

successfully integrating the 6th Infantry Division—Light—into the Fairbanks community. He fostered strong community relationships which endure today. Under General Ebbesen's tenure, the 6th Infantry Division achieved safety records which were unsurpassed in the United States Army at that time. This record was achieved in spite of adverse and difficult climatic conditions. He ensured that the 6th Infantry Division were pivotal players in the U.S. Pacific Command's Expanded Relations Program throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Further, General Ebbesen significantly improved quality of life for those soldiers and their families stationed throughout Alaska.

Additionally, General Ebbesen served as the Deputy Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, United States Army, Washington, DC; Chief of Staff, I Corps, Fort Lewis, WA; commander, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY; Deputy Chief, Plans and Operations Division, and later Executive Officer, Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, Washington, DC; and Commander, 2d Battalion, 32 Infantry, 7th Infantry Division; Executive Officer, 2d Brigade, 7th Infantry Division; and G3, 7th Infantry Division, Fort Ord, CA.

General Ebbesen's military awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit—with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device—with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal—with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal and Army Commendation Medal—with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters. His combat assignment and training resulted in the award of the Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Air Assault Badge. He is authorized to wear the Army General Staff Identification Badge and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge.

Mr. President, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in saluting General Ebbesen for his distinguished service to this great Nation and to the great State of Alaska, as well as his superb leadership of the men and women of our Armed Forces. It is with great pride that I congratulate him upon his retirement and wish him the very best.

MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to draw my colleague's attention to the outstanding efforts and hard work of the men and women of the U.S. Maritime Administration. I want to offer my own heartfelt thanks to those individuals for their hard work and dedication in swiftly implementing the Maritime Security Act.

The Maritime Security Act, which was approved by the Senate on September 24, and signed into law by the President on October 8 last year. It will

ensure the continued viability of the U.S.-flag merchant marine. It will guarantee that there will be an adequate number of private-sector, U.S.-flag vessels on hand for the Department of Defense in times of war or national emergency. Our Nation will continue to support a base of maritime employment to provide trained, loyal U.S.-citizen merchant mariners to crew the Department of Defense's Ready Reserve fleet of sealift vessels.

Quite simply, without this legislation the United States might have lost its merchant marine. Some of our Nation's most honored former military leaders let us know last year, in no uncertain terms, just how costly that would be. Our Armed Forces are counting on the U.S.-flag merchant marine to bring them the supplies they need to sustain their operations on hostile shores. If history has taught us one lesson, Mr. President, we should hold a deep appreciation for the importance of the U.S.-flag merchant marine to our Nation's security. That is why the outstanding efforts of the Maritime Administration deserves recognition.

In the days following enactment of the Maritime Security Act, the staff of the Maritime Administration worked tirelessly to iron out the contracts between the Government and the individual U.S.-flag vessel operators. This is the backbone of the Maritime Security Program.

At the same time, MARAD staff coordinated their efforts with the Department of Defense. This ensured that only the most modern and most militarily useful U.S.-flag vessels are chosen for the Maritime Security Program. These efforts will enhance our national defense capabilities.

The first contracts were signed last month, just before the holidays. And, I am pleased to report to my colleagues that the final contracts were just recently signed. In just 4 months, the complete 47-ship Maritime Security Fleet has become a reality. We have MARAD to thank for taking our vision and translating it into a viable program.

I want to recognize the Administrator of MARAD, Vice Adm. Albert J. Herberger. His firm leadership at the helm of his agency has been exemplary. Vice Admiral Herberger is widely respected in the maritime industry, and his abilities as a manager, a negotiator and an administrator, coupled with his extensive military experience, played a major role in implementing this legislation.

The implementation of the Maritime Security Program also required the efforts of many MARAD employees. I want to take a moment to recognize several workers by name: Debra Aheron, Ray Barberesi, Murray Bloom, Joan Bondareff, Cher Brooks, Thomas Bryan, Jim Caponiti, Veronica Carver, Sharon Cassidy, Rhonda Davis, William Ebersold, John Graykowski, Steven Jackson, William Kurfehs, John Lesnick, Richard McDonnell, Jeffrey

McMahon, Robert Patton, Carol Powell, John Swank, Kenneth Willis, and Joan Yim.

To conclude, Mr. President, I would like to add that the Maritime Administration will continue to administer the Maritime Security Program throughout the 10-year life of the Maritime Security Act. Although the work from the good folks at MARAD is just the beginning, we should honor their efforts. They have done so much to ensure that the American flag will still fly in the world's sea lanes. American merchant mariners will be on the decks of those ships. And, our Armed Forces will have the necessary strategic sealift capability to project America's presence overseas.

Thank you, MARAD.

RETIREMENT OF PROCTOR JONES

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, today marks the last day for one of the Senate's most competent and skilled legislative aides. Proctor Jones, staff director of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development has spent the last 36 years helping to assure the legislative process moves forward. I know I am just one of many who are grateful for his guidance on a wide array of energy issues.

During his tenure in the Senate he has gained a reputation for doing his homework, having a deep understanding for the appropriations process, and perhaps most important, fairness. He was invaluable in securing major projects for my home State of Kentucky, and I feel certain his handprint can be found on important projects all across the country.

Jones leaves the Senate with an incredible body of knowledge, expertise and institutional knowledge. He also leaves after literally being the right hand of such powerful chairmen as Senators Russell, Ellender, McClellan, Magnuson, Stennis, BYRD and Hatfield.

It will be a huge loss to the Senate and to States like mine that have benefited from his knowledge and expertise. But there's no doubt that Jones will continue to serve the greater community working with former Senator Johnston.

Let me close by wishing him and his family the best of luck and by once again thanking him for his commitment not only to the U.S. Senate, but to the American people. His service will not be forgotten and will continue to impact generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL TSONGAS

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, last week, America lost a public servant and a leader of unusual intelligence and vision. It is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to my former colleague and friend, Paul Tsongas, whose untimely passing has deeply affected both those who knew him well and the millions of Americans who respected and admired his exemplary life.

His frank and fearless commitment to a better America challenged us all. As remembered by the Hellenic Chronicle, a Massachusetts publication, Senator Tsongas "changed the face of politics in the 1990's and reminded us that honesty and the power of ideas can still count for something in American politics." He was unwavering in his ideals because he truly believed them. At his funeral, Bishop Methodios of Boston spoke of Senator Tsongas' insight, integrity and intelligence; fitting qualities for a person who, as the Bishop said, "looked deep within his heart and soul and there discovered his vision for a better America."

The son of a Greek immigrant, Senator Tsongas went from working in his father's drycleaning store to Dartmouth College, Yale Law School, and the Peace Corps. He won his first bid for public office in 1969, when he was elected to the Lowell City Council, the beginning of an esteemed career that included service as Middlesex County Commissioner in 1973, fifth congressional district representative to the U.S. House in 1974—the first Democrat to win in his district in a century, and United States Senator from Massachusetts in 1979, an office never before held by a Peace Corps veteran.

In the Senate, I was privileged to serve with Senator Tsongas on the Banking and Foreign Relations Committees, where he fulfilled his duties with great capability and distinction. His understanding of the world beyond our borders, gained during his service in the Peace Corps, equipped him to make a significant contribution to a more effective American foreign policy. Senator Tsongas never took the privilege of being a U.S. Senator for granted. He was serious about his work and had high hopes and even higher standards for this country.

"Patriotism is like charity," wrote Henry James. "It begins at home." For Senator Tsongas, everything began at home. Whether it was Lowell, the town in which he made his life, or the family that was his life, Senator Tsongas never lost sight of what was most important. He often questioned the legacy he would leave behind for the people and places he cared for most. He should not have been concerned. Due to his efforts both in and out of office, the town of Lowell now claims a national historic park, thousands of jobs, a minor league baseball team, 14 new schools, and a real sense of pride. As the local paper noted, "We in Lowell need only walk through our city to celebrate—every day—what Paul Tsongas did for his hometown."

I will always remember Paul Tsongas, as will his fellow Americans, as a highly principled public servant who, unafraid of any challenge, was exceedingly able to affect the issues of his time. I will also remember him as the individual who inspired us all by confronting his own mortality with extraordinary grace and heroism. His faith in his own instincts not only gave

him the courage to step down from office when the time was right, it was also the source of his strength during his distinguished service in the Congress of the United States.

Senator Tsongas left an indelible mark on our hearts, which now go out to his wife Niki, his daughters Ashley, Katina and Molly, and his sisters Thaleia and Vicki. They have so much to mourn, but they also have so much of which to be proud.

There is a requiem hymn sung in the Greek Orthodox Church which, here, seems apropos: "Eonia e mneeme." It means, "may he live in our memories forever." In the last years of his life, Senator Tsongas struggled with the question of history, with what he would leave us. The answer is, clearly, much. Paul Tsongas will live in the memories and records of his country, his town, and his family, forever.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I know that Senator KENNEDY wanted to be recognized, but because he is not here I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak in morning business for such time as I may consume.

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

CHINA: THE FUTURE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a speech that this Senator made to the Asia Society yesterday morning entitled, "China: The Future."

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

CHINA: THE FUTURE

(By Senator Dianne Feinstein)

As a Californian, I have been surprised to discover how Washington, and the whole East Coast foreign policy establishment tends to look primarily across the Atlantic to Europe, and how little it looks to Asia and the Pacific.

But the fact is that U.S. interests are no longer primarily in Europe. You've heard the phrase "the dawning of the Pacific Century" many times. Well, the Pacific Century is here.

Consider these facts: The Pacific trading theater has long since overtaken the Atlantic. Overall trade with Asia stands at \$570 billion. With Europe it is \$270 billion. Trade with Asia accounts for more than 30 percent of U.S. exports and close to 40 percent of U.S. imports. And today, more than 60 percent of the world's population lives on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

All of this illustrates what Secretary of State John Hay meant when he said nearly a century ago: "The Mediterranean is the ocean of the past; the Atlantic, the ocean of the present; and the Pacific, the ocean of the future." That future is now.

CHINA'S IMPORTANCE

The single most important question facing the future of peace and prosperity in Asia is how China develops.

And there is no more important challenge facing U.S. foreign policy than the question of how to peacefully engage China in the international community.

China's influence is felt in so many ways: China's population of 1.25 billion, is nearly one quarter of the world's inhabitants; China's sheer size—her geographical reach includes common borders with such key nations as Russia, Japan, Korea, and India, and includes vast quantities of untapped natural resources; China's expanding military prowess, including a 3 million-man army, and her status as one of the five declared nuclear powers in the world today; China's permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council; and China's remarkable economic growth of roughly 10 percent a year, which has vaulted it to the position of the world's 11th largest exporter—China is where Japan was in 1980, but growing much faster.

For all of these reasons, the U.S. relationship with China is probably our single most important undeveloped bilateral relationship in the world today.

In 1997, Sino-American relations are entering a crucial new phase, ripe with both danger and opportunity.

Events in the next year, and how they are handled by Washington and Beijing, will determine for some time to come the nature of the relationship between our two countries.

I was very pleased to hear our new Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, articulate the Administration's policy in clear terms during her confirmation hearing before the Foreign Relations Committee. She said: "Our goal is to expand areas of cooperation, reduce the potential for misunderstandings and encourage China's full emergence as a responsible member of the international community."

And, while she recognized that our two nations have important differences, the Secretary also stressed that we have a multifaceted relationship with China.

I want to make some comments this morning on what I believe to be the central issues in the U.S.-China relationship today: the question of engagement versus containment; the China-Taiwan relationship; nuclear proliferation; human rights; the trade imbalance; trade issues such as Most-Favored Nation status, Intellectual Property Rights, and China's accession to the WTO; and the transition of Hong Kong.

THE "ENGAGEMENT VS. CONTAINMENT" DEBATE

This question should be settled by now, but unfortunately it is not. There are still those who see China as an enemy, and who want the U.S.-China relationship to be modeled on Cold War strategies of the past. Containment is their mantra. But there are two problems with this approach:

First, it has not and will not work. No other country will join us in trying to contain the largest country and one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

Second, containment is not in the interest of the United States. We have far too many mutual interests with China—interests which far outweigh our differences, including: preserving stability, and preventing arms races in Northeast and Southeast Asia; a peaceful, non-nuclear Korean Peninsula; preventing nuclear escalation between India and Pakistan; preventing the introduction of nuclear or other destabilizing technology into the Persian Gulf; keeping sea lanes open for international commerce; maintaining the prosperity of Hong Kong and Taiwan; and curbing the trafficking of narcotics.

Attempting to influence these critically important issues by isolating China is a fruitless and very dangerous course of action. The only way we can make progress on these issues is through active engagement.

I have been saying for the past four years that I have been in the Senate that the U.S. needs to develop a long-term, strategic framework for building a relationship with China, based on our many mutual interests.