

Interface, leaving many Alaskan communities at risk.

Another critical program is the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP), which is part of the Farm Bill. This program helps communities and individuals to obtain grants for reforestation and thinning of lands impacted by beetle kill.

In Alaska alone, a total of 478 private landowners, along with 19 native corporations are eligible for FLEP funds for wildfire fuels reduction and timber stand improvements. Without this funding, eligible Alaskan landowners have no opportunity to make needed forest health improvements on their lands. The farm bill in 2002 authorized \$100 million from the Commodity Credit Corporation over a 5-year period ending in fiscal year 2007. Only a total of \$20 million was used for landowner cost-share and technical assistance in fiscal year 2003 with \$50 million transferred from FLEP to cover Forest Service wildfire suppression costs. While supporting wildfire suppression, we must and should utilize funding for those State and private forestry programs that aid communities in fuel reduction work to reduce these catastrophic wildfires we witness each year.

We must work across party lines to get the needed resources, recognizing fiscal responsibility, to all landowners to reduce fuel load. This is a responsibility for all of us in Congress.

SENATOR BOB DOLE AND THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on Memorial Day, my wife Marcelle and I were honored to attend the dedication of the gleaming new World War II Memorial. This memorial is not only a testament to the sacrifice of the 16 million courageous men and women who served in that grand struggle, but, in some ways, it speaks to the tireless energy of our friend and former Senate majority leader, Bob Dole.

Senator Dole received a Purple Heart in Italy, yet never let the lingering effects of his very serious wounds stand in the way of his overall effectiveness and ability to lead the Senate. After he left office, he turned his special brand of energy and intelligence towards ensuring the completion of the new memorial. He helped raise awareness of the project across the country and was critical to helping gain congressional approval of the measure.

During the dedication, Senator Dole gave a moving tribute to his comrades-in-arms. These remarks helped give further context and meaning to the pillars, plaques, and fountains that make up this grand memorial.

I will ask to have these remarks included in the RECORD, and I implore all of my colleagues to take a few minutes to read this speech.

Today is a particularly fitting day to read Senator Dole's remarks, as today is his birthday. I want to wish my friend a very happy birthday.

I ask unanimous consent the speech be printed in the RECORD.

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

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE—NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL DEDICATION, MAY 29, 2004

In the first week of January 1945, a hungry and lonesome second lieutenant from small town Kansas dispatched a message to his folks back home: "You can send me something to eat whenever you are ready," he wrote. "Send candy, gum, cookies, cheese, grape jelly, popcorn, nuts, peanut clusters, Vicks Vapo Rub, wool socks, wool scarf, fudge, cookies, ice cream, liver and onions, fried chicken, banana cake, milk, fruit cocktail, Swiss steaks, crackers, more candy, Lifesavers, peanuts, the piano, the radio, the living room suite, the record player and Frank Sinatra. I guess you might as well send the whole house if you can get it into a five-pound box. P.S., keep your fingers crossed."

In authoring that only slightly exaggerated wish list I merely echoed the longings of 16 million Americans whose greatest wish was for an end to the fighting. Sixty years on our ranks have dwindled for the thousands assembled here on the Mall and the millions more watching all across America in living rooms and hospitals and wherever it may be—our men and women overseas and our friends in Great Britain and our allies all around the world. Our final reunion cannot long be delayed.

Yet if we gather in the twilight it is brightened by the knowledge that we have kept faith with our comrades. Sustained by over 600,000 individual contributions, we have raised this memorial to commemorate the service and sacrifice of an entire generation. What we dedicate today is not a memorial to war, rather it's a tribute to the physical and moral courage that makes heroes out of farm and city boys and that inspires Americans in every generation to lay down their lives for people they will never meet, for ideals that make life itself worth living.

This is also a memorial to the American people who in the crucible of war forged a unity that became our ultimate weapon. Just as we pulled together in the course of a common threat 60 years ago, so today's Americans united to build this memorial. Small children held their grandfather's hand while dropping pennies in a collection box. Entire families contributed in memory of loved ones who could win every battle except the battle against time. I think of my brother, Kenny, and my brothers-in-law Larry Nelson and Allen Steel, just three among the millions of ghosts in navy blue and olive drab we honor with this memorial.

Of course, not every warrior wore a uniform. As it happens, today is the 101st birthday of Bob Hope, the GI's favorite entertainer who did more to boost our morale than anyone next to Betty Grable. And I can already hear Bob . . . "but I was next to Betty Grable." And it's hard to believe, but today is also the 87th birthday of John F. Kennedy, a hero of the south Pacific, who, a generation after the surrender documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri, spoke of a new generation of Americans tempered by war that was nevertheless willing "to pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty." And we shall always honor the memory of our great leader and our American hero, General Eisenhower, who led us to victory all across the world.

As we meet here today, young Americans are risking their lives in liberty's defense. They are the latest link in a chain of sacrifice older than America itself. After all, if

we met the test of our times, it was because we drew inspiration from those who had gone before, including the giants of history who are enshrined on this Mall, from Washington, who fathered America with his sword and ennobled it with his character . . . from Jefferson, whose pen gave eloquent voice to our noblest aspirations . . . from Lincoln, who preserved the Union and struck the chains from our countrymen . . . and from Franklin Roosevelt, who presided over a global coalition to rescue humanity from those who had put the soul itself in bondage. Each of these presidents was a soldier of freedom. And in the defining event of the 20th century, their cause became our cause. On distant fields and fathomless oceans, the skies over half the planet and in 10,000 communities on the home front, we did far more than avenge Pearl Harbor. The citizen soldiers who answered liberty's call fought not for territory, but for justice, not for plunder, but to liberate enslaved peoples around the world.

In contending for democracy abroad, we learned painful lessons about our own democracy. For us, the Second World War was in effect a second American revolution. The war invited women into the workforce. It exposed the injustice on African Americans, Hispanics and Japanese Americans and others who demonstrated yet again that war is an equal opportunity employer. What we learned in foreign fields of battle we applied in post-war America. As a result, our democracy, though imperfect, is more nearly perfect than in the days of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt. That's what makes America forever a work in progress—a land that has never become, but is always in the act of becoming. And that's why the armies of democracy have earned a permanent place on this sacred ground.

It is only fitting when this memorial was opened to the public about a month ago the very first visitors were school children. For them, our war is ancient history and those who fought it are slightly ancient themselves. Yet, in the end, they are the ones for whom we built this shrine and to whom we now hand the baton in the unending relay of human possibility.

Certainly the heroes represented by the 4,000 gold stars on the freedom wall need no monument to commemorate their sacrifice. They are known to God and to their fellow soldiers, who will mourn their passing until the day of our own. In their names, we dedicate this place of meditation, and it is in their memory that I ask you to stand, if possible, and join me in a moment of silent tribute to remind us all that at sometime in our life, we have or may be called upon to make a sacrifice for our country to preserve liberty and freedom . . .

. . . God bless America.

U.S.-CENTRAL AMERICA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, just yesterday the Senate passed the U.S.-Morocco Free-Trade Agreement Implementation Act by a vote of 85 to 13. This followed on the heels of Senate approval of the U.S.-Australia agreement by a vote of 80 to 16. The Australia bill itself was preceded by renewal and extension of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent on June 24 of this year. Prior to that, the Senate was able to work out its differences and pass the JOBS Act by a vote of 92 to 5. I will note that each of these bills passed in an election

year, a year in which many pundits argued that nothing on trade would get done.

Well we proved them wrong. In fact, this has been one of the most active years on trade in the Senate in recent memory. I say, why stop now? We should continue our efforts to open foreign markets to U.S. exports. That is why I am calling on President Bush to send up the Central American Free Trade Agreement at the earliest opportunity.

The CAFTA is an important part of our continuing efforts to open foreign markets to U.S. goods and services. This market access is critical if we are going to continue to grow our exports to the world. For my home State of Iowa, the CAFTA brings important new market access opportunities for our soybean, corn, pork and beef as well as Iowa's manufacturers and service providers.

Under the current framework, many products from the CAFTA nations get access to our market but we do not get the same access to theirs. The CAFTA will change that. It will level the playing field for U.S. producers so they can compete in this growing market.

The CAFTA also sends a strong message to our Latin American neighbors. It shows our strong desire to reach out and form deeper and lasting bonds with the international community, particularly in Latin America. The agreement will help to lock in economic reform and increase transparency in the region. There is no doubt about it. The CAFTA can serve as a cornerstone of economic growth and democracy for the region which will enhance the standard of living for millions of our southern neighbors.

A free trade agreement with these nations represents a unique opportunity not only for U.S. farmers, ranchers, businesses and workers, but also for promoting development, security and prosperity in this region. It is a good agreement for the United States and for Central America. I will work closely with President Bush and my Senate colleagues to do all I can to lay the groundwork for a successful vote on CAFTA later this year.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the United States-Morocco Free-Trade Agreement, which was passed in the Senate yesterday by a vote of 85 to 31. Nearly a year and a half of negotiations were devoted to crafting this agreement by U.S. and Moroccan officials. I voted in support of the implementing legislation to this agreement, and it is my hope that both of our countries will soon move to adopt the agreement.

Every year, the United States exports roughly \$475 million worth of goods to Morocco. While this amount is not high when we compare it with U.S. exports to Australia—approximately \$13 billion in 2003—it is significant if we view it in the dual contexts of leveling the playing field for American exporters, and, second, development and

economic growth. The United States-Morocco FTA will ease the burden on Americans, who, according to the United States Trade Representative, currently face an average tariff of over 20 percent on products they export to Morocco.

Hopefully, this agreement will also spur domestic economic growth in Morocco and encourage that nation to raise its labor and environmental standards. Like all nations, Morocco seeks to develop and modernize its economy. If distributed equitably amongst a nation's citizens, economic modernization and prosperity are important tools in the fight against extremist ideologies that promote terrorism. I hope that will be the case in Morocco.

Indeed, prospects of a United States-Morocco FTA have already in the last year prompted that nation to reform its labor laws. Now it is important that Morocco take all necessary steps to enforce these laws. The U.S. should also encourage Morocco to pursue further labor and environmental reform and strengthen its domestic enforcement of international standards.

That is not to say that this agreement is perfect. No agreement will be perfect—although I still believe that the Jordan FTA, which passed the Senate just a few years ago by a vote of 100 to 0, should serve as a benchmark and guide for the crafting of free trade agreements. Few bills, especially free trade agreements, pass with such overwhelming support. I believe that support was a testament to the inherent quality of that agreement.

Despite my overall support for the pending agreement, I do have a significant concern here. First, as my colleagues are aware, the United States-Morocco FTA, like the United States-Australia FTA, includes language that would allow prescription drug manufacturers to prevent the reimportation of their products.

For a variety of reasons, we are unlikely to import drugs from Morocco in the near future. So as a practical matter, like the United States-Australia FTA, this provision will not affect drug prices in the U.S. And as the United States-Morocco FTA was negotiated around the same time as the United States-Australia FTA, it is not surprising that this provision appears in both agreements. But, in my view, this provision must not be viewed as a precedent by the Bush administration, and I would discourage its inclusion in any future trade agreements entered into by the U.S. Nor do I believe that it prevents us from adopting laws related to drug importation in the future.

JUST SEVEN LEGISLATIVE DAYS LEFT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week is the last week that Congress is in session before the August recess and there is only one additional week to act before the Assault Weapons Ban expires

on September 13th. This past Monday, one of our former colleagues, Senator Howard Metzenbaum, wrote an op-ed for the Washington Post. In his article, Senator Metzenbaum highlights the broad support this law has among Americans, as well as the inconsistencies between the stated positions and the actions of President Bush on the reauthorization of this critical law.

As my colleagues know, in addition to banning 19 specific weapons, the existing ban makes it illegal to "manufacture, transfer, or possess a semi-automatic" firearm that can accept a detachable magazine and has more than one of several specific military features, such as folding/telescoping stocks, protruding pistol grips, bayonet mounts, threaded muzzles or flash suppressors, barrel shrouds or grenade launchers. These weapons are dangerous and they should not be on America's streets.

In April of this year, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence joined hundreds of local elected officials and senior law enforcement officials to urge President Bush to push for reauthorization of this critical piece of gun safety legislation. Since then, the support for this important law has grown exponentially. In addition to former Presidents Ford, Carter, and Clinton, nearly every major law enforcement organization in the country, gun safety organizations, a bipartisan majority of the Senate, and countless local leaders have added their names to the list of supporters. I commend them for their efforts in support of this commonsense gun safety legislation.

In 1994, I voted for the assault weapons ban and in March of this year I joined a bipartisan majority of the Senate in voting to extend the assault weapons ban for 10 years. Unfortunately, despite Senate passage of the amendment, it appears that this important gun safety law will be allowed to expire. The House Republican leadership opposes reauthorizing the law and President Bush, though he has said he supports it, has done little to help keep the law alive.

I ask unanimous consent that the op-ed from Senator Metzenbaum be printed in the RECORD at the end of my statement. I also ask that the list of organizations in support of this critical piece of gun safety legislation be printed in the RECORD following Senator Metzenbaum's op-ed.

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

AMERICA WANTS THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN
(By Howard M. Metzenbaum)

A decade ago I was privileged to lead a fight with Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) on what for me has become a deeply personal issue: the federal ban on assault weapons. These killing machines had no place on our streets in 1994 and they have no place now. Yet as the days pass, it is becoming clear that many members of Congress are content to skip through the summer months doing nothing while awaiting this fall's