

point out, Pearl Harbor ended isolationism for any realist.

Arthur Vandenberg was a forward-looking man who saw beyond partisan politics and worked for the good of the country. His service in the Senate is an example of true bipartisan leadership, which is so desperately needed today.

I know that all of my colleagues in the Senate and the people of Michigan join me in celebrating the life and works of this son of Michigan, and in congratulating the family of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, during Senate consideration of Senate amendments 3615 and 3617, I was attending a memorial service for the father of my Rhode Island colleague, Representative JAMES LANGEVIN. Had I been present for these votes I would have voted against the motion to table amendment No. 3615, and I would have voted to waive the point of order against amendment No. 3617.

DEATH OF FIREFIGHTER EVA SCHICKE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today, it is with a heavy heart that I pay tribute to a fallen California firefighter.

Firefighter Eva Schicke was killed on Sunday, September 12, when her crew was overwhelmed by flames after being dropped by helicopter to fight a wildfire in the Tuolumne River Canyon of the Stanislaus National Forest.

Eva Schicke was part of an elite 7-person helicopter wildfire crew stationed at Columbia Air Attack Base in Columbia, CA. She and the six other members of this helicopter crew selflessly risked their lives trying to protect our communities and our treasured forests.

A graduate of California State University at Stanislaus where she played basketball and majored in criminal justice, Eva Schicke worked part time as a firefighter for more than 4 years. When she died she was beginning to pursue a career in nursing—yet another testament to her generosity of spirit and her desire to serve the community.

Not only was Ms. Schicke one of the few female firefighters to serve, she is now, tragically, the first ever female firefighter from the California Department of Forestry to die in the line of duty.

I offer my sincere condolences to her family, friends, and classmates. I know they must be devastated by the loss of this courageous, young woman.

I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the search and rescue team that went back in to recover Ms. Schicke's body.

I also extend my gratitude and express my admiration for all of our firefighters, particularly the six members of the Columbia Helitack Team that fought by Ms. Schicke's side and were

themselves injured in that fire. The people of California honor their work. May God bless them for their dedication and service.

WILLIAM MCSWEENEY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my wife Marcelle and I have been privileged to know Bill and Dorothy McSweeney during the time I have been in the Senate.

During my conversations with them, I have especially appreciated their sense of history. When Mr. McSweeney writes an op-ed piece, based on his knowledge and experience, I think we should pay special attention.

Recently, he wrote one for the Washington Post. Nothing I could say would add to the value of this fine statement, so I ask unanimous consent it be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Aug. 18, 2004]

NO DEBATING A SENSE OF DUTY

(By William McSweeney)

I am from that generation of younger brothers who just missed World War II and went to war against communism in Korea in 1950. Many of us became fathers to those who fought in Vietnam and grandfathers to those fighting in Iraq.

I would not presume to speak for a whole generation, but as a veteran of that combat, I say it is time to tell both presidential campaigns to cease their macho posturing and get on with real programs to run—or save—our country.

In our long-ago time, we went to war reluctantly against an unknown enemy in an unknown land.

But, we went.

The conditions were harsh. The fighting—pre-instant TV—was ferocious at the front and mostly unseen at home. When we came back, no one particularly cared, and only one film (“Pork Chop Hill”) and a handful of books remain to mark our passing.

That and a free South Korea.

We weren't noticeably upset at men who deferred service and went to college (except those who stole our girls). We didn't come home with rows of medals—although many of us came home with injuries that still warn us of changes in the weather. We didn't do any complaining. We just came home and got on with our lives.

Why did we go? Why did we allow our young bodies and our young psyches to be subjected to a war so forgotten that even today it has not been mentioned by either candidate, both of whom failed to notice the anniversary of its June beginning and July ending?

I believe it was because we knew that we should. Some of us enlisted as regular Army infantry privates and later became combat officers because other men of the “greatest generation” had done it and we should too. It is a young man's reaction to a sense of responsibility and duty, done without much forethought.

That, I believe, is the key ingredient in John Kerry's service in Vietnam—and why both campaigns should drop this contrived issue.

He did not have to go—because he had been. His tour on a destroyer was overseas time enough. But he went to the boats because other young men were there. The men and the boats had a mission—and he com-

manded, because he could. That is enough for me. I couldn't care less whether he received a medal. The rest of it is frosting. There is no honor in this debate for our country. We need to know whether a man can save the economy and slow terrorism, not listen to harangues about who was a shooter and who was a dodger.

Most of the real heroics are performed by young kids and young officers who just accept it as a cost of doing business in the peculiar exchange that is a combat battleground. The whole place—and it does not matter which war we describe—is one of fear, noise, smoke, confusion and a strange comradeship where you might risk your life for someone you will never see again. I don't know what the expression is in the Navy, but the Army's bittersweet joke is that the two most dangerous words in the English language are “follow me.” It takes courage to utter those words and to follow that command—something any veteran of any combat will recognize.

It is time for some of us older veterans to take one last stand and call on both parties to drop this base and meaningless debate. At the end of the day, and the end of the battle, medals are just symbols. And the bravery of thousands of our soldiers has passed into history unheralded by stars and ribbons. By engaging in mudslinging over this issue, both campaigns undermine the bravery and honor of all who serve in times of war and peace. And they distract us from the real issues of this election.

John Kerry heard the siren song of his moment—that fragile call on the wind that is the call to the colors. He went. He came back. I give him credit for that. If he threw some ribbons over the fence, he's welcome to mine. They lie quietly in a desk drawer, entombed with memories of better men who lie in the dirt of faraway fields, where there really is no glory, but where courage and compassion came with the C-rations.

They believed ours was a great country, one that fought not for conquest or for gain but because freedom isn't free and someone has to pay for it. The bill comes due again in this election. Let's hope these two candidates don't leave us paupers.

HUNGARIAN GOLD TRAIN

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, on May 24, 2004, 17 Senators wrote to Attorney General John Ashcroft to urge him to resolve the claims brought by several thousand elderly Holocaust survivors in the matter of the Hungarian Gold Train. These survivors seek restitution and an accounting for the mishandling, loss and theft of their property in the years after World War II. Administrations of both parties have made clear our belief that when faced with evidence of wrongdoing, governments should not rely on legalisms and technicalities to avoid responsibility. Those of us who wrote the Attorney General hoped that our own Government would rise to the same level of accountability when its own conduct was at fault.

Unfortunately, the Justice Department continues to resist these survivors strenuously in court. One disturbing tactic is to try to undercut the Government's own research and admissions. The facts about the Hungarian Gold Train were first brought to light by the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets, chaired by

Edgar Bronfman, in a "Progress Report" issued in October 1999. The commission called the Gold Train "a mysterious example of a single egregious failure of the United States to follow [its own] policy" regarding restitution of Holocaust victims' property after World War II. Now, however, in its recent filings in Federal court, the Justice Department claims that the PCHA somehow retracted or backed away from its findings. However, I recently received a powerful letter from Edgar Bronfman, the chairman of that commission. Mr. Bronfman makes plain that the commission stands by its report, which, as he points out, is still prominently displayed on its website. I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Bronfman's letter be made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

EDGAR M. BRONFMAN,
New York, NY, August 25, 2004.

Hon. HILLARY R. CLINTON,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: I have been reading your efforts as a member of the United States Senate to address some of the open but extremely important issues in the arena of restitution for living victims of the Holocaust and their heirs. In particular, I am aware, as was reported in the recent edition of The National Journal, that you have taken on a leadership role in seeking a fair and rapid settlement of the Hungarian Gold Train matter.

As you know, I had the privilege of serving as the Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States ("PCHA") from its inception in 1998 through its conclusion in December 2000.

PCHA was established by act of Congress (P.L. 105-186) in 1998, the enabling legislation directed PCHA to "conduct a thorough study and develop a historical record of the collection and disposition of the assets" taken from victims of the Holocaust by Nazi Germany or by the governments it controlled, "if such assets came into the possession or control of the Federal Government" at any time after January 30, 1933. As part of its task, PCHA was directed to file such interim reports with the President as it deemed appropriate, and to submit a final report to the President containing any recommendations for legislative, administrative or other actions it deemed necessary or appropriate.

Pursuant to its Congressional mandate PCHA issued one such interim report on October 14, 1999, the Progress Report On: The Mystery Of The Hungarian Gold Train ("Progress Report"). The Progress Report is a comprehensive and in-depth historical analysis of the Gold Train story and is, in my view, an accurate account of the United States' handling and disposition of the "Gold Train" property. Tragically, that report made public the long-concealed facts that the United States mishandled the Hungarians' property and disposed of it in violation of our laws, a blemish on an otherwise magnificent record at that time.

When I learned that the Department of Justice has criticized the Progress Report, and attempted to minimize its significance in the current Federal court litigation, I wanted to contact you about this urgent matter and state my position as the former PCHA Chairman.

In December 2000 PCHA issued its final report as required by P.L. 105-186. This report,

Plunder and Restitution: The U.S. and Holocaust Victims' Assets ("Plunder and Restitution"), did not repeat all the findings of the Progress Report. There was no need to repeat all of the specific findings because they had already been made public and remained available. Rather the findings were summarized along with many others in the final report. In no way, however, did PCHA intend to retract or retreat from the findings of the Progress Report. In fact, for years the Progress Report remained prominently displayed on PCHA's web site and it remains there today at <http://www.holocaustassets.gov/>.

I hope this clarifies the historical record and addresses any questions your colleagues may have on this point.

Yours sincerely,

EDGAR M. BRONFMAN.

Mrs. CLINTON. It is time for the Justice Department to do the right thing. It is time to stop the delay and stop hiding behind legalisms and technicalities. The Government should work with the survivors to pay fair, timely and long overdue restitution. As my colleagues and I wrote in May, for these survivors, justice delayed is justice denied.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

40TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH AND SERVICE AGENCY

• Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize a significant service agency in my home State of Colorado.

Forty years ago in Denver, CO a small group of visionaries worked to achieve their dream of eliminating the disparities that existed between Latinos and the mainstream community.

Prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Act on July 2, 1964, these visionaries incorporated the first 501(c) 3 non-profit agency in the Nation to address the specific needs of Latinos. On March 3, 1964, the Latin American Research and Service Agency was born. Working with these visionaries was an enlightened philanthropic organization that was the first in the Nation to take a risk of giving a significant grant to a Latino based agency. That agency at the time known as the United Fund is today known as the Mile High United Way.

Much has happened over the past four decades since attorney Roger Cisneros first wrote the incorporation papers for LARASA. In November of 1964 Mr. Cisneros became the first Hispanic elected to the Colorado Senate since the early 1900's. Bernard (Bernie) Valdez, the first Hispanic appointed to a Denver Mayor's Cabinet was the first Chairman of LARASA's Board of Directors. Ms. Lena Archuletta who was the first Hispanic to serve as a school principal in the Denver Public Schools system was the first Secretary of the Board. Also serving on the first board of directors was Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales a leader in the Chicano Move-

ment and Herrick Roth former leader of the Colorado Labor Movement and founder of the Colorado Forum.

Today LARASA continues to provide leadership in the areas of health, education, public policy, leadership development and community outreach. On the occasion of their 40th Anniversary I am proud to recognize their significant achievements by entering this statement into the RECORD.●

RECOGNIZING IOWA EDUCATORS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE NA- TIONAL HISTORY DAY 2004 SUM- MER TEACHER INSTITUTE, POLI- TICS AND THE PRESS: THE IN- FLUENCE OF THE MEDIA ON HIS- TORY

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate two Iowa educators, Kelly Smith Arickx, a teacher at Rockford High School in Nora Springs, IA and Naomi Peuse, an educator at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines, IA. They were part of a group of 25 educators selected from across America to participate in the National History Day 2004 Summer Teacher Institute, "Politics and the Press: The Influence of the Media on History." The institute took place from July 25 to July 30, 2004, at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

This select group of participants from across the country had the opportunity to work with prominent journalists and historians. They were exposed to an array of resources, including oral histories and discussions, learning about various primary source materials that can be incorporated into teaching.

I am pleased to recognize Kelly Smith Arickx and Naomi Peuse for their accomplishment in having been selected to participate in the National History Day Summer Teacher Institute. I am proud to have had them representing my home State of Iowa.●

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

• Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words today about the significance of observing September 14, 2004 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which honors the memory of the POWs and MIAs who have served in our Nation's wars.

As my colleagues know, the United States has fought in numerous wars and thousands of Americans who served in those wars were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action. In 20th Century wars alone, more than 147,000 Americans were captured and became Prisoners of War; of that number more than 15,000 died while in captivity. When we add to this number those who are still missing in action, we realize that we cannot do enough to remember their service.

As a veteran who served in Korea, I personally know that the remembrance