

in the Judicial Conference of the United States, and Judge Boggs also served as chair of the Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar Association from 2001 to 2002.

Judge Boggs entire career has been marked by energy, accomplishment, and scholarly brilliance. His fertile, polymath's mind has unlocked a love of learning in countless others. And his 20 years of distinguished service on the bench of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has inspired us all. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Judge Danny J. Boggs for his 20 years on the bench and for his continued service to the law and his country.

INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, from April 29 to May 1, 2006, approximately 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals competition of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, an educational program developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The We the People Program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education through an act of Congress.

During the 3-day competition, students from all 50 States demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles. The students testified before a panel of judges in a congressional hearing simulation focusing on constitutional topics. I am pleased to announce that Incline High School from Incline Village, NV, received the Western Region Award.

I had the chance to meet these bright young students from Incline High while they were here in Washington, DC. Of the many groups from Nevada that I have met with, I have rarely been asked such intelligent and thoughtful questions. I was impressed with their interest and knowledge of complex constitutional issues. These young students are an example of the future of America, and they should be commended for their hard work.

Mr. President, the names of these outstanding students from Incline High School are as follows: Kent Bergantz, Roxanne Casselberry, Dan Driver, Julie Gregory, Amy Hanna, Andrew Herr, Annie Horton, Alisa Johansson, Taylor Lane, Cara Langsfeld, Stephen McKay, Scott Nikkel, Courtney Pennacchio, Mia Perhacs, Tony Ring, Cara Sheehan, Ryan Spizman, Lara St. John, Christin Thompson, Shea Wickland, Alethia Williams, and Carly Wood.

I would also like to commend the teacher of the class, Milt Hyams, as well as the State coordinator, Marcia Stribling, and the district coordinators, Daniel Wong and Shane Piccinini, who have donated their time and energy to prepare these students for the national finals competition. Without the hard work and dedication of these

individuals, our students would have missed an amazing learning experience.

Mr. President and my colleagues in the Senate, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional experts for their outstanding achievement.

NATO AND IRAN

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to share with our colleagues remarks I have made recently at the Atlantic Council, the Council on Foreign Relations, and other forums regarding a role NATO should consider by joining others seeking to achieve a diplomatic resolution of the potential nuclear weapons threat posed by Iran.

I have long been, and remain to this day, a steadfast supporter of NATO. No alliance, since World War II, has achieved a more successful, steadfast record of achieving peace.

I applaud NATO for embracing the concept of "out of area" missions. In Iraq, despite continuing violence, a new unified government is emerging. Even with the differences of opinion among NATO nations related to Iraq, NATO did step forward to participate in the important mission of training Iraqi security forces.

There is no better example of NATO undertaking important "out of area" missions than the leadership NATO is providing in the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, in Afghanistan.

Recently I was in Afghanistan and saw firsthand how ISAF is expanding its reach to provide security and stability throughout Afghanistan. ISAF forces are accepting risks in the face of a rising number of attacks, while the new Government forges ahead putting down roots of democracy so that Afghanistan can take its place among the free nations of the world.

The principal focus of my remarks today is on how NATO might respond to the greatest threat to regional and global stability that we face today: Iran.

I had the privilege this week to join Senator LUGAR and other Members in a private meeting with Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA. Dr. ElBaradei generously shared his insights on the situation with Iran, and how he continues to try to fulfill the responsibilities of his organization. I greatly respect his views.

I agree that when faced with a fork in the road between negotiation and confrontation, the world has rightly chosen, for the present, the path of negotiation. There is time—but not unlimited—to pursue a peaceful resolution to persuade Iran not to pursue steps leading to the development and acquisition of nuclear weapons.

Underway at this very moment are negotiations—the United States together with France, Great Britain, Germany, and other members of the EU, are doing everything to persuade Iran not to develop nuclear weapons.

The U.N. Security Council and the IAEA are also playing important roles in these diplomatic efforts.

Currently, Iran boasts about its inventory of missiles which can range throughout the Middle East and reach Europe. If Iran defies diplomacy and develops nuclear weapons, the threat will increase exponentially.

Free nations are and must face this reality now. As the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert warned in his address to a joint session of Congress this morning:

A nuclear-armed Iran is an intolerable threat to the peace and security of the world. It cannot be permitted to materialize.

I support the principle of preserving as many options as possible in diplomacy.

One of those options is to engage in bilateral talks between the United States and Iran, and/or between one or more other nations that share our objectives and Iran.

Just this morning, the international press is reporting that the Iranian leadership is making serious overtures to the United States to initiate a bilateral dialogue. Dr. ElBaradei confirmed in our meeting with him that Iran is open to such a dialogue. The United States should keep this option on the table, and consider when it is timely to explore procedures for bilateral talks.

Iran needs to understand that the free nations of the world are serious. Iran can go ahead with its civil nuclear program, under the inspection regime of the IAEA, insofar as it relates to Iran's legitimate energy needs, but we will not, as a consortium of free nations, permit Iran to acquire a nuclear weapons capability.

Another option is deterrence. Let's reflect on the worst case scenario: If diplomacy did not succeed, at some point in time, and there is confirmation that Iran is defiantly going forward with a nuclear weapons program, what is the response of the team of nations conducting the diplomacy?

We should reflect on the lessons of the Cold War, when deterrence succeeded. We should consider erecting a "ring of deterrence" that would surround Iran and deter the use of actual force, as was done so successfully during the Cold War.

Initially, such a plan could be limited to a stand-off naval force operating in international waters, and a stand-off air capability in international airspace.

Has any organization had a better record for planning and effecting a policy of deterrence than NATO?

I call upon the North Atlantic Council of nations to discuss the option of deterrence and hopefully to initiate a study of what is a logical sequence of actions to show support to the path of negotiation.

Such a step forward would give NATO a place at the international table as a partner in the diplomatic efforts being pursued by the IAEA, the

U.N. Security Council, and a consortium of nations who are deeply concerned such as Great Britain, France, Germany and the United States.

Such an initiative would signal the seriousness with which the 26 NATO nations view the concerns of the international community, and would lend important support to the combined diplomatic efforts underway.

I bring to your attention two quotes which, though not directly in context, demonstrate general thinking on why NATO should begin to prepare to address the potential threats from Iran.

In a speech on November 3, 2005, the Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, said:

Either we tackle challenges to our security when and where they are, or they'll end up on our doorstep.

He is absolutely right.

On February 10th of this year, 2006, the Secretary General said at a press conference:

Iran is of course a very, very, relevant subject for NATO. That Iran can be discussed in NATO, yes.

With a sense of fairness, I point out that in his remarks of February 10, 2006, the Secretary General also said the following:

We follow the EU-3 in their negotiations with Iran, together with America, we follow Russia, the IAEA, and we have no intention of playing the first violin, or playing any direct or active role in this dispute.

I say, most respectfully, to the Secretary General: Mr. Secretary, the problem of Iran could be on your doorstep very soon, if it is not already there. The time to join the roundtable of diplomacy is now.

As we in the Congress, and others, continue our work and support of NATO, we have got to prepare for the many challenges in this troubled world. We may not know today what some of those challenges may be, but we must keep NATO strong, viable, and forward thinking.

NATO's most valued asset is the respect, confidence, and, above all, the trust people have for its past record of success and future potential.

We sleep better at night knowing that NATO is standing watch.

I say to all who support NATO, we cannot allow ourselves to lapse into an exercise of nostalgia, basking in the greatness of this organization, greatness achieved by our predecessor trustees and respected leaders of NATO, down through the past half century.

In my most recent consultation with General Jones, I recorded a few notes, which I share with you today. We agreed on the following: "NATO has been and must remain a great alliance. Great alliances do great things. It is possible that NATO's most important days and most important missions lie ahead in the future."

RECOGNIZING THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise in support of this resolution which was

drafted by my esteemed colleague from Maine, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, and thank my other colleagues who have cosponsored this resolution. This resolution was previously introduced in the 107th Congress, passed the Senate, but, unfortunately, time ran out in the House of Representatives to be passed. This resolution reflects the resolution introduced in the 107th Congress and is supported by the emergency managers from the participating States.

Disasters know no boundaries. In January 1998, the worst ice storm in our region's history demolished power lines from Quebec, through upstate New York, across Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, and into the Maritimes. As many as 4 million people were without electricity, some 700,000 for as long as 3 weeks, and damage topped \$6 billion. And in August 2003, a blackout left millions of American and Canadian citizens and businesses again without electrical power. These events, and many of the more than 100 federally declared disasters in the Northeast in this past quarter century, have necessitated State and provincial emergency management organizations to request out-of-jurisdiction mutual assistance to deal with the emergency.

In response to the ice storm, in June 1998, the New England Governors Conference and Eastern Canadian Premiers signed and later adopted, in July 2000, the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact, more commonly referred to as the compact. The compact is an arrangement of necessity in providing mutual assistance amongst jurisdictions for managing any type of emergency, or disaster, whether arising from natural, technological, or man-made causes. The State of Maine, along with New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, has entered into such a compact with the provinces of our good Canadian neighbor of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

This compact arrangement provides the form and structure to the international mutual aid and addresses such issues as liability, payment, et cetera, in advance, before an emergency occurs, allowing for expedited deployment of resources and personnel at the time of the emergency. One crucial lesson learned of Hurricane Katrina is that in the aftermath of such a crisis, emergency responders need to focus on recovery, and not bureaucratic processes and redtape. Having this compact in place enables our emergency responders to focus on their mission of response and to avoid cross-jurisdictional obstacles.

Enhancing an environment of joint communication, coordination and cooperation is crucial for a more secure region and an effective emergency response capability, and an International Emergency Management Group meets regularly to do just this, by implementing the compact and working closely together to develop plans, train

and exercise for disasters and emergencies. This compact concept serves the best interests of our citizens of the United States, and of Canada, our good northern neighbor, as well.

In summary, the best way to handle an emergency is to forward plan and to take as many actions of readiness and preparedness as possible, in advance, and as feasible. Our readiness and preparedness capabilities are indeed most enhanced when an obstacle-free platform is created for our emergency responders. This compact arrangement does just that, particularly addressing international and cross-jurisdictional issues. It is for this reason, I urge my fellow colleagues to, again, support this resolution.

LIBYA AND PAN AM BOMBING

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I would like to address the administration's decision to restore full diplomatic relations with Libya and remove it from the list of state sponsors of terrorism. I agree with the President that Libya has made progress in renouncing and fighting terrorism, but we must not overlook that the families of the victims of the Pan Am bombing continue to wait for the remaining compensation from Libya that was agreed to in 2003. We also must not overlook the victims and their families affected by the La Belle bombing in Germany in 1996, when two American servicemen were killed and many others were severely injured.

I urge the administration to work toward a solution that ensures that the victims' families are fully compensated. At the same time, the Government of Libya should know that as we review this diplomatic proposal over the next several weeks, we will be looking for Libya to continue their forward progress in rejoining the international community. We urge them to make good on their promises to the families who have suffered so much.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE WILLCOX

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a tribute to Lawrence Wilcox, who has served me admirably for the past 3½ years as staff director of the Senate Republican Policy Committee and, before that, as legislative director and tax counsel in my personal office. Lawrence has made the decision to return to the private sector and pursue a career in tax law.

Lawrence joined my personal staff in 2001, where he served me ably, especially in the tax policy arena. When I was elected chairman of the Policy Committee at the end of 2002, I asked Lawrence to become the staff director. Lawrence has come to be a trusted adviser, and I have appreciated his good work. He promptly and dutifully carried out every task that I charged him with, and he led the staff members of the Republican Policy Committee to