

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

KAZAKHSTAN

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, the events of last week by terrorists illustrate the worst of human nature, however, the actions of people in the wake of the disaster has shown the best.

While the attacks were in the United States, they were directed at the entire civilized world. And the entire world has responded. Today, I would like to draw your attention to the response of a key ally in Central Asia.

In light of the direct threat to world freedom that we faced on September 11, 2001, Kazakhstan has emerged as one of the only "silver-linings" in Central Asia. I am very grateful for the outpouring of support from the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev. Within a day of the attack President Nazarbayev said, "Kazakhstan is ready to support measures undertaken by the United States to fight against terrorism, with all the means necessary." I would also ask unanimous consent to submit the President's entire statement into the Congressional RECORD.

Kazakhstan is predominantly a muslim nation about four times the size of Texas in Central Asia. Surrounded by Russia, China, Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan. Kazakhstan's continued economic and political stability is critical to the long-term success of the Central Asian nations.

In the first few years after its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan successfully dismantled the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world with U.S. support via the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, CTR. Kazakhstan continues to set a model for the global community in its leadership on unilateral disarmament and nonproliferation.

In addition, I believe our Nation needs to continue to support the Government of Kazakhstan which has begun to transform its economy from the old Soviet based communist model to a market-based economy with significant U.S. foreign direct investment, FDI.

It is for these reasons that I have cosponsored S. 168 that authorizes the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Kazakhstan. In summary, the United States must do its part to enhance cooperation and encourage prosperity and stability for the entire Central Asian region.

THE CALIFORNIANS WHO PERISHED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, as the American people struggle to come to terms with the horrific events of Tuesday, September 11, we are reminded again and again of the countless individual tragedies still playing out in every corner of our country: an-

other firefighter is laid to rest, a classroom copes with the loss of a teacher, a baby is born who will never know her father, a family accepts that a loved one will never be found.

We are all haunted by such stories, each one profound in its deep sadness and, considered together, staggering in their scope.

None of us is untouched by last Tuesday's terror, and it is now painfully clear that many residents of California were part of each tragic moment of that tragic day. Some were trapped in the World Trade Center towers. Some were at work in the Pentagon. And the fates of some were sealed as they boarded planes bound for San Francisco or Los Angeles.

I offer today this tribute to the dozens of Californians who perished on that awful morning. I want to assure the victims' families that their fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters will not be forgotten. As a nation, we hold them close.

Words alone cannot convey the depth of our dismay, but the names of those Californians who lost their lives provide a stark and simple symbol of our anger and our pain. The list that follows may well grow. I will honor each one in every way that I can.

David Angell of Pasadena; Lynn Angell of Pasadena; Seima Aoyama of Los Angeles; Barbara Aresteguis of Los Angeles; Melissa Barnes of Redlands; Alan Beaven of Emeryville; Berry Berenson of Los Angeles; Carolyn Beug of Los Angeles; Yeneneh Betru of Burbank; Mark Bingham of San Francisco; Deora Bodley of Santa Clara; Touri Bolourchi of Beverly Hills; Daniel Brandhourst of Hollywood Hills; David Brandhourst of Hollywood Hills; Thomas Burnett of San Ramon; Suzanne Calley of San Martin; Jefferey Collman of Novato; Dorothy Dearaujo of Long Beach; Darlene Flagg of Corona; Dee Flagg of Corona; Wilson Flagg of Corona; Lisa Frost of Rancho Santa Margarita; Ronald Gamboa of Los Angeles; Andrew Garcia of Portola Valley; Edmund Glazer of Chatsworth; Lauren Grandcolas of San Rafael; Andrew Curry Green of Los Angeles; Richard Guadagno of Humboldt County; Stanley Hall of Rancho Palos Verdes; Gerald Hardacre of Carlsbad; John Hofer of Bellflower; Stephen Hyland of Claremont; Barbara Keating of Palm Springs; Chandler Keller of El Segundo; Jude Larson of Los Angeles; Natalie Larson of Los Angeles; Daniel John Lee of Van Nuys; Maclovio Lopez of Norwalk; Dora Menchaca of Santa Monica; Nicole Miller of San Jose; Laurie A. Neira of Los Angeles; Ruben Ornela of Los Angeles; Jerrold Paskins of Anaheim Hills; Thomas Pecorelli of Los Angeles; Robert Penniger of Poway; Mari-Rae Sopper of Santa Barbara; Alicia Titus of San Francisco; Otis Tolbert of Lemoore; Pendyala Vamsikrishna of Los Angeles; Timothy Ward of San Diego; and John Wenckus of Torrance.

In the name of these Californians, and in the name of all the other innocent victims, it is time for the terrorism to stop.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the managers of this bill for their hard work in putting forth this legislation which provides Federal funding for numerous vital programs in the Treasury Department and the General Government. However, once again, I find myself in the unpleasant position of speaking before my colleagues about parochial projects in another appropriations bill.

This bill spends at a level 5.9 percent higher than the level enacted in fiscal year 2001, which is greater than the 4 percent increase in discretionary spending than the President wanted to adhere to.

In real dollars, this is \$328 million in additional spending above the amount requested by the President, and a \$1.8 billion increase in spending from last year. So far this year, with just seven appropriations bills already passed including this bill, spending levels have already exceeded the President's budget request by more than \$7.6 billion. I must remind my colleagues that the Administration has urged us to maintain our fiscal discipline to ensure that we will continue to have adequate funds to prosecute our war against terrorism, to aid those in need, and to cover other related costs.

In this bill, I have identified just over \$200 million in earmarks, which is less than the cost of the earmarks, totaling \$356 million, in the bill passed last year. Therefore, I applaud the efforts of the appropriators in keeping parochial spending to a minimum in this bill but more must be done.

While the amounts associated with each individual earmark may not seem extravagant, taken together, they represent a serious diversion of taxpayers' hard-earned dollars at the expense of numerous programs that have undergone the appropriate merit-based selection process. It is my view that the people who run these programs should be the ones who decide how best to spend the appropriated funds. After all, they know what their most pressing needs are.

For example, under funding for the Department of Treasury, some examples of earmarks include: \$1,000,000 for work on joint technology projects with New Mexico State University's Physical Sciences Laboratory; and \$750,000 for the Center for Agriculture Policy and Trade Studies located at North Dakota State University.

Under funding for the General Government, some of the earmarks include: \$2,500,000 for the Native American Digital Telehealth Project and the Upper Great Plains Native American Telehealth Program at the University of North Dakota; and \$5,000,000 to help

purchase land and facilitate the moving of the Odd Fellows Hall to provide for construction of a new courthouse in Salt Lake City, UT.

There are more projects on the list that I have compiled, which will be available on my Senate Web site.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to curb our habit of directing hard-earned taxpayer dollars to locality-specific special interests.

POSTAL SERVICE SORTING PRACTICES IN HAWAII

Mr. DORGAN. I understand that as a result of the closure of our nation's airports and the limitations placed on the carriage of cargo on commercial passenger planes, postal service throughout our country was affected. However, the State of Hawaii was impacted most severely. My colleague from Hawaii, Senator INOUE, has joined me to discuss the situation in Hawaii.

Mr. INOUE. I thank Senator DORGAN for the opportunity to share with our colleagues the impact of the air service restrictions on the delivery of mail in the State of Hawaii. The recent closure of our Nation's air transportation system brought to light a Postal Service practice that I believe should be reevaluated. Hawaii is an island State that is not only geographically isolated from the mainland United States, but that is also geographically divided into seven distinct islands separated by the Pacific Ocean. Hawaii has a population dependent on the air transportation system for the movement of goods and people throughout the State. However, I believe the current Postal Service mail sorting procedure has the potential to exacerbate the harm to my State's economy from the airport closures, the reduced inter-island travel, and the decline in travel to and from my State.

The Postal Service in Hawaii has only one centralized sorting office. While I understand that mail service throughout the United States experienced slow-downs and difficulties as a result of the closure of our air transportation system, mail service in Hawaii came to a virtual standstill. The shut down of our airports resulted in the delivery of mail only on the island of Oahu, where the sorting station is located. My constituents on Maui could not mail letters to one another because a letter originating on Maui and addressed to another location on Maui must first be flown to Honolulu for sorting. This hardship was faced by all the residents of Oahu's neighbor islands.

With the threat of war upon us and the possibility of further airport closures, I believe we must study alternatives to the current mail sorting system. The problems faced by the neighbor islands as a result of the airport shutdown are expected to continue as tourism to and within Hawaii declines. Aloha Airlines, one of two island air carriers, has announced a 26-percent re-

duction in flights that will begin next week. Hawaiian Airlines, the other inter-island air carrier has also dramatically reduced its flight schedule. Additional flights will likely be eliminated with the expected continued decline in leisure and business travel.

In light of these flight restrictions, I believe the Postal Service should develop a procedure by which mail that originates on the same island to which it is addressed can be kept and sorted on that island. I realize that this would be only a small step toward addressing the many issues resulting from my State's unique geography, but it would be a start.

Mr. DORGAN. I thank Senator INOUE for sharing with us the difficulties faced by your State. I agree that the Postal Service should examine the feasibility of implementing procedures that take into account Hawaii's unique geography. Please be assured that I will work with the Senator to help in this endeavor.

RETIREMENT OF SHERRY ADKINS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I am grateful for this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to Sherry Adkins, who has worked in my Salt Lake City office for 25 years as a Constituent Services Representative. Sherry is retiring after many years of hard work to fulfill her dream of moving to Alaska with her husband Bruce to spend time with her grandchildren.

Sherry's life has epitomized true public service. She literally touched thousands of Utahans' lives by assisting me in helping constituents with problems ranging from Social Security issues to Veterans Administration benefits. Over the years, I have received hundreds of letters from constituents who have praised Sherry's work and expressed their gratitude to me for her assistance.

Sherry has been described as "a valuable resource," "efficient," "courteous," "concerned for others' welfare," and "trustworthy." Many people have been able finally to receive their Medicare benefits, resolve their tax problems, or find their missing Social Security checks, because of her commitment and concern.

Sherry's life has been an example of service. She has always championed the underdog and looked for ways to help others in need. She spent many years volunteering at the Salt Lake City Odyssey House, an organization designed to help men and women overcome the tragic disease of alcoholism. In fact, she even directed the Odyssey House Choir, giving members new hope and experiences, as well as entertaining thousands of people through their music.

I have always known that I could count on Sherry to get her job done, and to do it well. In fact, Sherry's work with me didn't start when I was elected to the U.S. Senate. Sherry and I go back even further. I was privileged

to have Sherry as my personal secretary for a few years while I practiced law in Utah. So, Sherry has been my longest serving staffer, and I will miss her greatly.

It has always been a pleasure to work with Sherry Adkins. I am so grateful to Sherry for her efforts and the service that she has rendered to me, my office, and to all Utahans. I feel blessed to be able to call her a friend. I want to wish Sherry and her husband Bruce the very best that life has to offer in the beautiful land of Alaska. May they find peace and happiness in their retirement years doing the things that they love the most.

ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of Armenia's independence.

On September 21, 1991, the people of Armenia began their journey of freedom and democracy. The road they have travelled over the past 10 years has been full of challenges including natural disasters, conflict in Nagorno Karabagh, and the struggles associated with economic and political transformation. Any of these could have led Armenians off the path of liberty. However, it is through the perseverance of Armenians, and those around the world who support them, that Armenia begins this new century a strong republic and an example for young democracies worldwide.

The events of September 11, 2001, pose a new challenge to Armenians, Americans, and those who reject terrorism and fight the war against fear. In his September 11 letter to President George Bush, Armenian President Robert Kocharyan called on Armenians to confront the "evil of terrorism" with "determination and resolve." At this most critical time, Americans are thankful for Armenia's support, and together, along with a global coalition of freedom-loving nations, we will find the strength and patience to continue our journey.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, today is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

In light of the tragic events of September 11, this day of remembrance and recognition has new meaning. We have spoken about a new kind of "war" but we are not sure what shape it will take. Whatever form, however, it will likely include casualties and perhaps prisoners, these are among the harsh lessons history has taught us. This day gains new meaning, too, when we consider the rescue workers who continue to comb through the war zones at the Pentagon and in lower Manhattan for the bodies of the fallen, the missing, in action.

In time of war, an entire nation unites with a singularity of purpose.