

Mr. REID. First of all, Mr. President, the quote the Senator from Kentucky gave of Abraham Lincoln is one of my favorites. I have a little book called "A Book of 100 Poems." In that book, in addition to the poem, is the letter President Lincoln wrote to Mrs. Bixby. It is not a poem but is as beautiful as any poem written.

I have, over the years, taken those words, "assuage the anguish of your bereavement" and I have used that phrase in letters that I write to many people who have suffered deaths in their families.

I say to my friend from Kentucky, that is a beautiful letter that President Lincoln wrote. In my "Book of 100 Poems," the letter is copied that he wrote in hand to Mrs. Bixby.

I appreciate the Senator reading that most magnificent letter, the words of President Lincoln.

Of course, talking about Pat Tillman makes everyone understand a little better the sacrifices being made in Iraq.

In response to my friend from Kentucky, the distinguished assistant Republican leader, in the first war, I voted for it. I was the first Democrat to announce it publicly. For the first President Bush's excursion into Iraq, over 90 percent of the costs of that war were borne by other countries. The casualties were not all U.S. casualties in that first war.

In this war, more than 90 percent of the costs of the war are borne by American taxpayers. More than 95 percent of the casualties in Iraq are Americans. That number is now approaching 800. Twenty-one Americans were killed on Saturday and Sunday in Iraq.

My friend, the senior Senator from Kentucky, talks disparagingly—whether he means to or not—about the United Nations. The President cannot have it both ways. At his press conference he was asked what his plan was. He said he was waiting to hear from the envoy of the United Nations in Iraq. He and his administration continually refers to Brahimi as a person who is beginning to bring some degree of stability to the plan.

The reason the President answered the question that way is the United Nations brings some sense of legitimacy to what is going on there. More importantly than that, if the plan goes forward as some anticipate, there would be others coming to help. It would take the burden off of the U.S. taxpayer and especially the men and women of our armed services.

We are bearing a tremendous burden, not only with our Regular Army, Navy, and Air Force but with our Reserve Forces, a tremendous burden on our Reserve and Guard. Those, including the President, obviously, who refer to Mr. Brahimi are thinking about the need to cut some slack there to the United States.

The United Nations is an organization we helped create. We are the largest donor to that organization. It is an

imperfect organization, I would be the first to recognize that. However, it must play a role. It is one of the only ways that I can see that we can move forward with more of the support of the American people, which is being lost.

I voted for the resolution to go to Iraq the first time—you have already heard me say that—and the second time. We cannot cut and run in Iraq. We have to do what we have to do to bring stability to that very unstable part of the world.

However, let's not run down the United Nations. We need them to help bring in others so we do not bear 95 percent of the casualties and more than 90 percent of the costs of what is going on there. There are other countries there and I appreciate them being there, but as far as numbers of troops, we have 135,000 troops; the British have 10,000. The next largest contingency of troops we have is hired security guards. We need to do better than what we are doing in Iraq. This is not in any way to take away from the valor of the men and women serving in that country.

Just last night, somebody lobbed a mortar shell into a military compound there. The soldiers are running around thinking that is all of it and in comes another one and kills five or six of them. These soldiers, these servicemen of ours serving in Iraq, every minute of every day are fearing for their lives, whether they are carrying a gun or driving a truck. We need to have this matter resolved in a way that is not happening now.

I cannot give a blueprint of what needs to be done, but I am grateful the President is recognizing Mr. Brahimi can do some good there. That may not be the only answer, but it is an answer. I hope we can move forward in this matter and bring peace and stability to an area that needs it. I recognize if we could bring peace and stability to Iraq, it would help the whole Middle East. If we could help establish a democracy in Iraq, it would add to the democracy we already have in that area, Israel. It could set a system where other countries would have to focus on how they treat their people. I am all in favor of our bringing about a better situation in Iraq than certainly existed under the regime of Saddam Hussein.

I appreciate the comments of my colleague from Kentucky. I know his heart is in the right place. Hopefully, we can join in moving forward on this most important issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I had not come to the floor to debate my good friend from Nevada, but let me add a couple of words before we adjourn.

I certainly agree with him, we need more forces in Iraq. Where they need to come from is from the Iraqi people. General Petraeus, the Commander of the famed 101st Airborne who took that unit into Iraq and stationed it in

northern Iraq around Mosul for about a year, has now been given his next assignment. His next assignment is to go back to Iraq—and he is there now—to help the Iraqi people develop a military that can deal with the threat.

In the end, the area will be secure only if the Iraqi military and Iraqi police have both the skill and the desire to protect their country from these terrorists.

So, far from hoping we will get additional troops from around the world, even though we have 20,000 troops there from other countries now, the key to additional military in Iraq is in Iraq itself—Iraqi soldiers, well trained, fighting for their own country. And that training is well underway under the skilled leadership of General Petraeus.

With regard to the U.N., I readily concede there are a few things they can do well. They can put on elections. They can hand out humanitarian aid. But they do not have an army. And they are discredited in Iraq because of their involvement in the oil-for-food scandal which robbed Iraqis, for 10 years, of the opportunity to eat while this deal was enriching Saddam Hussein and his henchmen.

So the U.N. does not have a great reputation in Iraq, with good reason. We hope the U.N. will be able to play a useful role in moving Iraq from where it is today to a representative government, where it will be by the end of 2005.

#### SPACE DAY 2004

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Mervin Iverson Elementary School's Erin Berkey, Sarah Boyer, and Carissa Buckley on their selection as one of the 18 Stellar Design Challenges teams for Space Day 2004. I also want to recognize their teacher Katheryn Grimes for her strong instruction and guidance of the student team.

Space Day is an international celebration of the accomplishments and opportunities of space exploration aimed at promoting student interest in math, science, and technology. It reaches hundreds of thousands of teachers and millions of students around the world.

Developed by the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, Design Challenges is a national competition that encourages students to create innovative solutions to the challenges of space exploration. The 18 Stellar Design Challenges teams were selected from more than 300 teams who participated in the competition.

The Iverson Elementary School team designed a tool to help explorers on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons. The tool is designed to drill into ice ridges on Europa that have already been discovered by the NASA spacecraft Galileo.

The remotely operated tool would also collect samples of ice and water, analyze their chemical compositions, measure temperatures of the surface

ice and hypothesized ocean water underneath, and relay this data back to Earth. The team's project included scale drawings of the tool, and a science fiction story highlighting the tool being used by explorers on Europa.

As a Stellar Design Challenges Team, the Iverson students will attend the national Space Day 2004 ceremony and meet former Senator John Glenn and NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe. They will also have the opportunity to share their knowledge by displaying their project to more than 1,200 sixth graders in the Washington, DC, area on Space Day.

Their efforts reflect a lot of hard work, dedication and creativity as well as Iverson Elementary School's strong commitment to academic excellence. Please join me in congratulating Iverson Elementary School and its Stellar Design Challenges team on their impressive accomplishment.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I congratulate the American Lung Association as it celebrates its centennial year.

The American Lung Association, established in 1904 as the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, was the first nationwide, voluntary health organization aimed at conquering a specific disease.

While still committed to its initial cause, the Lung Association has expanded its research, education, and advocacy to combat other challenges to the respiratory health of the American people.

In the 1950s, the ALA realized that it was becoming increasingly difficult to concentrate on the eradication of tuberculosis without paying attention to other related illnesses. So it expanded its program goals to include the elimination of all forms of lung disease and their causes.

In 1960, long before the dangers of smoking were understood, the ALA established a link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. It subsequently began an aggressive campaign to educate the public—especially young people and those with chronic respiratory disease—about the hazards of cigarette smoking.

In the 1970s, the ALA sought to reduce the harmful effects of air pollution and played a major role in the adoption of the landmark Clean Air Act.

More recently, the ALA has partnered with schools to provide education programs for children with asthma and public information campaigns to prevent smoking among America's youth.

Today, more than 35 million Americans are living with chronic lung disease, and every year, close to 344,000 Americans die of lung disease, making it the Nation's No. 3 killer.

In Nevada, which has one of the highest rates of lung cancer in the Nation,

nearly 1,300 people died of the disease last year, and another 1,500 new cases were diagnosed. These numbers underscore the importance of the ALA's goal of a world free of lung disease.

I salute the thousands of volunteers and staff of the American Lung Association for their tireless work in fighting lung disease over the last century, and extend my best wishes for a successful future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today marks the beginning of Public Service Recognition Week, which has been celebrated annually since 1985. It is a time in which we honor the hundreds of thousands of public servants who perform the essential services that Americans depend on every day.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of this event, and I thank my colleagues for their support in passing, under unanimous consent, legislation I introduced to commend public servants for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week. The resolution, which was cosponsored by the leadership of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Senators COLLINS, LIEBERMAN, FITZGERALD, DURBIN, VOINOVICH, LEVIN, and COLEMAN, as well as Senator MURRAY, the ranking member of the Transportation, Treasury, and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, was introduced on April 8, 2004.

Public Service Recognition Week provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge the work that public servants perform and their commitment to community and country. The work they do affects all of us. Public servants include teachers, members of the Armed Forces, civilian defense workers, postal employees, food inspectors, law enforcement officers, firemen, social workers, crossing guards, and road engineers.

These men and women are the backbone of what makes America great. They deserve our respect and gratitude; and yet for too long, public servants have not been given the recognition they deserve. We must do all we can to foster a better understanding of public service among all Americans and promote public service as an option for young people. As a former educator, I believe it is time to call on a new generation of Americans to consider public service, which is why I am pleased that some schools are now requiring a period of public service in order to graduate.

The Federal Government should be viewed as an employer of choice, not as a safe harbor in times of economic weakness. But to attract, retain, and train the best and the brightest, Federal agencies must have adequate fund-

ing for Federal employee incentive programs, such as the repayment of student loans. I call on my colleagues to ensure that Congress plays an active role in supporting the Federal workforce. Eliminating funding for these programs does not benefit Federal employees or the ultimate end user: the American taxpayer.

In closing, I wish to pay particular attention to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces and the civilian employees who support military missions. All are key to the security and defense of our Nation. From the war against terrorism to the ongoing conflict in Iraq, our military and civilian support staff show courage in the face of adversity. As with the country's Armed Forces, Federal employees are ready, willing, and able to make the world safe.

As we begin Public Service Recognition Week, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting our Nation's public servants and thanking them for the jobs they do. •

##### NATIONAL TIRE SAFETY WEEK

• Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I wish to talk about tire safety. Just last week, we recognized National Tire Safety Week. Now in its third year, National Tire Safety Week is sponsored by the Rubber Manufacturers Association, and supported by numerous other organizations, to help educate consumers about the importance of tire safety.

Combined with safer roads and more responsible drivers, improved vehicle safety is essential to help reduce the tragic number of motor vehicle injuries and fatalities that occur each year. Tire pressure and tread depth are critical safety components of any automobile. Under-inflated tires and worn or damaged tread can cause tire blowouts and hydroplaning—both of which can lead to devastating accidents on our highways. The Rubber Manufacturers Association estimates that only 15 percent of drivers properly check their tire pressure, and only 30 percent of all drivers know how to tell when their tires are "bald." Tire safety week is an important means to improve these numbers.

The goal of National Tire Safety Week is to raise public awareness of tire safety and provide consumers with simple, common sense, and inexpensive ways to help increase the safety of their tires and vehicles. Consumers can greatly maximize the safety of their vehicles by properly checking tire pressure, maintaining proper alignment and rotation of their tires, and replacing worn tires. These simple procedures can greatly reduce an individual's risk of a motor vehicle accident—and in some cases, save lives.

I thank the Rubber Manufacturers Association, as well as tire and auto service dealers and innovators in the tire safety community for participating in this important week and for