

Thailand, Japan, and China. It will require these and other nations to disavow the failed policies of engagement. These policies simply have not worked.

I am pleased to see that the McConnell-Feinstein legislation attempts to trigger a process that will ratchet up the regional pressure on the Burmese Government. I am also glad to see that the United States has demarched every government in Southeast Asia on this issue.

In closing, I want to highlight the fact that the U.N. Envoy, Razali Ismail, was finally able to see Aung San Suu Kyi. According to CNN, Mr. Ismail said that she shows no signs of injury following clashes with a pro-government group. His exact words were "she did not have a scratch on her and was feisty as usual." That is indeed good.

I was also glad to see Mr. Ismail call on the members of ASEAN to drop the organization's policy of nonintervention. He stated: "ASEAN has to break through the straitjacket and start dealing with this issue. . . . The situation in Burma can only be changed if regional actors take their positions to act on it."

I agree. The international community has a responsibility to act together to pressure the SPDC. The time for appeasement is over.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to condemn the ongoing repression of the democracy movement in Burma. This latest crackdown has included the rearrest and injury of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and brutal attacks on her supporters. Burma's regime has ignored the basic human rights of its citizens and is intent only on preserving its own brutal grip on power.

Since last May, the international community has significantly decreased pressure on Burma's regime. During that time, we have seen only increased abuses. The numbers are staggering: Burma's regime has forcibly conscripted 70,000 child soldiers, far more than any other country in the world. The regime has tortured and locked up 1,400 political prisoners. Even worse, the regime has borrowed a tactic from the Bosnian war by using rape as a weapon of war, heaping misery on countless women and girls.

Clearly, the United States and the international community must more actively address the situation and Burma and take available steps to prevent further violence against those seeking desired democratic reform.

As my colleague from Kentucky Senator McCONNELL has stated forcefully and eloquently over the last two weeks, the United States must provide international leadership. Next week, Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will be visiting Washington, DC to meet with the President and other senior government officials. This meeting would provide an ideal opportunity to urge the Prime Minister to make every effort to formulate a policy to help bring about positive change in Burma.

I say to the people of Burma that the people of the United States support you and share your values. We admire your courage, and commend your bravery. We will continue to support your struggle, as long as this oppressive regime remains in power.

The United States has a long history of supporting democratic change and condemning regimes that repress and disregard the will of the people. This most recent attack on democratic reformers in Burma only underscores the need for the U.S. to be vigilant in voicing strong disapproval with the actions of the current regime, and assist the legitimately elected leaders of Burma to bring much needed democratic reform and respect for universally recognized human rights to the people of Burma.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to those members of the Armed Forces who have served and continue to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Countless women and men have answered the call of our country to preserve and protect our freedom against those individuals and regimes that would seek to compromise or destroy our way of life. Reservists have left civilian lives behind, parting with wives, husbands, parents, children, and friends in order to fulfill their commitment to our country's defense. Active Duty military members have gone from merely conducting exercises mimicking war, to leaving their homes and families to engage in the real thing, on foreign soil, thousands of emotional and physical miles from familiarity and comfort. These brave soldiers, airman, marines, and sailors do their jobs in a place where injury and death lie in wait at every turn. The next rise in the gritty, windblown landscape may hide 160 pounds of profound desperation peering from behind the barrel of a gun. The building around the corner needing to be secured might be rigged with enough explosives to make a small child's father or mother nothing but a memory. floating just beneath the roiling surface of the water, there might be a mine, with deadly patience waiting for the next ship to pass overhead so that it can accomplish its gruesome mission. These are some of the hazards our military members face in their jobs. Frankly, it makes our job in these marble halls seem significantly less perilous.

I speak today to recognize in particular those faithful men and women from my State—Idaho. We have had approximately 450 reservists and active-duty members called to serve in the war. That may not seem like a large number compared to those from some other States, but proportionately it represents a significant percentage of Idahoans. We also have countless other soldiers who have family and friends who call Idaho home. This number does not include the over 160 who were activated to fill positions vacated at in-

stallations here by deployed personnel. We also have Idahoans continuing to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom, and in the fight against terrorism. I have spoken before of MAJ Gregory Stone and CPL Richard P. Carl, both soldiers from Idaho who lost their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I now ask for a moment of silent prayer and reflection from my fellow Senators as we consider what their dying, as well as over 150 other men and women who have met the same fate in this conflict, has accomplished for our personal freedom.

Thankfully, many of those who were called to military service from Idaho have just recently returned safely home. Yet their experiences overseas will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Some may remember lines of tanks rolling ominously forward under a dusty sky, marred by waves of heat emanating from the desert floor. That memory may be infused with the pungent odor of layers of sweat and grime under desert camies, mingled with the acrid odor of burning gasoline and oil. Others may remember pulling the trigger on their weapon and seeing death for the first time in their young life. They may remember being close enough to smell it and feel it, or feel as if their own was but a whisper away. Still more may remember the sight of crowds, pushing against one another, some greeting the American soldiers with cheers of gratitude, some screaming epithets, some shamelessly begging for food and water to feed themselves or their starving families, and others simply greeting this modern army in grim, expressionless silence brought on by years of brutal repression and loss. The smell of desperate, poverty-stricken humanity, and the sounds of raw emotion cascading forth in an uninhibited tidal wave after a lifetime of unchecked tyranny, may remain forever embedded in the memories of many of those soldiers. Finally, and very tragically, some will never forget a life that slipped away while they clutched a friend's bleeding body to their chest in shared agony.

I give account of these images to remind us of the grim reality of war, and the tremendous sacrifice that these noble women and men have made so that we can continue to live in glorious freedom. We tend to take for granted, at times, the price that is paid for this amazing gift. The cost comes not only in the loss of life, but the loss of innocence. The cost is borne by family members as well, and by those, whom never having set foot outside this country, bear the scars of a father, mother, husband, wife, son or daughter forever gone from this life.

This body voted to support a decision to send these men and women into harm's way. Lest the proud soldiers from Idaho, and their persevering families, think that I came to that decision lightly, I stand now before you and recognize their tremendous bravery in the

face of danger, their courage in the face of death, and their unequivocal commitment to preserving the ideals of liberty and democracy. I want to convey no doubt that their decision to become a member of the most well-trained, professional military in the world places them in my highest esteem. With gravity and sincerity, I thank them and I honor them. They have given me, my wife, and most importantly, my children, and yours as well, the priceless gift of freedom.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE PROTECTION OF DISCLOSURES ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Federal Employees Protection of Disclosures Act, a bill to ensure that Federal employees can report fraud, waste, and abuse within their employer Federal agencies without fear of retaliation. I cosponsored this much needed reform in the last Congress and commend the junior Senator from Hawaii for reintroducing it today. Congress must encourage Federal employees with reasonable beliefs about governmental misconduct to report such fraud or abuse, but it must also protect those who blow the whistle rather than leave them vulnerable to reprisals.

Unfortunately, whistleblower protections under current law have been weakened by the Federal circuit, the court that now possesses exclusive appellate jurisdiction over such claims. The Federal circuit has issued a number of rulings that erode whistleblower rights in direct contradiction to the plain language of the law and the congressional intent of established whistleblower protections. The potential chilling effect of these decisions threatens to undermine the fundamental purpose underlying whistleblower laws. The Federal Employees Protection of Disclosures Act will address this problem by expanding judicial review of such cases to all Federal circuit courts of competent jurisdiction. Jurisdiction will then include the place where the whistleblower lives or where the Government misconduct occurred.

The bill also updates the current law. For example, it clarifies that whistleblower disclosures can come in many forms—such as oral or written, or formal or informal disclosures. It also broadens current law to reflect that reporting occurs in many different areas, such as over policy matters or individual misconduct. The law expands the current list of prohibited personnel actions against a whistleblower in two ways: One, the opening of an investigation of the employee, and two, the revocation of a security clearance. The bill also ensures that appropriate disciplinary actions are taken against managers who negative actions toward employees were motivated in any way by the employee's whistleblowing. More practical reforms are also included, such as making the collecting

of attorney's fees available to whistleblowers who prevail in court. In addition, under the bill, consequential damages may be suffered by the employee if they are the result of a prohibited personnel practice.

Whistleblower information is one tool in helping the Government and private sector find ways to prevent future terrorist attacks as well. Though certain safeguards remain for intelligence-related or policy-making functions, the Federal Employees Protection of Disclosures Act maintains existing whistleblower rights for independently obtained critical infrastructure information without fear of criminal prosecution. These protections are needed to encourage individuals to submit information to the Government about cyberattacks or other threats that might affect the Nation's critical infrastructures.

Whistleblowers have proven to be important catalysts for much needed Government change over the years. From corporate fraud to governmental misconduct to media integrity, the importance of whistleblowers in galvanizing positive change cannot be questioned. I urge my fellow Senators to support this important bill.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN TOM GETTYS

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, tomorrow I will be attending the funeral of a former colleague from the South Carolina congressional delegation, Tom Gettys, and I rise to recognize this legend from Rock Hill.

I have known Congressman Gettys for many years. He came to Washington 2 years before I did, having already been an officer in the Navy, a school principal, a postmaster, and so he came in with a reputation of a person's person. It did not matter who you were in the world, he was your buddy; and since he was in a position to help people as a Member of Congress, he would and he did.

He stayed just 10 years, but he made an impression for the next 30. I never heard a single bad thing said about him, and I don't know very many politicians I can say that about. He has been out of office since 1974, but everybody in my State still always refers to him as Congressman because he was just one great guy who cared about people. This Senator will miss this gentleman, always the statesman, always the one with a good story.

Tomorrow, I will extend the Senate's sympathy to his wife Mary, and his daughters Julia and Sara. And to share just how much Tom meant to his community, I ask unanimous consent that this article from the Herald in Rock Hill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Rock Hill (SC) Herald, June 9, 2003]

FORMER CONGRESSMAN LEAVES LEGACY OF DEDICATION

(By Andrew Dys)

He voted to create Medicaid and was proud the rest of his life—but he was just as proud to know the doormen and elevator operators in the U.S. Capitol by first name. Tom Gettys, a working-class man from Rock Hill's Hampton Street who went on to become a Congressman from South Carolina's 5th District from 1964 to 1974, died Sunday at Westminster Towers in Rock Hill. Gettys was 90.

Gettys' legacy of grace, dedication and constituent service is one that current 5th District Congressman John Spratt, D-York, has tried to emulate during his own 20 years in Congress. Gettys' record is not in the laws he passed, but the people he helped.

"His life exemplified what living in a democracy is all about," Spratt said Sunday night. "Everybody in this district not only respected Tom Gettys, but they loved him as well. Tom had a natural, easygoing affinity for people and the problems they had to live through. Tom Gettys will be missed by all of us."

Gettys was born on June 19, 1912, and was educated at the public schools in Rock Hill and later at Clemson and Erskine College. He was principal at the now-defunct Central Elementary School in Rock Hill from 1933 to 1941.

Gettys volunteered for the Navy in World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and Spratt remembers Gettys was fond of saying "Admiral Nimitz and I did all right over there in the Pacific."

5th District Congressman Dick Richards called on Gettys to run his staff in Washington for seven years. A political future hatched in Washington, but Gettys did more than politick the back hallways of Capitol Hill—he studied law at night and passed the bar exam, and even was Rock Hill's postmaster upon his return from Washington from 1951 to 1954.

Before Gettys won his spot in Congress in 1964 against a crowded four-man field, he was a lion of Rock Hill civic life, serving as president of Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA and even as chairman of the Rock Hill School Board. After his return, he became a part of the civic fabric of Rock Hill.

The city honored Gettys by naming the old federal courthouse on East Main Street in his honor in 1997, a building now called the Tom S. Gettys Center.

Gettys had a stroke several years ago and months ago moved from his longtime Myrtle Drive home into Westminster Towers. He maintained contact with old friends, however, and regularly attended bi-weekly meetings of the Rock Hill Rotary Club when his health would allow.

John Hardin, former Rock Hill mayor and lifelong friend, said Gettys and he were part of a weekly golfing outing with A.W. Huckle, publisher of The Evening Herald, and banker George Dunlap.

"I had known him since childhood," Hardin said, "but we became intimate friends after World War II."

Gettys, a Navy officer, was assigned to Iowa but requested overseas service and jumped at duty in the Pacific.

Hardin, who ran First Federal Savings and Loan, saw Gettys frequently when he traveled to Washington to lobby as president of the Savings and Loan League.

"The thing he liked best was trying to help people," Hardin said. "He was great at what they call constituent service. He was more interested in helping people than in passing legislation."