

By providing this desperately needed help, we save lives, strengthen alliances, and promote peace and stability.

I have often talked about humanitarian aid as a currency for peace. The Foreign Operations appropriations bill wisely sets aside targeted funding for global health programs to advance that cause.

Along with tackling the Global HIV/Aids crisis, the Foreign Operations appropriations bill supports the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund. These funds help reduce child mortality and morbidity, and combat other, serious public health problems.

One of the most important public health crises this bill addresses is the lack of clean, drinkable water in many regions of the world.

Every 15 seconds a child dies because of a disease contracted from unclean water. Fully, 90 percent of infant deaths can be attributed to this one, basic cause.

In total, water-related disease kills 14,000 people a day. That is over 5 million people a year, not counting the millions who are debilitated and prevented from leading healthy lives.

Cholera, typhoid, dysentery, dengue fever, trachoma, intestinal helminth infection, and schistosomiasis can all be prevented by simply providing clean, drinkable water and proper sanitation.

Funding for the Safe Water: Currency for Peace Act, which I cosponsored earlier this year, will go a long way to providing this simple, but profound necessity.

In addition to providing Foreign Operations needed and targeted humanitarian aid, the Foreign Operations appropriations bill advances the critical work of stopping the spread of WMD.

We are working closely with our friends and allies to secure stockpiles of WMD-related materials and technology and to make sure our allies have the ability to protect these sensitive materials.

The Foreign Operations appropriations bill provides over \$410 million toward our nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, and demining efforts.

One of the gravest threats we face is the threat of WMD falling into our enemy's hands.

We cannot, we must not, let this happen.

Ultimately, the goal of each and every one of our foreign operations programs must be to promote America's security and America's values. And as the last century taught us, our security and our values must go hand in hand.

Whether for humanitarian, diplomatic or security purposes, effective foreign assistance advances our vital interests and protects the homeland.

The United States remains committed to eliminating poverty, expanding prosperity, and strengthening domestic institutions abroad.

And by doing so, we advance our security and prosperity right here at home.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BEN WORTHINGTON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated steward of our national forests, Mr. Ben Worthington. Last month, Ben retired from the National Forest Service after 32 years of service. For the last 10 of these years, my home State of Kentucky was fortunate to have him serve as forest supervisor of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Ben began his forestry career at Washington State University, where he earned a degree in forest management. After graduating, he joined the Peace Corps and was relocated to Costa Rica for 2 years. Upon his return, he worked for the Forest Service in his home State of Oregon and eventually in Washington State and California. Before moving to Kentucky, he was the deputy forest supervisor at Bridger Teton National Forest in Wyoming.

As forest supervisor of the Daniel Boone National Forest, Ben oversaw the day-to-day operation and preservation of Kentucky's only national forest. The Daniel Boone National Forest covers over 700,000 acres of land from the northeastern part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky all the way to the Tennessee State line, and also includes some noncontiguous counties in eastern Kentucky. This Kentucky treasure has something for every outdoor enthusiast. With over 600 miles of trails, it can be hiked, biked, and explored on horseback. Visitors may also fish, hunt, and camp in the forest, making it a popular weekend getaway or vacation destination.

I had the privilege to team up with Ben by securing funds over the years to help with the marijuana eradication operations on or near the national forest land. Ben and his staff have worked in lockstep with the local sheriff's departments, the Kentucky State Police, and the Kentucky National Guard to identify and destroy marijuana plants. They have done a terrific job, and I know that Ben's success will be carried on by his successor.

After working for 32 years in the Forest Service, Ben plans to remain in Kentucky. His wife is active in their local community of Winchester, his mother now calls Kentucky home, and his two children attend Western Kentucky University. Ben's work ethic, dedication, and love of the land will be greatly missed, but it is time for him to start a new chapter, and I wish Ben the best in his retirement.

HONORING SGT. JOHN BASILONE, "A PLAIN SOLDIER" AND THREE OTHER MARINE LEGENDS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, on the 230th anniversary of the U.S. Marine corps, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a long-awaited set of postage stamps honoring four of the corps' greatest heroes.

Today, a new generation of Americans are risking their lives to serve

this Nation. Nearly 2,100 Americans have died in Iraq, and more than 15,000 others have been injured. It is important that we honor their sacrifices and the sacrifices of those who came before them. I would like to take a few moments to talk about the four legendary marines commemorated on the new stamps.

LTG John A. Lejeune is probably the best known of this fabled four. Regarded as "the greatest of all leathernecks," Lieutenant General Lejeune made history in World War I as the first marine to lead what was predominantly an Army division. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal from both the Army and the Navy, as well as the French Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre with Palm for his service during World War I. He is best known, however, for his foresight and determination to enhance the Marine Corps by introducing specialized amphibious assault capabilities into Marine Corps training. Marines today annually read his 1921 Birthday Message Order that summarizes the history, mission, and traditions of the Marine Corps.

LTG Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller rose through the ranks from private to become one of the Marine Corps' most celebrated leathernecks. His distinguished service and leadership during critical battles in the "Banana Wars," World War II, and the Korean War earned him five Navy Crosses and made him one of the most decorated marines ever. He led marines in two of the Corps' most daring assaults: at Guadalcanal in World War II; and at Inchon in the Korean Conflict. He died in 1971 and is still revered in the Corps today for his courage in combat and his ability to inspire confidence and loyalty and for the attention and respect he showed to those under his command.

SGM Daniel J. Daly is one of only two marines to be awarded two Medals of Honor for separate acts of heroism. According to the "Historical Dictionary of the United States Marine Corps", his "record as a fighting man remains unequalled in the annals of Marine Corps history" nearly 70 years after his death. In 1900, Sergeant Major Daly was sent to China, where he earned his first Medal of Honor during the Boxer Rebellion. In 1915, he was sent to Haiti, where he earned his second Medal of Honor fighting off nearly 400 bandits. He saw combat as a gunnery sergeant in France during World War I and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Government's Croix de Guerre with Palm. He retired in 1929 and died in 1937, and remains a legend to all marines.

The fourth of the legendary marines honored on the new postage stamps is the only one the four killed in combat. One writer described him as a "big, handsome Marine with jug ears and a smile like a neon sign." GEN Douglas MacArthur called him "a one-man Army."

Marine GySgt John Basilone was 1 of 10 children of an Italian-born tailor, Salvatore Basilone, and his wife Dora. He was born in Buffalo, NY and raised in Raritan, NJ.

He enlisted in the Army when he was 18 and served in the Philippines, where he picked up the nickname "Manila John." He fought as a light heavyweight prizefighter in the Army, going undefeated in 19 fights. He received an honorable discharge after completing his 3-year enlistment, returned home, and worked briefly as a truckdriver.

In July 1940, sensing war clouds on the horizon, John Basilone enlisted in the Marine Corps. In October 1942, he was serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, on Guadalcanal. For 6 months, the Army and Marines had fought a bloody battle to hold a critical airfield on that island. On October 24, GySgt John Basilone and 14 other marines were ordered to hold back many times that number of elite Japanese troops.

A private first class serving under him would later recall that, "Basilone had a machine gun on the go for three days and three nights without sleep." He fired machine guns, fixed guns, and crawled repeatedly through Japanese lines to get more ammunition. When the sun rose the next morning, the marines still held the airfield, and John Basilone was credited by his men with giving them the will to fight on the most terrifying night of their lives.

For his heroism at Guadalcanal, John Basilone was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and ordered home to take part in a war bonds tour. The tour brought in \$1.4 million in pledges. He crisscrossed the country, met Hollywood startlets, and even met his wife, another marine, at Camp Pendleton. He could have remained stateside for the remainder of the war but, he turned down the bars of a second lieutenant because, he said, he didn't want to become "a museum piece." In his words, "I'm a plain soldier, and I want to stay one." So just before Christmas 1944, he kissed his new wife goodbye and rejoined his "boys" in the Pacific.

On February 19, 1945, SGT John Basilone was serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 5th Marine Division during the first day of the invasion of Iwo Jima. He was on the island less than 2 hours when an enemy artillery round exploded, killing Basilone and four members of his platoon. He had just destroyed an enemy blockhouse, enabling the marines to capture another critical airfield. On his left arm were tattooed the words "Death before Dishonor." John Basilone was 27 years old.

He was awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart posthumously, making him the only enlisted marine in World War II to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, and the Purple Heart. He was also awarded the American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pa-

cific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with Star, and Presidential Unit Citation with Bar.

After the war, John Basilone was reburied at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1949, the USS Basilone, a destroyer, was commissioned in his honor. Today, a life-sized bronze statue of him watches over his hometown of Raritan, NJ, and in 1981, Raritan began a parade in his honor. It remains the only parade in the Nation dedicated to the memory of one veteran.

The National Italian American Foundation, the Order of the Sons of Italy of America, the Sergeant John Basilone Foundation, and veterans and marines organizations worked long and hard to see this "plain soldier," as John Basilone called himself, included among the marine heroes honored on the new stamps. We thank them for helping to make a new generation of Americans aware of the service and sacrifices of this son of an Italian immigrant, a true American hero.

When he died, The New York Times noted in an editorial that there always had been Americans like John Basilone, willing to fight for their country even when they knew their luck wouldn't last. "The finest monument they could have," the newspaper said, "would be an enduring resolve by all of us to this time fashion an enduring peace."

Let us never forget how much we owe John Basilone and all those who have given so much, over so many generations, so that we can live free.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DUSTIN YANCEY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I address the Senate in tribute to PFC Dustin Yancey, originally from Cedar Rapids, IA and more recently from Goose Creek, SC. Private First Class Yancey was tragically killed on November 7, 2005 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device and both Private First Class Dustin Yancey and Captain James M. Gurbisz were killed. Private First Class Yancey served with the 26th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Stewart, GA. He was only 22 years old.

I ask that the Senate, the people of Iowa, and all Americans stand today and recognize the sacrifice that Private First Class Yancey made yearlier this month. Our country has survived throughout the centuries due to the brave men and women who have composed our Armed Forces, and I am saddened to announce to the Senate that another of our bravest will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

We could all learn from the patriotism and spirit of Private First Class Yancey. His cousin, Brian Yancey of Cedar Rapids, IA, remembered that Private First Class Yancey "was very

much a patriot, very much a military man. He was a person who wanted to do what he could for his country."

We must remember Private First Class Yancey's family, in both Georgia and Iowa, and stand with them during this time of loss and grief. The thoughts and prayers of countless Americans go out to Private First Class Yancey's family and friends. He did not die in vain, but rather gave his life for the promotion of freedom and security around the world. He will be sorely missed, but will also be an inspiration for future brave Americans for years to come.

U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING IN IRAQ

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my colleagues another positive story from a member of the U.S. Armed Forces currently serving in Iraq. His story, once again, depicts the frustration that so many of our servicemembers have with the lack of public attention in the U.S. to the humanitarian and military successes of their work in Iraq.

I recently received a letter in the mail from Ms. Ann Sensenich of Boiling Springs, PA. Ms. Sensenich wrote to me:

DEAR MR. SANTORUM: Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from one of our soldiers serving our country in Iraq. I am forwarding this to you as I feel this is a letter that should not be viewed by only my eyes.

I have been sending packages to my employer's son in Iraq and he forwards them on to his soldiers and this is one of the responses I received.

Please share this letter with anyone you feel would appreciate the service of this and all our U.S. soldiers defending our country and keep in mind he indicated he would go back seven times before he would let terrorists on our soil.

Thank you for reading this and please share his words with others.

Sincerely,

ANN B. SENSENICH.

Attached to Ms. Sensenich's correspondence is the letter that a deployed servicemember wrote to her when her package was shared with fellow servicemembers. He wrote:

DEAR ANN SENSENICH, I am deployed with the 3/3 ACR. We received your package, and I just wanted to take a little bit of my time to say thanks.

Your package helped with the morale of a lot of soldiers. Due to the negative feedback we get from the media and people back home, it is nice to receive a package from someone who supports us and what we do.

People like you are the reason why we fight this war. We sit over here day to day risk getting shot at or having mortar rounds dropped in on us so that the people back home (like yourself) can keep on enjoying the freedoms that a lot of people take for granted everyday. I, myself used to take those things for granted also until I was deployed to fight for our freedom. This is my second deployment, and this is the first time that we have received a package from someone in the states. So, thank you for your unselfishness, and don't ever feel bad for the soldiers that are over here fighting this war. This is our job! This is what we were trained