

that all voters, and particularly those military voters who are serving overseas during a time of war, have an equal opportunity to not only cast a vote, but to have that vote counted.

#### ELECTIONS IN MONGOLIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am concerned by reports from Mongolia of alleged election irregularities following a July 17th revote at a certain polling station in the capital city of Ulaan Baatar.

According to observers on the ground, the revote occurred less than 12 hours after it was announced at 8 p.m. on July 16th. While I do not know the nocturnal habits of the Mongolian people, I doubt that voters in Ulaan Baatar—or anywhere else in Mongolia, for that matter—can be fully and adequately informed of the revote in such a short time.

Field reports seem to bear this out. According to the International Republican Institute, turnout at that polling station in the June 27th elections exceeded 70 percent; on the July 17th revote, it totaled some 46 percent. Nearly one-quarter of those who voted in June did not cast a ballot in July.

Further troubling are allegations of a systematic pattern of denying supporters of the Motherland Democracy Coalition, MDC, the right to vote, refusal to permit MDC observers inside the polling station, the use of Mongolian law enforcement officials to prohibit access to the polling station, and vote buying in favor of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, MPRP.

If proven true, these irregularities would mark a major departure from Mongolia's previous election experiences, where voting was generally orderly and according to applicable laws and regulations.

My colleagues might find it interesting that the seat in question was won in the first round of balloting by MDC candidate and businessman Otganbayer by a 222 vote margin. The revote found MPRP Defense Minister Gurragechaa winning the seat by 1,239 votes.

There is no question that reports of irregularities and chicanery must be fully and impartially investigated by the relevant election authorities, and that any and all violators of election laws and regulations be prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of Mongolian law. It is my hope that this process is more transparent than the counting of ballots at that particular polling station. It is outrageous that MPRP officials prohibited independent election observers to witness the opening of ballot boxes and the counting of ballots—in violation, I understand, of Mongolian law.

Mongolia's leadership would be wise to consider that the country's reputation—and inclusion as an eligible recipient for increased foreign assistance under the Millennium Challenge Cor-

poration—is at stake. Any government that is formed that does not reflect the real will of the Mongolian people will lack credibility and the respect of the international community.

Ulaan Baatar should take note that Washington—and the world—is watching.

#### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR BEN TAYLOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Kentuckian, Ben "Buster" Taylor, a retired Special Forces sergeant major and former Letcher County Sheriff. Sergeant Major Taylor is not one to brag about his accomplishments, but he should be honored for his courageous and selfless acts during the two decades he spent serving this Nation in the U.S. military.

In 1950, inspired by the heroism of World War II veterans, Taylor joined the United States Army's 11th Airborne Division at Camp Campbell, KY, which is now known as Fort Campbell. As he worked his way through various divisions, the Army began organizing its Special Forces Branch, the Green Berets. Taylor enthusiastically joined the Green Berets and spent the better part of two decades serving with his comrades in Japan, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, the Philippines, Burma, China, Laos, and Vietnam.

Taylor's missions exemplified his bravery and altruism. During his tours of duty, he was awarded 24 medals and 18 ribbons, among these four bronze stars. With each honor, a story revealing his heroism is told. He has notebooks full of citations and commendations that tell of the many times he risked his own life to save others. But of all these honors, the one most memorable to Taylor is the role he played in the funeral of President John F. Kennedy. Taylor was selected to represent the Green Berets at President Kennedy's funeral. He walked alongside the casket of the fallen Commander in Chief.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing a true American hero, Sergeant Major Ben Taylor.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. BOBBY RUSSELL HIMES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Kentuckian and proud Republican, Dr. Bobby Russell Himes. Earlier this year, Dr. Himes was named Central Kentucky News-Journal's 2004 Man of the Year. The title is one that Dr. Himes has earned.

Dr. Himes has always strived to live life to its very fullest and give 110 percent. After serving 4 years in the U.S. Air Force, he completed his bachelor's degree at Kentucky Wesleyan College. He went on to finish his formal education by earning a masters degree from Appalachian State University and

a doctorate from Vanderbilt University. For 40 years, he was a professor of history and political science at Kentucky's Campbellsville University. He was an inspiring educator, mentor, and friend to students and colleagues. While he no longer teaches classes, he continues to support and encourage younger generations.

Beyond his role as an educator, Dr. Himes has been a businessman, a stalwart volunteer for the Republican Party, and an instrumental figure in creating the Central Kentucky Arts Series. Furthermore, he is a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and now a great-grandfather.

Dr. Himes is truly an inspiration. He persevered through a childhood during the Great Depression and a battle with cancer. If there is one thing to learn from Dr. Bobby Russell Himes, it is his philosophy for living. Dr. Himes believes that, "By setting goals—even if you don't achieve them—you're going to go further just because you set them."

May we please take this time to honor the man whom so many look up to, Dr. Bobby Russell Himes, Central Kentucky News-Journal's 2004 Man of the Year.

#### TRIBUTE TO R.J. CORMAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a fellow Kentuckian, Mr. R.J. Corman. Mr. Corman is a remarkable man who has overcome life's adversities and achieved great business success.

Mr. Corman got his start in the railroad business working a backhoe for L&N Railroad. Little did he know, but this initial exposure would lead to his lifetime work. He founded and continues to operate the R.J. Corman Railroad Group in his hometown of Nicholasville, Kentucky. His business has grown over the years and now operates in 19 States, has about 630 employees, and will have at least \$120 million in sales this year. The goal of the R.J. Corman Railroad Group is to please customers and perform their services better, faster, and more efficient than anyone else.

While Mr. Corman's companies are incredibly successful and expansive, it is his personal successes that I pay tribute to most. Three years ago, Mr. Corman was diagnosed with cancer and given 3 years to live. A man not used to sitting idly by, he successfully completed a stem-cell bone marrow transplant in November 2001 and today his cancer is in complete remission. In fact, Mr. Corman is doing so well that at the age of 48 he ran in the 108th annual Boston Marathon.

Mr. Corman came from humble beginnings, the son of a state highway worker and homemaker. But he hasn't forgotten where he came from or the lessons his grandfather taught him about hard work and honesty. His never give up attitude has led to business success and overcoming serious

illness. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing Kentucky's railroad entrepreneur, Mr. R.J. Corman.

#### TRIBUTE TO OWSLEY BROWN FRAZIER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I pay tribute to an outstanding Kentuckian, fellow Louisvillian and friend, Mr. Owsley Brown Frazier. Owsley recently fulfilled one of his life-long dreams by opening a museum to showcase his collection of historic weaponry—the Frazier Historical Arm Museum. I was honored to join him at the grand opening to get a sneak peak at his impressive collection.

The Frazier Historical Arms Museum is more than guns in cases and maps on walls. Inside this \$32 million, 100,000-square-foot museum weapons are displayed based on the stories they tell. The museum is home to Teddy Roosevelt's "Big Stick," a rifle owned by George Washington, a bow and arrow used by Geronimo, and General George Armstrong Custer's Colt Navy revolvers. Not only does the museum house Owsley's collection of American artifacts but also holds collections on loan from the British Royal Armouries in the Tower of London. These artifacts are combined with guides dressed in period attire, short films, and interactive computer stations. It is definitely a "must see" while in Louisville.

Owsley wanted to give back to his hometown and the museum was his gift. The museum is a testament to his work ethic and his values. It reflects his philanthropic nature that he has contributed \$500 million to charities during his lifetime, including tens of millions for his biggest passion—education. He has used his own money, but also millions of dollars of contributions from his family's company to preserve historic buildings, build housing for low-income families and of course, support our local colleges and schools.

His friends describe him as a simple man who loves fishing at his Shelby County farm, breakfast at the Waddy Truck Stop, and would rather watch sports on television than attend cocktail parties. Owsley and I also share a special passion: University of Louisville Athletics. In fact, he once even skipped a family member's wedding because the Cardinals had a game that day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this incredible man. Owsley has a genuine and sincere love for the city of Louisville, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and most importantly his fellow man. I can only hope he will inspire us all to share that same benevolent passion and commitment in our lives.

#### ISRAEL SECURITY FENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, they say good fences make good neighbors.

I do not know if that is always true, but I do know that the security fence

Israel is building along the West Bank has been good for the security in the region.

Already, the fence has resulted in a 90 percent drop in terrorism coming from the northern West Bank. In 2004, no Israeli nationals were killed or wounded by suicide bombings in areas protected by the fence, while 19 Israeli citizens were killed and 102 wounded by suicide attacks in areas without the fence.

So, it is clear that this fence is saving innocent lives.

Like so many others who know the region and have traveled to Israel and Palestine many times, I wish that a fence was not necessary. In an ideal world, neighbors would not need fences, and Israel and Palestine could have a more open border where goods, services and people move freely.

But that is not the world we live in, and that is not the position in which Israel finds itself. We know that terrorist organizations operating in the West Bank and elsewhere have sworn themselves to one main goal: the destruction of the State of Israel.

These murderers target innocent civilians, women and children in Israeli busses, markets and cafes. Since the start of the Intifada some 4 years ago, almost 1,000 Israelis have been killed. Every man, woman and child in Israel lives with the fear that a terrorist attack could be carried out at any time, on any given day, and in any given location.

When confronted with such threats, free nations look to their military, their law enforcement personnel, and above all else, they look to the rule of law.

A commitment to the rule of law separates free nations from dictatorships. It separates democracies from corrupt and dangerous regimes. It is what binds people together under common values, shared principles and an agreed framework to live in peace.

Israel has a right to live in peace. It has a right, under law, to protect itself and to defend its people from attack. This is not only what the law allows, it is what the people are entitled to. Much of the United Nations Charter, in fact, is based on the inherent right to self-defense.

That is why the recent International Court of Justice, ICJ, advisory opinion on the security fence is so wrong, and why it sets a very dangerous precedent. It is yet another low point for this court and for the UN.

The ICJ declared itself "not convinced" that the barrier Israel is building is a security necessity. I suppose such judgments are easy to make when sitting in the opulence of the Hague some 2,000 miles away. Let the judges live along the Israeli border to the West Bank for some time, and then let them call the fence unnecessary.

Beyond the wrongness of the opinion, the court should never have taken the case to begin with.

The ICJ had no business interfering in the security of a sovereign nation.

Israel's democratic institutions and its commitment to the rule of law make it more than able to handle issues arising from the construction of the fence without interference from the ICJ.

Israel's supreme court, for example, ruled that a segment of the security fence must be re-routed to reduce the impact on the Palestinian population, even though the judges noted that "in the short term, this judgment will not make the state's struggle against those rising up against it any easier."

This is what democratic nations do; they act in accordance to the law. They make outside interference by the ICJ not only unwelcome and unnecessary, but even dangerous.

Although the ICJ opinion is non-binding, it could lead to the introduction of anti-Israel measures at the UN and strengthen attempts to isolate Israel.

This is why some 40 nations, including the United States, submitted briefs to the ICJ objecting to the court's consideration of the case.

This is why I, along with 78 other Senators, wrote the UN Secretary General, calling upon him to reject the ICJ's interference with Israel's right to self defense.

Unfortunately, the UN's action and the ICJ's opinion is another in a long line of anti-Israel positions they have taken. There have been some 400 anti-Israel Resolutions passed at the UN since 1964, while the terrorist atrocities committed against the Jewish people have never been investigated by the UN.

This is wrong, and it is an assault against Israeli sovereignty and its legal systems.

Israel's allies must continue to speak out against this wrong-headed action by the ICJ. This is why Senate has introduced and I have co-sponsored another bi-partisan resolution condemning the recent ICJ decision on the legality of Israel's security fence and urging no further action by the UN to delay or prevent the fence's construction.

We need to pass that resolution, keep the pressure on the UN, and continue to protect Israel's right to self defense. The law authorizes it, and the people of the region deserve it.

#### HONORING REV. MARION DANIEL BENNETT SR.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Marion Daniel Bennett, Sr., on his recent retirement as pastor of the Zion United Methodist Church. It pleases me to be able to speak today of Rev. Bennett's tremendous contributions to Nevada's spiritual, civic, and political life.

Reverend Bennett's dedicated service and inspired leadership of the Zion United Methodist Church in Las Vegas has spanned over four decades. During his tenure, he oversaw the relocation of the Church to its current West Las Vegas site, and spearheaded the development of a much-needed day care center in the community.