

We must also be alert to the risk that military assistance could overwhelm other elements of a larger counterterrorism strategy. If Indonesia is going to effectively fight terrorism, it must develop a professional, capable, and honest police force and strong judiciary. An imbalanced United States assistance program could harm reform efforts and undermine Indonesia's nascent efforts to coordinate the counterterrorism roles of its various military, police and civilian agencies.

Finally, we must expand assistance programs in the areas of education, economic development and the promotion of civil societies. No counterterrorism strategy can succeed unless the political, social and economic conditions that breed terrorism are confronted head on.

I do believe that we have an opportunity to create and execute a comprehensive and effective counterterrorism strategy in Southeast Asia. This strategy needs to take into account the unique nature of each of our partners in the region and their internal political, social, and economic dynamics, while addressing the root causes of extremism and the conditions that fuel or support the growth of terrorist networks.

The United States can take a leadership role in the region and can help friends and allies like Thailand and Indonesia engage as full partners in the fight against terrorist networks. In many cases, the United States should push strongly for ending abusive or heavy-handed government policies, addressing past human rights abuses, and opening political space that allows the freedom to express political discontent or dissatisfaction with government leaders or policies.

Unfortunately, our policies in Iraq are making it increasingly difficult to execute such a strategy effectively. Public opinion in Southeast Asia is critically important if we are to dry up potential havens and recruiting grounds for terrorists. In Thailand, neither anti-American nor anti-Western sentiment has taken root. At the same time, however, Thai officials have stated that the withdrawal of Thai troops from Iraq was motivated in part by the Iraq war's unpopularity in the Muslim community. Indonesians' views on United States policy in Iraq are harsher still, ranging from indifference to deep suspicion. At best, Iraq is seen as "America's problem;" at worst, people question our motives for being there. These widely held views make the critically important work of engaging our friends and allies in the fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates that much more difficult.

There are also opportunity costs to our narrow focus on Iraq. The war in Iraq has drained precious resources away from what must be a global counterterrorism strategy, one that addresses the dangers of weak states and regions. The war also undercuts critical elements of this strategy. Wide-

spread global skepticism about our policies in Iraq makes it all the more difficult for us to promote human rights and the rule of law while seeking partners against extremism and violence.

The President's misguided, Iraq-centric foreign policy is both symptom and cause of an alarming failure to conduct a comprehensive, global war on the terrorist networks that threaten us. Southeast Asia is but one of the regions that requires more focused attention. We cannot afford to continue treating threats in this and other parts of the world as secondary to an Iraq-focused national security strategy. The time has long since come for the President to set a flexible timeline for withdrawal from Iraq, and to develop a comprehensive, global strategy to fight terrorist networks and the conditions that breed them.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST JOSHUA HILL

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 Fowlerton. Joshua Hill, 24 years old, died on March 12 when a roadside bomb went off as he was clearing a route in eastern Afghanistan with other members of his battalion. With his entire life before him, Joshua risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2002 graduate of Madison-Grant High School in Fairmount, Joshua joined the Army when his wife Alexis was expecting their first child Jalin, who is now 6 years old. The couple also has a 1-year-old daughter, Ariana. On the day Joshua was killed, he was only 30 days away from returning home. Prior to his time in Afghanistan, Joshua had also done a tour in Iraq, and was studying nursing at the Indiana Business College. He had one more semester to complete to earn his degree. His parents recalled to a local newspaper the pride they had for their son and how much they would miss his sense of humor and love of laughter. His mother, Susan Hill, said, "I was proud of him, I didn't want him over there, but I'm very proud he went. I loved him with all my heart, he was a good kid, and I'm lucky to have had him for 24 years."

Joshua was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom. He was a member of the Ashville-based Company A of the 391st Engineering Battalion. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother Susan Kay Hill; his father Terry Kay; his wife Alexis; his son Jalin; and his daughter Ariana.

Today, I join Joshua'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 Joshua, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Joshua was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Joshua will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Joshua's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Joshua's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Joshua Hill in the official record of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Joshua's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Joshua.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, this year we celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. It is with immense pride that I send my congratulations to Peace Corps volunteers as they commemorate this anniversary throughout the year with events across the country and throughout the world.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship. Since then, more than 182,000 Peace Corps volunteers have made significant contributions to the cause of peace and human progress in 138 countries around the world.

Today, we are at a 30-year high in terms of the number of Peace Corps volunteers in the field. In 2005, there were nearly 8,000 volunteers serving 75 countries, in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, North Africa, the Middle East, and the Pacific Islands.

Throughout its illustrious history, the Peace Corps has been committed to

helping the people of interested countries train their men and women to work in education, community development, agriculture, health care, and public works. Peace Corps volunteers are also unofficial ambassadors of goodwill, promoting both a better understanding of America throughout the world, and a better understanding here at home of the world around us.

Today, the Peace Corps' mission is more important than ever. Peace Corps volunteers are a critical part of the global fight against HIV/AIDS. The Peace Corps was also part of America's response to the tsunami, deploying Crisis Corps volunteers to Sri Lanka and Thailand to assist with rebuilding tsunami devastated areas. And when Hurricane Katrina hit here at home, some 272 Crisis Corps volunteers answered the call to assist with relief efforts along the gulf coast in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA.

It is with great pleasure that I join with Peace Corps volunteers, past, present and future, to congratulate the Peace Corps on its 45th anniversary.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a few brief comments on the National Security Agency eavesdropping program.

The truth is that we don't know what is going on under this program. And we have an obligation to find out and a committee set up to do just that.

Senator ROCKEFELLER has been correct from the beginning to call for a full and thorough Intelligence Committee investigation. I couldn't agree more with my colleague from West Virginia and was deeply disappointed his March 7 motion calling for a full committee investigation failed along party lines.

I have been arguing consistently since we found out about this program in December that we need to do here what we did when we originally crafted the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA.

For several years preceding the enactment of FISA in 1978, the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees conducted extensive public and private hearings and staff investigations that built the record for the act.

FISA was a bipartisan product; in the Senate, the original version was sponsored by Senators across the ideological spectrum—including Birch Bayh, TED KENNEDY, Mac Mathias, James Eastland, and Strom Thurmond.

The Senate ultimately adopted the bill on April 20, 1978, by a strong bipartisan vote of 95 to 1. At the time the bill was approved in the Senate, I stated that it "was a reaffirmation of the principle that it is possible to protect national security and at the same time the Bill of Rights." I was also a member of the conference committee that produced the final version of the law that was enacted with broad support in October 1978.

I was proud of what we were able to accomplish then and sincerely hoped that we could undertake the same serious, thoughtful, bipartisan process here. And the first step is to undertake a full Intelligence Committee investigation, just as my colleague Vice Chairman ROCKEFELLER has been pushing for months.

It is essential that such a carefully considered record be developed so we don't act precipitously either to legislate or not to legislate. Issues concerning the core privacy rights of U.S. citizens, whether we are fighting an effective war on terrorism, and the fundamental structure of our separation of powers are directly involved here and deserve a full and thorough examination.

At present, our knowledge of the National Security Agency program is severely limited. We need to know much more, for example: No. 1, the nature and scope of the program or programs; No. 2, the extent of the impact on U.S. citizens; No. 3, why the administration did not seek amendments to FISA; No. 4, why some high Justice Department officials were hesitant to approve the program; No. 5, the actual value of the information gathered; No. 6, how decisions are made on whom to target; and No. 7, any procedures followed to protect civil liberties. Senator ROCKEFELLER understands that we need to know the answers to our questions.

But politics and protecting the President seem to be the order of the day. I am told one of the committee Republicans went so far as to say that some of the committee Democrats "believe the gravest threat we face is not Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, but rather the president of the United States." That is totally uncalled for; it is ridiculous.

I understand a special subcommittee has now been created to conduct at least some oversight over the NSA surveillance program going forward. But this just isn't enough—the whole committee should be undertaking an investigation, and it should be a full and thorough investigation, just as Senator ROCKEFELLER has called for.

It also is a grave mistake to put forward legislation authorizing the NSA program outside of the FISA system and in advance of actually knowing anything about the program, as some of my colleagues are proposing. Talk about putting the cart before the horse.

So I would hope we learn from history and listen to Senator ROCKEFELLER. Let's go back to what worked so well in the past when we all worked together to craft FISA. Let's first hold a full and thorough investigation in the Intelligence Committee.

Then, and only when we know what is going on, should we make a judgment about whether FISA needs to be updated. If additional changes need to be made, this Senator stands ready and willing to engage in that exercise.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of National Agriculture Day and to discuss a couple of important agricultural issues. My home State of Nebraska has a proud agricultural heritage. The rural way of life is something we are proud of and we believe it needs to be preserved.

As we begin to analyze the success and failures of the last farm bill, we need to thoroughly review that information in order to make improvements to the next farm bill. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am looking forward to working on this bill next year. I believe there is a lot of work to be done for the American farmer and our rural communities. I have started to call this next bill the Food and Fuel Security Act of 2007 because I believe its focus should be on securing a safe, healthy food supply as well as investing in the production of biofuels so as to substantially improve our fuel and energy security. I think the focus should be on crafting a bill that is more effective for the majority of farmers and rural communities and with an emphasis on the opportunities presented by biofuels production.

I look forward to listening to the concerns and recommendations of farmers, ranchers and businesses in the coming months as the Senate Agriculture Committee begins consideration of this bill. I also look forward to reviewing the findings and analysis from Secretary Johanns and the USDA as a result of their listening sessions. I will be evaluating all of this and other available information and will look to work with the other members of the committee and the Senate to put forth an effective Food and Fuel Security Act.

One area that will certainly warrant consideration is payment limits on production subsidies and efforts to transition current production subsidies towards a system more focused on "green payments" modeled after programs like the Conservation Security Program, CSP, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, EQIP. We should also look to significantly expand those and similar programs to compensate farmers for the environmental and conservation benefits they provide.

I believe we must also seriously consider improving our rural development efforts in the next bill. There are opportunities to help rural communities by encouraging entrepreneurial investments and helping these communities capitalize on their unique advantages, resources, and qualities.

Our focus on rural development and improving rural communities must also include addressing the problems young farmers face in choosing the farming way of life. As the current generation of farmers approaches retirement, it is imperative that we provide opportunities to those members of the next generation who are interested in