who strongly values religious freedom. I am appalled by the actions of Pal-
естinians who desecrated holy sites and I deplore the total abdication of leader-
ship demonstrated by the Palestinian Authority.

[On this in 1963.] a bomb exploded at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. And it took until 2001, almost 40 years later, but, we prose-
cuted and convicted a man re-
ponsible. It pains me as I think of
such horrific acts occurring and I am
pride that in America we not only
have the right to worship freely but
where we fully prosecute perpetrators
of such crimes to the fullest extent.

The lawlessness in the streets of
Gaza, the lack of human rights, and
the disrespect shown to holy sites by
the Palestinian Authority is in
marked, stark contrast to the way
Israel has treated mosques and Chris-
tian holy sites. Following the torching
of synagogues in Gaza, Israel increased
security at Arab mosques. We need no
further proof of the difference between
lawful, civilized nations and those that
have no place in the family of nations.
A government that fails to honor reli-
gious sites and, worse, lacks the ability
to restrain its citizens from commit-
ing such heinous acts demonstrates it
is not yet a partner to peace and not
yet interested in normal relations with
our great friend, the State of Israel.

Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, Executive
President of the Union of Ortho-
dox Jewish Congregations of America
said, "The destruction of a synagogue
is akin to a knife being thrust into our
very being. When synagogues are de-
stroyed, with either the connivance or
lack of action of a governing authority,
we can only ask, what kind of govern-
ment is this?"

All Americans of good will, of all
faiths, ethnicities and nationalities
feel such pain. I commend and join
President Bush who yesterday con-
demned the desecration of the syna-
gogues in Gaza and hope that all Mem-
bers of this great body do the same.

NOMINATIONS OF STEWART A.
BAKER AND JULIE L. MYERS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, regret-
tably, I was detained at a Veterans’ Af-
fairs Committee business meeting
which precluded my presence at an im-
portant nomination hearing before the
Homeland Security and Governmental
Affairs Committee on two critical
nominations for key positions within
the Department of Homeland Security.
The Senate has the responsibility to
ensure that the best qualified and most
able people serve our country. I ask
unanimous consent that my statement
for that hearing be included in the
RECORD.

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

Thank you Chairman Collins. I wish to add
my welcome to Mr. Baker, Ms. Myers, and
their families and friends.

You are here because you wish to con-
tinue your careers in public service by serv-
ing as Assistant Secretaries in the Depart-
ment of Homeland Security (DHS). These
positions demand individuals who have dem-
onstrated extensive executive level leader-
ship and the ability to manage a sizable
budget and diverse workforce. Mr. Baker, if
corrected, you will be the first DHS Assist-
ant Secretary for policy, and you will help
define the role of the Office of Policy.

Ms. Myers, you have been nominated to
lead Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
an agency that is currently facing signifi-
cant financial and human resource manage-
ment challenges.

While every nomination considered by the
Senate is important, I believe that today's
hearing will be watched carefully by the
American public who are looking to this
Committee to make sure we ask the appro-
priate, and sometimes tough, questions. The
people of Hawaii, like all Americans, want
to make sure that DHS has the
necessary experience and qualifications.

The creation of DHS in 2003 was the largest
reorganization of the federal government
since the Department of Defense was estab-
lished in 1947. The structural and agency
agencies into a single agency has created man-
agement challenges that DHS will face for
years to come. Because of these significant
challenges, DHS needs strong leaders. A
qualified assistant secretary possesses extensive
experience managing people and budgets in
addition to having experience in immigra-
ton or law enforcement or intelligence.

I am especially concerned about the cur-
rent state of ICE, which is the second largest
federal law enforcement agency with a $4 bil-
lion budget and over 15,000 employees in
over 400 offices around the world.

ICE has extraordinary reach, extraor-
dinary responsibilities for our national secu-
ritу and extraordinary problems.

Financial difficulties have resulted in hir-
ning freezes and reductions in training, bo-
muses, and travel. ICE’s financial crisis has
resulted in DHS reprogramming $500 million
in FY 04 and FY 05 funds and requesting an
additional $257 million in the April 2005
emergency supplemental. Despite assurances
that ICE’s financial problems have been re-
solved, DHS Inspector General Richard Skin-
ner testified in July 2005 that ICE cannot
properly account for millions of dollars
and is not ready to serve as the lead financial
management system. This financial crisis has
had an adverse impact on the readiness
and morale of the ICE workforce.

ICE needs strong, experienced leadership
to repair these management problems.

Mr. Baker, the Administration has sub-
mitted legislation to the Congress that this
Committee is now considering which would
create the position of an Undersecretary for
Policy. According to Secretary Chertoff’s
transmittal letter to the Congress on his
proposal, dated July 13, 2005, the new Office
of Policy “will lead a unified, mission-foc-
cused policy approach” and will include a
number of existing units, such as the Office
of International Affairs, the Special Assist-
ant to the Secretary for Private Sector Co-
operation, the Border Security Policy and Planning
Office, elements of the Border and Transportation Se-
curity Office of International Enforcement,
the Homeland Security Policy and Planning

In addition, the Secretary is proposing to add
a strategic policy planning office and a refugee
policy coordinator.

This is a non-trivial range of new respon-
sibilities and will require someone with ex-
tensive management experience and vision.

I would argue that the key focus of this
office should be on strategic planning. Given
the nature of the Department’s enormous
broadth of responsibilities, someone is
needed who can provide focus and direc-
tion to the mission of preventing and re-
spending to terrorist attacks and natural
disasters.

Mr. Baker, you are being nominated for
the position of Assistant Secretary with the
expectation of moving into the Under secre-
tary position should the Congress pass the
recommendation. One of the issues this Com-
mittee will have to address is whether you
will need to be reconfirmed at a later date
for that higher position should you be con-
formed for the Assistant Secretary position.

One of the lessons learned from the Hurri-
cane Katrina response is that the senior offi-
cials of an agency should have demonstrated
leadership skills. The positions of Assistant
Secretary for ICE and Assistant Secretary
for Policy are no exception.

I would like to draw the attention of my
colleagues to one measure of leadership
skills: the standards the Office of Personnel
Management has developed for the govern-
ment’s career Senior Executive Service
(SES).

To qualify for an SES position, a candidate
must possess the following five executive
qualifications: leading change; leading peo-
ple to realize results driven; having business
acumen; and building coalitions/communica-
tions.

SES candidates demonstrate these qualifi-
cations through experience in key execu-
tive skills such as leading others to rapidly
adjust organizational behavior and work
methods; supervising and managing a diverse
workforce; developing strategic human cap-
tal management plans; establishing per-
formance standards and plans; managing the
budgetary process; overseeing the allocation
of financial resources; and developing and
maintaining positive working relationships
with internal groups and external groups
such as Congress, the Office of Management
and Budget, and the White House.

These qualifications and experiences help
ensure that the federal government’s senior
executives have the ability to establish a
clear vision for the organization and to drive
others to succeed. While political appointees
are not required to meet these qualifica-
tions, I believe it would be difficult for an
agency head to be successful without them.

I look forward to this opportunity to hear
from Mr. Baker and Ms. Myers. Thank you
Madam Chairman.
TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD B. MYERS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to General Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for his lifetime of service and unflagging dedication to the United States Armed Forces and our country.

As both a soldier and a leader, spanning 40 years of military service, General Myers contributions to our peace and security, and that of our children and grandchildren, are a reminder of the hallmark in military history. During his stewardship, under sometimes harsh scrutiny, and with high national security stakes at hand, General Myers has repeatedly shown his Kansas common sense, leading our military through two wars and a host of other challenges with a steady hand.

Dick Myers was well prepared for leadership. Born in Kansas City, MO, in 1942, General Myers graduated from Shawnee H. High School and attended Kansas State University, where he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC and was commissioned second lieutenant in 1965. After his commissioning, General Myers entered pilot training Air Force Base, Oklahoma. As a command pilot, he logged over 4,000 flying hours, including 600 combat hours over Vietnam and Laos. Serving in a wide variety of assignments over the next several decades, General Myers assumed the duties of Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in March 2000.

On October 1, 2001, just weeks after the September 11 terrorist attacks, General Myers was named the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As the first Vice Chairman to ascend to the office, General Myers served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council, and played a critical role in planning and execution of the Global War on Terrorism, including the important Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

During General Myers tenure as the chairman, he was constantly faced with unique challenges and responsibilities with both frustrating and emotional circumstances, from the worst terrorist attacks on the United States in our proud history to fighting overseas terrorists and the enemies of freedom and democracy. Yet, despite all of the challenges, General Myers maintained a positive, forward looking determination and attitude, and never faltered in his responsibility to our men and women serving in the armed forces today.

General Myers tenure and accomplishments were not limited to the Global War on Terrorism, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under General Myers leadership, the Joint Staff produced a far-reaching National Military Strategy, complemented by a National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism, to guide the Armed Forces for the challenges of the 21st Century. This strategy serves as a template for the Global War on Terrorism, and was and will be truly instrumental in bringing freedom to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

General Myers oversaw the establishment of the United States Northern Command, or NORTHCOM, the first combatant command responsible for the homeland defense of the continental United States. As part of this effort, the chairman advocated joint war fighting among the services and called on the entire U.S. Government to expand the culture of jointness in the interagency and international communities. This role truly shown great leadership in his efforts to transform and modernize the military.

General Myers should also be recognized for his humanitarian role—a mission many times missing from the headlines. In late 2004, in response to the horrific events surrounding the Indian Ocean Tsunami, General Myers oversaw “Operation Unified Assistance”, the largest coordinated and executed relief effort since the Berlin Air Lift. Designed to enable more than 15,000 Department of Defense personnel, 130 aircraft, and 20 United States Navy warships to distribute more than 400,000 gallons of water, 2,000 tons of food, and almost 3,000 tons of other supplies to those in need, the mission was a success.

General Myers impeccable service and brave leadership are also reflected in the awards and decorations he has received throughout his career. General Myers is the recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with eighteen oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, and Joint Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with “V” device with three oak leaf clusters.

Mr. President, today I have mentioned but a few of General Richard Myers numerous accomplishments. I not only consider General Myers a strong military leader, in times of both war and peace, and a critically important person in the defense of our great Nation, I am privileged to call him a friend and a colleague. I have often thought about those of us living on Front Street in Dodge City, KS, during our States’ pioneer days, there is no person I would rather have by my side than Richard Myers. I know that a grateful Nation shares my appreciation for the outstanding and honorable man and a strong and steadfast military leader during a truly trying time, and I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to him and his wife Mary Jo for the years they have devoted to our country and to the betterment of the United States Armed Forces. General Myers, we wish you well.

TRIBUTE TO PAT BOONE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to acting and music legend Pat Boone.

While most of us remember him as one of the greatest singers of the 1950’s, he is also known for his abiding Christian faith and strong moral standards which have sustained him throughout his life even during the height of his career in the entertainment industry.

Today, Mr. Boone is the spokesman for the 60 Plus Association, a non-partisan senior citizens advocacy group.

He recently was interviewed by John Gizzi with Human Events. I ask to have published in the Record an article titled “Pat Boone on Politics, Porn, and the Death Tax”.

The article follows.

[From Human Events Online, Aug. 19, 2005]

PAT BOONE ON POLITICS, PORN AND THE DEATH TAX

(By John Gizzi)

Pat Boone, 71, is one of America’s most beloved entertainers. In the 1950s, he was the nation’s second most popular singer after...