

only has 2,000 armored Humvees even though it needs at least 5,000 to adequately protect our troops. And the sight of those vehicles burning leaves out what happened to those people who were in those vehicles.

When asked why the Army did not have enough of these vehicles, General Schoomaker said the Pentagon policymakers had not foreseen the need for these standard fighting vehicles.

Despite their academic credentials, Wolfowitz and Feith horribly misjudged the post-invasion situation in Iraq, and it has cost American lives.

Under Secretary Feith dismissed all dissent to his view that U.S. forces would be greeted as liberators and quickly win the lasting gratitude of the Iraqi people. Despite the current quagmire, he continues to cling to his delusional view of the situation.

In addition, before the invasion, these civilian leaders also told the American people that Iraq would pay for its own reconstruction through oil revenues. As we now know, not only has that not happened, but U.S. taxpayers are paying virtually all of the costs of the reconstruction of Iraq.

We cannot pass a highway bill in this Congress for America, but we are unloading U.S. taxpayer dollars to rebuild Iraq's highway system. Why do we have to go to our taxpayers over and over again for billions of dollars for Iraq? Why does the President need to take another \$25 billion that could be used for Medicare, education, and American highway construction?

The reason is the administration marginalized the international community before the war, and Pentagon civilian leaders refused to cede any control of post-invasion Iraq to the international community. As a result, we have paid more than 80 percent of all of the reconstruction funds in Iraq.

I want to make it perfectly clear, I do not think we can cut and run. I think we have a responsibility there that we have developed through our own decisionmaking and through the fate that war has brought us. So I do not say cut and run. But I do say it would help us an awful lot if we were not, at this point in time, arguing to give people who have been successful in business or in life greater tax breaks when we desperately need the money.

Furthermore, there is little hope that European allies or international donors will cough up the over \$30 billion that Iraq still needs for rebuilding, according to World Bank estimates.

U.S. taxpayers will have shelled out almost \$200 billion by the end of 2004. As a result of this unilateralism, we barely cobbled together a meager coalition of the willing, but our men and women make up over 87 percent of the troops fighting in Iraq.

Secretary Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz, and Under Secretary Feith all have to be replaced. We need new leadership at the Pentagon, leadership that will listen to the military experts, leadership that will not cling to discredited ideologies.

Perhaps the best illustration of the ineptitude of this team was their gross underestimate of the length of the Iraqi operation. They created false hopes for troops and their families, especially the reservists, many of whom are now facing more than a year's worth of duty away from their homes, away from the ability to pay their mortgages, away from the comfort children need from a father. They created the false hopes, especially of the reservists, who expected much shorter battlefield tours of duty.

In February 2003, Secretary Rumsfeld said the war "could last six days, six weeks." And he said: "I doubt [that it could last] six months."

It is well over a year from the beginning of this war, and now our own generals are publicly questioning whether we can win. We have to win. We have no choice. But in order to win, we have to make sure our troops have the tools to do the job with, and that we have sufficient help from other places. We have to make sure we pursue that mission.

I am not sure the current Pentagon team has the ability to direct our needs now. We need new leadership. Secretary Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz, and Under Secretary Feith need to resign. And if they do not do so, then the President would be wise to ask them to go.

I yield the floor.

AAA AWARD WINNERS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I am proud to announce to the Senate today the names of the young men and women who were selected to receive special awards from the American Automobile Association. Eight safety patrolers will receive the 2004 AAA School Safety Patrol Lifesaving Medal Award, the highest honor given to members of the school safety patrol. Another safety patroler will receive the special honor of the AAA National Patroller of the Year. They will receive their awards this weekend and I want to say how proud we are of them.

There are roughly 500,000 members of the AAA School Safety Patrol in this country, helping in over 50,000 schools. Every day, these young people ensure that their peers arrive safely at school in the morning, and back home in the afternoon.

Most of the time, they accomplish their jobs uneventfully. But on occasion, these volunteers must make split-second decisions, placing themselves in harm's way to save the lives of others. The heroic actions of this year's recipients exemplify this selflessness.

The first AAA Lifesaving Medal recipient comes from Centereach, NY. His name is Shawn Rooney.

On the afternoon of November 18, 2003, Shawn, age 13, was on patrol in front of St. Joseph School. A 9-year old boy, Zachary Chase, ran into the street to catch up with his class as a mini school bus was approaching. Shawn no-

ticed that Zachary was in danger, grabbed his backpack, and pulled him back. Zachary was only one step away from the front of the bus.

This year's second AAA Lifesaving Medal honoree comes from Manassas, VA.

Josh Wampler, age 11, of Weems Elementary School, was approaching his bus stop on October 9, 2003, when he heard a woman yelling to a young body. Josh saw that a 3-year-old, Isaac, was standing in the middle of the street as a car was approaching. Josh carefully checked the traffic and met Isaac in the middle of the street. The driver of the car saw the patroller and child and was able to stop in time. Josh escorted Isaac safely to the side of the road and out of harm's way.

The next AAA Lifesaving Medal winner comes from Bristow, VA.

On the afternoon of October 14, 2003, Andrew Deem, age 11, was at his patrol station at Bristow Run Elementary School, when he saw a 2-year-old, Anthony D'Areagelis, walking with his mother. His mother was pushing a small child in a stroller, and Anthony ran away from his mother, down a hill, and into the busy street. Andrew quickly saw that Anthony was in danger, grabbed him, and brought him back to safety. Andrew also stopped Anthony's mother from running out into the street after her child.

The fourth AAA Lifesaving Medal recipient is also a student at Bristow Run Elementary School in Bristow, VA.

On October 14, 2003, John Hickey, age 10, witnessed the event that took place with Patroller Andrew Deem. As Mrs. D'Areagelis ran after her 2-year-old, Anthony, the stroller that she had been pushing with Patrick D'Areagelis aboard began rolling into the street. John Hickey acted quickly and placed his foot into the street to stop the stroller from rolling any further. As he did this, an SUV drove by at a considerable speed, grazed Anderw's shoe, and did not stop.

The next AAA Lifesaving Medal honoree comes from Culpepper, VA.

Vincent Verardo, age 10, is a patroller at Epiphany Catholic School. On a morning in April, 2003, Vincent was at his patrol station in the school's parking lot, when he saw 4-year-old Paul Thomas run back to his car to retrieve something he had left behind. Paul ran in front of a car leaving its parking space, and Vincent quickly ran to the car, took Paul by the arm, and brought him back to safety. The driver of the car attested that they had not seen the 4-year-old until Vincent was present.

The sixth AAA Lifesaving Medal winner is from Harrah, WA.

Martay Gunnier, of Harrah Elementary School, was at her post on the afternoon of October 28, 2003, when she saw Raymond James, age 7, run out into the street to meet his mother on the other side without stopping to wait for a clear crossing. Martay acted

quickly by taking Raymond by the arm and pulling him back to safety and out of the way of two oncoming vehicles.

This year's seventh AAA Lifesaving Medal recipient is from Milwaukee, WI.

Michael Chobanian, age 13, is a student at James Fennimore Cooper Elementary School. Michael was at his post on December 3, 2003, when he saw a 6-year-old, Chantal Hill, approach the street. Michael told her not to cross it, but she did not hear him and darted out into the street just as a parked car pulled away from the curb and began approaching quickly. Michael realized that the driver of the moving vehicle would not be able to see Chantal because their view was blocked by another parked car. He quickly yelled, "Watch out!" and reached to pull her out of the path of the moving car. The driver of the car swept by and slowed farther down the street, after realizing what could have happened.

The eighth AAA Lifesaving Medal winner is from Akron, OH.

On the morning of October 23, 2003, Robert H. Clement, age 10, was at his post at Pfeiffer Elementary, when he saw Aidan Robertson, a 2-year-old, slip away from his mother and run out into the street. Robert immediately dropped his patrol flag and ran into the street to help Aidan. Robert returned Aidan to his mother after narrowly escaping oncoming traffic by an estimated margin of only 4 feet.

In addition to honoring safety patrol-ers with the Lifesaving Medal Award, AAA also recognizes the School Safety Patroller of the Year. This award is presented to patrol-ers who perform duties above and beyond their normal responsibilities and demonstrate outstanding leadership, dependability, and academic strength.

This year, the Safety Patroller of the Year is Katie Wright, age 11, a safety patroller at Randolph Howell Elementary School in Columbia, TN.

Katie was selected because of her leadership abilities, academic achievement, and involvement in numerous school and civic activities. Katie wrote an essay on her school safety patrol experience and said, "Safety Patrol has provided me with several qualities that have helped me in becoming a leader." Among the qualities she mentions are patience, compassion, self-respect, charisma, responsibility, and self-discipline.

She and all of the other AAA winners deserve our thanks and admiration.

On behalf of the Senate, I extend congratulations and thanks to these young men and women. They are assets to their communities, and their families and neighbors should be very proud of their courage and dedication.

I would also like to recognize the American Automobile Association for providing the supplies and training necessary to keep the safety patrol on duty nationwide.

Since the 1920s, AAA clubs across the country have sponsored student safety patrols to guide and protect younger

classmates against traffic accidents. Easily recognizable by their fluorescent orange safety belts and shoulder straps, safety patrol members represent the very best of their schools and communities. Experts credit school safety patrol programs with helping to lower the number of traffic accidents and fatalities involving young children.

We owe AAA our gratitude for their tireless efforts to ensure that our Nation's children arrive to and from school safely and soundly. And we owe our thanks to these exceptional young men and women for their selfless actions. The discipline and courage they display deserves the praise and recognition of their schools, their communities, and the Nation.

BURMA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to take a brief moment to update my colleagues on the situation in Burma.

In short: there has been no progress: Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi remains under house arrest; 1,300 prisoners of conscience remain in Burmese jails—with others threatened by arrest for speaking out against the convention; and the SPDC nightmare of rape and repression continues unabated in Burma.

I expect that the junta may again release Suu Kyi in the houses leading up to the State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, orchestrated May 17 constitutional convention charade. The world must hold the applause.

The generals in Rangoon need to do much more to prove they are serious about reconciliation than staging bad political theater in which they control every line and cue.

What should the SPDC do? First, release all political prisoners including those rounded up in the anticipation of the convention. Second, permit the NLD to operate freely, including immediately reopening all party offices. Third, allow NLD members to meet with ethnic leaders without threats of harassment, imprisonment or worse. Finally, provide the international press with unfettered access to Burmese democrats, throughout the country.

While the NLD will decide whether or not to attend the constitutional charade, the international community bears the responsibility to condemn a fundamentally flawed process that offers little in the way of transition to democracy. I remain deeply concerned that the regime has not rescinded their order which imposes lengthy prison sentences on anyone who speaks out against the national convention. What more evidence of a Potemkin village is needed?

As we think about Burma, it is important to consider the comments of Tashika Elbegdorj, former Mongolian Prime Minister, who wrote in a recent op-ed on Burma:

That the regime attempts to justify its behavior by talking about "managed democ-

racy" and the "Asian way to democracy" is an outrage. The fact that Burma's regional neighbors look the other way while making pretenses about "internal affairs" is a stain on all Asians, and this must change.

Tashika Elbegdorj speaks the truth and I commend his interest in the struggle of freedom for Burma. I encourage other democrats in the region to find their voices in support of Suu Kyi and the NLD in the days, weeks, and months to come.

I close by highlighting yesterday's Baltimore Sun editorial on Burma entitled "Window Dressing" that encouraged the U.S. Senate to "... act quickly to renew import sanctions. . . . And this time sanctions must be followed by a U.S. diplomatic campaign—with the generals, their Southeast Asian apologists and the U.N. Security Council—that will be more strongly focused on forcing the junta to begin sharing power. Ms. Suu Kyi has deservedly gained world renown as a symbol of the Burmese quest for freedom, but she is also just one of 50 million people who remain under this regime's lock and key."

The Sun editors got it right: the Senate must act quickly to pass S.J. Res. 36, which renews import sanctions against Burma. By doing so, we send a clear message that America continues to stand with the people of Burma. It is my hope that we can get agreement to consider and pass this resolution before the May recess.

I ask unanimous consent that the former Prime Minister's op-ed, which appeared in *The Nation*, an English-language newspaper in Thailand, and the Baltimore Sun editorial be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

[From the Baltimore Sun, May 12, 2004]

WINDOW DRESSING

On Monday, 14 years after a pack of generals stole control of Myanmar from a legally elected democracy party, the still-ruling military junta will convene a national constitutional convention to which it has invited its long-suppressed opponents. In advance, the National League for Democracy, which won those last parliamentary elections in 1990, has been allowed to reopen an office. And there's mounting anticipation that its leader, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, will be released from house arrest to participate in the national political conference.

If this sounds all too familiar, it should. Those concerned with the brutal suppression of freedom in the national once known as Burma have been down this road before—in 1996 and, more recently, last year, when the indomitable Ms. Suu Kyi and her supporters, briefly free to speak out, came under violent ambush leading to her last rearrest. Her release now—it would be her third since her first arrest in 1989—would be welcome, but it also would impart credibility to a political process that Sen. Mitch McConnell has aptly denounced as "window dressing."

All but a few of the more than 1,000 convention delegates are said to be hand-picked supporters of the generals. Even as the illegal regime talks of a new road map to resolving this long standoff with the NLD, 1,300 political prisoners remain jailed, and in recent