

We in the United States owe the UN our profound gratitude for the assistance that has been provided to victims of Hurricane Katrina on our gulf coast. Within days of the disaster, the United Nations launched a campaign to coordinate relief assistance with federal efforts. UN agencies have distributed life-saving supplies, are supporting the surveillance work of the Centers for Disease Control, and are assisting in evacuee registration and tracking of missing children.

Day in and day out, we see evidence of the critical work that the United Nations undertakes around the world. The organization continues to lead humanitarian relief efforts in the wake of last year's tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia and has launched an emergency response to the devastating earthquake in Pakistan. Through UNAIDS, the organization coordinates a comprehensive global response to the fight against HIV/AIDS, working to halt and reverse the epidemic by 2015. The UN women's fund, UNIFEM, supports women's empowerment and gender equality, in particular through supporting local initiatives to end violence against women. The UN Development Program is supporting democratic governance projects in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Haiti and over 150 countries worldwide. Inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency have uncovered violations by Iran and North Korea, and the agency's safeguards have assured the world that other countries are not diverting nuclear material from their peaceful nuclear power programs.

Finally, the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, extends protection and life saving assistance to some 19 million refugees and other vulnerable persons. In May 2005, I had the opportunity to visit the Oure Cassoni refugee camp along the Chad-Sudan border, and was incredibly impressed with UNHCR's work in providing direly needed food, shelter, and education services for nearly 25,000 refugees. The agency's aid staff is working tirelessly to serve this large population, and I witnessed extraordinary dedication and professionalism.

For 60 years, the United Nations has been on the front lines leading humanitarian stabilization efforts under conditions and in situations that are the worst of the worst. Now the organization is focused on another critical task: reforming itself. Many, including Secretary General Annan, have recognized that the UN must change the way it does business if it is to maintain the support of its members and effectively address the challenges that the global community will face in the future.

This reordering and restructuring is needed, significant, and moving forward. To highlight a few items, as a result of the support demonstrated at the UN Summit last month, member states are working to create a Human Rights Council to replace the defunct Human Rights Commission, in order to more

effectively advance the rights and freedoms that continue to be denied to far too many. The establishment of a Peace Building Commission will make the UN, and the world, better equipped to prevent post-conflict countries from relapsing into violence, reducing the conditions that breed terrorism. And the dozens of personnel, management and budget reforms that have been proposed and endorsed by member states will make the organization more efficient in the important work it does.

Now, as the United Nations moves into the next chapter of its history, it is imperative that this momentum for change continues. Implementing these reforms is the responsibility of the member states. The United States can play a critical leadership role in securing their support, and their action. The future effectiveness of the United Nations lies in the balance, and I have every expectation that the member states can and will deliver. I encourage the Members of this chamber to fully support the efforts that are underway at the United Nations.

Article One of the United Nations Charter states that the purposes of the organization are to maintain international peace and security; address international social, economic and cultural problems; and to promote fundamental human rights and freedoms. Today, although tremendous progress has been made, we still need the UN to advance these goals. Therefore, I congratulate and thank the United Nations, its current personnel and staff, as well as those who have served in the past, for all that it has done to advance peace, security and freedom around the world, and for all that it must do in the years ahead to realize the vision of its founders.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I was necessarily absent for the votes on the confirmations of Brian Edward Sandoval to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nevada, Vote No. 265, and Harry Sandlin Mattice, Jr., to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Vote No. 266, on Monday, October 24, 2005, so I could assess the impact of Hurricane Wilma on Florida. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted in favor of both nominations.

FORT RENO MINERAL LEASING ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on October 6, 2005, I introduced S. 1832, the "Fort Reno Mineral Leasing Act". At that time I introduced letters of support for this legislation. Since then I have received a letter from Mrs. Donna Von Tungeln that I would like to submit for the RECORD.

Mrs. Von Tungeln and her late husband Henry Jo have been active supporters of preserving the historical

buildings at Fort Reno. Their dedicated work to this project is greatly appreciated.

I ask unanimous consent the following letter be printed for the RECORD.

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

VON TUNGELN FARMS,

Calumet, OK, September 28, 2005.

Hon. JIM INHOFE,

Russell Building,

Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR INHOFE: I appreciate your interest in helping the citizens of Oklahoma to preserve one of our most important historical assets, the buildings of Fort Reno. Funding is badly needed to restore and maintain the Fort's buildings, many of which were built as early as the 1880's. The legislation you are willing to introduce on our behalf will insure that these priceless buildings are not lost, but are preserved and maintained and made available for viewing and use by generations of Oklahomans.

I also appreciate that you support a revenue-neutral approach to financing the restoration of Fort Reno without increasing our tax burden. My late husband, Henry Jo, first suggested this mechanism about two years ago, and worked to have it considered. Your willingness to implement the plan means a great deal to me. Success with the legislation will mean much to many other Oklahomans, as well as the thousands of out-of-state tourists who visit Fort Reno each year.

Sincerely,

DONNA VON TUNGELN.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL AND SHEILA WELLSTONE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today in memory of Paul and Sheila Wellstone. It is hard to believe that on this date 3 years ago, the lives of Paul and Sheila Wellstone, and others, were taken in a plane crash in Minnesota. On that day, I lost a good friend, the Senate lost a leader, and the American people lost an advocate who was never afraid to stand up and speak for those who had no voice.

Today I honor my friend and colleague, Senator Paul Wellstone, who inspired so many people to speak up and to serve. Even as I stand here today, I cannot imagine that when I turn around I won't see Paul standing at his desk, his arms flailing in the air, making his point with great passion.

Paul inspired me to run for the U.S. Senate. His brilliant example reminded me that you don't need to be powerful or rich to make a difference. You just need to have an honest concern for others, an optimistic spirit, and the courage to act. Paul embodied these traits.

I am grateful for the time we had with Paul. He and I worked on everything from domestic violence and education to providing health care to veterans and protecting families from asbestos.

As the month of October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, draws to a close, there is much the Senate has accomplished on this issue. The Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, which contains many improvements to the current law, has

passed the Senate. But the absence of the Wellstones has truly been felt. Paul and Sheila were such champions for victims of domestic violence, especially in the area of economic security.

Paul knew that it is important to address the economic barriers that trap women in violent homes or relationships. That is why he and I worked together to introduce bills to provide economic protections for victims. I am proud to carry on the legacy of Paul and Sheila Wellstone, and in their honor I have introduced the Security and Financial Empowerment, SAFE Act, which will protect and even save the lives of victims of domestic or sexual violence and their families.

We are all poorer for the loss of Paul Wellstone, his wife Sheila, his daughter Marcia, the members of his staff, and the pilots who were taken from us on this day 3 years ago. But I continue to hope that each one of us who are here will take on part of Paul's legacy—for example, the spirit to speak out for the underprivileged or for the woman on welfare because of domestic violence who is trying to get back on her feet.

If we can remember to fight for all Americans no matter what challenges they face, and do so with respect and dignity, then Paul's legacy will live on in the Senate, as it lives on in our hearts and minds. In the name of Paul and Sheila Wellstone, I pledge to carry on their legacy throughout my time in the Senate.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and call for quick passage of the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act. Breast Cancer is a disease that has impacted virtually every American's life, including my own. My two sisters both had breast cancer and died of the disease. Sadly, they contracted breast cancer at a time when regular mammograms and improved treatment methods were not widely available. More than 3 million women are currently living with breast cancer, and each year, tens of thousands of women die from this disease.

In 1992, I offered an amendment to dedicate \$210 million in the Defense Department budget to begin the Breast Cancer Research Program, a partnership between the military, medical, and breast cancer survivor communities to develop and implement innovative research towards the goal of curing and eliminating breast cancer. This funding was in addition to the funding for breast cancer research conducted at the National Institutes of Health. My amendment passed and overnight it doubled Federal funding for breast cancer. Since then, funding for breast cancer research has been included in the Defense Department budget every year.

Almost a decade ago, when I looked into the issue of breast cancer re-

search, I discovered that barely \$90 million was spent on breast cancer research. Today, I am proud to say that between the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly a billion dollars annually is being spent on finding a cure for breast cancer. Scientific researchers are making exciting discoveries about the causes of breast cancer and its prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment and control, leading to real progress in our war against this devastating disease. We know better than ever before how a healthy cell can become cancerous, how breast cancer spreads, why some tumors are more aggressive than others and why some women suffer more severely and are more likely to die of the disease.

However, our work is not done. While important advances have been made, we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it. Today, I call upon my Senate colleagues to co-sponsor the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act, legislation modeled after the Defense Department's Breast Cancer Research Program. The Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act would establish eight centers to conduct research on environmental factors that may contribute to breast cancer and, importantly, would require collaboration with community organizations in the areas where the centers are established. I strongly believe any breast cancer research must include the perspectives of breast cancer survivors, and this legislation does so by including consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process. In addition, the legislation is structured to ensure the kind of efficiency and public accountability that has made an overwhelming number of Senate colleagues, as well as scientists and consumers, so supportive of the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. I urge my colleagues to support the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act.

IN MEMORY OF PENN KEMBLE

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President. On October 16, our Nation lost one of its finest defenders of freedom, Richard Penn Kemble.

The central theme of Penn Kemble's activist youth and professional life was the promotion and strengthening of democracy. In the 1970s, he served on the Senate staff of my predecessor, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and in the Clinton administration, he served as Deputy and Acting Director of the United States Information Agency, USIA. At USIA, Penn Kemble initiated Civitas, a multinational educational program. Under his leadership, USIA made educational reform, to strengthen both citizenship and the culture of democracy, one of its central interests. Through its partnership with the Center for Civic Education, it nurtured a worldwide civic education movement

that began at its first meeting in Prague in June of 1995. I had the honor of addressing the third annual Civitas World Conference in 1999 in Palermo, Italy, which brought together political leaders and more than 350 civic educators from around the world.

This international civic education movement continues today in no small measure because of the important work Penn Kemble began in 1995. He knew that even though the institutional machinery of democracy might be in place, it could not be sustained unless a culture of democracy was to take root. He knew that people could only become citizens when they understood and exercised the rights and responsibilities of self-government. He knew that it was in our Nation's best interest to support emerging democracies through citizen education and he used his intellect, boundless energy, and creativity to achieve that end.

I am grateful for the work Penn Kemble began during my husband's Presidency, and I join his family and friends from all over the world in mourning his loss.

THE AVIAN INFLUENZA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I rise to express my concern about avian influenza and America's preparedness for a global pandemic. While I do not want to add to people's fears about this issue, reports of the lethality of the H5N1 strain must be taken seriously and we need to make sure that we are taking appropriate measures to prepare for a possible pandemic.

As we all well know, migratory birds are steadily carrying the avian flu virus from throughout Southeast Asia and Siberia to Romania, Turkey, and now Greece. International health officials predicted that this spread could happen, and it should be no surprise that this disease is taking this course. In the 20th century alone, three influenza pandemics swept throughout the world, most notably the 1918 flu pandemic, which took 500,000 lives. Our knowledge of disease and hygiene has improved dramatically since then, and our ability to ready ourselves has subsequently advanced, but our risk for a pandemic remains a danger.

Scientists and public health officials throughout the world have warned that a flu pandemic will take place, have alerted governments to the possibility of pandemic through the avian flu, and have watched as little has been done to prepare for the occurrence. Despite the warnings of the inevitability of pandemic, research into influenza vaccine and therapy has been continually underfunded, as have our programs that would provide emergency health care relief in a time of crisis. Hurricane Katrina illustrated our lack of preparedness for a true disaster, and the Government's failure to quickly bring relief to our friends along the gulf coast should send a resounding message that we must better prepare for an