

ahead in spite of fear. They understand that you can not have justice for one without justice for all. They believe in the equality of opportunity, not results. And they know that freedom is not free.

Boy Scouts are our friends and family, but as Eyan's letter shows us, they are also our role models and leaders.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of Eyan R. Lason's letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

NATIONAL JAMBOREE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

(By Eyan R. Lason)

I start this paper staring at the "Scout Guide" to this trip that I will soon embark upon. I look at my watch and see the date, the time, and realize that my entire world is racing towards a stand still . . . no a start to a voyage which will be sure to last me the rest of my life. A journey back to where America was made, an expedition to see and feel everything that this country was based on, and is destined to become.

Scouting has been a part of my life for more than 10 years now. It has helped form me into the man that I am. Scouting has given me many of the best experiences of my life, many of which can never be forgotten. I have learned so much it is hard to put it into words. I have been fortunate enough to take pleasure in everything that scouting has to offer. From the basic skills of life, to our week long summer camp in Northern Minnesota, to Philmont's mountains in New Mexico, and now most of all the ability to spend two weeks in this Country's great capital.

I sit here in this chair wanting to express the true bewilderment that I feel. Trying to communicate the huge opportunity that has been granted to me in words, still there are too many racing through my head to fully explain what I am feeling. A teacher once told me that if you struggle explaining an object be it a person place or event try using a single word for the task, this time even that advice has rendered me speechless. There is no possible way to express my gratitude to the people who have simply handed me the single greatest opportunity of my life.

One word, a sentence, or even this paper that I am writing cannot express truly how grateful I am for the kindness of others who have given me this opportunity. Truthfully, with all my heart, I thank you.

Now is time for myself to try and explain what this expedition means to me. I have concluded that the best way for me to define this trip to you is use a symbol that every man, woman, and child can recognize, the very flag of this great country that we, the people, have proclaimed The United States of America.

The flag is it's own special kind of genius. You see the stars, stripes, and colors all inspire me in different ways. Fifty Stars, thirteen stripes, and three colors are all part of the master symbol of our country; all has given me more than significant inspiration. Thus I will explain.

Fifty bright white stars represent each and every state of this noble country. A National Jamboree is my destination therefore I will get a chance to meet people from each and every one of those states. An opportunity to experience cultures specific to each region of this country, for each state is represented by 1 of those fantastic stars on the flag of this country.

Thirteen stripes on the banner that is this country, thirteen stripes that embody the thirteen original colonies that formed this country. All of which helped bestow all Americans with the freedoms that we are blessed with. Those colonies fought for what they considered was right, they defended their freedoms. Who knew they were at the threshold of creating the world's greatest country. A country free from gross prejudice of one's ethnicity, beliefs, religion, likes and dislikes.

Nobody in that time had any idea of the immense change those thirteen colonies would make in the world, freedom that today is defended by the greatest fighting force in the world, the United States Armed Forces. The U.S. Armed Forces fight for our country protecting us from people who dislike our ability to be unrestrained in our everyday lives. The U.S. Armed Forces, like the people in those thirteen original colonies, are fighting for what they think is right. Why do they risk their lives? Simple their own, and others, belief in freedom is worth fighting for. After all freedom is not free.

Myself as an American hold my freedom on the highest pinnacle. Those thirteen colonies that started this whole country have granted all Americans with the greatest possible gift. So I am grateful for the ability to go back to many of these great colonies and see what they fought for, experience what they fought and hopefully get a glimpse of what it will become. I am so grateful to be given the opportunity to be able to see the naval ports, see the modern day defenders of our country and how they do what they do.

Red; the color that represents the hardiness and valor of this Nation, red is for the blood, sweat and tears that have gone into making this great country what it is. Hardiness for the millions who have served this Nation with pride. Hardiness for all of those who endured through the cannon blasts of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, hardiness for the ones who spent hundreds of hours in the grueling trenches of World War One. Hardiness for the near Thirteen million United States Soldiers who, once again, proved to the world we will not sit quietly in World War Two, well deserved valor for the individuals in Middle Eastern countries currently defending us from terrorism each day. All of which have proven to the world that we are the true protectors of freedom. Proved to me, and the world, what it means to be hardy and valorous. Red is the color that represents the millions of individual's sacrifices for me, for this Nation. And when I stand at this Nation's capital and look at Old Glory waving, I will remember those individuals and their sacrifices, and I will thank them.

Bright white stripes, six of them on the flag, hold the beliefs of purity and innocence of this Nation. Purity and innocence that in this modern day uphold America as a defender not as an aggressor. In this day America is a world power not a world conqueror. Purity is for those who hold themselves true by using their rights as a good citizen, by supporting their country in what it does, by participating in this country's democracy. We can show purity by respecting other citizens of this country, innocence by living our lives without regrets. Myself as a scout can obtain and uphold this Nation's purity and innocence by living the Scout Oath and Law. I can live the Scout Oath and Law and show others to take pride in themselves and in their country, by being able to go to Washington DC. I can demonstrate these actions and I can influence others to do so.

There is a field of blue on the flag for justice, perseverance, and vigilance. One's peers provide fair justice in this country. This country has for nearly 100 years served in protecting itself and others from assailants.

Providing justice to where it is deserved. From the improper acts of Pre-Revolutionary War Britain, Nazi Germany, the Jungles of Vietnam, or Terrorist occupied Middle Eastern Countries America has proven its evenhandedness. Perseverance is surely this country's most pronounced value. If perseverance were not valued so highly in this country it would simply not exist. Perseverance made this country, made it and has kept it here for the past 229 years.

What if we had not persevered in the Revolutionary war? Would America still be here? The most likely answer is no. The Civil War without perseverance would have ended in the Confederate States of America. Not only in wars must we persevere in life we must. If people do not try hard to complete things, this country, this world would not be the great place it is. Vigilance is simply defined by Webster as "Alert Watchfulness" and I could not label it better myself. America has watched over its people and the world doing its best to keep all safe. In a single week I will see these values and all their meaning when I am in D.C. I will value them every day of my life as I always have as far back as I can remember. I can see the documents that made America free. As far as seeing perseverance, I cannot list all the sights and sounds that are supreme examples to me of that value. Justice can be seen in small things as someone stating their opinion of right and wrong to another individual, or a single person standing before a judge a twelve of his peers, however I will be able to see it on the grandest scale the supreme court of America. I can see vigilance as I will go to Pentagon City and for those opportunities that have been given to me I am truly grateful.

As I have stated in the above topics the values that are presented on the flag are the one's that I will value most on this trip to the United States Capital. The fifty states that hold the values true, thirteen colonies that made it all happen, hardiness, valor, purity, innocence, justice, perseverance, and vigilance are all valued highly by many but the ones who make values more than just a value are citizens of the United States of America. Boy Scouts, doctors, lawyers, auto mechanics, pilots, military personal are all people that make this country what it is, and that is the way it is supposed to be in a democracy. I am eternally grateful to be able to be an American and having this tour to the Nations Capital given to me just reinforces my strong beliefs in this country and the people who belong to it.

I would like to thank the complete organization of the Boy Scouts of America. I would also like to personally thank my Scoutmaster Mr. Jeff Radke, the whole Jungers family, Mr. Mike Simonet, and my parents for letting me go on such an endeavor.

Thank You All So Much.

To the members of the United States Armed Forces, nationwide Firefighters and Policemen and Women, I thank you for the sacrifices that you have made, and are willing to make on behalf of myself and this entire nation. Thank you.

Mr. COLEMAN. In closing, I thank Eyan and all of the Boy Scouts of America for their service not only to God and country, but also to their homes and committees.

#### IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I bring to the attention of Senators the troubling reality in Iraq that is described in two recent Government reports, one by the Government Accountability Office and the other by the Office of the Special

Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

Documented in these reports are assessments of the precarious and deteriorating security situation on the ground, which has dramatically slowed the pace of reconstruction and resulted in significant additional costs. This picture is in stark contrast to the rhetoric coming from the administration that we are in the last throes of the insurgency and that reconstruction is moving forward at a rapid pace.

The reality is that because of the security problems in Iraq, the results of reconstruction are falling far short of what the administration optimistically predicted and what we were told to expect. While there has been important progress in building schools and hospitals and providing clean drinking water in some areas, exorbitant security costs are forcing the scale back or cancellation of reconstruction projects. Unfortunately, there is little reason to be optimistic that the situation will improve in the short term.

According to today's Washington Post, the GAO reported that "in March, the U.S. Agency for International Development canceled two electric power generation programs to provide \$15 million in additional security elsewhere. On another project to rehabilitate electric substations, the Army Corps of Engineers decided that securing 14 of the 23 facilities would be too expensive and limited the entire project to nine stations. And in February, USAID added \$33 million to cover higher security costs on one project, which left it short of money to pay for construction oversight, quality assurance and administrative costs."

Furthermore, the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction reported that after reviewing several reconstruction contracts, it determined that more money was going to Government contractors involved in the rebuilding process than was necessary. The formula used for disbursing special monetary awards, which are above and beyond basic fees, was producing excessively high awards. In some instances, contractors were paid hundreds of thousands of dollars despite not winning a contract or delivering a single service. Once again, these reports shed light on the lack of oversight and accountability given to contracts in Iraq.

Given the enormous amount of money the United States is spending in Iraq, the many reports of waste and profiteering by unscrupulous contractors, and the President's request for additional hundreds of millions of dollars for Iraq reconstruction in the fiscal year 2006 budget, it is incumbent on the administration to respond to these reports in a forthright manner so that Congress can make informed decisions about the use of these funds.

#### INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, on July 14 the United Nations' Working Group on Internet Governance, WGIG, issued its final report. WGIG was formed following the December 2003 U.N. World Summit on Information Policy with the intention of simply developing a consensus definition for "internet governance" and identifying relevant public policy issues. Ultimately the task force exceeded its mandate and laid out four policy recommendations for the future of Internet governance. One unifying theme for all these options is that there should be "a further internationalization of Internet governance arrangements" because of WGIG's belief that "no single government should have a pre-eminent role in relation to international Internet governance".

In other words, this U.N. task force report suggests that the historic role of the United States in overseeing the Internet's growth and shepherding its development should be terminated and that Internet governance should be politicized under U.N. auspices. The most extreme of the options laid out by the WGIG would transfer the authority and functions of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, ICANN, a respected nonprofit organization which is currently overseen by the U.S. Department of Commerce, to a new body linked to and controlled by the United Nations. This would put international bureaucrats in charge of the Internet and relegate the private sector to a mere advisory role. And it raises the very troubling possibility that the United States would have no more say over the future of the Internet than Cuba or China.

I am firmly opposed to any proposal to hand control of Internet governance over to the United Nations. The continuing investigation of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations into the scandal-ridden Oil-for-Food program has revealed management of the U.N. to have been at best incompetent and at worst corrupt. Any suggestion for a greater U.N. role over the Internet is hopelessly premature. The first priority for the United Nations must be fundamental reform of U.N. management and operations rather than any expansion of its authority and responsibilities.

The Internet was created in the United States and has flourished under U.S. supervision and oversight. The United States' fair and lighthanded role in Internet governance has assured security and reliability. While the roots of the Internet lie in the ARPANet project launched by the Department of Defense in 1969, the true birth of the modern Internet began 10 years ago, in 1995, when the National Science Foundation opened the Internet to commerce, and the Netscape browser became available so that the general public could "surf" the World Wide Web. The explosive and hugely

beneficial growth of the Internet over the past decade did not result from increased Government involvement but, to the contrary, from the opening of the Internet to commerce and private sector innovation. Subjecting the Internet to the politicized control of the U.N. bureaucracy would be a giant and foolhardy step backwards.

The Internet today is an unprecedented and tremendously beneficial avenue for the free flow of information and commerce. Why would we want to even consider turning any degree of Internet control over to a politicized and failure-prone multinational bureaucracy that cannot possibly move at "Net speed"? Some of the nations involved in the WGIG deliberations have established pervasive Internet censorship and monitoring systems to suppress the ability of their citizens to access the truth, and to stifle legitimate political discussion and dissent. Others maintain a state monopoly over telecommunications services, or subject them to excessive taxation and regulation. Allowing such nations a voice in fundamental Internet governance would be dangerous and imprudent.

The WGIG report also contemplates an expanded U.N. role on cybersecurity matters. This is also deeply troubling. We simply cannot risk a disruption of the information economy by cyberterrorists. One thing we have learned at the start of the 21st century is that some organized groups hate democracy and wish to inflict grave injury upon the people and economies of freedom-loving nations. It would be naive and foolhardy if we did not assume that some of the individuals active in these terrorist organizations possess the technical expertise to plan and execute crippling attacks on the Internet, and that they are pondering how to crash the net with the same diligence that Osama bin Laden gave to bringing down the World Trade Center. The Internet assumes greater economic importance with each passing year, both in the value of the commerce it facilitates as well as the functions it performs. Today, for example, traditional telephone service is making a rapid migration from dedicated proprietary circuits to Voice Over Internet Protocol, VOIP. It is true that the Internet was designed to be resilient against outside attacks, as ARPANet was conceived as a communications system that could survive the exchange of nuclear weapons. But we have learned in recent years that the greatest threats to Internet security are generated from within. The vital national security interests of the United States and our allies demand that we maintain an Internet governance regime capable of taking effective preventive measures against any attack that could wreak havoc upon us.

The continued assurance of competent and depoliticized Internet governance is clearly a matter of strategic importance to the security of the