

planned to make these remarks as we passed the midnight milestone on our way to cloture on the appropriations bill, because, as the clock strikes twelve, and November 20 begins, my Committee colleague, our Ranking Member, ROBERT C. BYRD will celebrate a birthday. I wish my colleague a happy and productive 82nd year.

Senator BYRD has a wonderful and widely quoted sign up on his office wall: "There are four things people in West Virginia believe: God Almighty, Sears Roebuck, Carter's Little Liver Pills, and Robert C. Byrd." I'd like to take a little literary license to suggest that there are four things that ROBERT C. BYRD believes in: God Almighty, his 62 year long love affair with his wife, Erma, his constituents and the Senate.

And, Senator BYRD is not just your run of the mill believer. I have listened many times to the wisdom and intensity of his words, words which flow from a faith that runs as deep as his West Virginia roots, as deep as the coal mines which seam the earth of Appalachia. His words are what have led many to see Senator BYRD as the faithful historian and effective guardian of the precedents and privileges, of the rules and Constitutional role of the United States Senate. But, Senator BYRD is more than an institutional advocate, he is a living history of the Senate and democracy. The Senator from West Virginia gives a clear voice both to our finest traditions and what he sees as his life long purpose, serving what he so nobly refers to as "my people." His reverence and respect for the Senate are surpassed by the deep regard and abiding passion he has for the needs of his constituents.

He speaks of those needs virtually every week. Senator BYRD breathes life into images of each West Virginian he introduces to us in remarks on the floor—even those who have passed from the scene. When he describes a man who dies in a slate fall while mining West Virginia's coal, he speaks softly of a man, alone, who died in the dark. The illuminating power of this image flows from the passion of his commitment.

It is his commitment which crosses partisan lines and has earned Senator BYRD legendary respect. In the last week, I have been privileged to experience this commitment while working with him to protect our coal miner's from the predatory reach of an overbearing judge.

As Senator BYRD begins another year and the Senate another session, I will look forward to continuing our work together, succeeding in reversing the devastating consequences of a bad decision, and serving well our constituents.

HONORING NOTAH BEGAY III AN INSPIRATION FOR ALL AMERICANS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, in celebration of American Indian Heritage Month I rise today to celebrate the

accomplishments of one remarkable young man Notah Begay III. You may have heard of Mr. Begay as he was a two-time PGA tour winner this season with victories at the Reno-Tahoe Open and the Michelob Championship. This is a true accomplishment by any standard, but even more significant when you consider that he is only 27. I rise today to honor Mr. Begay because of the fact that he is the first full-blooded Native American to play on the Professional Golf Association Tour.

Notah's path to success is uncommon among his peers in the PGA. He didn't grow up in a privileged environment. While the Begay family was not poor, they did not have the resources to pay for costly private golf lessons for young Notah. In exchange for golf balls and practice time, Notah often woke up at 5:00 AM to move carts, wash range balls and serve as an all-around gopher at the city-owned course in Albuquerque. And when Notah visited his grandparents on the Navajo Reservation, the determined young golfer would hit golf balls off of the hard clay dirt of the reservation. Still today, the Navajo Nation does not have one golf course on its 25,000 square miles.

Despite his uncommon beginnings, Notah has been truly successful at every level of competition. During high school, Notah led his high school basketball team to back-to-back state championships. But more impressive, he was the No. 2 junior golfer in the nation.

After high school, Notah traveled west to Stanford University. Although Notah's teammate, Tiger Woods, is often spotlighted by the media, it was Notah and his Stanford teammates who won the 1994 NCAA Championship trophy, one year before Mr. Woods joined the team. Notah played an integral role by shooting a 62 in the second round of the Championship tournament, a tournament record that remains today. And while many great college athletes do not finish their studies, I am very proud to say that Notah is a fellow graduate of Stanford, earning a degree in economics.

Notah turned pro after college and has been quickly rising in the PGA ranks. At the Nike Dominion Open this year he became only the third player in history to shoot a 59 on a U.S. pro tour. He joins Al Geiberger and Chip Beck as the only players to score such a feat. Because of his outstanding success this year, Notah is a candidate for top rookie honors.

Notah has dedicated himself to providing new opportunities for young Native Americans. By working to raise money to establish golf programs at reservation schools and seeking donations of golf equipment for kids who could never afford the costly clubs, Notah is providing the tools that may lead to more great golfers with Native American roots.

In some ways, Notah Begay's success is not surprising. He is half Navajo and half Pueblo Indian and he follows a tra-

dition of courage and strength, exemplified by his grandfather. Notah's grandfather, Notah Begay I, was one of the famous Code Talkers during World War II. The Code Talkers relayed sensitive information for the United States military through a code based on the Navajo language. They proved to be a critical component of the military intelligence during World War II.

Notah's unprecedented success has shown a generation of young Americans that with hard work and dedication, any dream is achievable. The success Notah has earned is equal only to the inspiration he provides for Native American youth in my home state of New Mexico and across the country. I commend him not only for his golf success, but also for his commitment to the youth of New Mexico.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

EAST TIMOR

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about a piece of legislation that is not moving this year. I want to speak about it because it deals with an extremely important topic, one that has not received the attention and commitment that it deserves from this body.

That topic is the appropriate state of U.S.-Indonesian relations today.

Mr. President, I introduced S. 1568, the East Timor Self-Determination Act of 1999, on September 8—well over two months ago. That legislation, which passed the Foreign Relations Committee on September 27 by an overwhelming vote of 17-1, was cosponsored by the Chairman of that Committee as well as many other Members of the Senate.

I took that action, in cooperation with my colleagues, because events in East and West Timor demanded it.

On August 30, well over 99% of registered voters in East Timor courageously came to the polls to express their will regarding the political status of that territory.

More than 78% of those voters marked their ballot in favor of independence.

But weeks of violence immediately followed the vote, as the Indonesian military—a military that our country has long supported—colluded with militia groups in waging a scorched earth campaign against the East Timorese people and their democratic aspirations throughout the territory.

Hundreds of thousands of people were forced to flee, and many were killed.

But for the East Timorese run out of their homes in the fray, the nightmare did not end there.

There seems to be a perception out there that all is well in Indonesia today, and that the East Timor crisis is over. Unfortunately, that is simply not true.

Last week, the Associated Press reported on the public comments of the spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The

spokesman said that many East Timorese are being forced at gunpoint to remain in camps that lack food, sanitation and medical care. He said, and this is a direct quote, that "the moment an East Timorese expresses a desire to leave the camps and go home their life is in danger." And the UNHCR spokesperson noted, in last week's AP report, that many relief organizations have received reports of refugees being raped and beaten by militiamen.

Mr. President, to this day, militia members harass and intimidate East Timorese in West Timor's refugee camps. Only about 56,000 refugees have returned home to East Timor. Approximately two hundred thousand remain, in many cases against their will, in the refugee camps of West Timor.

To this day, humanitarian organizations do not have the access that they need to all of the refugee camps to which East Timorese fled.

Throughout all of this pain, throughout the destruction of lives and property, throughout this brutal retaliation for courageous acts of democratic expression, this Senate has been silent. We have had no floor debate and no vote. My original bill, despite being voted out of committee with only one dissenting vote, has languished on the calendar for weeks.

In response to that silence, Mr. President, I negotiated an arrangement to introduce an amendment to the bankruptcy bill addressing this issue. Squeezing this important topic into the middle of a debate on an unrelated bill was certainly not the most desirable approach, but I was determined to pursue this legislation.

The amendment I had planned to offer was considerably different from my original bill. I made significant alterations to it in order to respond to changing events and the concerns of other Senators and the Administration.

Mr. President, I wanted to pursue this legislation to encourage democracy and accountability in Indonesia, and to hold out clear incentives for a policy of accountability and cooperation. And I wanted to hold this Administration to its word, ensuring that passing political whims do not soften America's rejection of the kind of methods that the Indonesian military used in East Timor.

The amendment would have reached out to the Indonesian government, celebrating its democratic transition and recognizing its economic needs, while keeping the pressure on elements in Indonesia that are moving in the opposite direction—elements moving away from democracy, reform, and accountability and moving toward repression, violence, and impunity.

With its clear message and incentives, this amendment would have set the stage for a responsible and strong partnership between the U.S. and Indonesia.

Mr. President, it concerns me that the Administration has behaved as

though they wish this legislation would just go away, although it is a codification of their own policy.

The Administration has told me that they desire more flexibility—particularly with regard to licensing defense related articles for export to Indonesia—than this amendment would allow.

Despite the fact that I worked closely and carefully with the State Department to develop a reasonable list of conditions that must be met in order to re-establish military and security relations, in the end, the Administration did not want to be pinned down to any standards at all.

Mr. President, I will speak frankly. The Administration's unwillingness to commit to a responsible policy and to a solid series of prerequisites for resuming military and security ties concerns me, and convinces me that vigilance will be necessary in the months ahead.

And so Mr. President, while I foresee no opportunity to move this legislation this year, I want to remind this Senate and this Administration that my amendment will remain in order when we return to the bankruptcy bill, and I am prepared to take up this issue again in January, or at any other time the circumstances warrant it.

I will continue to be certain that this Senate has a voice in the future of U.S.-Indonesian relations. I will continue to push for accountability for the abuses perpetrated by the Indonesian military and militia groups. And I will continue to insist that U.S. engagement with the Indonesian military is contingent upon an end to the harassment and intimidation of East Timorese refugees with impunity.

I pledge to my colleagues and to this Administration that I will monitor this matter, and monitor it closely in the weeks and months ahead. I will stand by, ready with several versions of my legislation, should the Indonesian military fail to take the steps toward reform and accountability that are absolutely essential prerequisites to a military and security relationship with the United States.

And make no mistake, I will come to the floor again and again should this Administration appear ready to engage with and support an Indonesian military that has not seriously lived up to its own commitment to respect the rights of ordinary East Timorese civilians who seek only to live their lives in peace and security.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

BIENNIAL BUDGETING

Mr. DOMENICI. Yesterday (November 18), House Rules Committee Chairman DAVID DREIER introduced H. Res. 396, a resolution expressing the sense of the House that biennial budgeting legislation should be enacted in the second session of the 106th Congress.

Notably, this resolution has 245 cosponsors, significantly more than a majority of that body. Those sponsors

include the entire House Republican leadership, 25 members of the House Appropriations Committee, including the Chairman, and 45 Democrats.

Critics of biennial budgeting often point to lack of support in the House as a reason why the proposal will never be adopted. That hurdle seems now to have been swept away, as significantly more than a majority of the House has been convinced by the inescapable logic and numerous advantages of a biennial budget process.

This year, we have yet again been faced with a numbing repetition of the all-too-familiar appropriations end game. Annual appropriations have been stalled because of a handful of controversial policy and funding issues.

While the vast bulk of appropriations are routine and are funded from year to year with only incremental change, they nonetheless are held hostage to these controversial and often unrelated budget and policy debates. This is unnecessary and counterproductive.

A biennial budget process would restore the integrity and effectiveness of the appropriations process, would reinvigorate the tradition of separate Congressional authorization and oversight, and would give Federal departments and agencies badly needed time to carry out and evaluate Federal programs more effectively.

Many Senators of both parties have long acknowledged the need for a biennial budget process. A majority of House members now concurs. Both President Clinton and Vice-President GORE support biennial budgeting, and recently Governor George W. Bush voice strong support for the idea.

All sides now agree that biennial budgeting is the right thing to do. Now is time to go forward. We have studied, talked, and debated enough. Let's now resolve to act on this important bill as soon as possible when we return from the congressional adjournment.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to take just a few minutes in these final hours of the First Session of the 106th Congress to comment on several legislative initiatives I authored this year, and which I am pleased to say have either passed or were substantially incorporated into other bills that were approved and will be sent to the President.

One of the most important issues for my state of Utah is the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments of 1999, S. 1515, which I introduced earlier. I am delighted that the Senate passed this important legislation earlier today.

This bill will guarantee that our government provides fair compensation to the thousands of individuals adversely affected by the mining of uranium and from fallout during the testing of nuclear weapons in the early post-war years.

Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL; the distinguished Senate Minority Leader, Senator TOM DASCHLE; Senator JEFF BINGAMAN; and Senator PETE