

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

achieve a level of excellence that I believe has been of value to Senators and their staff.

During Lawrence's time as staff director, we have produced more than 200 policy papers, and dozens of legislative notices. In each case, our goal was a first-rate product—one that would be thorough, accurate, and reliable—that would serve Senators, their staffers, the press, and the public. I commend him for all of his work and his successes in that regard.

Additionally, Lawrence has served as my agent and adviser on Senate leadership matters. He has attended leadership meetings with me and given me sound counsel. He has also managed and attended the Policy Committee's weekly luncheons.

I should mention that it was Lawrence who instituted the Policy Committee's practice of issuing detailed amendment descriptions in anticipation of every rollcall vote. The reception from this new service has been very positive: It has made the jobs of legislative directors and legislative aides vastly easier in preparing Senators for votes. That is just one example of innovations Lawrence has overseen.

I think it would be fair to suggest that many of my colleagues here today and others in the Senate reading these words in future days would want to join me in thanking him for a job well done. We would not be able to do the work we do were it not for staff members of the caliber of Lawrence Willcox.

Before I close, I note that Lawrence has been in public service for nearly all his working life. In addition to his more than 8 years of experience on Capitol Hill, including 3 years as a staffer in the House of Representatives, he served 5 years active duty as a naval officer, and he has also worked in both the judicial and executive branches, serving in various capacities, including as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and as a trial attorney in the Department of Justice's Tax Division. Lawrence holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a law degree from American University, and a master's degree in tax law, LL.M., from New York University.

Lawrence is a person who is always growing from his experiences, putting his newfound knowledge to work in newer and better ways. So, while I wish him well, I am also confident that he will do well, and I hope to retain his friendship in the years ahead. Thank you, Lawrence.

TRIBUTE TO COAST GUARD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard who came to the rescue of the citizens of the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. On May 12, 2006, in one of the largest awards ceremonies in Coast

Guard history, 95 Coast Guard members received medals for their heroic efforts while rescuing thousands of victims stranded along the central Gulf Coast. The awards ceremony highlighted the Aviation Training Center near the Mobile Regional Airport. The center served as the staging base for more than 50 helicopters conducting rescue operations along the central Gulf Coast and—along with Sector Mobile personnel—is credited with saving more than 4,700 lives in the two weeks after Katrina.

The highest of the four awards presented—the Legion of Merit—went to Capt. David Callahan, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center, and Capt. James Bjostad, commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector Mobile. They received the award for their outstanding leadership in the aftermath of Katrina.

The Distinguished Flying Cross—the second highest award presented at the ceremony—went to 19 local Coast Guard personnel Commander Michael McCraw, Commander Patrick Gorman, Commander James O'Keefe, Lieutenant Commander Brian Hudson, Lieutenant Commander Jacob Brown, Lieutenant Commander William Sasser, Lieutenant Commander Mark Vislay, Lieutenant Commander Scott Langum, Lieutenant Gregory Houghton, Senior Chief Aviation Survival Technician Christopher Walker, Chief Aviation Survival Technician Martin Nelson, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Timothy Fortney, First Class Aviation Survival Technician John Williams, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Jason Shepard, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician Brian Doolittle, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician Joel Sayers, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Mitchell Latta, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician William Lawson and Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Jason Leahr.

The Meritorious Service Medal—the third highest award presented—was pinned on 13 Coast Guard members Captain Edwin Stanton, Commander Barry Compagnoni, Commander Mark Hemann, Commander Jason Fosdick, Commander Bradley Bean, Commander Melvin Bouboulis, Commander Thomas Tardibuono, Commander Ronald Cantin, Lieutenant Commander James Elliot, Chief Warrant Officer Four Thomas Milligan, Chief Warrant Officer Three Kenneth Hardenbrook, Senior Chief Aviation Maintenance Technician Robert Gagliano and Chief Aviation Maintenance Technician Scott Corner.

The Air Medal was awarded to 61 Coast Guard members Lieutenant Commander Christopher Chase, Lieutenant Commander Christopher Conley, Lieutenant Commander Robert DeCoopman, Lieutenant Commander David Edwards, Lieutenant Commander Christian Ferguson, Lieutenant Commander Eric Gleason, Lieutenant Commander Mark Hiigel, Lieutenant Commander Thomas McCormick,

Lieutenant Commander Edward Sandlin, Lieutenant Commander Patrick Shaw, Lieutenant Commander Thomas Swanberg, Lieutenant Thomas Bailey, Lieutenant Karen Cagle, Lieutenant Steven Cerveny, Lieutenant Cornelius Cummings, Lieutenant William Dronen, Lieutenant John Druelle, Lieutenant Thomas English, Lieutenant Todd Fisher, Lieutenant Mark Graboski, Lieutenant Wendy Hart, Lieutenant Brian Hopkins, Lieutenant Joseph Klatt, Lieutenant Richard Nameniuk, Lieutenant Stephen Priebe, Lieutenant Michael Rasch, Lieutenant William Strickland, Lieutenant Keith Trepanier, Lieutenant Charles Webb, Lieutenant Martin Simpson, Lieutenant Dennis Waters, Senior Chief Aviation Maintenance Technician John Burns, Senior Chief Aviation Survival Technician Jeffery Tunks, First Class Avionics Electrical Technician Ronald Jester, First Class Avionics Electrical Technician Jon Schroeder, First Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Anthony Johnson, First Class Aviation Survival Technician James Dix, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Blain Elkins, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Jeffrey Galbraith, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Dustin Skarra, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician Jason Edmiston, Second Class Avionics Electrical Technician Benjamin Berman, Second Class Avionics Electrical Technician Charles Lowmaster, Second Class Avionics Electrical Technician Stephanie Sera, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Robert Bradley, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Stevenjohn Conrad, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Stephen Fruzan, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Gabriel Grise, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Michael Lewis, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Karl Williams, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Daniel Hoffmeier, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician David Villarreal, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician William Johnson, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician James Farmer, Third Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Richard Amelio, Third Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Joshua Nichols, Third Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Mathew Quiggle, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Keric Allen, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Sara Faulkner, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Jeff Lowe, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Jonathan Ptak and Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Aaron Raines.

Mr. President, these awards are a small token of the appreciation and thanks that are owed to the dedication to duty and self sacrifice these helicopter crews, technicians and support personnel displayed. The impact of the brave and tireless efforts of these 95 personnel directly impacted the rescue