

kicked the Super Bowl-winning field goal, it was the culmination of a lot of great coaching and coordination under the leadership of Brad Seely.

Brad has long been an outstanding coach, serving with the Indianapolis Colts, New York Jets, and Carolina Panthers. Since 1999, Brad has been a member of the New England Patriots coaching staff and has played an integral role in the organization's two titles in the past 3 years. Prior to his career in the NFL, Brad coached throughout the college ranks at Colorado State, Southern Methodist, North Carolina State, Pacific, and Oklahoma State.

It is my great pleasure to honor Brad today. He has been a key part of the New England Patriot's success and has made his home State proud.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY JOHNSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to comment on a prestigious conservation award that will be bestowed upon Larry Johnson of Reno, NV later this week.

Larry is an environmentalist in the most positive sense of the word. He is a sportsman in the most positive sense of the word. He tirelessly invests his time, energy, money and passion in the protecting, restoring and enhancing Nevada's environment. He knows that the environment is synonymous with wildlife habitat, and that natural ecosystems support the fish and game he values so dearly.

As a trustee of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, Larry has worked to restore the native habitats of the Great Basin. This involvement also reflects his understanding that Nevadans can work together, through collaboration and innovative partnerships, to make our public lands better for wildlife, better for fish, and better for people.

Larry Johnson is a conservationist. He works hard to ensure that we actively manage Nevada's landscape. He holds public land managers and State wildlife officials accountable, but he also views them as allies. For example, he builds "guzzlers" where big game can find water in the desert, and he serves on resource advisory councils for the Bureau of Land Management.

Indeed, Larry is famous throughout Nevada for his tireless work on behalf of our desert bighorn sheep. He is a trustee and longtime member of the board of directors of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited. He raises money, he donates money, and he donates his valuable time and expertise to the noble goal of enhancing bighorn sheep habitat, and preserving the wonderful heritage of the American West.

Larry is a man of principle, a man of ideas, a man of action, and a man exceptionally worthy of the Wayne E. Kirch Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award.

He is a great citizen, a great Nevadan, and a great American.

Chief Seattle once said: "we do not inherit the Earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children." Larry Johnson fulfills our responsibility to be good stewards of the planet we will pass along to future generations.

Because of his dedication to conservation, our children will enjoy a richer legacy of wildlife and recreational opportunities.

Today I congratulate Larry Johnson for this much-deserved recognition of his work to preserve Nevada's natural heritage.

UNITED STATES-JAPAN TAX TREATY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of ratification of the United States-Japan Tax Treaty. As chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, I held a hearing on this treaty on February 25, where the committee heard testimony on the treaty's benefits from the Treasury Department, the National Foreign Trade Council, and the United States-Japan Business Council. Our committee voted to approve the treaty, along with several other items, by a vote of 19 to 0 at a business meeting last week.

The Japan Tax Treaty is particularly significant due to our expansive trade and investment relationship with Japan. The United States and Japan are the two largest economies in the world, and account for approximately 40 percent of the world's gross domestic product. Japan is the fourth largest source of imports to the United States and the third largest export market for United States goods. The treaty, signed on November 6, 2003, by Treasury Secretary Snow and Japanese Ambassador Kato, will improve the ability of United States businesses to expand and prosper in Japan. It also will continue to encourage Japanese investment in the United States that contributes to the growth of our economy.

The original Japan Tax Treaty was signed in March 1971 and went into force in January 1973. Since then, both United States and Japanese domestic tax laws have changed dramatically. Until now, the 1971 treaty has not been amended to reflect those changes or the monumental expansion of the United States-Japanese commercial relationship.

American companies doing business with Japan are eager for this update of the bilateral tax treaty. It will guarantee more equitable treatment for United States corporate investors and relief from double taxation; it will strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms related to tax issues between our countries; and it will eliminate withholding taxes on all royalty income, certain interest income, and dividend income paid to parent companies.

The overall benefit of the treaty is that our companies will become more competitive in the Japanese market. Japan is currently a party to tax agreements with several other nations

that reduce double taxation for companies from those nations doing business in Japan. Consequently, without this treaty, United States businesses will continue to face a competitive disadvantage in the area of taxation.

Following transmittal to the Senate this past December, the Foreign Relations Committee engaged in a thorough review and analysis of the treaty. Officials from the Department of Treasury briefed the committee extensively on the impact of the treaty on business relations between the United States and Japan. The committee also consulted with numerous commercial entities with operations in Japan. These entities all have indicated that the treaty will make them even more competitive in a market where they already are successful. In addition, the committee has had meetings with commercial officers from the Japanese Embassy to discuss ratification and implementation of the treaty.

I understand that the timing of enactment of the Japan Tax Treaty is critical. Therefore, I have prioritized it on the Foreign Relations Committee's agenda, and I am grateful to the majority leader for bringing it quickly to the Senate floor. I also have written to the Japanese Finance Minister and leaders of the Diet to encourage them to join us in acting swiftly to bring the treaty into force.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Treasury Department and its International Tax Counsel Barbara Angus both for their work in producing this agreement and for their cooperation with the Foreign Relations Committee during the treaty's consideration. I would also like to salute the business community, and in particular the National Foreign Trade Council and the United States-Japan Business Council for their leadership and advocacy on behalf of this treaty.

Mr. President, this treaty is good for the United States and good for our relationship with Japan. I urge my colleagues to vote to ratify it.

CIVIL COPYRIGHT ENFORCEMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, with the advent of the digital age, we had great hopes that the possibility of distributing music, films, books, and software on the Internet would bring us an unprecedented variety of content online with ever-increasing ease. Unfortunately, those hopes have not yet been realized. The very ease of duplication and distribution that is the hallmark of digital content has meant that piracy of that content is just as easy. The very real—and often realized—threat that creative works will simply be duplicated and distributed freely online has restricted, rather than enhanced, the amount and variety of creative works one can receive over the Internet. Part of combating piracy includes offering a legal alternative to it. Another important part is enforcing the rights of copyright owners. Senator

HATCH and I have been working with artists, authors, and software developers to create an environment in which copyright is protected, so that we can all enjoy American creativity, and so that copyright owners can be paid for their work.

In the coming months we will be discussing numerous responses to this problem. One critically important part of the attack on this problem will be to bring the resources and expertise of the United States Attorneys' Offices to bear on wholesale copyright infringers. For too long these attorneys have been hindered in their pursuit of pirates, by the fact that they were limited to bringing criminal charges with high burdens of proof. In the world of copyright, a criminal charge is unusually difficult to prove because the defendant must have known that his conduct was illegal and he must have willfully engaged in the conduct anyway. For this reason prosecutors can rarely justify bringing criminal charges, and copyright owners have been left alone to fend for themselves, defending their rights only where they can afford to do so. In a world in which a computer and an Internet connection are all the tools you need to engage in massive piracy, this was an intolerable predicament.

Some steps have already been taken. The Allen-Leahy amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, on Combating Piracy of U.S. Intellectual Property in Foreign Countries, provided \$2.5 million for the Department of State to assist foreign countries in combating piracy of U.S. copyrighted works. By providing equipment and training to law enforcement officers, it will help those countries that are not members of OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, to enforce intellectual property protections.

Senator HATCH and I are investigating another needed response to this problem that would give the Attorney General the authority to bring a civil action against copyright infringers. This authority would not supplant either the criminal provisions of the Copyright Act, or the remedies available to the copyright owner in a private suit. Rather, it would allow the Government to bring its resources to bear on this immense problem, and to ensure that more creative works are made available online, that those works are more affordable, and that the people who work to bring them to us are paid for their efforts.

We hope to introduce a bill on this matter soon, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to bring our country's law enforcement tools into the 21st century, just as our technologies have advanced.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today, on International Women's Day, to recognize the contributions that women have made to our world.

Today, we commemorate the lives of women, the work that women have done, the sacrifices that women have made, and the progress that women have achieved.

The past year was a very important one for advancing the rights of women. In Iraq, American women in the armed services played an integral part to the war effort and Iraqi women have now been given a much greater role in governing their country.

In Afghanistan, women have rights and liberties not experienced for years. Women and girls are returning to schools and colleges and rejoining the workforce.

Unfortunately, for many women around the world, the past year has not improved their ability to control their own lives. In many countries around the world, women earn less than men for performing the same tasks. In some countries, women are prohibited from owning property or from receiving the same education as men. And many women do not have the same access to health care that men have.

On this day, we must reaffirm our dedication to women's rights; we must strive to ensure that all women and girls have every opportunity to improve their lives and to make their own choices.

On this day, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of one woman in particular.

In December of 2003, Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian defense lawyer, became the first Muslim woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. She received this honor for her dedication to democracy and human rights.

In 1975, Mrs. Ebadi was the first woman appointed to be a judge in Iran. After the Iranian revolution, she was forced to resign her post on the court. Since that time, she has fought for an interpretation of Islamic law that reflects the importance of human rights and democracy, not just for men, but for all Iranians. I wish to recognize Mrs. Ebadi's work on behalf of human rights and I wish to congratulate her on winning the Nobel Peace Prize. She is truly a great woman and a great human being.

I would also like to take some time today to focus on a number of areas where women have made recent progress and some areas that still require significant change.

The liberation of Iraq has been a great step forward for Iraqi women. Today, the Iraqi Governing Council has agreed on an interim constitution. The constitution, also known as the Transitional Administrative Law, has a number of provisions that protect women's rights. For example, the Transitional Administrative Law requires that no less than 25 percent of the members elected to the Transitional National Assembly be women. The new constitution also states that Iraqis are equal without regard to sex, sect or religion.

To ensure that the rights of women in Iraq are not violated, the Coalition

Provisional Authority and USAID worked together to establish a women's rights center. This is the first of five centers that will be established throughout Iraq. The center is open to all women and offers a range of opportunities including literacy classes and English-language training, nutrition and health classes, computer skills training, and courses on living in a democracy. The center will also provide assistance for widowed or impoverished women.

While there has been progress, we must remain vigilant in our defense of women's rights in Iraq.

Since President Bush declared major combat operations over, extremist Muslims have tried to suppress women's rights. In December, a group of Shiite members of the Iraqi Governing Council passed Resolution 137, a resolution that would have required the use of Sharia, or Islamic law that limits the rights and opportunities of women. Fortunately, the Iraqi Governing Council cancelled Resolution 137 on February 27, 2004.

With the fall of the Taliban, many people felt that the situation for women in Afghanistan would improve. While Afghanistan's new constitution contains human rights provisions and mandates better political representation of women, new rules on female education in the Afghan province of Herat prevent men from teaching women or girls. The rules also uphold strict gender segregation in all schools.

Repression of women is still commonplace in Afghanistan. Let me quote from a recent report issued by Human Rights Watch. The report says:

... one year after the Taliban's fall, women and girls in Afghanistan still face severe restrictions and violations of their human rights, for in many areas Taliban officials have been replaced by warlords, police officers, and local officials with similar attitudes toward women. In some parts of the country, the same officials who administered the anti-women policies of the Taliban remain in their positions. This has meant the reimposition of extremely repressive social codes that typically have a devastating impact on women.'

So much more needs to be done on behalf of women in Afghanistan.

Another year has gone by and the United States still has not yet ratified the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. As Americans, we can no longer afford to ignore this important document and put in jeopardy our status as a leader in advancing human rights for women and girls.

Given that it has been over 20 years since President Carter signed the Convention, one might think that the delay in ratification is due to the fact we are dealing with a treaty that requires years of study and consideration.

Yet the Convention simply requires that participating states take all appropriate steps to eliminate discrimination against women in political and