

Fire Department, Center Pigeon Volunteer Fire Department, Lake Logan Fire Department, Enka/Candler Fire Department, Haywood County Rescue Squad, Haywood County EMS, Blue Ridge Paper Emergency Response Team and Clyde Police Department.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA STAFF OF SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of men and women who have served over the past 26 years as staff for Senator TOM DASCHLE in the State of South Dakota. I join my colleagues in providing the most heartfelt appreciation for the public service career of Senator DASCHLE and that appreciation extends to the work of his South Dakota staff.

The people of South Dakota have benefitted greatly over the years from the work of Senator DASCHLE's staff. These men and women worked tirelessly behind the scenes on behalf of South Dakota constituents. They served as the eyes and ears for Senator DASCHLE, maintaining contacts in South Dakota communities, attending meetings on projects and sitting down with individual constituents to discuss matters of importance.

Some of Senator DASCHLE's staff provided over two decades of dedicated service to the people of South Dakota. Their long hours of service, many of them spent driving on country roads, sitting in coffee shops or walking through drought-stricken corn and wheat fields, underscored Senator DASCHLE's commitment to serve the people of South Dakota.

Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff truly reflect the tireless work ethic, dedication, and professionalism that he has exemplified to all the citizens of our state. Whether attending economic development outreach meetings, sacrificing holidays and weekends to travel with Senator DASCHLE across South Dakota, or tending to the many casework issues facing our constituents, Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff has done a superb job.

It is my hope that these valued members of Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff recognize the importance of their work and the great appreciation that many in South Dakota hold for them for their great service.

Senator DASCHLE's current South Dakota staff includes:

Beth Smith, Betty Daschle, Jody Jordan, Maeve King, and Virginia Newquist in the Aberdeen office; Ace Crawford, Armon Gaddy, Dorothy Christensen, Jackie Heier, Georgeann Johnson, Rose Larson, and Sheila Lane in the Rapid City office; Bill Idema, Gene Dwyer, Jeff Wilka, Jenn Dolan, Mark Gerhardt, Mary Peters, Michele Seaton, Nicole Deak, Stephanie Devitt, Stephanie Koster Hoyne, Steve Dick, and Steve Erpenbach, Senator DASCHLE's State director, in the Sioux Falls office.

The work of Senator DASCHLE and his staff will be remembered by South Dakotans for many years to come. I want to thank them for their work and service and wish them all the very best.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON STAFF OF SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of men and women who have served over the past 26 years as staff for Senator TOM DASCHLE here in Washington, both in his personal office and those who served him as Democratic leader in the Senate for the past 10 years. Every member of the Senate understands that our success rests, in part, with the men and women we choose to work with us on a daily basis in our offices. I join my colleagues in providing the most heartfelt appreciation for the public service career of Senator DASCHLE and that appreciation extends to the extraordinary work of his staff here in Washington.

The people of South Dakota, members of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and the institution of the Senate have benefitted greatly over the years from the hard work and dedication of Senator DASCHLE's staff. These men and women worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Whether it be his personal staff or his leadership staff, every single person has been dedicated to making our State a better place to live, and to making our Nation safe and secure.

Some of Senator DASCHLE's staff provided over two decades of dedicated service to the people of South Dakota and came with him to join his leadership staff. Their long hours of service underscored Senator DASCHLE's commitment to lead our caucus and to serve the people of South Dakota and this Nation unselfishly. Senator DASCHLE's staff truly reflect the tireless work ethic, dedication, and professionalism that he has exemplified to all the citizens of our State.

While each and every member of Senator DASCHLE's staff is dedicated, committed, and hard working, I think three long-serving members of his Washington staff should be recognized separately. Those senior staff members are Pete Rouse, who served in Senator DASCHLE's leadership office as chief of staff, Nancy Erickson, his deputy chief of staff in the Capitol, and Laura Petrou, the chief of staff in his personal office. All three of these dedicated individuals served the State of South Dakota and the Senate Democratic Caucus unselfishly and with distinction.

It is my hope that all of these valued members of Senator DASCHLE's staff recognize the importance of their work and the great appreciation that many in South Dakota hold for them for their great service.

Senator DASCHLE's current personal and leadership staff in Washington includes: Aaron Fischbach, Amber

Danter, Bart Chilton, Brad Wolters, Brendan Hilley, Brian Hanafin, Chris Bois, Chris VandeVenter, Chris Wagner, Christiana Gallagher, Chuck Marr, Cindy Harris, Clint Highfill, Danny Franklin, Darcell Savage, Denis McDonough, Grant Leslie, Jane Loewenson, Jeff Nussbaum, Jennifer Duck, Jeri Thomson, Jessica Leonard, Jessica Scheufele, Jim Oleske, Joan Huffer, Jody Bennett, Jonathon Lehman, Kate Knudson, Kate Leone, Kelly Fado, Lara Birkes, Larkin Barker, Laura Petrou, Lisa Thimjon, Liz Dahan, Mark Childress, Matthew Varilek, Michelle Singer, Molly Rowley, Nancy Erickson, Nancy Hogan, Nick Bauer, Nick Papas, Pat Griffin, Pat Sarcone, Pete Rouse, Phil Schilliro, Phillip Assmus, Randy DeValck, Reid Cherlin, Sam Mitchell, Sarah Feinberg, Ted Miller, Tim Mitrovich, Todd Webster, Tom McIntyre, and Wizipan Garriott.

The work of Senator DASCHLE and his staff will be remembered by South Dakotans, and all the Senators and staff who have served with them, for many years to come. I want to thank them for their work and service and wish them all the very best.

SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to submit the text of the attached resolution by the South Dakota Farmers Union commemorating 26 years of service by United States Senator THOMAS A. DASCHLE.

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

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING 26 YEARS OF SERVICE BY UNITED STATES SENATOR THOMAS A. DASCHLE

Whereas, Senator TOM DASCHLE has distinguished himself as more than a reliable friend to South Dakota Farmers Union and the cause of family-based agriculture, but more so as a true hero to our cause; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE performed his duties faithfully to better the lives and opportunities of all South Dakotans, and conducted exemplary public service to South Dakotans with the assistance of his highly resourceful, talented and dedicated staff in his offices in Washington, D.C., Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE championed the cause of ethanol since his first campaign for the U.S. Congress, and is chiefly responsible for its emergence as America's answer to energy independence because of his relentless pursuit of government support for its production and marketing; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE earned his reputation as America's most important Member of Congress for the advancement of legislation important to South Dakota Farmers Union, the National Farmers Union and family-based agriculture because of his sincere interest in promoting America's rural economy and because of his generous nature and approachability to all citizens seeking his assistance in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE wisely used his influence and leadership powers to the benefit of South Dakota, resulting in unprecedented cooperation from urban states to help

advance the causes and unique, critical needs of rural states and agriculture in the form of federal funds and programs for agriculture, disaster aid, health care, education, energy needs, air transportation, highway maintenance, railways and water development; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE's powerful resources and status as Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader gave South Dakota unprecedented influence to pass legislation which was of the greatest benefit to all South Dakotans, especially to rural communities, farms and ranches; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE was responsible for the allocation of unprecedented federal funds to South Dakota throughout his tenure in the United States Congress, and that Senator DASCHLE's last term ended with victories for South Dakota, including his quest to produce \$2.9 billion in disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers, against the long-standing resistance and indifference of the majority party in Congress and the White House; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE's great influence and power on behalf of South Dakota and rural America will be missed in the unfinished battles for a Renewable Fuels Standard, a mandatory Country of Origin Labeling law, fair trade policies which are not predatory to South Dakota agriculture, sufficient drought relief, rural water development and a progressive agricultural agenda which supports a strong rural economy, as well as the fights to preserve social security and Medicare, lower prescription drug costs, and make health care coverage affordable and available to all Americans;

Now, therefore, we resolve that the Delegates of the 89th Convention of South Dakota Farmers Union commends and highly appreciates the lifetime dedication and service of Senator THOMAS A. DASCHLE to improve the economy and the quality of life in South Dakota and throughout the United States.

TROUBLING SITUATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I express my concerns about the troubling situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

As my colleagues know, in September 2002, rebellion broke out in Côte d'Ivoire, eventually dividing the country between the north, where rebels known as the Force Nouvelle established themselves, and the south, where President Laurent Gbagbo's government continued to exercise its authority. The Economic Community of West African states, or ECOWAS, helped to negotiate a ceasefire, and in January 2003 international efforts to mediate the crisis culminated in the signing of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement of early 2003, which provided for an interim Government of National Reconciliation to move the country toward new elections. The United Nations established a peacekeeping mission and over 6,000 troops from around the world deployed to monitor the ceasefire and help the parties implement the peace accord—further evidence of international will to help the people of Côte d'Ivoire regain a stable footing and reestablish a just and peaceful unified government.

Throughout these diplomatic efforts, 4,000 French soldiers have served as the backbone of the international presence

that has worked to guarantee the peace. Much as the United Kingdom played a pivotal role in stabilizing Sierra Leone, France made an admirable commitment to the people of Côte d'Ivoire. And despite the friction between France and the U.S. on other important global issues, we have continued to work closely and cooperatively to resolve this crisis.

But over the many months that have passed since the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement was signed, progress toward implementing the accords has stalled, as both parties failed to take constructive steps to move the country toward lasting stability. Then, on November 4, President Gbagbo broke the ceasefire agreement, and in an apparent bid to find a military solution, launched air raids on rebel positions in the north. On November 6, the Ivorian forces bombed a French position, killing nine French soldiers and an American aid worker, and wounding dozens more. France retaliated by destroying the Ivorian air force. What followed was an orchestrated campaign, conducted largely via broadcasts on state-controlled media outlets, to encourage citizens to participate in a rampage of anti-French violence and looting.

I am heartened by the unity and resolve of the international community in confronting this crisis, and by the rejection of Ivorian efforts to justify the bombings and to vilify France. U.N. peacekeepers performed bravely in trying to protect the zone of confidence during the recent hostilities. South African President Thabo Mbeki moved quickly to reach out to all parties and open the door to dialogue that could diffuse the situation, though sadly, his efforts were not embraced by all parties. On November 15, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution establishing an arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire, and indicating that a travel ban and asset freeze will be applied to anyone from among the government or rebel ranks found to be an impediment to progress on implementing the peace accords. I welcome this resolution and its insistence on accountability from all parties to Côte d'Ivoire's conflict.

In addition to accountable, constructive leadership, there is a desperate need for grassroots reconciliation efforts. The tensions that came to a boil in 2002 have, sadly, been simmering for some time. In the 1990s, some pursued a deliberate effort to promote a divisive, destructive, xenophobic brand of nationalism in the country, and if a lasting peace is to take hold and the people of Côte d'Ivoire are to be free from fear of a return to violence and chaos, a great deal of work must be done to lessen ethnic tensions and build confidence and trust in Ivorian communities. In recent days, French nationals have been the targets of ugly invective, but in the recent past it has been northern Ivorians, immigrants, and Muslims who have been demonized. I urge the administration to make com-

bating ethnic and regional divisions a major focus of U.S. efforts in Côte d'Ivoire. Even as we work with the international community to hold leaders accountable for their actions, we must also assist in laying the groundwork for peace among the people themselves.

The downward spiral in Côte d'Ivoire is especially troubling because the country had, not long ago, been a beacon of stability and important economic engine in a deeply troubled region. After all of the suffering in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and all of the costly efforts launched to bring stability back to West Africa, the international community cannot afford to lose Côte d'Ivoire to perpetual crisis.

PROBLEMS IN THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern over recent news reports detailing turmoil inside the Central Intelligence Agency since the arrival of the new Director, Porter Goss, and former members of his staff in the House of Representatives.

As a senior member of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs with oversight responsibility for homeland security and the committee responsible for drafting the legislative reform on intelligence now in conference, I am deeply concerned about the impact the new leadership at the CIA may have on our national security.

Since the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, the Congress has been engaged as never before in efforts to reform our intelligence collection capability in terms of our ability to improve the technical means to collect and share critical information in a timely fashion. The key component to that reform is human capital. Time and time again in outside commissions, reports to the Congress, and in hearings, we have been told that our intelligence and law enforcement communities lack sufficient qualified personnel to collect and analyze information. I introduced legislation, S. 589, the Homeland Security Federal Workforce Act, which passed the Senate with bipartisan support last year and is now in the House, to help rectify that problem. Other Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have also introduced legislation to improve our intelligence and law enforcement workforce.

This is why I am so disturbed by the news reports that senior members of the CIA are being forced to resign, are being pressured to fire subordinates, and there are fears that they may even be asked to tailor their analysis to support the administration's policies, according to the November 17, 2004, New York Times. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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