

who strongly values religious freedom, I am appalled by the actions of Palestinians who desecrated holy sites and I deplore the total abdication of leadership demonstrated by the Palestinian Authority.

[On this day in 1963,] a bomb exploded at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. And it took until 2001, almost 40 years later, but, we prosecuted and convicted a man responsible. It pains me as I think of such horrific acts occurring and I am proud that in America we not only have the right to worship freely but where we fully prosecute perpetrators of such crimes to the fullest extent.

The lawlessness in the streets of Gaza, the lack of human rights, and the disrespect shown to holy sites by the Palestinian Authority is in marked, stark contrast to the way Israel has treated mosques and Christian holy sites. Following the torching of synagogues in Gaza, Israel increased security at Arab mosques. We need no further proof of the difference between lawful, civilized nations and those that have no place in the family of nations. A government that fails to honor religious sites and, worse, lacks the ability to restrain its citizens from committing such heinous acts demonstrates it is not yet a partner to peace and not yet interested in normal relations with our great friend, the State of Israel.

Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, Executive Vice President of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America said, "The destruction of a synagogue is akin to a knife being thrust into our very being. When synagogues are destroyed, with either the connivance or lack of action of a governing authority, we can only ask, what kind of government is this?"

All Americans of good will, of all faiths, ethnicities and nationalities feel such pain. I commend and join President Bush who yesterday condemned the desecration of the synagogues in Gaza and hope that all Members of this great body do the same.

NOMINATIONS OF STEWART A. BAKER AND JULIE L. MYERS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, regretably, I was detained at a Veterans' Affairs Committee business meeting which precluded my presence at an important nomination hearing before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on two critical nominations for key positions within the Department of Homeland Security. The Senate has the responsibility to ensure that the best qualified and most able people serve our country. I ask unanimous consent that my statement

for that hearing be included in the RECORD.

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

Thank you Chairman Collins. I wish to add my welcome to Mr. Baker, Ms. Myers, and their families and friends.

You are both here because you wish to continue your careers in public service by serving as Assistant Secretaries in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These positions demand individuals who have demonstrated extensive executive level leadership and the ability to manage a sizable budget and diverse workforce. Mr. Baker, if confirmed, you will be the first DHS Assistant Secretary for Policy, and you will help define the role of the Office of Policy.

Ms. Myers, you have been nominated to lead Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency that is currently facing significant financial and human resource management challenges.

While every nomination considered by the Senate is important, I believe that today's hearing will be watched carefully by the American people, who are looking to this Committee to make sure we ask the appropriate, and sometimes tough, questions. The people of Hawaii, like all Americans, want to make sure that those leading DHS have the necessary experience and qualifications.

The creation of DHS in 2003 was the largest reorganization of the federal government since the Department of Defense was established in 1947. The merging of 22 legacy agencies into a single agency has created management challenges that DHS will face for years to come. Because of these significant challenges, DHS needs strong leaders. A qualified candidate must possess extensive experience managing people and budgets in addition to having experience in immigration or law enforcement or intelligence.

I am especially concerned about the current state of ICE, which is the second largest federal law enforcement agency with a \$4 billion budget and over 15,000 employees in over 400 offices around the world.

ICE has extraordinary reach, extraordinary responsibilities for our national security, and extraordinary problems.

Financial difficulties have resulted in hiring freezes and reductions in training, bonuses, and travel. ICE's financial crisis has resulted in DHS reprogramming \$500 million in FY 04 and FY 05 funds and requesting an additional \$267 million in the April 2005 emergency supplemental. Despite assurances that ICE's financial problems have been resolved, DHS Inspector General Richard Skinner testified in July 2005 that ICE cannot properly account for millions of dollars every month due to its deficient financial management system. This financial crisis has had an adverse impact on the readiness and morale of the ICE workforce.

ICE needs strong, experienced leadership to repair these management problems.

Mr. Baker, the Administration has submitted legislation to the Congress that this Committee is now considering which would create the position of an Undersecretary for Policy. According to Secretary Chertoff's transmittal letter to the Congress on his proposal, dated July 13, 2005, the new Office

of Policy "will lead a unified, mission-focused policy approach" and will include a number of existing units, such as the Office of International Affairs, the Special Assistant to the Secretary for Private Sector Coordination, the Border and Transportation Security Policy and Planning Office, elements of the Border and Transportation Security Office of International Enforcement, the Homeland Security Advisory Committee, and the Office of Immigration Statistics. In addition, the Secretary is proposing to add a strategic policy planning office and a refugee policy coordinator.

This is an enormous range of new responsibilities and will require someone with extensive management experience and vision.

I would argue that the key focus of this office should be on strategic planning. Given the nature of the Department's enormous size and breadth of responsibilities, someone is needed who can provide focus and direction to the mission of preventing and responding to terrorist attacks and natural disasters.

Mr. Baker, you are being nominated for the position of Assistant Secretary with the expectation of moving into the Undersecretary position should the Congress pass the reform proposal. One of the issues this Committee will have to address is whether you will need to be reconfirmed at a later date for that higher position should you be confirmed for the Assistant Secretary position.

One of the lessons learned from the Hurricane Katrina response is that the senior officials of an agency should have demonstrated leadership skills. The positions of Assistant Secretary for ICE and Assistant Secretary for Policy are no exception.

I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to one measure of leadership skills: the standards the Office of Personnel Management has developed for the government's career Senior Executive Service (SES).

To qualify for an SES position, a candidate must possess the following five executive qualifications: leading change; leading people; being results driven; having business acumen; and building coalitions/communications.

SES candidates demonstrate these qualifications through experience in key executive skills such as leading others to rapidly adjust organizational behavior and work methods; supervising and managing a diverse workforce; developing strategic human capital management plans; establishing performance standards and plans; managing the budgetary process; overseeing the allocation of financial resources; and developing and maintaining positive working relationships with internal groups and external groups such as Congress, the Office of Management and Budget, and the White House.

These qualifications and experiences help ensure that the federal government's senior executives have the ability to establish a clear vision for the organization and to drive others to succeed. While political appointees are not required to meet these qualifications, I believe it would be difficult for an agency head to be successful without them.

I look forward to this opportunity to hear from Mr. Baker and Ms. Myers. Thank you Madam Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD B. MYERS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to General Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for his lifetime of service and unfaltering dedication to the United States Armed Forces and our country.

As both a soldier and a leader, spanning 40 years of military service, General Myers contributions to our peace and security, and that of our children and grandchildren, are a remarkable hallmark in military history. During trying times, under sometimes harsh scrutiny, and with high national security stakes at hand, General Myers has repeatedly shown his Kansas common sense, leading our military through two wars and a host of other challenges with a steady hand.

Dick Myers was well prepared for leadership. Born in Kansas City, MO, in 1942, General Myers graduated from Shawnee Mission North High School and attended Kansas State University, where he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC and was commissioned second lieutenant in 1965. After his commissioning, General Myers entered pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. As a command pilot, he logged over 4,000 flying hours, including 600 combat hours over Vietnam and Laos. Serving in a wide variety of assignments over the next several decades, General Myers assumed the duties of Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in March 2000.

On October 1, 2001, just weeks after the September 11 terrorist attacks, General Myers was named the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As the first Vice Chairman to ascend to the office, General Myers served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council, and played a critical role in the planning and execution of the Global War on Terrorism, including the important Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

During General Myers tenure as the chairman, he was constantly faced with unique challenges and responsibilities with both frustrating and emotional circumstances, from the worst terrorist attacks on the United States in our proud history to fighting overseas wars against terrorists and the enemies of freedom and democracy. Yet, despite all of the challenges, General Myers maintained a positive, forward looking determination and attitude, and never faltered in his responsibility to our men and women serving in the armed forces today.

General Myers' tenure and accomplishments were not limited to the Global War on Terrorism, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Under General Myers' leadership, the Joint Staff produced a far-reaching National Military Strategy, complemented by a National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism, to

guide the Armed Forces for the challenges of the 21st Century. This strategy serves as a template for the Global War on Terrorism, and was and will be truly instrumental in bringing freedom to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

General Myers also oversaw the establishment of the United States Northern Command, or NORTHCOM, the first combatant command responsible for the homeland defense of the continental United States. As part of this effort, the chairman advocated joint war fighting among the services and called on the entire U.S. Government to expand the culture of jointness in the interagency and international communities. General Myers has truly shown great leadership in his efforts to transform and modernize the military.

General Myers should also be recognized for his humanitarian role—a mission many times missing from the headlines. In late 2004, in response to the horrific events surrounding the Indian Ocean Tsunami, General Myers oversaw "Operation Unified Assistance", the largest coordinated and executed military humanitarian relief effort since the Berlin Air Lift. Designed to enable more than 15,000 Department of Defense personnel, 130 aircraft, and 20 United States Navy warships to distribute more than 400,000 gallons of water, 2,000 tons of food, and almost 3,000 tons of other supplies to those in need, the mission was a success.

General Myers' impeccable service and brave leadership are also reflected in the awards and decorations he has received throughout his career. General Myers is the recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguish Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with eighteen oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device with three oak leaf clusters.

Mr. President, today I have mentioned but a few of General Richard Myers' numerous accomplishments. I not only consider General Myers a strong military leader, in times of both war and peace, and a critically important person in the defense of our great Nation, I am privileged to call him a friend and a colleague. I have often said that if I were in a gunfight on Front Street in Dodge City, KS, during our States' pioneer days, there is no person I would rather have by my side than Richard Myers. I know that a grateful Nation shares my appreciation for the general—a courageous and honorable man and a strong and steadfast military leader during a truly trying time, and I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to him and his wife Mary Jo for the years they have dedicated to our country and to the betterment of the United States Armed Forces. General Myers, we wish you well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CPT WILLIAM "BILL" MARCLEY

• Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate CPT William F. "Bill" Marcley for his 38 years of service and commitment to saving lives and advancing emergency medical services.

Bill began this selfless work in 1967 after he and his wife were involved in a serious car accident, by turning the experience into an opportunity to serve as a volunteer on the Inter-City First Aid Squad in Lake Park, FL. After helping establish paramedic systems in four counties in Florida, Bill and his family moved to South Carolina in 1977, where he would serve three counties over the next 28 years in many capacities, including director of Fairfield County EMS and EMS Operations Manager in my home county of Greenville.

In addition to his full-time positions, Bill has found time to serve his community as United Way Coordinator for the Department of Public Safety, chairman of "Operation Heartbeat" for the American Heart Association, EMT instructor at Greenville Technological College, and he annually conducts over 100 special programs promoting public safety and emergency medical service education.

On behalf of myself and the State of South Carolina. I thank and commend Captain Marcley for the many contributions he has made in the lives of countless South Carolinians. Although he officially began his retirement on September 9, 2005, I know that his service to South Carolina is far from over, and I wish him and his wife, Arlene, many more happy and productive years together.●

TRIBUTE TO PAT BOONE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to acting and music legend Pat Boone.

While most of us remember him as one of the greatest singers of the 1950's, he is also known for his abiding Christian faith and strong moral standards which have sustained him throughout his life even during the height of his career in the entertainment industry.

Today, Mr. Boone is the spokesman for the 60 Plus Association, a non-partisan senior citizens advocacy group.

He recently was interviewed by John Gizzi with Human Events. I ask to have printed in the RECORD an article titled "Pat Boone on Politics, Porn, and the Death Tax".

The article follows.

[From Human Events Online, Aug. 19, 2005]

PAT BOONE ON POLITICS, PORN AND THE DEATH TAX

(By John Gizzi)

Pat Boone, 71, is one of America's most beloved entertainers. In the 1950s, he was the nation's second most popular singer after