

Thomas Jefferson once said, "The blood of martyrs is the seed of freedom's tree." America's independence and our continued freedom have rested for 220 years on this premise. Freedom is in greater supply around the world today thanks to the United States and our allies—our allies played a big role and we should never forget that—but it comes at no small price in terms of required courage and commitment.

To the men and women in uniform and to all those who serve our Nation, I will leave the Senate keenly aware of what every American should remember. Our sense of security depends on your vigilance and your discipline. Our prosperity depends on your sacrifice. Our dreams and our children's dreams depend on your sleepless nights. And our freedom to live our lives in freedom depends on your willingness to risk yours.

May God bless each of you and all of those who serve America in the cause of freedom.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the dedication, public service, and patriotism that personified the life of Capt. John William Kennedy, U.S. Air Force. Lieutenant Kennedy, or Jack as he was better known, was reported as missing in action on August 16, 1971, in South Vietnam. He was presumed killed in action on July 16, 1978, and finally confirmed as having been killed in action in May of this year.

Jack was born here in Washington, DC, but grew up in nearby Arlington, VA. He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1969. While at VMI, he was the 1969 Southern Conference 160-pound wrestling champion, a member of the VMI honor court, and was inducted into the VMI sports hall of fame in 1980.

In October 1970, a year after entering the Air Force, Jack graduated from pilot training at Craig Field in Selma, AL, and was awarded the Undergraduate Pilot Training Office Training Award for being tops in his class. He then attended O-2A pilot training at Hurlburt Field, Eglin AFB, FL, and was thereafter assigned to the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron [PACAF] in South Vietnam.

Unfortunately, Jack's promising young career was tragically ended while Captain Kennedy was flying on a visual reconnaissance mission over the Quangtin Province in South Vietnam. On August 16, 1971, radio contact with Jack's O-2A aircraft was lost. A search effort was initiated, but no crash site or radio contacts or witnesses were uncovered. U.S. Army intelligence reports indicated that the 31st North Vietnamese Regiment was in the area at this time.

In 1993, over 20 years later, remains were found at a crash site in Quangtin Province. The DNA from these bone fragments were positively identified as a match with Jack's mother in 1995, and Captain Kennedy's remains were returned to the United States in late June 1996. On Friday, August 2, a funeral is scheduled for Captain Kennedy in the Old Post Chapel on Fort Myer, and internment with full military honors will follow at Arlington National Cemetery.

For his remarkable, yet short career, Lieutenant Kennedy was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Capt. John Kennedy was the embodiment of an American hero. A true patriot and a superb Air Force officer who served with courage and integrity, he lost his life during one of the most intense and demanding periods in our Nation's history. His mother, who lives in Lake Ridge, VA, and his brother, Dan, who many of us know from his efforts on the Hill as Bechtel's representative, should be proud of Jack and what he accomplished during his short life. I am thankful that Jack's fate has been determined, and that he has now been returned home for a proper burial.

TRIBUTE TO SETH J. DIAMOND

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, Montana suffered a large loss on Friday afternoon. A plane crash in the northwest corner of our State claimed the life of three men, Seth Diamond, Ken Kohli, and Al Hall. Seth lived in Missoula, MT, and Ken and Al lived in Cour d'Alene, ID.

Over the last few years, my staff and I had the pleasure of getting to know Seth Diamond. As a representative of the timber community in the intermountain West, I had many opportunities to work with Seth. Whether we were working on changing the way our Government deals with the Endangered Species Act or working in issues related to forest health and management, Seth was there with fresh ideas on how to solve hotly contested issues. It was Seth's sense of fairplay that gave him such a good standing with groups on both ends of the natural resource management spectrum. I valued and respected his comments and advice.

Seth Diamond was born in Philadelphia and grew up on Long Island, NY. He received an undergraduate degree from Duke and a wildlife biology masters from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In 1988, Seth found his way to Montana as a biologist for the U.S. Forest Service. He worked on the Lewis and Clark National Forest out of Choteau, MT.

The West is truly a unique area. Most believe you have to grow up in the West to appreciate our way of life and feel a strong commitment to protecting the businesses that have made Montana economically and culturally what it is today. It amazes me that a kid who grew up on the east coast could come to Montana and work to keep the wood products industry a part of Montana's economy, but most importantly believe it is vital to the well-being of Montana. Seth did just that.

Montana's resource dependent communities owe a great debt to Seth. He worked to achieve a common goal of providing jobs for families and protecting a renewable resource.

In addition to his commitment to Montana, Seth was a proud family man. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and children Kale, Laura, and Jesse Lynn. They and the rest of the Diamond family have Phyllis' and my prayers.

Montana is a richer place today because of the work and dedication of Seth Diamond. I feel fortunate to have been given an opportunity to consider him a friend.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

FOREIGN OIL CONSUMED BY U.S.? HERE'S THE WEEKLY BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending July 26, the United States imported 7,500,000 barrels of oil each day, the same amount imported during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 53.9 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained about 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers? Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 7,500,000 barrels a day.

SALUTING THE ALABAMA NSSC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, in 1981, the Alabama Association of Retired Senior Volunteer Program [RSVP] project directors developed a proposal requesting State funding for their projects as a supplement to their Federal budgets. During State budget negotiations, the funding was also extended to Alabama's Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent projects, marking the beginning of a collaboration among senior service corps programs in my State that has continued for 15 years.

As a State association known as the Alabama National Senior Service Corps Directors Association, these three programs—RSVP, Senior Companion, and Foster Grandparents—have worked together to secure other funding. The Senior Corps' 35 State projects receive more than a quarter million dollars annually from the State budget to cover costs related to volunteers. These funds have been used to establish several programs, including a public housing mentoring program and training programs in prescription and over-the-counter drug misuse. The funds have also been used to conduct free

community intergenerational workshops at sites throughout the State. The association also contracts with the IRS to provide tax counseling services for the elderly.

The association is now seeking Medicaid waiver funding and hopes to soon venture into the arena of private sector funding. Project directors have taken the first step toward seeking private sector support by incorporating as a 501(c)(3) organization.

I am pleased to congratulate and commend the Alabama National Senior Service Corps Directors Association for developing an array of outstanding programs and for providing a model that illustrates the power and potential of these kinds of partnerships in providing important services to our senior citizens.

THE MENTALLY ILL AND THE HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I was informed by the chairman of Labor, Health and Human Services, Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM, that the conferees on the health insurance bill were not going to include—with reference to the mentally ill in this country—were not going to include even the compromise which had been offered to them that has been pending for the last 2 or 3 weeks. Frankly, the U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly to rid this country of a terrible, terrible plight, the discrimination against the mentally ill in insurance coverage in this country. And not only the discrimination but the lack of fairness and parity of coverage.

I say publicly now to the business community of the United States, in particular the large companies, some of which are self-insured—I do not say this very often—but “Shame, shame on you. Shame on you.” It is a very simple proposition of parity that is not going to cost very much and will say to the 5 million severely mentally ill Americans and their families that they are not going to be treated any longer like second-rate, if not third-rate, citizens.

All we asked of them in our compromise Senator WELLSTONE and I submitted was that if you are going to cover mental illness, if you are going to cover mental illness, that you must include two things: One, the same lifetime cap that is total coverage, and the same annual allowable per year as you include in insurance for everyone else.

Let me repeat, that amendment did not require any kind of insurance. It did not dictate coinsurance, deductibility or anything. So companies could still tailor mental health coverage. If they are concerned about abuses, they can write the abuses out before they even offer them.

All we asked for was the simple proposition to get started recognizing the discrimination that is in our current situation. That is to say, those who are mentally ill, do not cover them with

\$50,000 for life while you cover cancer patients with \$1 million, do not cover the mentally ill with a \$100,000 total lifetime if you cover those who have tuberculosis or have serious heart trouble with \$500,000 or \$1 million. Just parity, total coverage for total lifetime. On an annual basis, do not say to those who are mentally ill, you can only collect \$10,000 a year maximum where you have \$100,000 or \$50,000 for others.

I truly believe there is a total lack of willingness to understand the nature of this problem. This problem is a blight on America, a blight on our insurance companies, and a blight on the business community who continues to resist moving in the direction of parity.

I want to thank those companies in the United States that already cover the mentally ill. And there are many. And I can say they are not running around complaining about the extraordinary costs. As a matter of fact, if this amendment, the one we told them we would settle for, were adopted, the increases are almost insignificant according to the Congressional Budget Office, because there are not a lot of people who will reach those limits. It is just to make sure we do not say to them, you are second-rate citizens.

If you have insurance, your parents bought insurance, they cover somebody in their family with schizophrenia, they did not get the shock of their life that after they have spent \$100,000 they have no more for the rest of their life and look around at their neighbor who had a heart condition and they get \$1 million worth of coverage. No.

I am not sure where we are going to end up. But I can say that a counteroffer was proposed, and I regret to say it was tantamount to a whole menu of options. And if you have a menu of options, you are going to get nothing, you are going to dump the mentally ill where they are already being dumped.

So I hope that they will reconsider this decision. I, for one, am prepared to look, at this moment, at any way I can—I am not sure I can succeed—but at any way I can to make it hard to pass that bill. And any way I can find to make it impossible to pass that bill, I will do it. I am not sure on this conference I will accomplish a great deal, but we will make some noise about it because there is no need for this decision to go this way.

If those on the business side will look at the proposed amendment that was offered in lieu of the Senate-passed amendment, if they can come forth and tell me and tell those who support it how it will hurt them, how it is going to cost them, what their problems are, then I would be willing to say indeed they are trying to do something fair.

Thus far, I think it is stubbornness, I think it is totally shameful, and I, for one, have been a staunch supporter of making sure we do not put undue burdens on business. It is a joke to say they do not want any additional mandates when the whole bill is a mandate.

The whole bill is a mandate. We mandate insurance companies and businesses to pay for people with pre-existing conditions which is going to cost billions of dollars, and they do not talk about that. There is no excuse.

I, for one, believe we have made a reasonable case. We have been more than fair. The millions of Americans suffering from this disgraceful discrimination are willing to accept a foot in the door, a little bit, just a start, and we get the door slammed right on them.

Obviously, we have a lot of work to do, but any conferees that are unaware of the decision to give the mentally ill people of this country nothing in this conference report, maybe they ought to start with the conferees. That is what they are about to do.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I say that the Senator from New Mexico spoke with great eloquence and power, and speaks for me.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 Committee on Armed Services.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 640. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3846. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the provision of assistance for microenterprises, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3870. An act to authorize the Agency for International Development to offer voluntary separation incentive payments to employees of that agency.

At 3:58 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 and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: