

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

weeks more dissidents reportedly have been receiving long sentences. Ms. Suu Kyi's party is in a tough spot: It can boycott the convention as a sham and be accused by the regime of being noncooperative, or it can legitimize a sham. Either way, the Yangon generals again seem to be stringing along the world.

All this speaks to the need for the U.S. Senate to act quickly to renew import sanctions placed on Myanmar goods after Ms. Suu Kyi was rearrested last year. 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 also is just one of 50 million people who remain under this regime's lock and key.

[From the Nation]

#### NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION ON BURMA

(By Tashika Elbegdorj)

Nobody should be clinking champagne glasses over the recent announcement that Burma's National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Aung San Suu Kyi, has tentatively accepted an invitation to attend the national convention being organized by the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). If this is to be a credible process, the regime must first meet a number of reasonable demands by the NLD—something the ruling junta has never done in the past. Now is the time to step up pressure on Rangoon to ensure the NLD's demands are met and to prevent another attempt by the SPDC to place a veneer of democracy over their brutal rule.

Beginning a so-called process of national reconciliation and charting a way out of Burma's political impasse without the full participation of Suu Kyi and the NLD (as a party and not as individuals) is destined to failure. The legitimacy of the NLD cannot be denied. The Burmese people overwhelmingly elected NLD candidates in 1990 to represent them in parliamentary elections the SPDC refuses to recognize.

Few regimes in the world are as repugnant as the SPDC led by Senior General Than Shwe. Human rights reports and documentation by international organizations such as the United Nations have catalogued a long series of horrors the ruling regime inflicts on its people. For example, the SPDC demands forced labor from its citizens, uses rape as a weapon of fear and intimidation against ethnic groups, fills its jails with political prisoners and torture and summary executions are common. In one of the greatest crimes against our youth, Human Rights Watch reports that nearly 70,000 child soldiers, some as young as 11, have been dragooned into the Burma army.

That the regime attempts to justify its behavior by talking about "managed democracy" 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.

The SPDC's national convention continues a process begun in 1995 to guarantee a future constitution that cements the military's role in power. Statements by senior SPDC officials that this convention will pick up where the last one left off demonstrates a striking lack of sincerity and strongly indicates that this exercise has nothing to do with democracy and everything to do with dictatorship.

The Burmese people are not the only victims of the regime. Burma's neighbors also

suffer. In Thailand, the junta's actions have forced tens of thousands of refugees across the Thai-Burma border. Methamphetamine, or *ya ba* as it is known locally, wash into Thailand from Burma, saddling Thai social services with skyrocketing addiction rates and increased crime. China is battling an HIV-AIDS epidemic that has its roots in Burma's opium smuggling. Regionally, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), who have long provided Burma's generals with political cover, are forced to pick up the tab for the regime's behavior. Meetings with the U.S. and EU officials that should be focused on enhancing economic, security and social ties are instead devoted to explaining the outrageous actions of a brutal regime. This tension is a drag on the region.

It is time for Asian governments to realize that it is time to get tough with Burma's thugs. After expending considerable political capital and prestige, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra received a slap in the face when the junta refused to participate in a second meeting of the Bangkok Process, a mechanism he put in place to allow the regime to brief the international community on its road map to democracy and national convention.

Thaksin has bent over backwards to curry favor with Burma's generals by cracking down on Burmese refugees and democracy activists promoting non-violence in their opposition to the SPDC. Thaksin should communicate strongly to the regime that they will not find solace or cover with his government. Allowing Burmese democracy activists to meet and organize in Thailand would serve to demonstrate his commitment to freedom in Thailand as well as sending a strong signal to the regime that their actions are unacceptable and their support waning. Asean could take the step of suspending Burma's membership in the regional grouping putting the SPDC on notice they are unwilling to foot the rising political and financial bill for the regime's acts of violence and abuse.

A peaceful Burma holds the promise of returning refugees, addressing narcotics smuggling, and investing in a social infrastructure that can unleash the talents and potential of the people. This will create a huge new economic market for Asean and be a catalyst for further development in an environment of peace and stability. None of this will exist under the SPDC.

It is testimony to the bravery of the Burmese people that despite the regime's oppression and terror they are unable to subdue the country's democracy movement. The strength of the movement lies in its legitimacy and the demand by the country for governance derived from the will of the people. It is long past time for Asian governments to hear their call and take the actions necessary for a peaceful transition of power that can begin to heal this torn land.

#### MURDER OF NICHOLAS BERG

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I join my colleagues and the American people in expressing outrage at the vicious murder of American citizen Nicholas Berg in Iraq. I extend my sincere sympathy to Mr. Berg's family and friends, who have had to confront a terrible loss in the context of a barbaric public display.

No one should be misled by the claims of the terrorists responsible for this atrocity. They purport to be retaliating for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by American soldiers. But this is

a lie. These people seek to kill us and kill our children because that is at the core of their agenda, because they derive power from inspiring fear and horror. They do not need a pretext for their brutality.

We express our disgust at the scandalous treatment of Iraqi prisoners because our country stands for basic principles, for the rule of law, for the dignity of the individual. We hold ourselves to high standards, and generations of Americans have shed blood to protect those standards and uphold our principles. We do not call for an investigation of these prisoner abuses in the hopes of placating terrorists. We call for an investigation and for full accountability because that is the right thing to do.

And in the broader fight against terrorism, we speak, wisely, of the need to win hearts and minds in the Arab and Muslim worlds, where millions of good and decent people question American intentions and actions. We insist, quite rightly, that the basic norms and standards of conduct embodied in the Geneva Convention not be undermined, because those same Conventions protect our own troops when they are in harm's way. But our efforts are not aimed to influence the behavior of terrorists. No one has any illusions about the nature of these people. We will not change their minds, or win their hearts, or convince them to uphold basic standards in their conduct. One has only to recall the horror of September 11, or consider the murder of Nicholas Berg, to be certain about that.

#### 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.

On April 6, 2000, in Ashland, OR, Michael Susee was charged with intimidation and assault for allegedly attacking three gay men while yelling anti-gay remarks.

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

#### PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY AND NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to those from my home State who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. I sincerely believe we must never forget those who have given their lives to protect us all.