

hijacking, provide further evidence of the fundamentally repressive and undemocratic nature of the Castro regime. Cuba has been stubbornly imperious to the democratizing trend sweeping the hemisphere in recent years. This, however, merely demonstrates the failure of our 40-year policy isolation.

Lifting travel restrictions on our citizens is not likely to bring about a transformation in Cuba overnight. But we have already seen what perpetuating the ban has accomplished—nothing. We have been depriving our own citizen of their liberty without bringing the blessings of liberty any closer to the Cuban people. It is time to end this fruitless policy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ERIN M. MCCARTER, USAF

• Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, the world has just witnessed the overwhelming effectiveness of the Armed Forces of the United States. Our military's rapid success in Iraq should serve as a source of pride for our Nation, for that success is based on the people in the Armed Forces, average Americans and immigrants doing extraordinary things.

I come to the floor today to pay tribute to one of the people who has made the American military the great success it is today. At the end of this month, Lieutenant Colonel Erin McCarter will retire after over 20 years in the Air Force.

Col. McCarter hails originally from Moline, IL, one of the Quad Cities on the Mississippi River. She graduated from Moline High School and then attended the University of Iowa through the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant, she started her military career during the cold war as the logistics officer accountable for nuclear munitions at Ellsworth Air Force Base. At 21, then Lt. McCarter was responsible for the nuclear munitions at a Strategic Air Command facility. It is remarkable the responsibility the military places in the hands of relatively young officers and enlisted personnel, and these young men and women are routinely up to the demands placed on them.

Col. McCarter continued her Air Force career largely in logistics and as a staff officer. She served as a wing supply and headquarters staff officer at a number of major Air Force bases, including Ramstein in Germany and Shaw in South Carolina. She served as chief of the Pacific Air Force's weapon systems support at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. While there, she also served as chief protocol officer to the commanding general, Pacific Air Forces.

She went on to command the 8th Supply Squadron at Kunsan Air Force Base in South Korea, before coming to the Pentagon. After holding staff officer positions and serving as a liaison officer to Congress, Col. McCarter became Country Director, Saudi Arabia Division, in the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs. In this capacity, she successfully managed the relationship with one of our country's key strategic allies in the Middle East.

During her Air Force career, Col. McCarter received a master's degree in business administration and completed the executive program in international business management at Georgetown University. She received the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster.

After 20 years in service to our Nation, Colonel McCarter is retiring. Our Nation's loss is Illinois's gain, however, as she is returning to the Prairie State, where most of her family continues to reside. I want to take a moment as well to thank her family. Without their continuous support, I am confident Col. McCarter would not have had as successful a career in the Air Force as she enjoyed.

Upon Col. McCarter's retirement from active duty, I want to welcome her home to Illinois and thank her for her dedication, devotion to duty, and commitment to the Air Force and our Nation. We owe her and all her colleagues in the Armed Forces a great debt.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY BERLIN

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I pay tribute to Jerry Berlin—a friend, an American patriot, and a principled and passionate man. On April 29, in a shocking tragedy, Jerry was shot and killed by his business partner at the Signature Grand banquet hall, which they had worked so hard to build together.

It is always difficult to know what to say when people we care about are taken from us before their time. Even more difficult when the death is so sudden, so horrific, as this one was. But let me take a moment to pay tribute to the great American life that Jerry lived.

Jerry was born in New York. His family, like many others, moved down to Miami when he was a boy. In high school at Miami Beach High, Jerry acted and danced in school productions. Those who knew him might have guessed it because he always had a spark in his eye and a spring in his step.

Jerry's hard work quickly established him as a stellar lawyer, and one of the best Democratic fundraisers in the country. He believed in what our party believes: that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should be

able to go as far in America as your talents will take you. And he didn't just talk about those ideals. He lived by them.

In the mid-1980s, Jerry's boundless energy led him to team with his business partner to create Signature Gardens, a banquet hall that catered literally and figuratively to the middle class. It was a place for weddings, proms, sweet sixteens, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. You name it. It was a place where the community came together. And it was a wonderful success.

All who knew Jerry are still in disbelief that his life could be taken, and in such a horrible way.

In recent years, I am told, Jerry was becoming more religious. He was exploring his faith. He even went to study in Jerusalem. I have no doubt he is with God, in peace, now. We mourn for him and pray for his children, Ashley, Bret and Sharon, his ex-wife Gwen, and his fiancée, Marna Ross.●

RETIREMENT OF WISCONSIN STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILLIAM BABLITCH

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career of a distinguished public servant, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice William Bablitch. Justice Bablitch has been a voice of fairness and reason on the Wisconsin Supreme Court for nearly two decades. Upon his retirement in July of this year, Wisconsin will lose a fine jurist, but the State and the institution will be stronger for his contributions and his service.

Justice Bablitch has deep roots in Wisconsin. He was born and raised in Stevens Point and graduated from Pacelli High School. He cleaned golf clubs while working his way through college, studying first at University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point and ultimately earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. He spent 2 years in Liberia, West Africa in the Peace Corps, serving as an elementary school teacher. Upon his return he entered law school, and in 1968, he received his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. His close friends say his first love has always been the law.

Justice Bablitch has spent his entire career in public service—first as the District Attorney in Portage County, later elected to the State Senate, and finally as a justice on the State Supreme Court. In Portage County, Justice Bablitch coordinated one of the first sensitive crimes units in the state and worked cooperatively with the Portage County Sheriff to help the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point through the campus demonstrations that grew out of the Kent State protests and shootings.

First elected in 1972, Justice Bablitch served as a State Senator for 11 years representing Adams, Waushara, Portage and Wood Counties. For 7 of his 11 years in the State Senate, he had the

distinction of serving as Majority Leader. His legislative accomplishments are many and varied. He wrote the first campaign reform law restricting campaign spending and establishing public financing. He drafted watershed sexual assault legislation that prohibited the cross examination of a victim's past consensual sexual conduct—legislation which quickly became a national model. And he authored legislation which barred utilities from suspending or terminating service in the middle of winter.

Justice Bablitch was elected to the Supreme Court in 1983 and was re-elected in 1993. One of his most notable opinions came in a dissent where he upheld Wisconsin's hate crimes law. His dissent, however, became the majority position of the United States Supreme Court when that body upheld Wisconsin's law. He wrote opinions strengthening Wisconsin's "lemon law." He also authored important opinions in civil rights and environmental cases. Justice Bablitch's tenure will be remembered for his ability to resolve complex issues of great importance to every resident of Wisconsin.

On July 31 of this year, Justice Bablitch will step down from his position on the Court. With his long career in public service and his demonstrated devotion to the law, it is nearly certain that Justice Bablitch will not be closing the book on his career—only ending another distinguished chapter. Yet on this occasion, we would be remiss if we did not thank him for his outstanding contributions, for his dedication and for his even-handedness on the bench.

Let me close by quoting Justice Bablitch himself: "Law is the glue that holds our society together. Without law we have chaos." Wisconsin owes him a debt of gratitude for devoting his career to being the glue.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DON WILLIAMS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise to honor my friend Don Williams on his last day presiding as Executive Director of the Fort Knox CORE Committee meeting in Kentucky. Since the inception of the CORE Committee in 1992, Don spent 4 years as Chairman and the past 7 years as Executive Director of the committee up until his retirement at the end of this month. Fortunately, Don will continue to serve as a member of the CORE Committee and add his valuable insights and expertise on Army issues pertaining to Fort Knox.

Don has advocated on the behalf of Fort Knox on the local, State, and Federal levels for many years. After 28 years of service in Army infantry and armor units and high-level staff assignments, Colonel Williams retired from the Army in 1990 as Chief of Staff at Fort Knox. During his last role in active duty as Chief of Staff, Don became very active in the local communities surrounding Fort Knox. As a private citizen, Don has continued to promote

the future vitality and importance of Fort Knox and the economic development of the base's surrounding communities.

Don has accomplished many great achievements over his life. He received his BA and later his MA in political science from the University of Massachusetts. He has taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy and he spent 5 years at the Pentagon on the Army staff and later as Secretary to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. After his retirement from the Army, Don served as senior vice president of Bank One, Central Kentucky; vice chairman of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs; and important roles with the Association of the United States Army and the Louisville Chamber of Commerce. Don has worn just about every important military/civilian relations hat in Kentucky and he has worn them all with the dedication and dignity of a soldier and a gentleman.

I ask my colleagues to honor Colonel Williams' service to the U.S. Army, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our great Nation. While Don may be relinquishing his duties as Executive Director of the CORE Committee, I look forward to continuing to work with him on important projects to both Fort Knox and its surrounding communities. Don is a great Kentuckian and a good friend. I thank the Senate for allowing me to laud his praises.●

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER KEITH P. THOMPSON

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Officer Keith P. Thompson of the Omaha Police Department on his selection as Officer of the Month for March 2003 by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

After receiving his initial training in law enforcement as military police officer in the U.S. Army, Officer Thompson joined the Omaha Police Department where he served the people of Omaha honorably until a tragic event occurred on August 28, 1996.

On that day a stolen vehicle collided with Officer Thompson's cruiser. Miraculously, both he and his partner, Officer Mark Negrete, survived the crash. While Officer Negrete escaped with only minor injuries, the accident left Officer Thompson in a coma for 20 days. Against all odds, he survived the collision, the coma, and the surgery that followed, but complications left him paralyzed.

It would have been easy for Officer Thompson to give up on his law enforcement career at that point. But instead, he fought back through months of grueling therapy, battling paralysis, memory loss, and difficulties with his speech.

After rejuvenating his memory and fine motor skills, Officer Thompson enrolled in Goodwill's Head Injury Rehabilitation and Employment, or HIRE, program where he mastered computer

keyboarding. Through it all, Officer Thompson's wife Ann and their three children believed in him and were at his side helping him overcome the challenges and obstacles that had been set in his path.

On September 25, 1997, less than 13 months after the accident, Officer Thompson returned to duty at Omaha's Central Police Headquarters. He currently serves as the first line in non-emergency communications with the community as part of the Information Service Unit's Telephone Response Squad. He also speaks regularly to recruit classes about the dangers of high-speed pursuits.

Officer Thompson serves his community every day he goes to work, but he also serves as an inspiration to all those who meet him or hear his story. He is living proof that with courage, determination, and heart, all obstacles can be overcome.

I congratulate Mr. Thompson on the recognition he has deservedly received. It is truly an honor for him, his family, the Omaha Police Department, and the State of Nebraska.●

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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

PERIODIC REPORT RELATIVE TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN WHICH WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12170—PM 32

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 14, 2003.