

the PATRIOT Act for at least 3 months.

We were unable to reach an agreement at that meeting.

Then on the floor Senator HARRY REID of Nevada, on behalf of the Democrats, offered before the vote to the Republican side of the aisle to extend the PATRIOT Act as it is presently written for 3 months so that there would not be any possible gap in coverage for the security of America. There was an objection from the Republican side.

After the cloture vote on the PATRIOT Act—in fact, cloture was not invoked—another motion was made, this time by Senator PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont. Senator LEAHY asked for a 3-month extension of the PATRIOT Act so we could work out the differences.

Not once, not twice, but three separate times today on the Democratic side of the aisle we have reached out to the Republican side of the aisle and said let us try to resolve our differences in a bipartisan way, let us try to make sure that we extend the PATRIOT Act so there is no question about the security of America.

Tomorrow the President will address this issue. I hope in the course of addressing it the President acknowledges the obvious. We have tried our very best on a bipartisan basis to extend the PATRIOT Act, once informally and twice on the floor of the Senate today, and all three times it has been rejected.

We will continue to make that offer on the Democratic side. We want to work this out. We want a good PATRIOT Act that protects America and protects our freedoms. We believe we can be safe in America and we can be free.

I think a bipartisan vote today is a message to the White House and to the House conferees that the Senate bill that was passed, a carefully crafted bill, is a bill that should get us into the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act.

We stand ready to work with our Republican colleagues on a bipartisan basis to make sure we have a good, strong PATRIOT Act reauthorized and protecting America, and take out those objectionable provisions which go too far in invading the personal rights of and privacy of innocent American citizens.

I hope that particular scenario I described, which is on the official record today, is part of the President's message tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, the conference report on the authorization of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is in its final stages of being approved. There are some things that are still to be worked out, but I am proud to have been the subcommittee chairman of the NASA

Science Subcommittee that produced—along with the House, of course, and the full Commerce Committee—what I think is an excellent authorization of our National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

I worked with my colleague, Senator NELSON of Florida, to produce a bill that does envision the flight to space, the flight to the moon again, and then to Mars. It is the vision laid out by President Bush in January of 2004. It is incumbent on Congress to lead the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and also to support it fully so that we will continue the vision that John F. Kennedy had when he said: We will put a man on the moon. Now we can take it the next step and put a man on Mars, a woman on Mars.

It is important that we understand that this is important not only because it is a huge feat and victory for the world that we can do this but also because we get so much basic science from making this commitment. It improves our quality of life right here on Earth.

This conference committee report does authorize funding for NASA at \$17.9 billion in 2007 and \$18.7 billion for 2008. That gets us on track to fund the shuttles that will continue to build out the space station and also to begin immediate work on the crew return vehicle that will be the next generation of vehicle going into space after the space station has been completed.

It is a congressional responsibility to set the parameters for what we do with NASA, and we are taking that responsibility seriously. We believe that we should finish the space station, finish the international commitment that we have made to our partners and allies who have put millions of dollars in the space station, and so that we can continue the basic science research necessary, not only for us to learn how we can live and work in space for those people who will be going to the moon again and then later to Mars but also for the basic geological findings we know we can find if we explore the Moon and hopefully Mars. And something that was said at one of our Commerce Committee hearings by Dr. Sam Ting of MIT, there is very important physics research that using the cosmic rays to determine how we might have alternative forms of energy is a very important purpose for the space station to be completed.

This report also designates the U.S. portion of the space station as a national laboratory so that we can bring other funds besides NASA funds, besides Government funds into the space station, and that will help make sure we are able to do the most possible research and make the best use of the space station. It demonstrates that Congress puts a great value on the research that can be done aboard the space station and also a great value on keeping our word to our international partners.

America must lead in the space exploration and science area, but we

must do it in collaboration with other countries. I don't think we should just consider ourselves competitors with other countries. If we are going to be the leader, we should lead. We should go forward. We should break the barriers. And we should share with others what we have learned for the good of mankind. That is exactly what this bill envisions.

It also supports aeronautical research. This has been a fundamental part of NASA activities since its inception. It will allow us to continue the great work that has been done in the past. It will assure that we take the next step toward the crew return vehicle that will replace the shuttle at the earliest possible time. We will accelerate that process.

I am very proud of this conference report. The House and Senate worked together very well. It was a bipartisan effort and a bicameral effort. We are going to see a new impetus for NASA with the support of Congress and the President. That is exactly what this country should be doing at this time.

I yield the floor.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT DAN CUKA

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am saddened to report the passing of SSG Dan Cuka of Yankton, SD. Staff Sergeant Cuka, a member of the South Dakota National Guard, was killed on December 4, 2005, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sergeant Cuka was assigned to Yankton's Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Unit. Charlie Battery was mobilized in July 2005 and deployed to the Middle East in October 2005. Staff Sergeant Cuka died when multiple improvised explosive devices detonated near his military vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq.

Dan is survived by his wife of 5 years, Melissa, and their children, Abby and Alex. Melissa remembers him as, "living each day of his life the way he chose based on devotion to his family and his passion for the military. We all believe Dan died doing what he strongly believed in." He was regarded as taking his military duty very seriously, and his leadership in his battalion reflected that. Dan was a devoted father who would do anything for his kids according to Melissa, "It wasn't just as a provider. He would get on the floor and play with them. He would take them places and have a good time with them."

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Dan's good will and service. Although he did not live to see his dreams realized, he continues to inspire all those who knew him. Our Nation and South Dakota are far better places because of his life, and the best way to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to our country.

Mr. President, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of

Staff Sergeant Cuka. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

STAFF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS SCHILD

Mr. President, I am saddened to report the passing of SFC Richard Schild of Tabor, SD. He was killed on December 4, 2005, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant First Class Schild was assigned to Yankton's Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Unit. Charlie Battery was mobilized in July 2005 and deployed to the Middle East in October 2005. Sergeant First Class Schild died when multiple improvised explosive devices detonated near his military vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq.

Richard is survived by his wife of 14 years, Kayleen, and their children, Keely and Koby. His brother, SSG Brooks Schild, described him by saying, "Rich would always put others ahead of himself, even when he was in a dangerous situation." According to his brother, Richard had earned the respect and admiration of his fellow soldiers, not merely because of his rank, but because of who he was as a person. He served with great distinction and received numerous accolades for his service.

Richard lived life to the fullest and was committed to his family, his Nation, and his community. It was his incredible dedication to helping others that will serve as his greatest legacy. All Americans owe Richard, and the other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service.

Mr. President, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of SFC Richard Schild. I believe the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

AVIATION WARFARE SYSTEMS OPERATOR TWO

JOHN N. KAYE, III

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today for the purpose of honoring a fallen American. I learned this week that AW2 John N. Kaye III, from Traer, IA, died while in service to his country during counter narcotics operations off the coast of Colombia. I would like to take this opportunity to salute his patriotism and his sacrifice.

We can often tell a lot about the character of an individual by how they help the people around them. Petty Officer Kaye was a man who would willingly extend a helping hand to those around him and this week even extended his mission to help out a fellow sailor. Just before leaving the Navy, though, he extended his stay aboard the USS *DeWert* for one final mission so that another sailor could be with his family to mourn the loss of a brother. Sadly, Petty Officer Kaye gave his life in service to his country on Tuesday off the coast of Colombia.

John Kaye was looking forward the completion of his tour of duty in the Navy so that he could return to Iowa to

be near family and friends and attend college. He was from a large family in central Iowa and attended North Tama High School where he played football. In his free time, he loved to hunt and fish or just spend time with his friends in the Traer area. In the Navy, he was one of the youngest people to ever graduate from the Search and Rescue Program where he received training as a rescue swimmer.

The primary mission for members of our military is to protect American citizens from outside threats. For John Kaye, the threat was drugs being grown and processed in South America, and he was actively involved in our effort to reduce the flow of illegal drugs into the United States. The Navy is an important partner in our efforts to track down and apprehend drug traffickers in the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, and John Kaye deserves the highest gratitude of this body and the entire Nation. His sacrifice reminds us that freedom is so precious because of its incredibly high cost. This is an example of the patriotic contribution made by thousands of American service members and their families. The love of country and dedication to service shared by so many of its citizens is the great strength of our Nation, and we can all be very proud of patriots like John Kaye.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to 31 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq since November 10. This brings to 508 the number of soldiers who were either from California or based in California who have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 24 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

LCpl Jeremy P. Tamburello, 19, died November 8 from wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations west of Rutbah. He was assigned to the 1st Light Armor Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl David A. Mendez Ruiz, 20, died November 12 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Al Amiriyah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Scott A. Zubowski, 20, died November 12 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Al Amiriyah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

Cpl John M. Longoria, 21, died November 14 of wounds sustained from small arms fire while conducting combat operations against enemy forces during Operation Steel Curtain in New Ubaydi. He was assigned to Battalion

Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, California. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

MAJ Ramon J. Mendoza, Jr., 37, died November 14 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces during Operation Steel Curtain in New Ubaydi. He was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Christopher M. McCrackin, 20, died November 14 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces during Operation Steel Curtain in New Ubaydi. He was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

SPC Matthew J. Holley, 21, died November 15 of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations in Taji. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He was from San Diego, CA.

2nd LT Donald R. McGlothlin, 26, died November 16 from small arms fire while conducting combat operations against enemy forces during Operation Steel Curtain in Ubaydi. He was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Roger W. Deeds, 24, died November 16 as a result of enemy small arms fire while conducting combat operations against enemy forces during Operation Steel Curtain in Ubaydi. He was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl John A. Lucente, 19, died November 16 from wounds sustained from an enemy hand grenade while conducting combat operations during Operation Steel Curtain in Ubaydi. He was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division. He was from Grass Valley, CA.

Cpl Jeffry A. Rogers, 21, died November 16 as a result of enemy small arms fire while conducting combat operations against enemy forces during Operation Steel Curtain in Ubaydi. He

was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Division.

Cpl Joshua J. Ware, 20, died November 16 as a result of enemy small arms fire while conducting combat operations against enemy forces during Operation Steel Curtain in Ubaydi. He was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Division.

Sgt Jeremy E. Murray, 27, died November 16 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the vicinity of Hadithah. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

SPC Vernon R. Widner, 34, died November 17 in Tikrit of injuries sustained the same day in Bayji when his HMMWV was involved in a vehicle accident during convoy operations. He was assigned to the 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. He was from Redlands, CA.

LCpl Miguel Terrazas, 20, died November 19 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the vicinity of Hadithah. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

SPC Michael J. Idanan, 21, died November 19 in Bayji when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY. He was from Chula Vista, CA.

SPC Javier A. Villanueva, 25, died November 24 in Al Asad of injuries sustained on November 23 in Hit when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol during combat operations. He was assigned to the Army's 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, CA.

MSgt Brett E. Angus, 40, died November 26 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the vicinity of Camp Taqaddum. He was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron-372, Marine Wing Support Group-37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing.

SSgt William D. Richardson, 30, died November 30 of wounds sustained from a non-hostile vehicle accident near Al Taqaddum. He was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron-372, Marine

Wing Support Group-37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing.

SSgt Daniel J. Clay, 27, died December 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl John M. Holmason, 20, died December 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl David A. Huhn, 24, died December 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Adam W. Kaiser, 19, died December 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Robert A. Martinez, 20, died December 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

Cpl Anthony T. McElveen, 20, died December 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Scott T. Modeen, 24, died December 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Andrew G. Patten, 19, died December 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

Sgt Andy A. Stevens, 29, died December 1 when an improvised explosive de-

vice detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Craig N. Watson, 21, died December 1 when an improvised explosive device detonated at a patrol base outside Fallujah. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

Cpl Joseph P. Bier, 22, died December 7 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Ar Ramadi. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Twentynine Palms, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 2nd Marine Division.

Sgt Adrian N. Orosco, 26, died December 9 in Baghdad when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted position during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, CA. He was from Corcoran, CA.

Mr. President, 508 soldiers who were either from California or based in California have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. I pray for these young Americans and their families.

I would also like to pay tribute to the one soldier from California who has died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom since November 10.

SPC Matthew P. Steyart, 21, died November 22 in Shah Wali Kot, Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during patrol operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, Vicenza, Italy. He was from Mount Shasta, CA.

Mr. President, 35 soldiers who were either from California or based in California have been killed while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom. I pray for these Americans and their families.

VIOLENCE AND REPRESSION IN ETHIOPIA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on May 15, 2005, Ethiopia held the first open, multiparty, democratic elections in its 3,000-year history. It was an important milestone that gave the people of that country a sense of national pride and hope. Unfortunately, the elation that was so evident on election day was short lived. International observers cited serious vote counting irregularities and flaws in the electoral process.

Nearly 25 million Ethiopians—90 percent of eligible voters—went to the polls, and early counts indicated strong support for the opposition. As it became clear that the ruling party was in danger of losing its grip on power, the