

The United States has rightly condemned these actions, and I applaud Ambassador Müssomeli and his staff at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh for raising this troubling issue with senior officials in the Cambodian Government.

I am also encouraged that the international community is responding to Cambodia's recent transgressions. In particular, the World Bank has issued a stark warning that Cambodia's actions are jeopardizing the millions of dollars in international financial assistance that it receives each year.

I call upon Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Cambodian Government to end this troubling series of events. Although the Cambodian Government has released Mr. Kern Sokha, Mr. Yeng Virak, Pa Nguon Teang, and other high-profile political prisoners on bail, the charges have not been dropped and other dissidents remain in custody. The Cambodian Government needs to release all political prisoners and drop the spurious charges being levied against them. These actions point to the obvious conclusion that democracy, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights are no longer priorities or principles of the Cambodian Government.

I also urge the international community to increase pressure on Cambodia to reverse its recent actions and to demonstrate to the world its commitment to freedom and to allowing its citizens to express their political opinions without fear and intimidation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WELCOMING ROBERT MENENDEZ TO THE SENATE

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I join my colleagues in welcoming our newest colleague, Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ of New Jersey.

I also want to welcome Senator MENENDEZ's family, who I know are justifiably proud of his great achievements.

And I want to thank our former colleague, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, for appointing an outstanding successor to finish his term. The people of New Jersey elected a top-notch Governor in Jon Corzine, and they will have another top-notch Senator in the bargain.

With FRANK LAUTENBERG and BOB MENENDEZ in the Senate, the people of New Jersey can be assured that they have two outstanding Senators in their corner, protecting their interests in Washington.

I have known BOB MENENDEZ for more than a decade. We served together for 4 years in the House of Representatives. It was during those years that Congress passed the historic 1993 budget agreement. That agreement—which passed by the thinnest of margins, just one vote in both the House and the Senate, without a single Re-

publican vote—put the Federal budget back on the course of fiscal responsibility after 12 straight years of ever larger deficits. It also made smart, targeted investments in America's greatest resource: our people—to enable more Americans to realize the American dream.

That dream is no slogan to BOB MENENDEZ; it is the story of his life.

Like my mother, Senator MENENDEZ's parents came to America from a nation that had lost its freedom. In my mother's case, it was Lithuania. In his parents' case, the land was Cuba.

Like so many first-generation Americans throughout our history, Senator MENENDEZ inherited from his parents a deep appreciation for American freedom and opportunity, as well as a deep sense of personal responsibility to help preserve and expand those blessings for all Americans.

Senator MENENDEZ entered public service at the age of 19, when he launched a successful petition drive to reform his local school board, and he has been fighting for education and opportunities for working families ever since. He has been a mayor, State legislator, House Member, and now, U.S. Senator.

He has never backed away from a fight—even to the point of wearing a bullet-proof vest when he challenged the political establishment in his hometown of Union City and led a coalition of reformers in cleaning it up.

He is the highest ranking Hispanic in the history of the House, and a proven leader. And I am proud today to call him "my fellow Senator."

Welcome to the U.S. Senate, Senator MENENDEZ. •

MASS EVACUATION EXERCISE ASSISTANCE ACT

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have introduced the Mass Evacuation Exercise Assistance Act, S. 2043. As we witnessed in the wake of recent natural disasters, our cities face special challenges and vulnerabilities when disaster strikes.

Part of disaster preparation at any level of government includes having well prepared and practiced evacuation plans. Otherwise, citizens can easily become trapped without food or water in a devastated area or along an escape route. To help cities prepare for future emergencies and evacuations, this bill will authorize a new 5-year grant program that will endow local governments with the funds to develop comprehensive evacuation plans, stage drills and exercises to perfect evacuation procedures, and stockpile materials to supply evacuation staging areas and evacuation routes. This legislation will serve to supplement existing grant programs rather than compete for already scarce homeland security grant funding.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in this effort that will simply provide cities and States with the proper

planning, preparation, and resources to ensure that their citizens will be evacuated quickly and safely should a natural disaster or terrorist attack occur. Our citizens deserve no less. •

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL BRETT LEE LUNDSTROM

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to CPL Brett Lundstrom and his heroic service to our country. As a member of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force based in North Carolina, Corporal Lundstrom was killed in action near Fallujah on January 7, 2006 while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Brett was born in Vermillion, SD, and he was a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Brett, who was also the proud son of a marine who served his country for 20 years, chose to follow in his father Ed Lundstrom's footsteps. By enlisting in the Marine Corps following the September 11th terrorist attacks, Brett firmly believed he could make a difference.

Doyla Lundstrom, Brett's mother, remembers her son as someone who "loved people, and people loved Brett." Brett's friendly personality was infectious and "he lit up a room when he walked in." A true soldier, Ed recalled that Brett believed in his mission. Without question, he was an exemplary soldier and an example for all those with whom he served.

Brett's goodwill and service touched the lives of many people. Although his life was cut short, he continues to inspire all those who knew him. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude, and the best way to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to our country.

Mr. President, I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my deepest sympathy to the family of CPL Brett Lundstrom. He will be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten. •

PRIVATE JONATHAN R. PFENDER

• 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 Evansville. Jonathan Pfender, 22 years old, died on December 30 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during a patrol in Bayji, Iraq. With his entire life before him, Jonathan risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2001 graduate of North Posey High School, Jonathan decided to leave his job at the Evansville Pizza Hut to pursue a career in the Army. According to his mother, Jonathan was not satisfied with the direction his life was taking and decided to change course by joining the military, an idea he had contemplated since junior high school. Remembered as a likeable, fun-loving and passionate young man who loved serving in the Army, Jonathan was the

pride of his family and headed to Iraq with their full support. His mother recounted to a local newspaper, "[His co-workers] were crazy about him. Everyone was, you couldn't not fall in love with him."

Jonathan was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, KY. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother and stepfather, Peggy Jo and Jeff Hammond; his father and stepmother, Randy and Jackie Pfender; a 26-year-old brother; a 1-year-old half brother; stepsiblings and other relatives.

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

Jonathan was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Jonathan 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 Jonathan'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 Jonathan's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jonathan Pfender in the official record of the United States 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 Jonathan'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 Jonathan.●

THE CONFIRMATION OF GREG VAN TATENHOVE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I am so happy the U.S. Senate confirmed

Greg Van Tatenhove to sit on the Federal judicial bench.

By sending his nomination to the U.S. Senate, President Bush has presented the American people with a top-notch candidate for our Federal bench in the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Greg has great experience and strong qualifications. Although he is not originally from Kentucky, he made a smart decision by making a permanent move to our Commonwealth. Greg also received a great education from both Kentucky's Asbury College and the University of Kentucky College of Law. I am proud to call Greg a fellow Kentuckian.

Greg has worked two stints for members of Kentucky's Federal congressional delegation Senator MCCONNELL and Representative RON LEWIS. Greg also served as a judicial law clerk in U.S. District Court, and he served in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Division as a trial attorney. Over the last 4 years Greg has served admirably as a U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

His time on Capitol Hill, in the Department of Justice, and within our judicial system has given Greg a wealth of knowledge and experience which can only make him a better judge. Clearly, Greg possesses the wisdom, temperament, and character to be a Federal judge. President George W. Bush and the U.S. Senate have done well working together to ensure Greg's nomination and confirmation for service as a Federal judge.

I am proud to support Greg's elevation for this Federal judgeship, and I am thankful to Chairman SPECTER and Ranking Member LEAHY, too, for their leadership on the U.S. Senate's Judiciary Committee to ensure the swift approval of Greg's confirmation. The United States and Kentucky are better off with Greg serving their citizens.●

OREGON'S DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, consistent with my practice of announcing publicly my intent to object to unanimous consent requests, I am asking to have printed in the RECORD a letter to Senator REID dated January 18, 2006. It explains that I will use every legislative and procedural tool at my disposal as a U.S. Senator to block any attempt to affect in any way Oregon's Death With Dignity Act, which the Supreme Court upheld yesterday.

The letter follows.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, January 18, 2006.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Minority Leader,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER REID: I am writing to inform you of my intent to object to any unanimous consent request to consider any measure or matter that might affect end of life care generally and Oregon's Death With Dignity Act in particular.

As you know, the U.S. Supreme Court yesterday upheld Oregon's unique Death with

Dignity Act, and I intend to use every legislative and procedural tool at my disposal as a United States Senator to block any attempt to overturn, invalidate or otherwise affect Oregon's law in any way.

Consistent with my practice of publicly announcing my intent to place a "hold" on a measure or matter, I will ask that this letter be printed in the Congressional Record. If your staff has any questions, please feel free to contact my Legislative and Policy Director, Carole Grunberg, or my Senior Health Policy Advisor, Stephanie Kennan at 224-5244.

Sincerely,

RON WYDEN,
U.S. Senator.●

BILL O'NEILL

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish today to acknowledge the good work of Bill O'Neill, a document checker at the Burlington International Airport in Vermont.

I routinely fly between Burlington and Washington, and it is always a pleasure to see Bill at the ID checking stand. He and I have been friends for decades.

I was pleased to see an article about Bill in the December 27, 2005, Burlington Free Press. I ask that a copy of the article be printed in the RECORD. I know that once they read it, my colleagues will look forward to traveling through the Burlington airport as much as I do.

The article follows.

[From the Burlington Free Press, Dec. 27, 2005]

SECURITY WITH A SMILE, AIRPORT SCREENER
BILL O'NEILL HELPS TAKE STRESS OUT OF
FLYING

(By Emily Guziak)

SOUTH BURLINGTON.—Bill O'Neill's job does not require that he fawn over babies.

Nor does it require that he greet everyone he meets by name with a heartfelt good morning, put their various airline receipts in order, hold cups of coffee, or provide tips on how to switch planes at the next destination.

O'Neill, a document checker for PrimeFlight Aviation Services at Burlington International Airport, is simply required to check departing passengers' identification, boarding passes and number and size of carry-on items.

For frequent travelers, the document checker is often the nameless, faceless, overly efficient person hurrying passengers into inevitable security lines. For bleary-eyed, often-harried early morning travelers in Burlington, O'Neill's station at Gate One is an oasis in the rush of processing passengers through ticket check-in and Transportation Security Administration security clearance.

"He's brilliant; he's great," said business traveler J.P. Tardy, of Charlotte, N.C., queuing up in the security line for United Airline's 7:48 a.m. flight to Chicago on a recent weekday morning. "He absolutely makes this airport."

O'Neill, 72, is the document checker for United Airlines and US Airways passengers, from 4:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. His upbeat, helpful manner never wavers, those working around him say.

"He's very people-oriented; people like him," said Mark Salisbury, supervisor, transportation security officer, for TSA at Burlington International Airport. Salisbury supervises the security checkpoint near