

they will remain out of conformity with Federal air quality regulations, and will lose even more Federal highway dollars. This is a never-ending cycle and has failed to make any strides in helping reduce our air pollution.

That is why I support toll roads as an option to provide the needed revenue to make improvements to our roads. I am pleased that the Senate bill includes a toll road pilot program and hope that the program is flexible enough to allow the State to use the tolls to meet its goods movement infrastructure needs.

I would also ask the Environment and Public Works Committee to consider an amendment that would allow tolling revenue in extreme non-attainment areas to be used to mitigate air quality impacts that are imposed upon those communities by heavy duty trucks moving goods from California's ports to areas throughout the country.

I am also pleased that the bill will allow hybrid vehicles access to high occupancy vehicle—HOV—lanes. Without this authorization, California and other States, such as Arizona, Virginia, Colorado, and Georgia will lose their Federal highway dollars by implementing their own State laws to allow hybrids to access these lanes.

This provision would increase traffic mobility and also serves as an important incentive to get more hybrids on the road, an innovative solution to reduce our dependence on oil.

I would like to thank the Commerce Committee for including language in the bill that would require the Department of Transportation to conduct a study of predatory towing practices. Tow truck companies act without any local, State or Federal regulation. While most are good actors, there are a few that have taken advantage of the lack of regulation to prey on consumers. This has become a huge problem throughout California, and in other areas including Virginia and Arizona. This study will determine the impact of predatory towing practices and propose potential remedies to dealing with them.

While I have concerns about the fairness of the funding formulas, I also realize that without a transportation bill, California's communities will lack the money they need to plan major infrastructure projects. As a result, I plan to support this bill and hope that the conferees will keep in mind the needs of the donor States such as California.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to indicate that yesterday I was necessarily absent for the vote on the Talent amendment to the Highway bill, but had I been present I would have voted in favor of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOHN BOLTON

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, there have been a lot of complaints lately over John Bolton, the President's nominee to be United States Ambassador to the United Nations.

Mr. Bolton is an excellent choice for this position, as both his experience and leadership qualities prove. He graduated from Yale Law School, joined a prestigious firm, one of the country's great law firms, Covington & Burling. He worked there until 1981. He began his career in public service at the U.S. Agency for International Development, first as general counsel, then as assistant administrator for program and policy coordination. This was good training for him for his potential future role with the U.N.

From 1985 to 1989, he was an assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice. I got to know him at that time because I was a U.S. attorney in Alabama when he served in the Department of Justice in the prestigious office of legal counsel. From 1989 to 1993, he was again involved in international organizational issues when he served as Assistant Secretary of State for international organizational affairs. Mr. Bolton was confirmed by the Senate for both of those positions.

From 1993 to 1999, he was again in private practice, as a partner with the law firm of Lerner, Reed, Bolton, and McManus. In 2001, he became Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. I believe he was confirmed once again in that position by the Senate.

This was excellent experience for him. He dealt with issues relating to world security. Some say Mr. Bolton does not believe in the United Nations, multilateralism, and diplomacy. That statement is false.

The President of the United States recently stated in a television interview that he asked Bolton if he supported the U.N. before he, the President, agreed to nominate him. Mr. Bolton answered that he did. Despite what others have been alleging, the facts show—and Mr. Bolton has proven time and again—that he believes in the U.N. That is why he has been such an effective advocate for honest diplomacy and an effective U.N.

For example, he was a pioneer in helping to construct the G-8 global partnership to help keep secure dangerous technologies and materials, and to help stop the spread of dangerous weapons throughout the world. This global initiative will provide \$20 billion through 2012 to achieve these goals of making the world a safer place, by working with other nations.

Mr. Bolton was the President's point man in designing the Proliferation Security Initiative, the PSI. Over 60 nations are now working together, coordinated by John Bolton, to share intelligence, and are taking action to stop the transfer of dangerous weapons throughout the world. He has even

done pro bono work for the U.N. in Africa, giving of his time for free to help those in need.

He also worked closely and effectively with the U.N. when he served as Assistant Secretary of State in the State Department for International Organizations, from 1989 to 1992.

He has been instrumental in galvanizing U.N. agencies such as the IAEA, the International Atomic Energy Agency, to take concrete steps to actually make the world safer from weapons of mass destruction—not just to talk about it, but to do something about it. Isn't that effective multilateral leadership? I certainly think so.

He was the driving force in the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540 to get countries to take meaningful steps to stop the spread of dangerous weapons.

He has clearly been instrumental in both diplomacy and multilateralism and has proven to be an advocate of a United Nations that fulfills its potential, its calling, to make the world safer, and to help people throughout the world develop to their fullest.

He will not, however, be an enabler of a dysfunctional U.N. John Bolton has supported reform within the U.N. to help make it a better organization. This reform effort should not be misconstrued as opposition to the U.N. but, rather, as constructive and effective criticism. When parents discipline their children, it is not because they don't support them or believe in them. In fact, it is exactly the opposite. Good parents set guidelines and high standards for their children to guide them in life and to make them more responsible adults. If you love your children, you want them to reach their highest and best potential. That is exactly what John Bolton has done with the U.N.

He has not come out against the U.N. He has not vehemently opposed the U.N., as some of my colleagues would have you believe. He has worked within the system to advocate reform in an effort to better the organization, to ensure that U.N. programs achieve their intended purpose.

Under Bolton's leadership at the United Nations, when he served as Assistant Secretary of State in the administration of the elder George Bush, the U.N. General Assembly repealed, by a vote of 111 to 25, a resolution that described Zionism as a form of racism. Resolution 3379 originally passed in 1975—72 votes for, 35 against—decreeing that Zionism was a form of racism. Sixty-seven percent of the nations at that time voted for it. It was widely recognized as a sad day for the U.N. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice described Bolton as the "principal architect" of the 1991 reversal of that resolution. Bolton recently referred to resolution 3379 as "the greatest stain on the U.N.'s reputation" and called its reversal "one highlight of my professional career."

Thomas M. Boyd, a fine former official in the Department of Justice who

was Mr. Bolton's deputy when he was Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice, described the situation this way in a recent editorial in the *Boston Globe*:

Starting in the summer of 1991 and continuing well into the early fall, Bolton arrived at his office early each morning and began calling ambassadors around the world, as well as here in Washington, one by one, each time using his keen mind and reputation for bluntness to their full effect. Citing from memory Senator Moynihan's November 10, 1975, contention that "the United States declares that it does not acknowledge, and will not abide by, it will never acquiesce in this infamous act," Bolton refused to accept their excuses and their schedule conflicts and called repeatedly until he talked on multiple occasions to virtually every ambassador whose country would be called upon to cast a vote. In time, his perseverance began to winnow down the naysayers.

As a direct result of this effort, the hate-ridden resolution was overwhelmingly repealed on December 16, 1991. Let me point out an important aspect of this story. As Mr. Boyd noted, many in the State Department told him he should not pursue the repeal, that it could not be done, and that it wasn't worth the effort. But because John Bolton is a man of integrity, conviction, courage, and determination, he didn't see it that way. He didn't follow the advice of the professional bureaucrats and the State Department officials who said it could not be done. Instead, he worked tirelessly to do something that some people thought could not be done. He did the right thing, and he should be saluted for that. There is, indeed, a strength of character that is to be noted here.

A terrible wrong had been righted with this repeal, and Mr. Bolton had not only shown his skill in diplomacy, but his determination to do what is right. Isn't that what good diplomacy is? It is not just seeing if you can get along and agree with everybody's ideas, but holding forth good ideals, good values, fighting for them, and actually winning people over to vote for the right thing. That is what good diplomacy is, what leadership is—not blindly going along with people's ideas whether they are correct or not. He is a good man, a courageous man, who will make a tremendous ambassador to the U.N.

John Bolton realizes the benefits possible to the world through an effective U.N., and for that reason he has worked hard to make sure it stays a credible organization. You cannot blame him for being concerned about the United Nations. I certainly am. With the numerous allegations of corruption at the U.N., we need a frank and aggressive ambassador leading the American efforts there.

Last month, the *Washington Times* reported that two senior investigators with the U.N. committee probing corruption in the Oil for Food Program have resigned in protest. These investigators believe the report that cleared Kofi Annan of meddling in the \$64 billion operation was too soft on the Secretary General.

The investigators believed the so-called independent inquiry committee, which was appointed by Secretary General Kofi Annan in April of 2004, played down findings critical of Mr. Annan when it released an interim report in late March relating to his son. This scandal has only gotten more complicated this week as it now seems that one of the investigators has turned over potentially incriminating evidence against Kofi Annan to a House congressional committee.

This scandal has been described by some as the greatest scandal in the history of the world. Scandals such as these undermine the United Nations. They distract it from its intended purpose of promoting international peace and security. These scandals and mismanagement waste money that could be used for peacekeeping, medical care, economic development, and education in poor countries around the world. This money might help prevent hostilities, famine, and revolutions that disrupt these areas of the globe.

We need a U.S. ambassador to the U.N. who has both diplomacy and tenacity as leadership qualities. Mr. Bolton has both of these qualities.

One of my esteemed colleagues has alleged that Mr. Bolton blocked certain information from going to Secretary Powell and Secretary Rice. There is no basis for this claim. Richard Boucher, the spokesman for the State Department, has expressly refuted the allegation, calling it "silly" and stating that "nothing of that type occurred."

Another colleague said Mr. Bolton tried to skew weapons of mass destruction intelligence on Iraq, Syria, and Cuba. Again, false.

In every instance, whether talking about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program, Cuba's biological weapons, or Syria's weapons program, Mr. Bolton's speeches were cleared by the U.S. intelligence community; that is, he submitted his comments to the intelligence community for them to review to make sure nothing he said was incorrect. They cleared those speeches. There is no evidence whatsoever that Mr. Bolton skewed anything. The allegations are false.

On the contrary, there are scores of highly credible individuals who testify to his honesty and excellent candidacy for the position. For instance, I have a letter from former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to John Bolton expressing her strong support for Mr. Bolton. It is fitting that she should support John Bolton, particularly in light of the comments that he is too tough, too outspoken, too frank, too blunt. Those same criticisms were made about Lady Thatcher in 1975, earning her the nickname the Iron Lady. She embraced that nickname, famously asserting:

If you lead a country like Britain, a strong country, a country which has taken a lead in world affairs in good times and in bad, a country that is always reliable, then you have to have a touch of iron about you.

She was absolutely right, and the same holds true in this case. If our ambassador is going to represent the world's great superpower in the United Nations, an organization, unfortunately, that has been riddled with corruption and strong opposition by certain members to the values we hold dear, he must have a touch of iron about him, and he does.

Say what you will about John Bolton, weakness is not one of his weaknesses.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter from Lady Thatcher be printed in the RECORD.

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

MAY 4, 2005.

Hon. JOHN R. BOLTON,
Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

DEAR JOHN: I am writing this letter in order to let you know how strongly I support your nomination as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. On the basis of our years of friendship, I know from experience the great qualities you will bring to that demanding post.

To combine, as you do, clarity of thought, courtesy of expression and an unshakable commitment to justice is rare in any walk of life. But it is particularly so in international affairs. A capacity for straight talking rather than peddling half-truths is a strength and not a disadvantage in diplomacy. Particularly in the case of a great power like America, it is essential that people know where you stand and assume that you mean what you say. With you at the UN, they will do both. Those same qualities are also required for any serious reform of the United Nations itself, without which cooperation between nations to defend and extend liberty will be far more difficult.

I cannot imagine anyone better fitted to undertake these tasks than you.

All good wishes,
Yours ever,

MARGARET.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, this letter of April 5, 2005, is signed by 13 giants of American diplomacy, including five Secretaries of State and two Secretaries of Defense in support of John Bolton. I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

Washington, DC, April 5, 2005.

Senator RICHARD G. LUGAR,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We write to urge that the Senate act expeditiously to confirm John Bolton as our ambassador to the United Nations. This is a moment when unprecedented turbulence at the United Nations is creating momentum for much needed reform. It is a moment when we must have an ambassador in place whose knowledge, experience, dedication and drive will be vital to protecting the American interest in an effective, forward-looking United Nations.

In his position as Undersecretary of State, John Bolton has taken the lead in strengthening international community approaches to the daunting problem of the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD). As a result of his hard work, intellectual as well as operational, the

G-8 has supported U.S. proposals to strengthen safeguards and verification at the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Proliferation Security Initiative was launched and established within three months—a world speed record in these complex, multilateral matters. Moreover, Secretary Bolton led the successful effort to complete the negotiation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, adopted unanimously in April, 2004. UN 1540 called on member states to criminalize the proliferation of WMD—which it declared to be a threat to international peace and security—and to enact strict export controls.

Secretary Bolton, like the Administration, has his critics, of course. Anyone as energetic and effective as John is bound to encounter those who disagree with some or even all of the Administration's policies. But the policies for which he is sometimes criticized are those of the President and the Department of State which he has served with loyalty, honor and distinction.

Strong supporters of the United Nations understand the challenges it now faces. With his service as assistant secretary of state for international organizations, where he was instrumental in securing the repeal of the repugnant resolution equating Zionism with racism, and as undersecretary for arms control and international security, we believe John Bolton will bring great skill and energy to meeting those challenges.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. David Abshire, former Assistant Secretary of State, Hon. Kenneth Adelman, former Director, Arms Control Disarmament Agency, Hon. Richard Allen, former Assistant to the President for National Security, Hon. James Baker, former Secretary of State, Hon. Frank Carlucci, former Secretary of Defense, Hon. Lawrence Eagleburger, former Secretary of State, Hon. Al Haig, former Secretary of State, Ambassador Max Kampelman, former Ambassador and Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Negotiations with the Soviet Union on Nuclear and Space Arms, Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, former Ambassador to the United Nations, Hon. Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State, Hon. James Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense, Hon. George Shultz, former Secretary of State, Hon. Helmut Sonnenfeldt, former Counselor, Department of State.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, for over three decades, John Bolton has had an effective working relationship with foreign governments, international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector. He is a man who gets results. As Secretary Rice said:

The President has nominated John Bolton because he gets things done.

That is exactly what we need for the U.N. ambassador. John Bolton is the man for the job.

Mr. President, I am proud to support him, and I do believe his nomination will be moving forward this week. I think this Senate should promptly move to confirm him in this important position.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this past Sunday, the 8th of May, marked the 60th anniversary of the Allied victory in Europe during World War II. I have come to the floor today to honor those who served in that war and to

mention our colleagues who answered the call of duty then.

When I first came to the Senate, I think more than half of the Senate had served in World War II. There are few of us left who served during that war, and in the Senate only five: Senator AKAKA, Senator INOUE, Senator LAUTENBERG, Senator WARNER, and myself.

That war was an enormous effort that involved our Nation's total manpower. Sixteen million Americans answered the call to serve, and more than 400,000 of them gave what Lincoln once called "the last full measure of devotion."

Here at home, Americans of all walks of life supported the war effort. Children collected rubber, tin, and steel. Families rationed food and gasoline. And women, in unprecedented numbers, took their place in industry and produced the tools that enabled us to win the war. They joined fields which had once been closed to them, and they never looked back.

When I went into the service, as most of my generation did, I was fortunate to do what I wanted to do, which was to fly. Sixty years ago, for those of us who served, every day was a milestone. Every day marked another step toward victory.

Today, we only recognize a handful of those days: Pearl Harbor Day, D-day, V-J Day, and V-E Day—which is what I speak of today.

There were so many who stepped forward when our country needed us, who sacrificed on the battlefield and here at home so we could win that war. It was a time defined by heroism, and it is hard to single out any one person who did heroic things. But I am here to remind the Senate that my friend, Senator INOUE, was a hero.

In military history there is a select group of men who have suffered grave injuries on the battlefield, continued their military careers, and gone on to further greatness. Horatio Nelson, Joshua Chamberlain, and John Bell Hood are all men who were tested on and off the battlefield, and their legacies endure.

Among these men, Senator DAN INOUE stands out because he overcame so much more just to become a soldier and waited so long to have his heroism officially recognized with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

It is hard to sum up my respect and admiration for my great colleague and friend from Hawaii. Our friendship has spanned many decades now, and we call each other truly brothers. We are brothers. I can think of no man I respect more.

Last month, Senator REID came to the floor to honor Senator INOUE's service during World War II, also. Senator REID said:

Dan Inouye is a step above all of us.

I agree with Senator REID. As a World War II veteran, I am here to salute DAN INOUE. His courage and bravery and sense of duty are an inspiration to not only his Senate colleagues,

but I feel to all Americans. In a time when men made the extraordinary seem ordinary, DAN INOUE stood out as a hero among men.

I would like to read part of the citation for action that resulted in Senator INOUE's Congressional Medal of Honor. Senator INOUE was recognized for valor in combat in the Italian campaign in a battle just 17 days before V-E Day. The citation says:

With complete disregard for his personal safety, Second Lieutenant Inouye crawled up the treacherous slope to within five yards of the nearest machine gun and hurled two grenades, destroying the emplacement. Before the enemy could retaliate, he stood up and neutralized a second machine gun nest. Although wounded by a sniper's bullet, he continued to engage other hostile positions at close range until an exploding grenade shattered his right arm.

Despite the intense pain, he refused evacuation and continued to direct his platoon until enemy resistance was broken and his men were again deployed in defensive positions. In the attack, 25 enemy soldiers were killed and eight others captured. By his gallant, aggressive tactics and by his indomitable leadership, Second Lieutenant INOUE enabled his platoon to advance through formidable resistance, and was instrumental in the capture of the ridge. Second Lieutenant INOUE's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

On the battlefield and in Congress, DAN INOUE has faithfully served our country, his state of Hawaii, and the men and women of the military.

It is men such as DAN INOUE who inspired the phrase the "Greatest Generation." I hope we remember all of them today.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, yesterday we introduced a bill that would bring relief to some of the folks in my State of Montana. As you know, in the 1950s, nuclear testing was held in Nevada. Of course, from this testing, there was some radiation drift. The major source of this radiation comes from nuclear explosions from a Nevada test site, which is located about 65 miles north of Las Vegas.

In studies by the National Cancer Institute, and a report that was recently released by the National Academy of Sciences, we find that the State of Montana was left out of any compensation that was given to victims of downwind exposure to radiation. In fact, according to the National Cancer Institute, certain areas of Montana have been exposed to the highest dose, ranging from 12 rads to 16 rads. The National Cancer Institute's charts give you some idea of the effects of the nuclear test site in Nevada. Of course, up in our part of the country, we fall victim to southwesterly winds. If you notice, my State of Montana shows up with more darker red areas on the chart than any other region of the

United States, which means that we received some of the highest doses of radiation.

Montana is home to 15 of the 25 counties with the highest radiation dosage nationwide and the county receiving the highest dose in the country is Meagher County, MT.

Individuals who were affected from this nuclear testing are often called downwinders—because the wind carried the poisonous Iodine-131 north, when the gravity finally kicked in and it settled to the ground. People can be exposed to radiation from nuclear testing fallout through external radiation like a plume or a cloud passing over a region. They can also be exposed by radioactivity deposited on the ground and remaining there for long periods of time, or by the internal exposure to radioactivity that accumulates in the body from inhalation or ingestion of plants, meat or milk. Milk is the primary source of Iodine-131 and disproportionately affects milk drinkers. Who drinks milk? Children and babies who are the most vulnerable of our society.

This discussion leads us to the topic of thyroid cancer. The thyroid gland will absorb about 30 percent of radioactive Iodine-131 in the human body. Thyroid cancer is slow in development as it takes 10 to 40 years to manifest itself. This means that radiation exposure in the late 1950s might not manifest as cancer until the 1990s.

This chart compares the rates of thyroid cancer nationwide and in my state of Montana. Between years 1989 and 2003, the rate of thyroid cancer diagnosis nationwide increased by 38 percent. At the same time, the thyroid cancer rate in my State of Montana increased by a whopping 127 percent.

The 1990 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and RECA Amendments of 2000 offer lump-sum payments of \$50,000 to civilians who were living in States deemed as downwind from the nuclear testing in Nevada and who contracted a specific type of cancer. States where downwinders can currently receive compensation include Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. It is important to note that Montana was not included under this law. Yet a report just released by the National Academy of Sciences shows that Montana received the highest radiation dosage.

Accordingly, a most recent study on this issue shows the absorbed radiation dose to the thyroid of a person born in 1948 who resided for the entire period in Montana is 250 milligrays. This dosage is higher than most, if not all, regions presently eligible for compensation under RECA.

My bill, S. 977, would allow Montanans who were adversely affected by this nuclear testing to be counted among those folks currently eligible to receive \$50,000 in compensation. Those eligible for \$50,000 would also receive compensation in the form of free medical treatments for the diseases they have contracted from the exposure.

The fact is, Montanans were involuntarily subjected to increased risk of injury and disease in order to serve the national security interests of the United States, and they deserve our compassion and our support.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support S. 977, to expand RECA to victims in the State of Montana.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Montana for doing something about this problem. It is a huge problem. He has identified it. He has some solutions, he has some ideas, and we will work with him, as I am sure other Senators will in States also affected by this problem. I compliment him for raising the issue and finding a solution.

ADLER PLANETARIUM'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on Thursday, May 12, 2005, the Adler Planetarium, the first planetarium in America and in the Western Hemisphere, will mark its 75th anniversary.

Max Adler recognized a need to exhibit artifacts from the history of astronomy to the public, and so he founded the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum in 1930. Originally, it housed a collection of about 500 astronomical, navigational, and mathematical instruments that would become the foundation for Adler's History of Astronomy Collection. Today, this collection has grown to almost 2000 astronomical artifacts dating from the 12th to the 20th centuries. Included in this collection is the world's oldest known window sundial from 1529; a telescope made by William Herschel, the astronomer who discovered Uranus; and a collection of rare books comprising more than 2000 volumes, some of which were printed before the 1500s.

Over the past 75 years, the Adler's history has been marked by several milestones. In 1933, light from the star Arcturus was successfully converted into electrical signals that turned on the lights for the opening ceremonies of the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition. In 1964, the Adler Planetarium partnered with the National Science Foundation and began offering the Astro-Science Workshop, a program designed to challenge Chicago area high school students who demonstrate an exceptional aptitude for science.

In 1999, the Adler Planetarium underwent renovations that produced the Sky Pavilion, a 60,000 square-foot glass-enclosed addition that includes five new exhibit galleries and a café overlooking the lakefront and the Chicago skyline. The highlight of this renovation is the StarRider Theater, which, through the use of state-of-the-art computer projection technologies and a sophisticated audience participation system, creates a 3-D virtual reality experience for all those who visit.

Earlier this year, the Adler Planetarium was selected by NASA as the education partner for the Interstellar Boundary Explorer mission to be launched in 2008. This mission will examine the characteristics of the region of space between the solar system and deep space where the solar wind protects Earth and the rest of the solar system from cosmic radiation.

I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Adler Planetarium on this important day. I hope all who are involved with the Planetarium will take pride in their important work as they celebrate this anniversary, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERT W. MURRAY JR.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Westfield. Robert Murray, 21 years old, died on April 29 when a bomb exploded beside his vehicle during a reconnaissance mission in Tal Afar. With his entire life before him, Robert risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

After graduating from Westfield High School in 2002, Robert attended Indiana State University where he studied aviation management. He was a licensed pilot and a musician who decided to join the Army because of family history and a sense of patriotism and duty after the tragic events of 9/11. Friends and colleagues remember him as a determined and well-liked individual with a good sense of humor. His mother Katrina Murray released a statement praising her son's heroism, saying, "From an early age, Robert wanted to enter the military. This was the path he chose, and I want to honor his choice by remembering him as a hero who served his country proudly and made the ultimate sacrifice. He will be missed by our entire family and his many friends. He brought so much joy and laughter." I stand here today to express the same sentiments of pride in this young Hoosier and gratitude for his sacrifices and for those made by the Murray family on behalf of our country.

Robert was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, based in Fort Carson, CO. This brave young soldier leaves behind his father Robert W. Murray Sr. his mother Katrina and his two sisters.

Today, I join Robert's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Robert, a memory that will burn