

to the Pacific Ocean, following the path of the great floods. Through this legislation, the National Park Service is responsible for coordinating public and private sector entities to present the story of the ice age floods to the public.

Many folks in my great State of Montana, including members of the Glacial Lake Missoula Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute, look forward to working with the National Park Service in a joint effort to educate the public. Additionally, designation of the Ice Age Floods Trail provides a tremendous opportunity for tourism and economic development in Montana.

I am also pleased S. 206 takes into consideration the concerns of local citizens and private property owners by limiting Federal land acquisition to 25 acres. These acres will be used only for administrative and public information purposes. As always, it is important to me that private property rights are respected and private property owners do not feel threatened by Federal land acquisitions.

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation for not only Montana but the entire Pacific Northwest.

HOSPICE CARE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Tallahassee Democrat, Mar. 28, 2005]

HOSPICE OFFERS PATIENTS EXPERT, COMPASSIONATE CARE (By Jack D. Gordon)

Watching the Terri Schiavo case unfold, we have gotten an education that many would no doubt rather not get. Through the news media, we've learned the mechanics of feeding tubes, the importance of advance directives and living wills. We've tried to understand the difference between a persistent vegetative state and a coma.

What we haven't really been educated about is the hospice care of Mrs. Schiavo. Lurking dangerously close to the surface of Schiavo controversy, quietly simmering, is the false and dangerous illusion that hospice is a place that hastens death, that it and those who do hospice work are in some way accomplices.

Sure, we have gotten a glimpse of Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park—we've watched the protestors outside, we've seen photos of the family huddling inside, we've learned that it's where Mrs. Schiavo's feeding tube was removed. But for too many, Woodside Hospice is still one of those mysterious places where people go to die.

Yet hospice isn't "a place" at all. Hospice is a philosophy of care focused on pain relief and symptom management, and hospice is care given mostly in people's homes. It can also be provided in a nursing home, assisted living facility, a hospital, and—or, as in Mrs. Schiavo's case—in an inpatient hospice facility.

No one is ever forced to use hospice care. People either choose hospice care themselves

or their health care surrogate, designated as responsible for their best interest, makes the decision. A physician outside of hospice is also involved. He or she must certify that the patient's illness is terminal and that life expectancy is six months or less.

Hospice clinicians are experts at providing comfort in the final months, weeks, days, hours and minutes. In many cases, there is time and opportunity to address family, spiritual and psychological concerns with hospice professionals, who work in teams that include physicians, nurses, social workers, physical therapists, and clergy.

It is not usual for those under hospice care to outlive their life expectancy of six months or less. In a study conducted by the University of South Florida, it was found that persons with cancer who received hospice care lived an average of one day longer than the same patient, by age, gender and diagnosis, who were cared for in acute care facilities such as hospitals.

Our ignorance of hospice isn't so surprising. On our nation's health care timeline, it's a relative newcomer, but it has been gaining in use each year. The first U.S. hospice, an inpatient facility, opened in 1974. In 1978 there were about 1,000 people in the United States who died under hospice care. In 1983, it officially entered the mainstream when it became a Medicare benefit. By 2003, 885,000 people died under hospice care. This year, close to a million people in the United States—or one-third of all who die—will die under hospice care.

Despite its monumental growth, there has been no widespread government outreach effort around publicizing the benefits of hospice care. Hospice physicians and nurses, in the midst of new technologies, therapies, drugs and procedures, march on, quietly accepting what no one to date has successfully escaped—death. They do this by helping the terminally ill die dignified deaths free from artificial life support or ineffective treatments. They employ the latest methods to relieve pain and control symptoms, but their mission is not to cure. Admittedly, in our culture that rejects illness and aging, that's tough medicine for many to swallow.

No matter what your opinion of the Schiavo case, be happy that Mrs. Schiavo is being cared for by people who have helped thousands of people experience a gentle and caring end. And know that the hospice in your community will not be making the decision of whether you will live or die, but if you should become seriously and terminally ill and choose hospice, know that the nation's more than 40,000 hospice workers are committed to the highest quality comfort care under medical guidelines.

JAMES MONROE

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize James Monroe, a Virginian patriot, on the 247th anniversary of his birth and honor his service to our Nation as a soldier, a diplomat, a legislator and as the fifth President of the United States of America. As the Nation draws closer to the celebrations being planned to honor President Monroe's 250th birthday, I rise today to honor his undeniable legacy.

James Monroe, born April 28, 1758, in Westmoreland County, was born, raised and educated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Foregoing his studies at the College of William and Mary, James Monroe joined the Williamsburg Militia in 1775 in defiance of the British

King. He served gallantly in the Continental Army on the battlefield at Harlem Heights, White Plains, Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth, eventually rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

A student of Thomas Jefferson's after serving in the Revolutionary War, James Monroe was an adherent of Mr. Jefferson's principles of individual freedom and restrained representative government, which would guide him through 50 years of public service. Elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 1782, Monroe served in the Confederate Congress and in the first U.S. Senate before his first of two terms as Minister to France. He returned to his Virginia, and as many students of Mr. Jefferson have done since, served 4 years as Governor.

During Thomas Jefferson's Presidency, James Monroe returned to France and was essential in the negotiation of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. His foreign policy experience led James Madison to name him both Secretary of State and Secretary of War as the United States was once again pulled into war with Great Britain in 1812.

Elected President of the United States in 1816, Monroe's Presidency has long been referred to as the Era of Good Feeling. During this time he helped resolve longstanding grievances with the British, acquired Florida from the Spanish in 1819, signed the Missouri Compromise and renounced European intervention or dominion in the Western Hemisphere with one of our Nation's greatest foreign policy documents, the Monroe Doctrine.

In 1820, Monroe achieved an impressive re-election, losing only one electoral vote, reserving the honor of a unanimous election for George Washington alone.

My own family has strong ties to the legacy of James Monroe. My wife Susan and I enjoyed our wedding on the grounds of his home, Ashlawn-Highland, in Charlottesville where her family has worked for many years. In fact, part of Monroe's property in Albemarle County is now on the grounds of his teacher's great institution of learning, the University of Virginia and is respectfully referred to as Monroe's Hill.

The life of James Monroe is one that embodied virtue, honor and commitment during his accomplished life of public service. It is fitting that he would pass from this Earth on July 4, 1831.

It is with sincere admiration that I respectfully ask my colleagues to recognize James Monroe's 247th birthday as a reminder of his remarkable and magnificent leadership for the people of Virginia and the United States of America.

DAVID WILKINS NOMINATED AMBASSADOR TO CANADA

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. President, I rise today with bittersweet news for my

home State. One of South Carolina's most distinguished native sons, State House Speaker David Wilkins, has been nominated by President George W. Bush to be the United States Ambassador to Canada.

I just spoke with David this morning, and let him know that while we are sad to lose his leadership, we are extremely proud of his appointment.

Both David and I are natives of Greenville, SC, and graduates of Clemson University and have been friends for a long time.

I have long admired his courage and determination to fight for family values and individual freedom. He also possesses a keen understanding of the need to create an economic environment that gives businesses and workers a chance to thrive.

In addition to the talents David brings to this position, his greatest help will come from his lovely wife Susan, who represents the best of South Carolina. Together they have raised two fine sons, James and Robert.

Speaker Wilkins is a legendary public servant. He has served in the South Carolina State House of Representatives since 1981 and led as Speaker for more than a decade.

David is widely respected by all parties for good reason, because he works passionately to better the lives of all South Carolinians. The President could not have chosen a better man, and he will represent our nation well.

I look forward to welcoming David to Washington for his confirmation hearings. I promised him I would work hard to make sure my colleagues know of his exceptional abilities that make him more than qualified for this job.

He enjoys the full confidence of the President of the United States, and the support of South Carolinians. I am sure he will have no problem being confirmed quickly, so he can begin working on behalf of all Americans.

AMEND RECA

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, this day is an important occasion for folks in my State of Montana. This afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the National Academy of Sciences will release an extensive report on health effects resulting from nuclear bomb tests that were carried out at the Nevada test site in the 1950s and 1960s.

For years now, Montanans and their loved ones have experienced the pain of developing various forms of cancer, most commonly, cancer of the thyroid, caused by exposure to this dangerous radiation. These cancers seemed to be a little too common among people living in certain areas of our State. According to the National Academy of Sciences, these innocent victims—mostly children and babies—who were living in Montana, were exposed to the highest dosages of radiation of any State in the Nation as a result of this nuclear testing; even more than Nevada, where the tests were actually

conducted. You see, the radioactive iodine is the part that is dangerous. It was blasted high up into the atmosphere and the wind carried it north to Montana where it finally settled on the ground, then into the water and food supply.

Thyroid cancer takes around 10 to 40 years to develop. Radiation exposure in the late 1950s might not manifest in cancer until the late 1990s. While the national average for thyroid cancer has remained steady over the past 30 years, the rate of reported thyroid cancer in Montana has increased steadily. In 1980, Montana State had a rate of thyroid cancer 6.2 times the national average. In 1990, that rate had increased to 10.8 times the national average, and in 2000 the rate of reported thyroid cancer in Montana was almost 18 times the national average.

The 1990 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, RECA, PL 101-426, established the Radiation Exposure Compensation Trust Fund for claims for injuries and death due to exposure under the Nevada testing. Under RECA, folks who were residing in parts of the States of Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico during certain times in the 1950s received a substantial amount of compensation from the U.S. Government along with an apology. Research now proves the State of Montana was hit the hardest by this radiation; yet its victims are not eligible for compensation under RECA.

Not only do these folks deserve an apology from the U.S. Government, but they deserve this compensation. As a cancer survivor, I cannot begin to tell you the mental, emotional, physical and financial hardship these cancer victims have endured—in order to serve the national security interests of the United States.

I strongly recommend that we, as a Congress, apologize to these individuals and amend RECA to compensate folks from my State of Montana as well as other States who have been affected by this tragedy.

AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN IRAQ

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have spoken here previously about the contribution that one of our closest allies, Australia, has made to support our efforts in Iraq and in the ongoing war against terror. At a time when other members of the international coalition in Iraq are beginning to draw down or remove their forces from the region, Australia continues to do its part.

In fact, over the following weeks, Australia will expand its commitment to Iraq by about 50 percent. This will increase the total Australian military personnel currently working in or around Iraq to 1,370. These additional Australian troops will provide a secure environment—following the withdrawal of Dutch troops—for Japanese engineers who are involved in the re-

construction efforts in the Al Muthanna Province in southern Iraq. The additional troop commitment will also bolster the existing training of Iraqi forces by Australian troops—training which is essential to the successful transformation of Iraq into a secure democracy.

Australia has always been a great friend and ally of ours. It shares a tradition of democracy and a dedication to the values of freedom and respect for life that we hold dear in the United States. Australia is, in fact, the only nation to have sent forces to fight alongside the United States in every major conflict during the 20th century, including Afghanistan, the first Gulf War, Vietnam, Korea, and both World Wars.

Sixty-eight years ago, when Americans and Australians fought alongside one another at the Battle of the Coral Sea, during the darkest days of the Second World War, only 12 democracies survived on the face of the earth. The United States and Australia were 2 of the 12. Today, when more people vote for their own governments than ever before, and as fledgling democracies emerge in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, it is important to remember how precious democracy is, and to recognize and thank our allies, such as Australia, who have always stood beside us and fought in the defense of liberty.

Earlier this month, I traveled with Senator REID and six other Senators to Iraq, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Georgia, and Ukraine. During that trip it was clear that the Iraqi elections—the bravery of the Iraqi people in staring down intimidation and violence to go to the ballot box—had been an inspiration to that part of the world. But, in the short term, democracy in Iraq can only take hold with the continued support of coalition troops—including those from Australia.

So I thank the Australian troops and the Australian people for the crucial help they continue to provide to this important mission in Iraq. Prime Minister Howard and Foreign Minister Downer have shown leadership and courage in standing with us in this difficult time. Their support is important to building on the success of January's elections so that Iraq may continue on its difficult path toward democracy.

PUBLICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF ABUSE AT ABU GHRAIB PRISON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one year ago today, the horrific photos of detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib prison shocked the Nation and tarnished our reputation as the world's human rights leader. One year later, we should be able to assure the world that the detainee abuse scandal has been independently and comprehensively investigated and that all those involved, from the people who committed abuses