Officials said the ''superlab'' was discovered Thursday in the Willamette Valley town of Brownsville. The lab was at a mobile home on a rural, 10-acre property and was capable of producing 90 pounds of pure methamphetamine in a 48- to 72-hour period.

The lab had been in operation for at least five months, according to indictments filed in federal court in Portland.

The find, which U.S. Attorney Karin J. Immergut described as one of the largest labs in Oregon history, was extremely unusual in a number of ways.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials say superlabs operated by Mexican drug trafficking organizations now produce about 65 percent of all meth sold in the United States. But the number of superlabs seized in the United States has been falling dramatically in recent years. There were 53 seized last year, down from 244 in 2001, according to the DEA. Agency officials say the reason is that Mexican traffickers increasingly are moving their superlabs south of the border.

In Oregon, only a handful of superlabs—defined as a lab capable of producing at least 10 pounds a batch—are uncovered each year, according to Sgt. Joel Lujan of the Oregon State Police drug enforcement section.

''Most of the labs that we're finding are going to be the tweaker labs,'' Lujan said, referring to labs run by meth users for their own consumption. Those labs typically produce less than an ounce of meth at a time.

A single dose of meth is one-tenth of a gram. Ninety pounds of pure meth would make 400,000 doses; if cut to street purity of 50 percent, it would make 800,000 doses.

Drug agents arrested 15 people in connection with the Brownsville case, according to Immergut's office. Most were Mexican citizens living in Salem.

Details of how the investigation unfolded remained sketchy Tuesday. Salem Police Sgt. Pat Garrett, a member of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration task force involved in the case, said agents were investigating some of the suspects for several months. Surveillance led agents to the mobile home in Brownsville.

''We had people we believed to be involved in the production of methamphetamine who led us to the lab site,'' Garrett said.

Stains on the walls of the mobile home suggested the lab operators were making meth inside, but much of the lab's equipment and chemicals were in storage outside the home.

In addition to three pounds of finished meth and $195,000 in cash, agents found 150 pounds of iodine and 20 to 30 pounds of red phosphorous. Those chemicals make it possible to convert pseudoephedrine, a common cold remedy ingredient, to methamphetamine.

Garrett said the lab operators had finished their latest batch Wednesday.

''There was no more pseudoephedrine left,'' Garrett said. ''They had done their cook and finished the product and were waiting to do the next cook.''

Five 22-liter flasks, used to create the pseudoephedrine reaction, were found in a nearby rental truck, where they had apparently been stored.

Experts said each 22-liter flask can produce, at most, 15 pounds of meth at a time, for a total of 75 pounds. But Garrett said the lab operators had enough chemicals to make 90 pounds of meth if they ran the flasks simultaneously and replenished some as the reaction unfolded.

Five of the 15 people arrested were charged with conspiracy to manufacture meth. Sonia Violet Garcia, 20, of Brownsville, was arraigned Friday.

Four others, all Salem residents, are scheduled to make initial court appearances today: Arturo Arevalo-Cuevas, 22; Miguel Silva Chava, 26; Venancio Villalobos-Soto, 40; and Adriana Arevalo-Cuevas, 29.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to acknowledge two young Marylanders who were recently chosen to present and display their history projects in Washington, DC, as part of the National History Day program.

A basic knowledge of history is essential for our Nation's children to become informed participants in our democracy. With an eye toward increasing informed participation, National History Day—which as a national program celebrates its 25th anniversary this year—promotes history-related education in Maryland and throughout the Nation. Each year, the program allows students to use critical thinking and research skills and to create exhibits, documentaries and performances related to a particular historical subject. This year, 29 students were chosen from a pool of half a million to display their projects at various sites throughout the Nation's Capital.

Ryan Moore, a student at Mill Creek Middle School in Hughesville, Maryland, used his skills and critical thinking to create a project entitled ''Television: A Key Player in Communicating the Candidate's Message.'' He will display and present his project at the White House Visitor Center.

Lauren White, a student at Plum Point Middle School in Huntington, MD, similarly stood out from the crowd in creating a project entitled ''More Powerful than Words: The Photo Stories of Lewis Wickes Hine.'' She will display and present her project at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

I congratulate both Lauren and Ryan as they are honored for their presentations, and commend them for their dedication, commitment, and creativity.

CONFIRMATION OF THOMAS B. GRIFFITH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, next week we will celebrate the 33rd anniversary of title IX. For 33 years, title IX has opened doors for women and girls in all aspects of education. I can say without reservation that I would not be a U.S. Senator today without this critical law.

Unfortunately, today the Senate confirmed a vehement opponent of title IX—Thomas Griffith—to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. I voted against this nominee because of his record on title IX, the importance of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals to title IX and other civil rights laws, and his disregard for the rule of law in his own practice.

In 2002, Mr. Griffith served on the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics to evaluate whether and how current standards governing title IX's application to athletics should be revised. After the Department of Education spent nearly $1 million on the Commission, the Bush administration made the determination to make no changes to title IX in athletics. However, as a member of the Commission, Mr. Griffith made clear his opposition and hostility towards the law and its enforcement.

As a member of the Commission, Mr. Griffith proposed weakening the standard for meeting title IX's 25-year-old requirement of equality of opportunity in athletics for young women through the elimination of the ''substantial proportionality'' test for compliance. This test, one of the three alternative ways to comply with title IX, allows schools to comply by offering athletic opportunities to male and female students that are in proportion to each gender's representation in the student body of the school.

Mr. Griffith claimed this provision constitutes a quota in violation of title IX and the Constitution and asserted that ''[i]t is illegal, it is unfair, and it is wrong'' and even ''morally wrong.'' He made such extreme statements despite the decisions of no fewer than 6 Federal appeals courts which have upheld the legality of the test. In fact, none has ruled to the contrary. And when this fact was pointed out to him, he did not respect the decisions of all the Federal courts that have heard such cases—he said that ''the courts got it wrong.'' Eliminating this test would clearly undercut title IX's effectiveness—and the Commission agreed. It rejected the Griffith proposal by a lopsided vote of 11 to 4.

During his confirmation process, Griffith tried to change his position on title IX. Mr. Griffith now claims that he only wanted to eliminate the proportionality test because some have ''misused'' or ''misinterpreted'' the test. He now claims that the Commission recommendations regarding the proportionality test that he supported—in addition to his own proposal to eliminate the test—were ''modest'' or ''moderate.'' If these claims were so moderate, why were they rejected entirely by the Secretary of Education?

Mr. President, every Federal court of appeals that has considered this issue and every administration since 1979 have ruled that the three-part test is legally valid and does not impose quotas. Mr. Griffith's statements and actions put him in complete opposition to six Federal appeals courts. If that doesn't show that Mr. Griffith is out of the mainstream, I don't know what does.

The DC Circuit Court of Appeals is an especially important court. I believe that we must be careful when confirming individuals to serve lifetime appointments on this court, the second most powerful Federal court in the land. This court has exclusive jurisdiction over a broad array of Federal regulations, including title IX, and is

often the court of last resort in critical issues involving workers' rights, civil liberties, and environmental regulations. I am concerned that, given his prior record relating to title IX, Mr. Griffith may not be able to hear such cases with the impartiality required of a judge on one of our Nation's highest courts.

Mr. Griffith's hostility to title IX and the importance of the DC Circuit are not the only problems with this nominee. He has, on more than one occasion, failed to comply with the basic standards and practices of his profession by not paying bar dues and failing to get a license. He does not meet the high standards we must apply to any nominee for a lifetime appointment to the second highest court in the land.

The Senate has the constitutional duty to advise the President and decide whether to consent to his nominations to the Federal bench. I believe that this role is one of the Senate's greatest responsibilities. It is critical that Senators work with the President to find judicial nominees that meet the standards of fairness, even-handedness and adherence to the law that we expect of judges in our communities.

I believe the Senate has the duty to ensure each nominee has sufficient experience to sit in judgment of our fellow citizens, will be fair to all those who come before the court, will be even-handed in administering justice, and will protect the rights and liberties of all Americans. Unfortunately, Mr. Griffith's record shows his inability to serve in such a manner and, therefore, I opposed his nomination.

CHILD LABOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it is with a sense of sorrow that I rise today to speak about the practice of abusive and exploitative child labor, as well as to recognize the International Labor Organization's World Day against Child Labor, which occurred on June 12. Unfortunately, hundreds of millions of children are still forced to work illegally for little or no pay. The ILO has set aside this day to give a voice to these helpless children who toil away in hazardous conditions.

We should not only think about these children on June 12. We should think about this last vestige of slavery every day. I have remained steadfast in my commitment to eliminate abusive and exploitative child labor. It was in 1992 that I first introduced a bill to ban all products made by abusive and exploitative child labor from entering the United States.

Since I introduced that bill, we have made some progress in raising awareness about this scourge. In June of 1999, ILO Convention 182, concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, was adopted unanimously in the ILO and here in the U.S. Senate. This was the first time ever that an ILO convention was approved without one dissenting vote. In record time the Senate ratified ILO Convention 182 with a bipartisan, 96–0 vote.

For the first time in history the world spoke with one voice in opposition to abusive and exploitative child labor. Countries from across the political, economic, and religious spectrum—from Jewish to Muslim, from Buddhists to Christians—came together to proclaim unequivocally that abusive and exploitative child labor is a practice which will not be tolerated and must be abolished.

Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is an acceptable practice because of a country's economic circumstances. Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is acceptable because of cultural tradition. And gone is the argument that abusive child labor is a necessary evil on the road to economic development. When this convention was approved, the United States and the international community as a whole laid those arguments to rest and laid the groundwork to begin the process of ending the scourge of abusive and exploitative child labor.

In 2001, Congressman ENGEL and I, along with the international chocolate industry, negotiated the Harkin-Engel Protocol. This agreement was precipitated by news reports that same year on the abuse of children on cocoa farms. We knew that if consumers learned about the brutal realities of cocoa production, their taste of chocolate would sour. Sales—and delicate African economies—would plummet. But that was not our goal. We wanted to stop child slavery, not chocolate production.

We viewed a legislative remedy not as a first resort but as a last resort. So, in good faith, we engaged the major chocolate companies in lengthy, intense negotiations. The result was the Harkin-Engel Protocol. The companies agreed to join with other stakeholders to produce an agreement for eliminating the worst forms of child and slave labor throughout the chain of chocolate production, and to do so expeditiously. They also agreed to implement an industrywide voluntary certification system to give a public accounting of labor practices in cocoa-growing countries. This would enable consumers to make better-informed choices.

There are an estimated 1.5 million small cocoa farms spread across four desperately poor countries in Africa. The Protocol established a public-private partnership enlisting government, industry, labor unions, nongovernmental organizations and consumer groups. The U.S. Government's role is to ensure that whatever certification plan emerges from this process is credible and effective in eliminating abusive child and slave-labor practices in the cocoa industry and ensuring the rehabilitation of the victims.

Unfortunately, the chocolate industry has been slow to meet all of the terms of the Protocol. July 1, 2005, is the deadline for full implementation of the certification system. That is just 3 short weeks away. While I remain hopeful that industry will continue to engage in the elimination of child labor beyond July 1, it is clear that the exact terms of the Protocol will not be met by July. No public certificate has yet been issued. And only small regions of Ghana and Cote d'Ivore have been monitored for child labor. Nevertheless, we are continuing discussions with the chocolate industry and continue to believe that the Harkin-Engel Protocol remains a possible framework for engagement to fix the enormous problem of abusive and exploitative child and slave labor in the cocoa-growing countries of West Africa.

Forced child labor remains a significant problem. According to the ILO, there are some 246 million child laborers in the world; 73 million of these are under the age of 10, and approximately 22,000 children die in work related accidents every year. Abusive and exploitative child labor is prevalent in many parts of the world, including here in America.

Abusive child labor should be a thing of the past. The United Sates should not continue to turn a blind eye to this scourge. It is time that we enforce our laws and international standards and ensure that countries are raising their standards on this issue. If we did our part to ensure that children were learning and not laboring, there would not be a need to have a day dedicated to end child labor.

WORLD WAR II BAKERS CREEK AIR CRASH

Mr. SPECTER Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to honor the 40 American soldiers who tragically perished at Bakers Creek, Queensland, Australia on June 14, 1943. Their deaths came as a result of the crash of a B–17C Flying Fortress, which proved to be the worst aviation disaster of the Southwest Pacific theatre during World War II. More soldiers died on that plane from my home State of Pennsylvania—six—than from any other State. These six men were: Pvt. James E. Finney; T/Sgt. Alfred H. Frezza; Sgt. Donald B. Kyper; Pfc. Frank S. Penksa; Sgt. Anthony Rudnick; and Cpl. Raymond H. Smith.

Only recently has the Air Force shared the details of this incident. As a result, most of the victims' families were left in the dark about the specifics surrounding their loved ones' deaths in World War II. For over a decade, the members of the Bakers Creek Memorial Association, based in Orrtanna, PA, led by George Washington University professor Robert S. Cutler, have worked to locate the victims' families and to notify them of the circumstances of the tragic mishap. Because of the dedication of this small group of military veterans, the families of 36 of the 40 casualties now