

lines of defense for American agriculture. Without adequate resources, both in terms of funding and advice, these defenses will fail. While the presidential directive mandates the creation of a coordinated response plan that would include Federal, State, and local partners, it falls short of supplying the State and local officials with the necessary funding and guidance to better protect their jurisdiction. Surprisingly, the administration proposes huge cuts in fiscal year 2005 to homeland security grants for the States.

We have witnessed the impact a small, unintentional outbreak of mad cow disease had on our country. We cannot wait for a far more damaging and widespread attack on our agriculture system. While I commend the President's initiative in this area, further action is needed. I urge my colleagues to support this overdue legislation to protect America's breadbasket.

GAO HUMAN CAPITAL REFORM ACT OF 2000

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come before this body to state that I would object to any unanimous consent or other requests to address H.R. 2751, S. 1522, entitled the GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2003, as amended. The bill would, among other things, allow new authority to the General Accounting Office, GAO, to modify its personnel and workforce practices to allow greater flexibility in determining pay increases, pay retention rules, and other compensation matters. I am objecting to this bill because, at this time, I am evaluating a number of matters involving the operation and management of the General Accounting Office and one or more of its offices.

DEFENSE OF FREEDOM MEDAL WINNER GARY YORK

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly recognize Mr. Gary York of Yankton, SD, for receiving the Defense of Freedom Medal.

There was little doubt that active-duty military members killed or injured in a hostile attack would receive the traditional Purple Heart, but the Defense of Freedom Medal marks the first time in United States history that civilians have been formally recognized for wounds received in combat. This medal exemplifies the principles of freedom and defense of the freedoms upon which our country was founded.

Gary is not just a good friend, he is also a dedicated worker. He currently serves as the power plant senior controller at Yankton's Gavin's Point Dam. Answering the President's call to volunteer his time in Iraq, he left for Iraq in September and was overseeing a crew of workers who were rebuilding 400,000 volt power lines running from power plants to switchyards in Baghdad.

While spending Christmas Eve in Iraq, away from his family and friends

and the comforts of home, Gary sustained wounds to the head and shoulder while traveling in a convoy near Balad. The convoy was attacked by unknown assailants using small firearms. Two Iraqi security guards traveling with the convoy were killed in the attack.

It is with great honor that I share Mr. York's tremendous accomplishments with my colleagues. He is a true patriot, and America is deeply grateful for his service.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

In Council Bluffs, IA, a 15-year-old girl allegedly approached two other girls who were holding hands and assaulted them saying she was "tired of seeing them hold hands and kissing." The girl has been accused of assaulting the girls because of their sexual orientation.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL (RETIRED) THOMAS MOORER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today before the Senate to recognize a great American and one of the finest patriots this Nation, and my home State of Alabama, has ever produced. We are truly saddened by the loss of Retired U.S. Navy Admiral Thomas Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from July 1970 to June 1974 and former Chief of Naval Operations from 1967 to 1970.

Admiral Moorer's distinguished service in our great Navy spanned 41 remarkable years during which he dutifully stood the watch against our adversaries. He was our 7th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the 18th Chief of Naval Operations. These accomplishments were consistent with his outstanding service record that had placed Admiral Moorer on our front lines throughout his career. Admiral Moorer was serving in Pearl Harbor with Patrol Squadron Twenty-Two on December 7, 1941. He witnessed that "day of infamy" and answered with bravery as he was one of the first pilots to get his aircraft airborne after the Japanese attack.

Never shying from battle, he was wounded in aerial combat when his aircraft was shot down near the Aus-

tralian coastline. Indeed, indicative of the ferocity of the combat, the rescue ship that recovered him was sunk by enemy action the same day as his rescue. Still, he would not quit and went on to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross for valor. He flew through hostile areas with full knowledge of overpowering enemy aircraft superiority flying badly needed supplies into the besieged island of Timor and flying evacuations of the wounded. He also stood watch during the Korean conflict, during the Cuban Missile crisis, during our engagement in Vietnam and during our outreach to China.

Admiral Moorer distinguished himself in many positions including command of our Seventh Fleet, arriving at full Admiral in June 1964 when appointed to Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet. He was the first naval officer to command both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets. Admiral Moorer stood his watch as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest position any military officer can achieve, under President Nixon as the Nation extracted itself from our conflict in Vietnam. Writing in *White House Years*, Dr. Henry Kissinger remarked that Admiral Moorer "had spent the 1960s in command positions which, while not without their frustrations, did not produce the physical and psychological exhaustion of high-level Washington. A canny bureaucratic infighter, Moorer made no pretense of academic subtlety. If anything, he exaggerated the attitude of an innocent country boy caught up in a jungle of sharpies. What his views lacked in elegance they made up in explicitness. By the time he took office, Vietnam had become a rearguard action. He conducted its heart-breaking phaseout with dignity. No President could have had a more stalwart military advisor."

He did not waiver. Admiral Moorer strongly disagreed with the Panama Canal giveaway. In fact, he testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee several years ago on this subject. The public had again become concerned about this issue as a Chinese company had won the contract to operate both ends of the canal. Admiral Moorer noted the danger this posed to the movement of our fleet.

As a young Alabamian, I followed Admiral Moorer's career. He was from the small rural community of Mt. Willing. Mt. Willing was on the road to Montgomery from my home in the rural community of Hybart near Camden. I would frequently go through Camden up Highway 21 through Mt. Willing on my way to Huntingdon College in Montgomery where I was a student. I would pass Moorer's grocery operated by a relative, and have the chance to think of the extraordinary accomplishments of this remarkable Admiral from the heart of Alabama. He carried those values with him as can be seen from Dr. Kissinger's comments and those who knew him. Mt. Willing is an old

community. Its post office was established not long after Alabama became a State in 1819.

Admiral Moorer actually attended a one-room schoolhouse. Later, his family moved to Montgomery which is where he graduated from high school. He was the Valedictorian of his class, graduating at the age of 15. Two years later he entered the Naval Academy. During this period his family moved to Eufaula, AL, which is where he met his wonderful life partner, Carrie Foy. Mrs. Moorer, a most delightful person in her own right, was tremendously supportive of Admiral Moorer's career and his beliefs, and remains proud of his exceptional service, as well she should.

It is appropriate that we reflect today on the sacrifices made by this veteran Sailor and great military leader. I am proud of him for serving our great country through challenging times. And I join all of the citizens of Alabama in prayer for one of our own, this country boy from Mt. Willing, Alabama who turned top Admiral. His story is one that all Americans can be proud of. We wish him and his family Godspeed and fair winds and following seas as he leaves us for his final watch.

He came from rural America. He was learned of the greatness of America. He was not bombarded by the "blame America first-crowd." Because of his recognized ability, he was selected for the Naval Academy. Because of his record of accomplishment he rose to the highest position a uniformed military officer can achieve—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He delivered for his beloved homeland there just as he did in all his previous positions. These values, taught best in our small towns, sustain us in difficult times. Admiral Moorer, like all the other wonderful Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, fully understood that when he put on that uniform, he was prepared to give his life for his country.

ABSTENTION FROM VOTE

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, today the Senate Armed Services Committee met to vote on several military and civilian nominations before the committee. Included on the list of military nominations was that of my own to be Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve.

While I take my responsibility as a member of this committee which holds oversight authority over the United States military very seriously, I would like to note for the record that I abstained from the voice vote on this subject to avoid the impression of a conflict of interests.

TRIBUTE TO ALMA KRISTOFFERSEN

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I rise to commend one of the many unsung heroes of our Senate family, Alma Kristoffersen, who will retire tomorrow after 20 years of service as a

transcriber and reporting technician for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I worked in the private sector for more than 30 years before I first came to the Senate. One of the things that struck me about this institution as I came to know it is the dedication, skill, and professionalism shown by the people who work in all capacities here. Senators and committees have their own staff, and we rely on them, to be sure. But we also rely on the hundreds of staffers who make up what I call the "infrastructure" of the Senate. For the most part, they go about their business unnoticed and certainly underappreciated. We have to remind ourselves now and then that this place would screech to a halt without their tireless devotion to their jobs and to our Nation.

Alma is a fine example of that tradition. She has many talents, including a strong knowledge of grammar, spelling, and vocabulary; a quick wit; and dry sense of humor. But her most enduring asset is her absolute commitment to teamwork. She is always willing to volunteer for extra duties.

Alma was born in Liverpool, England, and moved to the United States in 1968. She became a citizen in the early 1990s, qualifying for a high security clearance to work on classified material. She and her husband Tom have a son, Alex, who lives in Brooklyn, NY. Alma plans to enjoy all her various hobbies in retirement, including gardening, tennis, travel, and actually being able to attend her book club on week nights.

I know that I speak on behalf of the entire Senate when I say how much I appreciate Alma's service to this institution and to the Nation. Alma's colleagues and friends here in the Senate, particularly in the Office of Official Reporters of Debates, will miss her, but we wish her a long and happy retirement, which she has certainly earned.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MARATHON COUNTY RESOLUTION RELATING TO BSE

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, this week-end members of the National Association of Counties will be meeting in Washington for their annual legislative conference. County officials across the Nation deal with a wide variety of issues that affect the day-to-day lives of our citizens and I want to acknowledge their commitment to public service.

I also want to take this opportunity to share with my fellow Senators a resolution recently adopted by the Marathon, WI County Board of Supervisors relating to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Marathon County is in the heart of Wisconsin dairy and beef country and I commend the Board of Supervisors' diligence in this area.

I ask that Marathon County resolution R-6-04 be printed in the RECORD.

RESOLUTION R-6-4

The resolution follows.

Whereas a case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease has been detected in the United States; and

Whereas agriculture is a \$40 billion industry in the State of Wisconsin; and

Whereas Marathon County is a leader in Wisconsin agriculture, notably the dairy and beef industry; and

Whereas Marathon County is concerned about the health, safety and economic impacts related to BSE; and

Whereas in 1997 the United States Food and Drug Administration banned the use of protein derived from mammalian tissue in food for ruminant animals to prevent the establishment of BSE; and

Whereas many countries that export livestock and meat to the United States do not have the same standard of safety. Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does hereby resolve and ordain that Federal, State and local agencies continue to judiciously enforce the standards set forth by the Federal Food and Drug Administration; be it further

Resolved, That countries that export livestock or meat to the United States, meet or exceed U.S. standards of care regarding BSE; be it further

Resolved, That livestock or meat from countries which do not meet or exceed the U.S. standard of care be banned from importation to the U.S. to protect the health and safety of our citizens, livestock, and economy. Be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to our local, state and federal legislators, as well as the appropriate state and federal agencies and interested consumer and business organizations. •

GULFSTREAM AEROSPACE CORPORATION

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend a company based in Georgia which, with its partners, has won the prestigious Collier trophy, the aviation equivalent of the Super Bowl, for the second time in 8 years. Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, a world-renowned maker of business jet aircraft, and the other members of the aircraft development team, which include Honeywell International, Kollsman, Rolls-Royce, and Vought Aircraft Industries, have won the 2003 Collier Trophy for their outstanding contribution to aviation. In 1998, the firm's Gulfstream V jet won the 1997 award for its combination of high technology avionics, speed, and range. This year, the Collier Trophy recognizes the G550 Development Team for the large-cabin, ultra-long range Gulfstream G550 business jet. The aircraft can fly as high as 51,000 feet, at speeds up to Mach .885, and 6,750 nautical miles non-stop. It also has an avionics system which enhances the pilot's ability to fly the aircraft safely.

The trophy, named for American publisher and sport pilot, Robert J. Collier, was established in 1911 to honor those who have made significant achievements in the advancement of aviation. Honorees include many of the great names in aviation, including Orville Wright for an automatic stabilizer, the U.S. Post Service for air