

The 2004 system would rely on a radar in Alaska built in the 1970's that was never designed for missile defense, that has no capability to differentiate the target warhead from decoys, that has never been tested against a long-range ballistic missile, and that the administration never plans to test against a long-range missile.

No part of the system has been tested against realistic targets, and there are no plans to test the integrated system as a whole before it is deployed. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has said that this is just an "initial capability" in a program that "will evolve over time" and will ultimately "look quite different than it begins."

What the Pentagon has tried not to emphasize is that this "initial capability" is likely to be marginally effective, if it works at all. Declaring this untested, marginal system ready to deploy is like declaring a newly designed airplane ready to fly before the wings have been attached to the airframe and the electronics installed in the cockpit.

In his previous tenure as Secretary of Defense, Rumsfeld had to preside over the dismantling of the Safeguard missile defense system which he had inherited and which was operational for less than six months because the technical limitations of the system rendered it ineffective. The development, deployment and dismantling of the Safeguard system cost the taxpayers tens of billions of dollars without enhancing our national security in any way. This is an experience that we should not want to repeat.

Since that time, Congress has instituted reforms in the Defense Department to help prevent the premature and costly fielding of unproven systems. Congress established the Pentagon's Director of Operational Test and Evaluation to oversee major defense programs and ensure they are adequately tested and demonstrated to work before they are deployed—in other words, that any new system is proven to "fly before we buy."

Congress also established the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, which gives the military services oversight over weapons programs to ensure that they perform well enough to be useful on the battlefield.

The Bush administration, however, has unwisely exempted all missile defense programs from the normal oversight of these important organizations. As a result, these programs are not subject to normal review by senior military and civilian acquisition officials, and they are not subject to the normal operational test and evaluation process.

Instead, the secretary of defense has delegated many of the functions of these offices to the Missile Defense Agency, effectively making that agency responsible for overseeing itself. History shows that without real oversight, major weapon systems don't work well, suffer serious schedule delays and have major cost overruns.

The Bush administration should re-establish effective oversight of missile defense programs by the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, and other oversight organizations with the Department of Defense. Rather than rushing to deploy an unproven national missile defense system, the administration should focus on completing the development of a missile defense that will be effective against likely threats and that is shown to work through proper testing.

DUCHENNE MD AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, this week is the Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy's Duchenne MD Awareness Week. It is also the 2-year anniversary

of the introduction of the MD CARE Act, which I was pleased to cosponsor with our late colleague, Senator Paul Wellstone, to raise awareness and expand Federal support for medical research to find a cure for this devastating disease.

The need for this legislation was first brought to my attention by one of my constituents, Brian Denger, of Biddeford, ME, who has not one, but two wonderful boys—Matthew and Patrick—with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The Dengers—who also have a daughter, Rachel, with juvenile diabetes—are a loving and courageous family whose strength and spirit inspired me to become involved in advocating for more research funding for muscular dystrophy.

Until I met Brian, I really did not know much about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. He was the first to tell me that 1 in 3,500 male children worldwide will be born with the disease and lose the ability to walk by age 10. He told me about the terrible progression of the disease. As it progresses, muscle deterioration in the back and chest begins to put pressure on the lungs, making it more and more difficult for the child to breathe.

What really caught my attention was the fact that the lifespan of children suffering from this disease has not been extended in any significant way in recent years. Current treatment options for boys like Matthew and Patrick are minimal and aimed simply at managing their symptoms in an effort to optimize their quality of life for the limited time they have with us.

Given our Nation's wealth of scientific expertise coupled with the tremendous infusion of resources we have poured into the NIH in recent years, we can and should do more for families like the Dengers. That is why I joined with Senator Wellstone in introducing the MD CARE Act, which President Bush signed into law in December of 2001.

Since the passage of this important legislation, the National Institutes of Health have established grants for the creation of three Centers of Excellence in Muscular Dystrophy Research, which will provide focused research and development in all phases—including basic, clinical, and transitional—of the research spectrum. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have developed an in-depth surveillance and epidemiology study of Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy. A population-based epidemiological study of Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy will provide the extensive data necessary to inform research decisions, standards of care, physician training, and public health approaches to assist families living with Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy.

The NIH and the CDC are to be commended for the progress they are making in their research efforts related to muscular dystrophy. These efforts to

improve the quality and length of life for thousands of children diagnosed with muscular dystrophy are invaluable, and I commend the researchers and all of the families who have worked so hard to combat this devastating disease.

THE "COLUMBIA" TRAGEDY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, it has been said that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. In the same way, a journey of a million miles must be completed with one final step.

It was at the moment of that ultimate step on February 1, 2003, that the Space Shuttle *Columbia* could go no further. In its last moments, America's first shuttle took with it the brave souls of its crew. It is those seven heroes and human beings I honor today, on behalf of every Oregonian who mourns them.

In recent years, the names of shuttle astronauts have seldom been known by most Americans. Now, the names of the *Columbia* Seven have entered the nation's consciousness through the floodgates of our shared grief: Flight Commander Rick Husband; Pilot William "Willie" McCool; Payload Commander Michael Anderson; Mission Specialist Kalpana "K.C." Chawla; Mission Specialist David Brown; Mission Specialist Laurel Clark; and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon.

As the recent chair of the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space, I came to know firsthand that America's astronaut corps, and indeed the teams of engineers and experts that support them, are the best this country has to offer. It seems that this particular group of astronauts was the best of the best. And they were not only America's finest, they were India's finest and Israel's finest as well.

Many of this crew were devoted husbands, wives, fathers and mothers. They leave a dozen children behind them who deserve this nation's sympathy and gratitude for the sacrifice their parents' final mission required.

But the *Columbia* crew also leaves behind their ideals of persistence and patriotism, the humility and humor that called so many people to love them so much, and above all their love of learning and life. Each brought a different background and unique experience to this mission. All defeated great odds and exhibited enormous courage in becoming the astronauts they hoped to be.

From childhood, Rick Husband, Willie McCool and David Brown cherished dreams of liftoff and landing, of spaceships and spirits aloft.

Laurel Clark dove to the depths of the sea in her naval career before reaching the heights of heaven on *Columbia*.

Michael Anderson was able to break even the barrier of sound, even the barrier of Earth's atmosphere as one of the nation's few African American astronauts.

Kalpna Chawla's mother reportedly had hoped for a son 41 years ago in India. She now says with pride that this daughter did better than any boy could, coming to America less than 20 years ago and twice being chosen as her adopted nation's envoy to space.

Ilan Ramon had led his nation into battle many times. On this expedition, he envisioned Israel at peace. Looking down from the windows of *Columbia*, he imagined that the quiet and calm of the heavens would someday find his country men and women on Earth.

As President Bush said on Saturday, *Columbia* is lost. But the optimism of Ilan Ramon and the visions *Columbia's* crew embodied never need pass away.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said this: "Through our great good fortune, in our youth our hearts were touched with fire. It was given to us to learn at the outset that life is a profound and passionate thing." Today I say that it was the great good fortune of every American, of every citizen of the world, that these seven hearts were touched in youth with fire—that it became their profound passion to reach into the skies and grasp the knowledge that lies beyond our planet.

Even as our hearts grieve, there is reason to rejoice. The United States of America and the nations of the world are still called to farther frontiers by these seven, so deserving of our respect.

HONORING SPECIALIST BRIAN CLEMENS

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Kokomo, IN. Specialist Brian Clemens was just 19 years old. He died last week in Kuwait as he and his comrades in the 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry of the Indiana Army National Guard prepared for a war that may soon begin. Brian was there, in a far away land, to fight for values we hold close to our hearts.

Specialist Clemens was the first Indiana National Guard member killed overseas since Operation Desert Storm ended more than a decade ago. He was also the first American to perish while dutifully serving our Nation in a build-up for possible war with Iraq. I mourn along with Brian's family, friends and community. While our pride in Brian shall certainly live on, so too will our sorrow. But Brian's life, his courage, and his strength of character should serve as a powerful and consoling force in the difficult days ahead.

Brian Clemens was an energetic and caring young man. He was adored by all who knew him for his charismatic personality. He was a positive force within his community, never failing to give of himself whenever possible. In the months following his graduation from Maconaquah High School in 2001, Brian returned to the school regularly to help wrestlers on the team hone their skills. He was selfless with his

time and constantly gave back to the community in which he lived, cherishing his relationships above all else. Deeply devoted to his family, Brian was especially close to his younger sister, Jennifer.

As President Abraham Lincoln wrote in a letter to the mother of a fallen Union soldier: "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." These words ring as true today as they did 140 years ago, as we mourn the loss of Brian Clemens and honor the sacrifice he made for America and for all of humanity.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Brian Clemens in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Brian's can find comfort in the word of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PAM BONRUD

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission recently announced that Pam Bonrud will serve as the PUC's new executive director. I wish to congratulate Ms. Bonrud for her selection to lead the PUC and to formally thank her for her 10 years of service to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System.

During that time, Ms. Bonrud distinguished herself as an effective and dedicated leader. While with Lewis and Clark, Ms. Bonrud was instrumental in helping me and my colleagues secure the successful passage of legislation authorizing the project. Through her leadership, we were able to build a strong coalition supporting the project at the local, State and Federal levels within the States of South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Ms. Bonrud displayed all the qualities necessary to help make sure this critically important water project would receive Federal authorization. She was professional, persistent, and determined, and always had a positive attitude, even though the authorization process took 6 years from the time the first version of the legislation was introduced in 1994.

I always enjoyed working with Ms. Bonrud, and she was able to work effectively with Senators and House Members of all three States involved and on

both sides of the aisle. She has been one of South Dakota's best advocates and supporters of rural water development, and the entire southeast region of South Dakota, as well southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa, will always be thankful for her 10 years of hard work, dedication, and foresight to help bring this much needed drinking water project from the drawing board to construction.

In fact, the Lewis and Clark System will be undertaking a groundbreaking ceremony this spring, and Ms. Bonrud is a major reason it will be the beginning of making this project a reality. She leaves the project in good stead and her leadership and fine character will be sorely missed.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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, a withdrawal, and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, Public Law 93-344, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate appoints Mr. Douglas Holtz-Eakin as Director of the Congressional Budget Office for a term of office expiring on January 3, 2007.

MEASURES REFERRED

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of the following measure which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. 277. A bill to authority the Secretary of the Interior to construct an education and administrative center at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Box Elder County, Utah.

The Committee on Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following measure which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. Res. 51. Resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Governmental Affairs.