

part of the detention facility known as Camp Iguana, which is less restrictive than the rest of the prison. The five Uighurs are living with four others at the camp as they await a country to accept them.

The Uighur detainees have been held, without charges, for more than four years since their arrests in the Middle East.

The judge said he had three options: deny the detainees' motion and allow the case to go to an appellate court; order them to appear before him for a hearing on their immediate release; or order the government to release them outright "and see what happens, see how the government responds."

"As far as I can tell, nothing is happening," Robertson said, adding that he doesn't believe diplomatic progress has been made. "The time has stretched out to the point where indefinite is not an inappropriate word to describe what is happening."

Terry Henry, a Justice Department lawyer, said that government officials have been working on a diplomatic solution but that he could discuss it only in private. Robertson declined to hear the information off the record.

"The government is serious about finding a place for resettlement for the petitioners," Henry said.

The Uighurs, through their lawyers, have argued that because they are not a threat they should be moved to more hospitable living conditions and have asked to be released to live in the Washington area. Willett said his clients have gone from elation in August—when they were moved to Camp Iguana and given hope of release—to frustration as their cases have dragged on.

"I am deeply concerned about the human impact of the indefinite nature of this," Willett said.

Rabiya Kadeer, president of the Washington-based International Uyghur Human Rights and Democracy Foundation, attended the brief hearing yesterday and pledged to provide homes and jobs for the Uighurs should they be released to the United States.

HONORING WINTER WONDERLAND WALK FOR THE CURE DAY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, breast cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers in women. More than 211,240 new cases of breast cancer in women will be diagnosed in the United States in 2005. In my own State of Connecticut, more than 2,600 women are expected to be diagnosed and 530 are expected to die from breast cancer this year. Overall, it is believed that 1 in every 10 women will develop breast cancer at least once in their lifetime.

The best defense against breast cancer, is early detection. The sooner one can detect breast cancer, the better the chances that the disease can be successfully treated. It is because of this that the American Cancer Society suggests that all women age 40 and over have a mammogram annually. As important, women must learn to do regular self breast exams.

Women generally will understand their bodies better than doctors. In Connecticut, early detection from mammograms and self breast exam has helped our State achieve a 5-year survival rate, for those women diagnosed with breast cancer, of 97 percent. That is one of the highest such survival rates in the country.

As successful as my State has been, we have not been successful enough.

We must strive to increase awareness and education of breast cancer so that all women are aware of the risk it poses and the indisputable benefits of early detection. We must increase research into the relationship between environmental exposures, genetic predisposition, and breast cancer risk and also seek new drugs and tools that will allow health care professionals to better treat breast cancer patients with the goal of cure.

It is in this spirit on January 21, 2006, Eastern Mountain Sports Connecticut stores will sponsor the Winter Wonderland Walk for the Cure to benefit both breast cancer research and the Connecticut chapter of the Susan G. Women Breast Cancer Foundation, at Tarrywile Park in Danbury, CT.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to join Connecticut's Governor, M. Jodi Rell, herself a breast cancer survivor, in celebrating, in recognition of the need to increase awareness about breast cancer and the need for early detection, January 21, 2006 as Winter Wonderland Walk for the Cure Day in Danbury, CT.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ETHIOPIA

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the disturbing reports of political chaos in Ethiopia. With allegations of vote tampering and emerging pictures of large-scale human rights abuses taking place in Ethiopia, that the administration must impress upon Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and other global neighbors, that severe consequences follow actions which undermine democratic ideals.

Ethiopia held its first ever democratic elections on May 15, 2005. Revelations since then of violence and mass detention of Ethiopian citizens by the Meles government are not only alarming and disconcerting to me and the American people who have supported the country in its effort to advance the cause of democracy. It is regretful to have to witness a regress in democratization.

Roughly 90 percent of Ethiopia's populace turned out for the democratic election. Rather than a sentiment of accomplishment or progress, the mood of the country remains nihilistically somber. According to international human rights observers, increased repression of the Ethiopian people is connected to the seeming loss of power from the ruling Meles government to the opposing party, the Coalition for Unity & Democracy, CUD—has shown by early vote counts during the election. With the Meles government accused of voting irregularities, it is not surprising that the people of Ethiopia protested the unofficial election results.

Recent reports of human rights abuses in Ethiopia range from arrest and intimidation by government authorities and illegal arrests of innocent people, including ranking members of the CUD party and media representatives, to the loss of life. For example,

some 14,000 people were detained when riots ensued following the election. Among other journalists, Getachew Simie, former editor of the Amharic-language weekly, and Leykun Dngeda, former publisher of the Dagim WonchifWeekly, have been given jail sentences for covering the anti-government protests. Even Prime Minister Meles reported that 48 people were killed last month in relation to the unrest caused by the alleged fraud in the May polls.

Prime Minister Meles must fulfill his good faith commitment to human rights. With any successful transition to democracy, civil society requires the firm accountability of its government authorities. Until the Meles government brings an end to the intimidation of its people, political unrest will remain high and America's support for the democratization of Ethiopia will be muted by concern for the country's political instability.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR EUGENE MCCARTHY OF MINNESOTA

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, Minnesota and the Nation have lost a great leader and deep thinker, Senator Gene McCarthy of Minnesota. He played an import part in the history of this body and of this Nation, and we should carefully consider the lessons of his unique and deeply significant public life.

Gene McCarthy has been described as a philosopher who was a Senator. In his youth, many describe Gene as the brightest of scholars and later in his life; he was celebrated as skilled poet. In between, he was a five term Congressman and two-term Senator. His time in Washington and on the national political scene was a display of thoughtfulness, serious inquiry, and passionate pursuit of the truth. In the business of politics where there is safety in conformity, Gene McCarthy celebrated the role of the maverick. He says his role was to provoke thought and debate in our system and ensure we adhere more closely to lasting principles.

Eugene Robert McCarthy was born in the town of Watkins, in rural Meeker County, MN, on March 29, 1916. He began a life time ofleing in the schools of Watkins. He graduated from St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, in 1935 with the highest GPA in the school's history. He also studied at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis until 1939. Professionally, he was a high school teacher in Minnesota and North Dakota for 5 years and eventually became a professor of economics and education at St. John's University from 1940 to 1943 an instructor in sociology and economics at St. Thomas College, St. Paul, MN, from 1946 to 1949.

In 1944, his service to the United States began during World War II, when he was a civilian technical assistant in the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department.

He was first elected to the U.S. Congress as a Representative from Minnesota in 1948 and served five terms. In 1958, he won a seat in the Senate where he remained for two terms. One of the focuses of his Senate career was the work of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which has been a common interest of most of Minnesota's Senators and an indication of the strong international character of our State.

I first became aware of Gene McCarthy in 1967 when I was campus organizer at Hofstra University. In a time of boiling-over passions, I remember being impressed with Gene McCarthy's thoughtfulness and seriousness. He was an unlikely leader for "youth revolution," but he balanced our youthful over-exuberance with a steady articulation of principles and commitment. He encouraged young people to "Get Clean with Gene:" to stop "tuning in, turning on and dropping out" and to clean up our act and get involved in the political process. He knew that a movement based on self-indulgence was doomed to failure.

Gene McCarthy's life predates the experience of contemporary American youth, but still has important lessons for them. First, political involvement should not rest on raw emotion. Instead, to sustain your position you need to "do your homework," which could mean years of study.

Second, you should not be intimidated by the generation in power. The great movements of history have been led and supported by young people, so the force of youthful enthusiasm should never be underestimated. Third, Gene McCarthy demonstrated that you earn the right to have your ideas taken seriously by engaging responsibly in the political process. He believed that the solution to all problems in a democracy is more democracy, which means participation, ideas, hard work and perseverance. His personal experience in 1968, even though it was politically unsuccessful, opened a door into the political process that can't be closed. Young people of all political persuasions should seize that opportunity and help shape the world in which they will grow old.

In 1968, Gene McCarthy certainly seized opportunities. He announced that he was willing and available to be President in November of 1968 and two months later stunned President Johnson, and the political world with a close second place finish in the New Hampshire primary. His success encouraged Robert Kennedy to enter the race and President Johnson withdrew shortly thereafter. McCarthy did not win the nomination, which went to fellow Minnesotan Hubert Humphrey, but he changed the dynamics of politics in America. He helped create the phenomenon of bringing young people into the process in large numbers to challenge the power of the "smoke filled room."

When Gene McCarthy left the Senate, he returned to the place he always was

most at home: the world of ideas and words. When you look at the list of the 15 books he published, it is remarkable to see that they are either challenging works of non-fiction policy analysis or poetry. As a poet, Gene McCarthy probably knew Samuel Johnson's statement that "poetry is the art of uniting pleasure with truth." That sums up his life.

Like a lot of Minnesotans, Eugene McCarthy took great pleasure not in the usual ways, but through service. He served as a teacher. He served as a scholar. He served as a public policy leader. He served as a motivator and organizer of youth. He served as a brave voice, challenging the powerful status quo. And he served as a poet, rendering great ideas into beautiful words.

Gene McCarthy lived a bold and uncompromising life, which is the only kind of life that creates real change. He was always more interested in the truth than in people's opinion of him. He lived out Amelia Earhart's statement that "Courage is price that life exacts for granting peace." His life was about living out the courage of his convictions and that was his peace. He changed a nation by choosing that tough road instead of a life of complacency.

We are grateful for his service and memory, and we should all be inspired to take up his courage of conviction for the new chapters of American challenge and progress ahead.

EXTEND RELOCATION EXPENSES TEST PROGRAMS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on Tuesday, December 20, I introduced a simple but important bill that would allow an existing General Services Administration, GSA, program for streamlined Government employee relocations to continue for an additional 4 years. Under a pilot program enacted in 1998, government agencies including GSA, Customs and Border Protection, and the Department of Defense have been able to relocate staff in a more economical manner than what can be done under the existing Federal relocation regulations. This innovative and cost saving test program, known as the Voluntary Relocation Program, provides Government agencies additional flexibility to relocate personnel to meet mission critical staffing needs and, according to Customs and Border Protection, has resulted in a cost savings of nearly \$25 million in their organization alone.

I am very pleased that Senators LIEBERMAN and AKAKA have joined me in cosponsoring this legislation.

The Department of Homeland Security began using the Voluntary Relocation Program to relocate hundreds of Border Patrol agents to critical U.S. border locations after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. As part of its new mission to protect national borders from security threats, agents

from the Office of Border Patrol, OBP, eagerly volunteered to transfer to border locations deemed most vulnerable. However, these transfers took a long time to process and were very costly under the Federal travel regulations, FTR.

According to Customs and Border Protection, CBP, relocation of personnel under the Federal travel regulations typically cost the Federal Government an average of \$72,000 per Border Patrol agent move. Understandably, the agency's ability to relocate significant numbers of Border Patrol agents was limited, so customs and border protection, CBP, sought alternative funding sources.

Under this voluntary program, employees receive a lump-sum payment to cover relocation costs, rather than submitting expense reports supported by receipts. Transferees that choose to relocate to a new duty station under the Voluntary Relocation Program manage the details of their own move and are fully responsible for determining how to spend the pre-determined lump-sum payment allocated by the Federal Government. Furthermore, employees enjoy greater input in how funds are allocated and transferees have more control over the logistics of their move. To date, the VRP has saved customs and border protection more than \$23,500,000 in Border Patrol agent relocation costs.

This Voluntary Relocation Program has provided both the government and its employees with both reduced administrative burdens and increased responsiveness to employees and the organization's mission.

From April 2004 through September 2005, CBP processed 435 relocations at an average cost of \$16,888 per move. Interim reports published by customs and border protection on the VRP indicate that participating employees are satisfied with the program and are interested in its continuation. It is anticipated that if the VRP program is extended, "several hundred" CBP agents will seek to take advantage of the VRP for career ladder promotions within the first year of it being offered. Based upon the promise of the program's early results, the continuation of the VRP test program would benefit national security needs and the agency's mission.

I believe that the VRP is an excellent example of how Government can work better and more cost effectively to best serve the interests of the public and government employees. This legislation would allow Federal agencies to provide an additional relocation incentive that would assist them in the accomplishment of their mission. I urge my colleagues to join me, Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator AKAKA in support of this legislation.

HEALTH AND WELFARE RELIEF ACT OF 2005

Mr. BAUCUS. I support the Health and Welfare Relief Act of 2005. This bill