

live in today sits in stark contrast to that of the one we knew prior to the tragedies of September 11, 2001. Probably no group knows this better than the dedicated firefighters who place themselves in harm's way every time they respond to a call. Fortunately, we have an opportunity here to demonstrate that we recognize the importance of the work these firefighters do, and help them to protect us by quickly enacting this bill.

The Assistance to Firefighters Act of 2004 would translate directly into saved lives and will increase the safety of West Virginians and Americans in communities across this country. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

MUTUAL FUND REFORM ACT OF 2004

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Illinois, Senator FITZGERALD, and several other members of the Senate in sponsoring S. 2059, the Mutual Fund Reform Act of 2004.

Mutual funds traditionally have been seen as safe havens for long-term investments. This perception of mutual funds as secure investment vehicles has certainly contributed to the industry's growth. Two decades ago, the mutual fund industry was relatively small; only a small percentage of Americans invested in mutual funds, and the assets of the industry were \$115 billion. Today, the mutual fund industry has \$7.5 trillion in assets, over 90 million investors, and more than 10,000 funds.

Unfortunately, as the industry has grown, some mutual fund managers and boards of directors have ignored their most basic role as fiduciaries. Recent State and Federal investigations have revealed trading irregularities at several of funds, including many that are well known. These scandals have shed light on the disregard shown by many mutual fund managers and directors for the individuals who invest their hard-earned money in mutual funds. They have also drawn attention to inflated mutual fund fees that often are not in the best interests of mutual fund shareholders and too frequently are not properly disclosed to such shareholders.

The Mutual Fund Reform Act would improve the integrity of the mutual fund industry by restoring investors' trust in the mutual fund managers and boards that are responsible for investing much of our citizens' household, college, and retirement savings. Most importantly, the act would strengthen the governance of mutual funds by, among other things, ensuring that mutual fund company boards would be truly independent and empowered. In addition, the act would establish disclosure requirements designed to provide mutual fund investors with a clearer picture of fund management and fund fees.

I thank Senator FITZGERALD for introducing this important bill, and I

urge my colleagues to support this legislation in order to further encourage investor confidence in the mutual fund industry and in our capital markets.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

WHY WE'RE IN IRAQ

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I recently wrote a guest column on "Why We're in Iraq" for The State in Columbia, SC. I want to share it with my colleagues, and ask that the May 7 article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

"WHY WE'RE IN IRAQ"

(By Ernest F. Hollings)

With 760 dead in Iraq and more than 3,000 maimed for life, folks continue to argue over why we are in Iraq—and how to get out.

Now everyone knows what was not the cause of this war. Even President Bush acknowledges that Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with 9/11. Listing the 45 countries where al Qaeda was operating on Sept. 11 (70 cells in the United States), the State Department did not list Iraq.

Richard Clarke, in "Against All Enemies," tells how the United States had not received any threat of terrorism for 10 years from Saddam at the time of our invasion. On page 231, John McLaughlin of the CIA verifies this to Paul Wolfowitz. In 1993 President Clinton responded to Saddam's attempt on the life of President George Herbert Walker Bush by putting a missile down Saddam's intelligence headquarters in Baghdad. Not a big kill, but Saddam got the message: Monkey around with the United States and a missile lands on his head.

Of course there were no weapons of mass destruction. Israel's intelligence, Mossad, knows what's going on in Iraq. It is the best. It has to know; Israel's survival depends on knowing. Israel long since would have taken us to the weapons of mass destruction if there were any, or if they had been removed. With Iraq no threat, why invade a sovereign country? The answer: President Bush's policy to secure Israel.

Led by Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz and Charles Krauthammer, for years there has been a domino school of thought that the way to guarantee Israel's security is to spread democracy in the area. Wolfowitz wrote: "The United States may not be able to lead countries through the door of democracy, but where that door is locked shut by a totalitarian deadbolt, American power may be the only way to open it up." And on another occasion: Iraq as "the first Arab democracy . . . would cast a very large shadow, starting with Syria and Iran but across the whole Arab world."

Three weeks before invasion President Bush stated: "A new regime in Iraq would serve as a dramatic and inspiring example for freedom for other nations in the region."

Every president since 1947 has made a futile attempt to help Israel negotiate peace. But no leadership has surfaced among the Palestinians that can make a binding agreement. President Bush realized his chances at negotiation were no better. He came to office imbued with one thought—re-election. Bush felt tax cuts would hold his crowd together and spreading democracy in the Mideast to secure Israel would take the Jewish vote from the Democrats.

You don't come to town and announce your Israel policy is to invade Iraq. But George W. Bush, as stated by former Secretary Paul O'Neill and others, started laying the groundwork to invade Iraq days after inauguration. And, without any Iraq connection to 9/11, within weeks he had the Pentagon outlining a plan to invade Iraq. He was determined.

President Bush thought taking Iraq would be easy. Wolfowitz said it would take only seven days. Cheney believed we would be greeted as liberators. But Cheney's man, Ahmed Chalabi, made a mess of the de-Baathification of Iraq by dismissing Republican Guard leadership and Sunni leaders, who soon joined with the insurgents.

Worst of all, we tried to secure Iraq with too few troops. In 1966 in South Vietnam with a population of 16.5 million, Gen. William C. Westmoreland with 535,000 U.S. troops was still asking for more. In Iraq with a population of 24.6 million, Gen. John Abizaid with only 135,000 troops can barely secure the troops, much less the country. If the troops are there to fight, they are too few. If there to die, they are too many.

To secure Iraq we need more troops at least 100,000 more. The only way to get the United Nations back in Iraq is to make the country secure. Once back, the French, Germans and others will join with the United Nations to take over.

With President Bush's domino policy in the Mideast gone awry, he keeps shouting "War on Terror." Terrorism is a method, not a war. We don't call the Crimean War, with the Charge of the Light Brigade, the Cavalry War. Or World War II the Blitzkrieg War. There is terrorism in Ireland against the Brits. There is terrorism in India and in Pakistan. In the Mideast, terrorism is a separate problem to be defeated by diplomacy and negotiation, not militarily.

Here, might does not make right—right makes might. Acting militarily, we have created more terrorism than we have eliminated.

BOYD STEWART: IN MEMORIAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I honor and share with my colleagues the memory of a very special man, Boyd Stewart of Marin County, who died April 17, 2004. He was 101 years old.

Boyd Stewart was born at the Old Cottage Hospital in San Rafael in 1903. He grew up in a time when students rode horses to school. His family ran a cattle ranch in Nicasio and then moved it to Olema while Boyd was growing up. After 3 years at Stanford University, he came back to the ranch when his father passed away and managed it for the rest of his adult life.

Boyd Stewart deeply felt the need to preserve open space for future generations, and he knew it could be done in a way that was compatible with agriculture. He was instrumental in the creation of Point Reyes National Seashore and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Concerned about the loss of farmland to urban development, in the 1960s he advocated the controversial idea that the Federal Government buy West Marin ranches for inclusion in the park and lease them back to the ranchers. His family's ranch transferred ownership to the National Park Service in 1970. For decades he remained committed to his

convictions, often in the face of opposition from powerful forces.

Mr. Stewart served as a leading member of the Marin County Farm Bureau for more than 80 years. He also sat on the boards of the West Marin Chamber of Commerce and the Marin Humane Society. A cattle rancher by profession, he was given the Marin Humane Society's Humane Man of the Century award. Two years ago, Boyd Stewart was honored with the California Excellence in Range Management Award, along with his daughter, Jo Ann Stewart, and his granddaughter, Amanda Wisby, who continue to run the Stewart family ranch today.

Boyd was a dynamic figure in West Marin. My staff and I always knew we could call on him for invaluable information and sound advice. He was the leading expert on West Marin agriculture, to whom agriculture commissioners turned for advice and information. His presence and his accomplishments in preserving Marin open space were greater than any other single person in Marin County in the last century. He was also a deeply-loved member of the Marin community and a wonderful, unique man with a clear mind and steady presence who will be deeply missed. We take comfort in knowing that countless future generations will benefit from his courage, his vision and his leadership. ●

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN CONWAY

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Kevin Conway of Lexington, KY, on his reception of the Star of Life Award given to him by the American Ambulance Association.

Mr. Conway has dedicated himself to the emergency response community of Lexington. As an employee of Rural/Metro Ambulance, Mr. Conway has made a difference in people's lives. However, what has set him apart has been his initiative as operations manager to turn Rural/Metro Ambulance into a State-recognized paramedic and CPR education facility. Mr. Conway also represents or works with many different local and State government EMS organizations. Prior to his work at Rural/Metro Ambulance, Mr. Conway was an Army Ranger. After his completion of active duty, he joined the Army Reserve as a senior drill sergeant.

The citizens of Kentucky are fortunate to have the leadership of Kevin Conway. His example of dedication, hard work, and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth. He has my most sincere appreciation for this work, and I look forward to his continued service to Kentucky. ●

CHEMISTS WORKING COOPERATIVELY

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my colleagues

news of a truly historic conference of Middle Eastern chemists held December 6 through 11, 2003, in Malta. Chemists from Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates gathered in Malta to attend the conference, which was entitled: "Frontiers of Chemical Sciences: Research and Education in the Middle East." The conference was chaired by Dr. Zafra Lerman of Columbia College Chicago. The purpose of the conference was to bring scientists from Middle Eastern countries together under the same roof to work on different issues of common concern.

The Malta Conference was a phenomenal success. The multinational exchange of ideas and information led to the creation of new partnerships in the areas of science and education. The conference was so effective that all the participants involved agreed upon the need for a second conference, tentatively scheduled for 2005.

The Malta Conference permitted participating scientists to address important scientific issues pertinent to the future of the Middle East, but it did more than that. All areas within the Middle East were represented, demonstrating there are some issues that can bring everyone together around a common goal of improving our world and society. This meeting reinforced the fact that the advancement of scientific research and education are vital forces for all nations of the world, and it demonstrated that science and education can help nations that are distrustful of each other to reach across borders and work cooperatively to address common concerns.

The conference chairperson, Dr. Lerman, is the distinguished Professor of Science and Public Policy and head of the Institute for Science Education and Science Communication at Columbia College Chicago. Dr. Lerman received her Ph.D. in chemistry from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. She founded and chaired the Department of Science and Mathematics at Columbia College, where she developed an innovative approach to teaching science to non-science majors which received international recognition. Dr. Lerman is active professionally with national and international associations in the fields of science, science education, and scientific freedom and human rights. For 15 years, she has chaired the national American Chemical Society Subcommittee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights. She also serves as Vice-Chair for Chemistry for the Board of the Committee of Concerned Scientists and chairs the International Activities Committee of the American Chemical Society, in addition to numerous other positions.

Dr. Lerman has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring and is a 1998 Kilby Award Laureate for extraordinary contribu-

tions to society through science, technology, invention, innovation, and education. In February 2001, she was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Lerman and the organizers and delegates of the conference for their superb work. This event serves as a shining example of the progress available to nations that make the effort to promote understanding and cooperation.

I ask that Dr. Lerman's summary of the conference be printed in the RECORD.

The summary follows.

SUMMARY OF MALTA CONFERENCE

From 6 to 11 December, 2003, chemists from Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestinian Authorities, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates gathered in Malta to attend the conference "Frontiers of Chemical Sciences: Research and Education in the Middle East."

The success of this conference tells us that science and scientific research are not just methods of improving the human condition but can also be ways of crossing illusive national and political barriers that bar effective collaboration among neighbors. The invited participants included presidents of universities, members of the respective countries' national academies of science, and a former minister of science. By engaging a stunning array of world-class scientists from the Middle East, as well as selected scientists from England, France, Germany, South Africa, Taiwan, and the U.S., the resulting discussion broadly enriched our understanding of specific scientific issues important to the area's future. The fact that all segments of the Middle East were represented suggests that there are fundamental scientific issues that connect us all.

Six Nobel Laureates served as working group leaders on subjects of common interest to Middle Eastern countries. The subjects of these working groups included: "Environment, Water and Renewable Energy," "Research and New Methodologies in Science Education," "Cultural Heritage and Preservation of Antiquities," "The Use of the Synchrotron to Facilitate Research in the Middle East (SESAME Project)," among others. Participants committed themselves to continue working together after the conference via e-mail and through smaller regional meetings. Among suggestions offered for future topics were: nanotechnology, computational chemistry, and solar energy.

All participants wrote that the conference organization was excellent, that the conference exceeded their expectations, and that the opportunity to work with the Nobel laureates was especially appreciated and it led to stimulating and informed discussion. 100% of the participants felt that a second conference, probably in 2005, would be needed. All indicated that they would want to attend and that they would recommend it to their colleagues. Most expressed willingness to participate in the organization of such an event.

A joint proposal between Israeli and Palestinian participants in the Malta conference was written on water purification and submitted to USAID-MERC.

One of the conference working groups, which concentrated on the synchrotron being built in Jordan (supported by UNESCO) for all the Middle East scientists, raised the urgent need for scientists trained in the use of a synchrotron. Dr. Yuan T. Lee, the Nobel Laureate who is science advisor to