

under reported and these abuses significantly shorten the lives of older victims. A single episode of mistreatment can “tip-over” an otherwise independent, productive life, triggering a downward spiral that can result in depression, serious illness and even death.

Too many of our frailest citizens suffer needlessly and cannot simply move away from the abuse. Frequently, they cannot express their wishes or suffering. And, even if they can, often they do not, fearing retaliation.

This amendment will elevate elder abuse, neglect and exploitation to the national stage in a lasting way. We want to ensure Federal leadership to States and to provide resources for services, prevention and enforcement efforts to those on the front lines.

A crime is a crime whoever the victim and wherever it occurs. Crimes against seniors must be elevated to the level of child abuse and crimes against women.

It is clear in confronting child abuse and violence against women that the best method of prevention is three-pronged—through law enforcement, public health and social services. With grant programs in the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice, this amendment ensures a combined public health-law enforcement coordination at all levels. In addition, because elder abuse and neglect have been virtually absent from the national research agenda, this amendment establishes research projects to fuel future legislation.

These measures lay the foundation to address, in a meaningful and lasting way, a devastating and growing problem that has been invisible for far too long. We can no longer neglect these difficult issues afflicting frail and elderly victims.

This effort takes numerous steps to prevent and treat elder abuse:

It improves prevention and intervention by funding projects to make older Americans safer in their homes, facilities and neighborhoods, to enhance long-term care staffing and to stop financial fraud before the money goes out the door.

It enhances detection by creating forensic centers and developing expertise to enhance detection of the problem.

It bolsters treatment by funding efforts to find better ways to mitigate the devastating consequences of elder mistreatment.

It increases collaboration by requiring ongoing coordination at the Federal level, among Federal, State, local and private entities, law enforcement, long-term care facilities, consumer advocates and families.

It aids prosecution by assisting law enforcement and prosecutors to ensure that those who abuse our Nation’s frail elderly will be held accountable, wherever the crime occurs and whoever the victim.

It helps consumers by creating a resource center for family caregivers and

those trying to make decisions about different types of long-term care providers.

More and more of us will enjoy longer life in relative health, but with this gift comes the responsibility to prevent the needless suffering too often borne by our frailest citizens.

Let me take a moment to thank so many people who contributed to the development of this legislation. First, I thank Senator HATCH for joining me and working with me as a lead cosponsor of the bill. Without the support of Senator GRASSLEY and Senator BAUCUS, the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Finance, this bill could never have advanced to this point. I deeply appreciate of their commitment, and perseverance to seeing this through the committee. I must thank all the members of the committee for their unanimous support of this bill. Further, I thank the 45 bipartisan Senate cosponsors and the 91 bipartisan House cosponsors, lead by Representative RAHM EMANUEL, Majority Whip ROY BLUNT, and Representative PETER KING for their tireless efforts toward passage in the House.

No legislation can advance without the efforts of an immensely dedicated staff. I would like to take this opportunity to mention the many individuals who worked to ensure the passage of this bill. I thank my Staff Director of the Special Committee on Aging, Michelle Easton, for assembling a talented staff and laying the groundwork for this important legislation, and my chief of staff Fred Hatfield for his leadership. I thank my chief investigative counsel, Lauren Fuller, for leading numerous hearings examining the nature and extent of elder abuse that resulted in the development of this legislation and for her tireless efforts to see it through to completion. I thank the following present and former staff of the Special Committee who worked on various aspects of the hearings and legislation, making many sacrifices in the process: Cecil Swamidoss, Janet Forlini, Phil Thevenet, Joy Cameron, Matt Lavigna, Arika Pierce, Dana Dupre, Kori Forster, Elaine Dalpiaz, Scott Mulhauser, Ryan McGinn and Patricia Hameister.

I also thank members of the Committee on Finance who went above and beyond the call of duty to shepherd this legislation: Ted Totman, Kolan Davis, Russ Sullivan, Bill Dauster, Liz Fowler, Mark Hayes, Andrea Cohen, David Schwartz, Emilia DiSanto, Becky Shipp, Chad Groover, Carla Martin and Robert Merulla.

I want to also mention the efforts of staff of other members including Patti DeLoatche, Bruce Artim, Kevin O’Scannlain, and Wan Kim with Senator HATCH; Pete Spiro and Liz Smith with Representative RAHM EMANUEL; Kevin Fogarty with Representative PETER KING; and Joe Trauger with Majority Whip ROY BLUNT. I would particularly like to thank the leadership of my colleagues in the House of Rep-

resentatives, Representative EMANUEL, Representative KING and Majority Whip ROY BLUNT for their efforts throughout the process.

There are so many individuals across the country to recognize for their advocacy in passing the Elder Justice Act. However, there are too many to recognize here. So, I thank the 357 strong Elder Justice Coalition, lead by Robert Blancato, for their passionate advocacy on this legislation, and the members of the steering committee: National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, National Association of State Units on Aging, National Association of APS Administrators, and National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs. Last but not least, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to Marie-Therese Connolly, Nursing Home Initiative Coordinator at the U.S. Department of Justice who served as a resource and who provided immeasurable assistance in the development of this bill.

I am deeply gratified by how close the Senate came to passing the Elder Justice Act on the eve of my retirement from the Congress and look forward to this bill being passed expeditiously and signed into law in the next Congress so that elder justice can become a reality for those Americans who need it most.

IN TRIBUTE TO COL ANTHONY WALKER, USMC

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I rise to note the recent death of Marine Corps COL Anthony Walker, a Rhode Islander who served his country with the highest distinction.

After graduating in 1939 from Yale College, Mr. Walker enlisted in the Marine Corps, was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1941 and was deployed to the South Pacific during World War II.

As a Raider Company commander, he led part of the successful attack on Viru Harbor, New Georgia. He was wounded in New Georgia at the battle for Bairoko. Returning to combat, he fought in the campaigns of Emirau, Guam, and Okinawa. In Okinawa, he commanded the 6th Marine Division’s Reconnaissance Company, leading numerous night patrols and attacks. The end of the war marked 30 continuous months for him in the Pacific Theater.

Colonel Walker later served tours of duty as a U.N. observer in Kashmir, as a battalion and regimental commander in the Fleet Marine Force, as a commander of Marine Barracks at Fort Campbell, KY, and at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He was a student and an instructor at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, and in 1971 concluded 32 years of active duty, including a year in South Vietnam as the Operations Officer of the Joint Military Assistance Command.

In the Marine Corps, this Vietnam War veteran was known as “Cold Steel” in recognition of his particular

skill in close combat and small unit tactics. Colonel Walker was highly regarded for his tactical and leadership skills. His decorations included two Silver Stars, the Purple Heart, a Presidential Unit Citation, a Navy Unit Commendation and the Legion of Merit.

A devoted military historian, he published two books and numerous articles, many on the Revolutionary War. His book, "So Few the Brave," is the definitive history of the Rhode Island regiments in the Revolution.

Colonel Walker served as president of Middletown Little League and was a volunteer for the Sachuest Point Wildlife Sanctuary. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, and the Middletown Historical Society.

Colonel Walker leaves behind Judith Walker, his wife of 57 years, three sons, William W. Walker of Winston-Salem, NC, Daniel A. Walker of Hartford, CT, and Lt. Col. Andrew D. Walker, USMC, retired, of Poolesville, MD; and six grandchildren.

Colonel Walker was a man of integrity and honesty, a leader respected and loved by his family, friends, colleagues and military alumni in the Newport area. He will truly be missed.

CWO DAVID H. GARDNER JR.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor CWO David H. Gardner Jr., an Iowa native who was killed when his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter went down near Fort Hood in Texas. A 1991 graduate of Mason City High School in Mason City, IA, David Gardner served as a helicopter pilot assigned to the 4th Infantry Division's A Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment. He had previously served in the Iowa National Guard before going on active duty in the 1990s. From October of 2003 until the following April, Chief Warrant Officer Gardner served his country in Iraq.

I ask my colleagues in the Senate and all Americans to join me today in paying tribute to Chief Warrant Officer Gardner. My deepest sympathy goes out to his friends and family, and particularly the 7-year-old daughter he leaves behind. It is my hope that she grows up knowing of the tremendous sacrifice her father made for his country and the deep appreciation America has for him. Chief Warrant Officer Gardner will always be honored as a hero who gave his life for his country, and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of a letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2004.

Hon. BILL FRIST,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: The Department of Defense takes great pride in its longstanding

and rich tradition of support to the Boy Scouts of America. Accordingly, the Department of Defense supports the proposed Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

Sincerely,

DONALD RUMSFELD.

GEORGIA AND THE TRUTH ABOUT SOUTH OSSETIA

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the republic of Georgia, America's ally in the war on terror and partner in Iraq.

I am not sure if you are aware of this, but the republic of Georgia has dispatched 150 of its troops to participate in the coalition that liberated Iraq and is now assisting in the rebuilding of that country. Last month, the Georgian government announced that it would nearly quintuple its number of forces in Iraq.

In recent weeks, much has been heard and seen of the political crisis in Ukraine. A little more than 1 year ago, a similar crisis befell Georgia following its November presidential election. As with Ukraine, the election results appeared rigged in favor of the ruling party candidate.

As we all know, the people of Georgia, through a group of brave, young reformers, patriots, and democrats, brought about historic political change in that country. Known now as the Rose Revolution, the forces of democracy, led by Mikhail Saakashvili, prevailed in Georgia and forced then-President Eduard Shevardnadze to resign. During the past year, President Saakashvili's government has dramatically reformed the Georgian government, instituting far-reaching political, economic, and legal reforms. And, just last month, the U.S. Senate passed S. Res. 472 honoring the 1-year anniversary of the Rose Revolution and recognizing the achievements the Georgian government has made in democratizing that country.

I would like to focus the remainder of my remarks on a small region in the republic of Georgia called South Ossetia, a place I'm sure relatively few Americans have heard of. But the potential for violence in this region was highlighted by the vicious terrorist attack in September of this year against a school in North Ossetia—in Beslan, Russia, just over the border from Georgian South Ossetia.

In 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved and many republics gained independence, including Georgia. But almost since the beginning, some in Russia did not accept the end of the Soviet empire. Russian overt and covert pressure worked to undermine the new-found sovereignty among bordering countries. No former republic was subject to more pressure than Georgia. Russia refused to withdraw its troops—a refusal that continues even today, some 13

years after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In South Ossetia (in north central Georgia), as well as in Abkhazia (in western Georgia), disputes broke out shortly after independence. In both South Ossetia and Abkhazia, Russian forces aided ethnic separatists as a way to weaken Georgia. They sent arms, money, "volunteers" and military advisers. In South Ossetia, Russian President Boris Yeltsin negotiated a ceasefire in 1992 and forced Georgia to accept Russian and North Ossetian "peacekeepers." In 1994, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (now the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe or OSCE) took responsibility for diplomatic efforts and monitoring in South Ossetia with the full support of the Georgian government. In 1999, the OSCE added monitoring of the Chechen-Georgian border, and later the Ingush and Dagestani portions of the Georgian border.

For 10 years following the OSCE's involvement in South Ossetia, several things happened. First, it became clear that the OSCE was unwilling or unable to take effective measures to resolve the separatist conflict—chiefly because Russia has a veto in the OSCE. The "peacekeeping" force has the Georgians out-numbered and out-gunned by South Ossetians, North Ossetians, and Russians. Any effort to expand the OSCE beyond its limited monitoring role or limited geographical area is opposed by Russia. The OSCE mission is unable to monitor Russian violations of Georgian airspace and only rarely uncovers illegal arms shipments. While individuals working in the OSCE mission perform admirably under difficult conditions, the unavoidable fact remains: the OSCE mission in Georgia is deeply and structurally flawed.

The second major development was in the economy of South Ossetia. Deeply isolated from the rest of Georgia but having a land link to the Russian Federation, South Ossetia became a giant smuggler's market—in effect criminalizing its entire economy. Cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, arms, and foodstuffs all came in duty-and-tax free. A massive open-air black market operated with impunity in Tskhinvali, the provincial capital of South Ossetia. Profit from the contraband smuggling and sale was distributed among Russian border guards, Russian military officers, and corrupt South Ossetian officials. Some foreign diplomats even suggested this smugglers paradise was positive because it provided employment and low-cost goods.

Earlier this summer, Georgian President Saakashvili decided the long-festering status quo was unacceptable—as it would be to the head of state of any democracy. What leader could tolerate separatists armed and sustained by a foreign power, the same foreign power that refuses to withdraw its own illegally stationed troops? What leader could tolerate a massive contraband market supplied directly from Russian