

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

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

## MOCKING PACIFIC ALLIES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, last week, the Washington Post saw fit to print an article entitled "Many Willing, But Only A Few Are Able." Ostensibly about the U.S. and British-led force of the coalition now fighting in Iraq, the Post's article mocks the sovereign nations of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau—three of our country's most steadfast allies in the Western Pacific. This is both offensive and undeserved. As Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee's subcommittee with responsibility for our relations with the freely associated states, I would like to set the record straight. In making this statement, I am speaking not only for myself but also on behalf of Senator DOMENICI, the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The citizens of these nations deserve better.

The Post would have its readers believe that these Pacific islands are nothing more than banana republics. This is not the case. It is obvious to me and anyone familiar with the special relationship between our Nations that the Post is unaware of the islands' historical significance and continued role in our national defense. The Post's failure to learn the most basic facts about our allies is sloppy and irresponsible.

These islands endured occupation by Japan under a League of Nation's Mandate and then saw some of the bloodiest fighting during World War II. It was the residents of these islands who endured the contests for Enewetak, Pelilieu, and Kwajalein.

After the War, the islands were placed under the United Nations' Trusteeship system. The United States brought self-government and the development of political institutions. The Congress of Micronesia rejected both integration with the United States and independence in favor of sovereignty and free association and Congress overwhelmingly ratified the Compacts of Free Association. An important aspect of that relationship is the ability of citizens of the freely associated states to attend the United States military academies and serve in the United States Armed Services.

As we speak, there are citizens of all three countries serving in Iraq in every branch of the U.S. military, ready to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Marshallese citizens are fighting with the 101st Airborne Division and the Third Infantry Division, in harm's way and approaching Baghdad. The Federated States of Micronesia has hundreds of its people on active duty. Indeed, the son of the current President of Micronesia, Leo Falcam, is a Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Marines and commands an air squadron in Okinawa. Clearly, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia are contributing to the war effort.

The Compact of Free Association has guided our relationship with these nations for nearly 20 years. During that time, these nations have been among our strongest allies in the United Nations and elsewhere. Their sons and daughters have known oppression and have volunteered to serve with our citizens to end despotism and terrorism. It is offensive to read articles like that published by the Washington Post that denigrate foreign nations and their citizens in an effort to ridicule President Bush and the administration.

The Post conveniently forgets the outrages committed by Saddam Hussein against the Kurds and the people of Iraq and now chooses to insult good and decent people who have the courage to stand with the United States.

As I said, I take issue with this article. So while the reporter and editor of the Post congratulate themselves on one more cheap and vulgar attack on the Administration, I would like to offer my apology to the thousands of citizens in our freely associated states. We owe them our gratitude for their commitment. The Post should be ashamed.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Women's History Month. This time has been appropriately designated to reflect upon the important contributions and heroic sacrifices that women have made to our Nation and to consider the challenges they continue to face. Throughout our history, women have been at the forefront of every important movement for a better and more just society, and they have been the foundation of our families and communities.

In Maryland, we are proud to honor those women who have given so much to improve our lives. Their achievements illustrate their courage and tenacity in conquering what others perceive as overwhelming obstacles. They include Harriet Elizabeth Brown, civil rights leader, teacher and principal. In the 1930s in Calvert County, she fought to eliminate pay disparities between white and black teachers. Another noteworthy Marylander was Anna Ella Carroll who served as an unofficial adviser and strategist to President Abraham Lincoln in her efforts to preserve the Union during the Civil War. We are all indebted to Rose Kushner, teacher, medical writer, and psychologist, who worked tirelessly as an advocate for

better screening and treatment of breast cancer. Their accomplishments and talent provide inspiration not only to the residents of Maryland, but to people all over the globe.

My good friend and colleague from Maryland, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, is a tremendous example of the commitment and dedication women give to public service. From her background as a social worker to her election to the U.S. Senate, Senator MIKULSKI, who has served longer than any other woman currently in the Senate, has always worked to ensure those in need receive the critical support services necessary for them to live independently and with dignity. She appropriately played a key role in establishing this month when in 1981, co-sponsoring a resolution establishing National Women's History Week, a predecessor to Women's History Month. Today, I wish to honor her dedication and service to the people of Maryland and this Nation.

This Women's History Month is a fitting time to honor the women of the armed services and recognize the sacrifice they make for our country, especially in light of the unprecedented role women are playing in our military engagement in Iraq. Approximately 15 percent of all active duty personnel are women. From the American Revolution and the Civil War through modern day armed conflict, American women have made sacrifices along side their husbands, sons, brothers and fathers to preserve the freedom upon which this Nation was founded. At this time, we know that Army Specialist Shoshawna Johnson is being held as a POW in Iraq, and Private First Class Jessica Lynch is missing in action. We send our hopes and prayers for the safe return of these brave young women, and all of those serving our country, and want their families to know that our thoughts are with them during this very difficult time.

Women have made great strides in overcoming historic adversity and bias but they still face many obstacles. Unequal pay, poverty, inadequate access to healthcare and violent crime are among the challenges that continue to disproportionately affect women. While the most recent Census Bureau figures show that the percentage of women holding managerial jobs grew from one-third to a high of 46 percent since 1983, this figure has not improved since 2001. In addition, women continue to earn less than their male colleagues, earning only 77.5 percent of every dollar earned by men. Despite these obstacles, women push on. In recent years, the poverty rate for single women has declined and more women hold advanced degrees than ever before. Recent figures show that women received approximately 45 percent of law and 42 percent of medical degrees awarded in this country. This is a dramatic improvement from a few decades ago and should continue as more and more young women recognize their opportunities are limitless.

Indeed women continue to make great progress. As we highlight their accomplishments in history this month, I believe it is also important to educate present and future generations about gender discrimination so that we do not repeat past mistakes. During my service in Congress, I have strongly supported efforts to address women's issues and eradicate gender discrimination and inequality. These include cosponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act, and continually supporting an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. I am proud of these efforts and I will continue my commitment to bring fuller equality to all women. I am confident that the women of America will continue to excel while continuing their role as advocates for those values and ideals which are at the heart of a decent, caring and fair society.

#### NEXT STEPS: MA AND PA METHAMPHETAMINE LABS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today after hearing several reports of the continued problem of methamphetamine production in rural America. Law enforcement must dedicate more and more resources to the small, "ma and pa" meth labs. These small labs pose a threat not only because of the drugs they produce, but also the serious health and environmental risk caused by the production process.

In years past, methamphetamine production was controlled by skilled chemists or well-educated individuals who were paid significant amounts of money to manufacture the narcotic. Methamphetamine production at times took an entire day to produce. Today, with modern technology and the help of information readily available over the Internet, methamphetamine production can be accomplished within a very few hours. Production no longer takes a highly skilled individual or chemist. Recipes for producing meth can be downloaded off the Internet, complete with step-by-step instructions anyone can follow. These recipes use products available at any number of local retail outlets as ingredients, first reducing them to the needed chemical components and then recombining them to produce meth.

Small cooks, often producing only enough meth for themselves and a few friends, dominate the concerns of rural law enforcement organizations. Several of the narcotics task forces in Iowa report that while they believe over 80 percent of the meth within their jurisdiction comes from outside the State, they spend 80 percent of their time and resources on these small cooks. If we are going to get ahead of this problem, we must change this ratio.

Several years ago we took some important steps in limiting access to many of the precursors needed for meth production. These were good steps, and have proven somewhat effective. But more needs to be done.

Officers from the Southeast Iowa Task Force will tell you stories of suspects they have followed all over the county, stopping at each convenience store, supermarket, and drug store they passed to pick up as much cold medicine as they could. Not because they were sick, but because they needed the ephedrine in these drugs to cook meth. Sometimes it is purchased, but just as often it is stolen. These suspects were followed back to apartments, farm houses, motel rooms, or even deserted areas of gravel roads where the cold medicines were combined with other chemicals like starter fluid, anhydrous ammonia, and drain cleaner solvents for a "cook" of methamphetamine. This is all too common anyplace we find meth being cooked by amateurs using recipes off the Internet.

There are several different recipes for cooking meth. In rural areas, many of the small cooks use a receipt calling for anhydrous ammonia, which is a fertilizer readily available wherever farming occurs. Other recipes call for the use of red phosphorous, the common ingredient in emergency road flares. But all of these recipes need some form of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, a common ingredient in cold medicine.

If we make it more difficult for meth cooks to acquire ephedrine, then it will be more difficult for them to manufacture this poison. Several proposals have been put forth by the DEA and others which would help control access to ephedrine products. Many of these have merit, and I hope we will continue to pursue these proposals.

One method that could be very effective would be to put products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine behind the counter, such as is currently done with cigarettes. Other proposals would increase the penalties for possession of excessive amounts of precursor chemicals for meth. Some quarters have suggested collecting names or even social security numbers for everyone who purchases products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Clearly, each of these proposed solutions brings its own set of challenges.

But new steps need to be taken. Spending 80 percent of the time on 20 percent of the problem is not a way to get ahead. Increasing the difficulty of getting the products needed to do a small "cook" of meth decreases the likelihood these "cooks" will take place at all. While none of these proposals will stop all of the ma and pa meth operations, the status quo is not acceptable. Our cops are being overwhelmed, and our kids are dying—we cannot remain silent.

#### SUPPORT FOR NATO EXPANSION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, on March 26, NATO signed the Protocols on the Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Romania. This is an important step toward the full membership in

NATO for these countries. Soon, the Senate will debate whether to approve admission for these seven new and vibrant democracies. These countries have thrown off the shackles of communism. They are pressing forward, and I am confident their admission to NATO will only make that great alliance stronger and more robust.

The enlargement process presents a historic opportunity for NATO to strengthen security and peace, as well as a significant step toward fulfilling the vision of a Europe whole and free. The new members have proved willing and capable of adding value to NATO's missions, and they strongly reinforce the importance of a trans-Atlantic link.

The aspirant members have long contributed to NATO and allied missions, and they will bolster similar NATO and allied operations in the future. They have provided logistical support and troops in combat or peace support missions in Western Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Romania, for example, currently has over 1,300 troops engaged in allied missions, including a combat battalion that carries out operations shoulder to shoulder with U.S. forces in Afghanistan, and a NBC unit in Iraq. Additionally, the Romanian Government will shelter up to 1,500 war refugees from Iraq if needed. Romania and Bulgaria are currently providing host nation support at the Black Sea airbase and seaport bases. Moreover, Slovakia and the Baltic countries have provided peacekeeping troops, air surveillance support, as well as NBC specialists.

I look forward to the debate in the U.S. Senate on ratification of the protocols for NATO expansion. NATO expansion will prove beneficial to those countries seeking entrance to NATO and the those countries already in the alliance.

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WALLACE M. GREENE, JR.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the passing on March 8, 2003, of GEN Wallace M. Greene, Jr., of Waterbury, VT. General Greene served with distinction as Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1964 until he retired in 1967.

General Greene was born on December 27, 1907, in Waterbury, a small city in central Vermont. He began his academic career at the University of Vermont, and after one year he entered the armed forces at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, graduating in 1930, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

After Annapolis, General Greene first assignment was the Philadelphia Navy Yard and from there, his career took him to Portsmouth, NH; San Diego, CA; on board the battleship USS *Tennessee*; Quantico, VA; and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During World War II, General Greene took part in planning the invasion of the Marshall Islands in 1943