaling do not yet have the necessary three-quarters majority on the IWC to lift the moratorium, for the first time they may have the simple majority needed to control procedure and to adopt resolutions contrary to the longstanding positions of the IWC. Policies that the United States has opposed in the past, such as secret ballots and statements supporting lethal scientific whaling, could be adopted under a simple majority.

As Japan and Iceland have gained support for their prowhaling position within the IWC, they have become even more aggressive in their utilization of a provision in the convention that allows countries to issue themselves permits for "scientific whaling". These permits are currently being used to justify killing whales in the name of science and then later selling the meat commercially. More than 9,150 whales have been killed in lethal scientific whaling programs since the adoption of the commercial whaling moratorium, and Japan has plans for a major new program that would more than double its takes of minke whales and expand such whaling to Byrde's, sei, fin, sperm and humpback whales. Furthermore, Japan plans to hunt in the commission's designated Southern Ocean Sanctuary, an area set aside off Antarctica to facilitate whale conservation and recovery.

The IWC has repeatedly stated that such lethal takes are not necessary for scientific research. Sei, sperm, humpback, and fin whales are all endangered species, and hunting these species undermines the IWC's whale conservation program.

As was the case last year, discussions are ongoing in the IWC to establish a framework, or "revised management scheme," RMS, for any future commercial whaling, should it ever occur. In this resolution, we urge the U.S. delegation to the IWC to insist that any RMS negotiations are distinct from decisions on whether to lift the moratorium on commercial whaling and that an RMS contain provisions on accountability, transparency, and compliance. As part of any RMS language, lethal scientific whaling must immediately cease upon the commencement of any commercial whaling. The resolution also recognizes the rights of indigenous people to whale for subsistence purposes and directs the U.S. delegation to reject any attempts to compromise or equate such rights to commercial whaling.

I thank Chairwoman SNOWE for her collaboration on this resolution. I will continue to work with my colleagues on this issue to ensure that whales are protected under the International Whaling Commission.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT AN ARTISTIC TRIBUTE TO COMMEMORATE THE SPEECH GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AT THE BRANDENBURG GATE ON JUNE 12, 1987, SHOULD BE PLACED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Mr. ALLARD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 100

Whereas the people of the United States successfully defended freedom and democracy for over 40 years in a global Cold War against an aggressive Communist tyranny;

Whereas President Ronald Wilson Reagan's demonstration of unwavering personal conviction during this conflict served to inspire millions of people throughout the United States and around the world to seek democracy, freedom, and greater individual liberty; and

Whereas Ronald Wilson Reagan's determined stand against the Soviet empire during his eight years as President served as the catalyst for the end of that regime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that an artistic tribute to commemorate the speech given by President Ronald Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate on June 12, 1987, during which he uttered the immortal lines "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!", should be placed within the United States Capitol.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, last Monday was a somber anniversary for our Nation—it marked the second anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's passing. I did not come to the floor last Monday, because I knew that today, just a week later, would be another important anniversary in Reagan's life, and one I would rather note.

Nineteen years ago, on this day in 1987, President Ronald Reagan stood at the Berlin Wall, at the Brandenburg Gate and issued his—issued liberty's—famous challenge to Soviet tyranny:

General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

I believe the power and significance of this quote has been acknowledged. I believe history recognizes what President Reagan's steadfast determination to resist communist expansion and even the communist status quo meant to that great struggle. Many spoke on this floor 2 years ago on his contributions, and most have acknowledged the significance of those contributions.

I am submitting legislation today because President Reagan's contributions to winning the cold war, defending liberty, strengthening America and brightening our future can, in my mind, be adequately summarized by the moment he went to Berlin, stood in the shadow of a communist tyranny, summoned up the force of the American spirit, and called for the removal of the infamous wall.

My resolution calls for an artistic rendering of that moment in time to be painted into the Capitol, along with the other significant scenes of our Nation's past. As we walk through the building today, we can see scenes from the Nation's founding, from the Civil War, our westward expansion, even the Moon landing and *Challenger* astronauts. I would like to also see Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate. I think it would be entirely appropriate to have this image added. It would be an important reminder of the struggle this Nation undertook. It would stand for the millions of Americans who did their part for nearly half a century in that struggle, military and civilian. And it would testify to the greatness of our Nation, and the greatness of our 40th President.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4196. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4197. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4198. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4199. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4200. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4201. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4202. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4203. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4204. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4205. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4206. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4207. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4208. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. LEVIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2766, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4196. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 648. EXPANSION OF COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAPTER 61 MILITARY RETIREES.

(a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Subsection (c) of section 1413a of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “entitled to retired pay who—” and all that follows and inserting “who—

“(1) is entitled to retired pay (other than by reason of section 12731b of this title); and

“(2) has a combat-related disability.”.

(b) **COMPUTATION.**—Paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by designating the text of that paragraph as subparagraph (A), realigning that text so as to be indented 4 ems from the left margin, and inserting before “In the case of” the following heading: “IN GENERAL.—”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) **SPECIAL RULE FOR RETIREES WITH FEWER THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE.**—In the case of an eligible combat-related disabled uniformed services retiree who is retired under chapter 61 of this title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service, the amount of the payment under paragraph (1) for any month shall be reduced by the amount (if any) by which the amount of the member's retired pay under chapter 61 of this title exceeds the amount equal to 2½ percent of the member's years of creditable service multiplied by the member's retired pay base under section 1406(b)(1) or 1407 of this title, whichever is applicable to the member.”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2006, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

SA 4197. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 648. EFFECTIVE DATE OF TERMINATION OF PHASE-IN OF CONCURRENT RECEIPT FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES RATED AS TOTAL BY VIRTUE OF UNEMPLOYABILITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1414(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “100 percent” the first place it appears and all that follows and inserting “100 percent and in the case of a qualified retiree receiving veterans' disability compensation at the rate payable for a 100 percent disability by reason of a determination of individual

unemployability, payment of retired pay to such veteran is subject to subsection (c) only during the period beginning on January 1, 2004, and ending on December 31, 2004.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on December 31, 2004.

SA 4198. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On 51, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

(a) **REPORTS ON CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS TO PROCEED BEYOND LOW-RATE INITIAL PRODUCTION.**—Section 2399(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph (5):

“(5) If, before a final decision is made within the Department of Defense to proceed with a major defense acquisition program beyond low-rate initial production, a decision is made within the Department to proceed to operational use of the program or allocate funds available for procurement for the program, the Director shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and the congressional defense committees the report with respect to the program under paragraph (2) as soon as practicable after the decision under this paragraph is made.”.

On page 51, line 17, strike “(a)” and insert “(b)”.

On page 51, line 20, insert “and the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation” after “Logistics”.

On page 51, beginning on line 22, strike “in light” and all that follows through line 23 and insert “in order to—

(A) reaffirm the test and evaluation principles that guide traditional acquisition programs; and

(B) determine how best to apply such principles to emerging acquisition approaches.

On page 52, line 4, strike “shall issue” and insert “and the Director shall jointly issue”.

On page 52, strike lines 7 through 11.

On page 52, line 12, strike “(b)” and insert “(c)”.

On page 52, line 13, strike “subsection (a)” and insert “subsection (b)”.

On page 53, line 18, strike “(c)” and insert “(d)”.

On page 53, line 25, strike “subsection (a)” and insert “subsection (b)”.

On page 54, line 4, strike “(d)” and insert “(e)”.

On page 54, line 8, strike “subsection (a)” and insert “subsection (b)”.

On page 54, line 11, strike “(e)” and insert “(f)”.

On page 54, line 15, insert before the period the following “, which length of time may be not more than 6 years from milestone B to initial operational capability”.

SA 4199. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 874. PILOT PROGRAM ON EXPANDED USE OF MENTOR-PROTEGE AUTHORITY.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of treating small business concerns described in subsection (b) as disadvantaged small business concerns under the Mentor-Protege Program under section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (10 U.S.C. 2302 note).

(b) **COVERED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.**—The small business concerns described in this subsection are small business concerns that—

(1) are participants in the Small Business Innovative Research Program of the Department of Defense established pursuant to section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638); and

(2) as determined by the Secretary, are developing technologies that will assist in detecting or defeating Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) or other critical force protection measures.

(c) **TREATMENT AS DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of the pilot program, the Secretary may treat a small business concern described in subsection (b) as a disadvantaged small business concern under the Mentor-Protege Program.

(2) **MENTOR-PROTEGE AGREEMENT.**—Any eligible business concerned approved for participation in the Mentor-Protege Program as a mentor firm may enter into a mentor-protege agreement and provide assistance described in section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 with respect to a small business concern treated under paragraph (1) as a disadvantaged small business concern under the Mentor-Protege Program.

(d) **FUNDING.**—Funds for any reimbursement provided to a mentor firm under section 831(g) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 with respect to a small business concern described in subsection (b) under the pilot program shall be derived from funds available for the Small Business Innovative Research Program of the Department of Defense.

(e) **SUNSET.**—

(1) **AGREEMENTS.**—No mentor-protege agreement may be entered into under the pilot program after September 30, 2010.

(2) **OTHER MATTERS.**—No reimbursement may be paid, and no credit toward the attainment of a subcontracting goal may be granted, under the pilot program after September 30, 2013.

(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than March 1, 2009, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the pilot program. The report shall—

(1) describe the extent to which mentor-protege agreements have been entered under the pilot program; and

(2) describe and assess the technological benefits arising under such agreements.

(g) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “small business concern” has the meaning given that term in section 831(m)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991.

SA 4200. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 358, strike lines 18 and 19 and insert the following:

SEC. 864. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLAN FOR CONTINGENCY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

On page 358, beginning on line 21, strike “Secretary of Defense” and all that follows through “interagency plan” and insert “Secretary of Defense shall develop a plan for the Department of Defense”.

On page 359, beginning on line 1, strike “interagency plan” and insert “plan of the Department of Defense”.

On page 359, line 17, strike “United States Government” and insert “Department”.

On page 360, line 20, strike “government procedures” and insert “procedures for the Department”.

On page 361, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(c) **UTILIZATION IN PLAN FOR INTERAGENCY PROCEDURES FOR STABILIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS.**—To the extent practicable, the elements of the plan of the Department of Defense for contingency program management required by subsection (a) shall be taken into account in the development of the plan for the establishment of interagency operating procedures for stabilization and reconstruction operations required by section 1222.

SA 4201. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 362, line 1, strike “by striking” and insert “by inserting”.

SA 4202. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 352. REPORTS ON WITHDRAWAL OR DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT FROM RESERVE UNITS FOR SUPPORT OF RESERVE UNITS BEING MOBILIZED AND OTHER UNITS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The National Guard continues to provide invaluable resources to meet national security, homeland defense, and civil emergency mission requirements.

(2) Current military operations, transnational threats, and domestic emergencies will increase the use of the National Guard for both military support to civilian authorities and to execute the military strategy of the United States.

(3) To meet the demand for certain types of equipment for continuing United States military operations, the Army has required Army National Guard Units to leave behind many items for use by follow-on forces.

(4) The Governors of every State and 2 Territories expressed concern in February 2006 that units returning from deployment overseas without adequate equipment would have trouble carrying out their homeland security and domestic disaster duties.

(5) The Department of Defense estimates that it has directed the Army National Guard to leave overseas more than 75,000 items valued at approximately \$1,760,000,000 to support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

(6) Department of Defense Directive 1225.6 requires a replacement and tracking plan be developed within 90 days for equipment of the reserve components of the Armed Forces that is transferred to the active components of the Armed Forces.

(7) In October 2005, the Government Accountability Office found that the Department of Defense can only account for about 45 percent of such equipment and has not developed a plan to replace such equipment.

(8) The Government Accountability Office also found that without a completed and implemented plan to replace all National Guard equipment left overseas, Army National Guard units will likely face growing equipment shortages and challenges in regaining readiness for future missions.

(b) **REPORTS ON WITHDRAWAL OR DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT FROM RESERVE UNITS FOR SUPPORT OF RESERVE UNITS BEING MOBILIZED AND OTHER UNITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 1007 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 10208 the following new section:

“§ 10208a. Mobilization: reports on withdrawal or diversion of equipment from Reserve units for support of Reserve units being mobilized and other units

“(a) **REPORT REQUIRED ON WITHDRAWAL OR DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after withdrawing or diverting equipment from a unit of the Reserve to a unit of the Reserve being ordered to active duty under section 12301, 12302, or 12304 of this title, or to a unit or units of a regular component of the armed forces, for purposes of the discharge of the mission of such unit or units, the Secretary concerned shall submit to the Secretary of Defense a report on the withdrawal or diversion of equipment.

“(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report under subsection (a) on equipment withdrawn or diverted shall include the following:

“(1) A plan to replace such equipment within the unit from which withdrawn or diverted.

“(2) If such equipment is to remain in a theater of operations while the unit from which withdrawn or diverted returns to the United States, a plan to provide such unit with replacement equipment appropriate to ensure the continuation of the readiness training of such unit.

“(3) A signed memorandum of understanding between the active or reserve component to which withdrawn or diverted and the reserve component from which withdrawn or diverted that specifies—

“(A) how such equipment will be tracked by the unit or units to which withdrawn or diverted; and

“(B) when such equipment will be returned to the unit from which withdrawn or diverted.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1007 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 10208 the following new item:

“10208a. Mobilization: reports on withdrawal or diversion of equipment from Reserve units for support of Reserve units being mobilized and other units.”.

SA 4203. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 437, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. UNITED STATES POLICY ON IRAQ.

(a) WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM IRAQ.—

(1) SCHEDULE FOR WITHDRAWAL.—The President shall reach an agreement as soon as possible with the Government of Iraq on a schedule for the withdrawal of United States combat troops from Iraq by December 31, 2006, leaving only forces that are critical to completing the mission of standing up Iraqi security forces.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS REQUIRED.—The President shall consult with Congress regarding such schedule and shall present such withdrawal agreement to Congress immediately upon the completion of the agreement.

(3) MAINTENANCE OF OVER-THE-HORIZON TROOP PRESENCE.—The President should maintain an over-the-horizon troop presence to prosecute the war on terror and protect regional security interests.

(b) IRAQ SUMMIT.—The President should convene a summit as soon as possible that includes the leaders of the Government of Iraq, leaders of the governments of each country bordering Iraq, representatives of the Arab League, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, representatives of the European Union, and leaders of the governments of each permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, for the purpose of reaching a comprehensive political agreement for Iraq that addresses fundamental issues including federalism, oil revenues, the militias, security guarantees, reconstruction, economic assistance, and border security.

SA 4204. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 437, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON IRAQ SUMMIT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Iraq is destabilized by an ongoing insurgency and increasing sectarian violence.

(2) General John P. Abizaid, the head of the United States Central Command, said in

March 2006 that “sectarian violence is a greater concern for us security-wise right now than the insurgency”.

(3) General George Casey, the senior United States military commander in Iraq, and Zalmay Khalilzad, the United States Ambassador to Iraq, have stated that “the principal threat to stability is shifting from an insurgency grounded in rejection of the new political order to sectarian violence grounded in mutual fears and recriminations”.

(4) A national unity government and a comprehensive political agreement among Shias, Sunnis, and Kurds are essential to end sectarian violence, undermine the insurgency, and bring stability to Iraq.

(5) On May 20, 2006, the Iraqi National Assembly swore in a national unity government under the leadership of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki.

(6) A comprehensive political agreement must resolve fundamental issues dividing Iraqis and undermining stability, including federalism, oil revenues, the militias, security guarantees, reconstruction, and border security.

(7) Reaching a comprehensive agreement that will help bring stability to Iraq is in the best interests of Iraq’s neighbors, the region, and the international community.

(8) Iraq’s neighbors, representatives of the Arab League, and the international community as represented by NATO, the European Union, and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council can assist in the process of bringing about such a comprehensive agreement.

(9) The President should expedite this process by bringing together these parties and the leaders of the new Government of Iraq.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should convene a summit as soon as possible that includes the leaders of the Government of Iraq, leaders of the governments of each country bordering Iraq, representatives of the Arab League, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, representatives of the European Union, and leaders of the governments of each permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, for the purpose of reaching a comprehensive political agreement for Iraq that addresses fundamental issues including federalism, oil revenues, the militias, security guarantees, reconstruction, economic assistance, and border security.

SA 4205. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 707. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON INCREASE IN COPAYMENTS UNDER RETAIL PHARMACY SYSTEM OF PHARMACY BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Subsection (a)(6) of section 1074g of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 702(b) of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) During the period beginning on April 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2007, the cost sharing requirements established under this paragraph for pharmaceutical agents

available through retail pharmacies covered by paragraph (2)(E)(ii) may not exceed amounts as follows:

“(i) In the case of generic agents, \$3.
“(ii) In the case of formulary agents, \$9.
“(iii) In the case of nonformulary agents, \$22.”.

SA 4206. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 480, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 1304. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON PROVISION OF COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION ASSISTANCE.

(a) REPEAL OF RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) SOVIET NUCLEAR THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 1991.—Section 211(b) of the Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991 (title II of Public Law 102-228; 22 U.S.C. 2551 note) is repealed.

(2) COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 1993.—Section 1203(d) of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 (title XII of Public Law 103-160; 22 U.S.C. 5952(d)) is repealed.

(3) RUSSIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION FACILITIES.—Section 1305 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65; 22 U.S.C. 5952 note) is repealed.

(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF OTHER RESTRICTIONS.—

Section 502 of the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets Support Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-511; 106 Stat. 3338; 22 U.S.C. 5852) shall not apply to any Cooperative Threat Reduction program.

SA 4207. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REDEPLOYMENT OF ARMED FORCES FROM IRAQ.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States Policy in Iraq Act (section 1227 of Public Law 109-163) states that “calendar year 2006 should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty, with Iraqi security forces taking the lead for the security of a free and sovereign Iraq, thereby creating the conditions for the phased redeployment of United States forces from Iraq”.

(2) Congress, through such Act, declared its policy that “United States military forces should not stay in Iraq any longer than required” and the people of Iraq should be so advised.

(3) In such Act, Congress also stated that “the Administration should tell the leaders

of all groups and political parties in Iraq that they need to make the compromises necessary to achieve the broad-based and sustainable political settlement that is essential for defeating the insurgency in Iraq, within the schedule they set for themselves".

(4) Congress also said, the Executive Branch needs to explain to Congress and to the people of the United States the strategy of the United States for the successful completion of its mission in Iraq.

(5) Since March 2003, Congress has appropriated approximately \$300,000,000,000 for combat operations in Iraq.

(6) The nature of violence in Iraq has changed in the last 6 months from insurgent and terrorist conducted attacks to sectarian and ethnic killings, increasing the prospect of a broader civil war and the involuntary involvement of the Armed Forces of the United States in this internal conflict.

(7) Trained and equipped security forces of Iraq have increased in number to roughly 250,000 troops, and there are now more than 70 battalions capable of taking the lead in some form.

(8) Moqtada al-Sadr and other radical religious leaders control and direct death squads and militia forces, fomenting internecine warfare and the expansion of religious and ethnic tensions that are a major destabilizing factor in Iraq.

(9) Iraq has now completed historic elections resulting in the creation of a permanent 275 member assembly and a Constitution, and the recent selection of Prime Minister-designate Nuri al-Maliki will further solidify a governing structure for the country.

(10) The establishment of a Parliament and a working government signals an opportunity for the people of Iraq to take control of their own destiny.

(11) An open-ended major military presence of the United States in Iraq will continue to inspire efforts by Al Qaeda, Iran, and other state sponsors of terrorism to target directly soldiers of the United States throughout Iraq.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) following 3 years of military operations in Iraq, the United States should transition its missions to a mission that focuses on logistical support; and training of the military and police forces of Iraq;

(2) the United States should begin to downsize the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq with the goal of ending the presence of the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq within 18 months from the date of the enactment of this Act, except for logistical and training personnel;

(3) a plan to redeploy the Armed Forces of the United States either to the United States or to other critical areas of potential terrorist conflict such as Afghanistan should be prepared immediately; and

(4) a schedule and timeline for the downsizing and deployment of the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq should be prepared and sent to Congress for review within 60 days from the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and once every 3 months thereafter, until all members of the Armed Forces of the United States have redeployed from Iraq, the President shall submit to Congress an unclassified report on the policy of the United States regarding Iraq and the strategic downsizing of the structure of the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report shall include, to the extent practicable, the following unclassified information:

(A) The diplomatic, military, and economic steps being taken to commence the immediate, phased redeployment of Armed Forces from Iraq.

(B) Actions being taken by the United States to strengthen the capacity of the Interior, Defense, and other related ministries of Iraq to provide for nationwide security and a stable living environment for all of the people of Iraq.

(C) Efforts of the United States to train and logistically support the military, police and other security units of Iraq for purposes of completing the transfer of the duties and responsibility for maintaining peace in Iraq, and providing for a civil and just society in Iraq.

(D) Activities of the United States designed to sustain and strengthen a broad-based political settlement among all ethnic and religious groups in Iraq that is essential for defeating the insurgency, successfully combating death squads and militia groups, and restoring law and order across the country.

(E) A detailed, substantive overview of implementation plans for a balanced, strategic downsizing and repositioning of Armed Forces in Iraq at the earliest possible date.

SA 4208. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. LEVIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE COM-MENDABLE ACTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) on June 7, 2006, the United States Armed Forces conducted an air raid near the City of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, that resulted in the death of Ahmad Fadeel al-Nazal al-Khalayleh, better known as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist organization and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq;

(2) Zarqawi, as the operational commander of al-Qaeda in Iraq, led a brutal campaign of suicide bombings, car bombings, assassinations, and abductions that caused the deaths of many members of the United States Armed Forces, civilian officials of the United States Government, thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians, and innocent civilians of other nations;

(3) Zarqawi publicly swore his allegiance to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda in 2004, and changed the name of his terrorist organization from the "Monotheism and Holy War Group" to "al-Qaeda in Iraq";

(4) in an audiotape broadcast in December 2004, Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda's worldwide terrorist organization, called Zarqawi "the prince of al-Qaeda in Iraq";

(5) 3 perpetrators confessed to being paid by Zarqawi to carry out the October 2002 assassination of the United States diplomat, Lawrence Foley, in Amman, Jordan;

(6) the Monotheism and Holy War Group claimed responsibility for—

(A) the August 2003 suicide attack that destroyed the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad and killed the United Nations envoy to Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello along with 21 other people; and

(B) the suicide attack on the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf that occurred less than 2 weeks later, which killed at least 85 people, including the Ayatollah Sayed Mohammed Baqr al-Hakim, and wounded dozens more;

(7) Zarqawi is believed to have personally beheaded American hostage Nicholas Berg in May 2004;

(8) in May 2004, Zarqawi was implicated in a car bombing that killed Izzadine Salim, the rotating president of the Iraqi Governing Council;

(9) in November 2005, al-Qaeda in Iraq attacked 3 hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing at least 67 innocent civilians;

(10) Zarqawi and his terrorist organization were directly responsible for numerous other brutal terrorist attacks against the American and coalition troops, Iraqi security forces and recruits, and innocent Iraqi civilians;

(11) Zarqawi sought to turn Iraq into a safe haven for al-Qaeda;

(12) to achieve that end, Zarqawi stated his opposition to the democratically elected government of Iraq and worked to divide the Iraqi people, foment sectarian violence, and incite a civil war in Iraq; and

(13) the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, along with coalition partners and the Iraqi Security Forces, should be commended for their courage and extraordinary efforts to track down the most wanted terrorist in Iraq and to secure a free and prosperous future for the people of Iraq.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) commends the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, along with coalition partners, for the actions taken through June 7, 2006, that resulted in the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist organization and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq;

(2) commends the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies for this action and their exemplary performance in striving to bring freedom, democracy, and security to the people of Iraq;

(3) commends the coalition partners of the United States, the new government of Iraq, and members of the Iraqi Security Forces for their invaluable assistance in that operation and their extraordinary efforts to secure a free and prosperous Iraq;

(4) commends our civilian and military leadership for their continuing efforts to eliminate the leadership of al-Qaeda in Iraq, and also commends the new government of Iraq, led by Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki, for its contribution to that achievement;

(5) recognizes that the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is a victory for American and coalition forces in the global war on terror and a blow to the al-Qaeda terrorist organization;

(6) commends the Iraqi Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki on the finalization of the new Iraqi cabinet;

(7) urges the democratically elected government in Iraq to use this opportunity to defeat the terrorist enemy, to put an end to ethnic and sectarian violence, and to achieve a free, prosperous, and secure future for Iraq; and

(8) affirms that the Senate will continue to support the United States Armed Forces, the democratically elected unity government of Iraq, and the people of Iraq in their quest to secure a free, prosperous, and democratic Iraq.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Monday, June 19, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony regarding implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard in the 2005 Energy Bill and the future potential of biofuels such as biodiesel, cellulosic ethanol, and E85.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact John Peschke at (202) 224-4797, or Shannon Ewan at (202) 224-7555.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the hearing previously scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Thursday, June 15, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the National Park Service's Revised Draft Management Policies, including potential impact of the policies on park operations, park resources, wilderness areas, recreation, and interaction with gateway communities.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Tom Lillie at (202) 224-5161, David Szymanski at (202) 224-6293, or Sara Zecher at (202) 224-8276.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

S. 574, a bill to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to increase the authorization of appropriations and modify the date on which the authority of the Secretary of the Interior terminates under the Act; S. 1387, a bill to provide for an update of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, to extend the authority of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, to authorize the undertaking of a special resource study of sites and landscape features within the Corridor, and to authorize additional appropriations for the Corridor; S. 1721, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes; S. 2037, a bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; and S. 2645, a bill to establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Tom Lillie at (202) 224-5161, David Szymanski at (202) 224-6293, or Sara Zecher at (202) 224-8276.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEETCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 12, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony regarding the implementation of sections 641 through 645 of The Energy Policy Act of 2005, the next generation nuclear plant project within the Department of Energy.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 12, 2006, at 3 p.m. to hold a hearing on the U.S.-Uruguay Bilateral Investment Treaty.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the staff mem-

bers of the Committee on Armed Services—both Republican and Democrat—appearing on the list that I send to the desk be extended the privileges of the floor during the consideration of S. 2766, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

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

The list is as follows:

Charles S. Abell
Richard D. DeBobs
June M. Borawski
Leah C. Brewer
William M. Caniano
Jonathan D. Clark
Fletcher L. Cork
Christine E. Cowart
Daniel J. Cox, Jr.
Madelyn R. Creedon
Marie Fabrizio Dickinson
Regina A. Dube
Gabriella Eisen
Evelyn N. Farkas
Richard W. Fieldhouse
Creighton Greene
Micah H. Harris
Bridget W. Higgins
Ambrose R. Hock
Gary J. Howard
Gregory T. Kiley
Jessica L. Kingston
Michael J. Kuiken
Gerald J. Leeling
Peter K. Levine
Sandra E. Luff
Derek J. Maurer
Michael J. McCord
Elaine A. McCusker
William G.P. Monahan
David M. Morriss
Lucian L. Niemeyer
Stanley R. O'Connor, Jr.
Cindy Pearson
John H. Quirk V
Benjamin L. Rubin
Lynn F. Rusten
Catherine E. Sendak
Arun A. Seraphin
Jill L. Simodejka
Robert M. Soofer
Sean G. Stackley
Scott W. Stucky
Kristine L. Svinicki
Diana G. Tabler
Mary Louise Wagner
Richard F. Walsh
Pendred K. Wilson

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator REID, I ask unanimous consent that Robin Tibaduiza, a Defense Fellow in his office, be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MCCAIN's legislative fellow, Navy LCDR Damien Christopher, be granted floor privileges during the debate on this bill.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to Mark Brunner, a military fellow in my office, for the duration of the Senate's debate on S. 2766, National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

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

Mr. WARNER. That having been done, I ask unanimous consent for privileges of the floor for Mark Brunner, a military fellow in my office, for the duration of this bill.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:45 a.m., Tuesday, June 13. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for up to an hour, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; further, that following morning business, the Senate then resume consideration of S. 2766, the Defense authorization bill, as under the order. I further ask that the Senate stand in recess following the vote on the previously ordered amendment until 2:30 p.m. to accommodate the weekly policy luncheons and the official photograph for the 109th Congress.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the official Senate photograph of the 109th Congress will be tomorrow. We need to encourage everyone to be prompt and to be in their seats at the appropriate time right after the policy luncheons.

Today, the Senate turned to the Department of Defense authorization bill. Senators who have amendments should be consulting the bill managers so they can get in the queue to offer their amendments. We can expect the first vote of the day tomorrow afternoon at 12:15. This vote will be on the Zarqawi amendment to the Defense authorization bill.

Senators are reminded that tomorrow at 3:30 p.m., we will have a cloture vote on the Stickler nomination; that is, to head the Mine Safety and Health Administration. This week we also will address an emergency supplemental appropriations conference report. And, finally, for the third time I reiterate, the photograph for the 109th Congress, for the Senate, will be tomorrow at 2:15 p.m., and we ask that all Senators be seated in the Chamber no later than 2:15, right after the policy lunches.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous con-

sent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:54 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 12, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MARGO M. MCKAY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, VICE VERNON BERNARD PARKER.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

MARC SPITZER, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2011, VICE NORA MEAD BROWNELL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RANDALL M. FORT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH), VICE THOMAS FINGAR, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

LISA GODBEY WOOD, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE DUDLEY H. BOWEN, JR., RETIRING.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STEPHEN S. MCMILLIN, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE JOEL DAVID KAPLAN.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

DRUE PEARCE, OF ALASKA, TO BE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR ALASKA NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FOR THE TERM PRESCRIBED BY LAW. (NEW POSITION)