

I am also extremely pleased that several amendments I offered were passed by the Senate.

My Chemical Weapons Convention amendment sends an extremely strong message to the Department of Defense that the Senate will no longer stand for schedule or funding delays regarding the destruction of chemical weapons. Pueblo Chemical Depot needs to be rid of its chemical weapons stockpiles. The Department of Defense needs to commit the resources to ensure it happens as quickly as possible. With my amendment, the entire Senate spoke with one voice in agreement.

Another amendment I offered and had included in the Senate bill will change the name of the death gratuity to fallen hero compensation. I have stated this before, but I believe the term "death gratuity" to be a poor description of the compensation this Nation provides to the families of fallen servicemembers. To my way of thinking, anyone who has worn the uniform of the Armed Forces is an American hero, and this small name change will be extremely meaningful to the bereaved families of those servicemembers who die while on active duty.

I am also pleased that Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN have worked with me to accept an amendment that requires the Secretary of the Army to complete a study on the High Altitude Aviation Training Site, HAATS, in Eagle County, CO. HAATS is operated by the Colorado National Guard, and I could not be prouder of the school and its mission. Helicopter pilots trained at HAATS are safer in mountainous and environmentally challenging terrain. This study I have proposed will strengthen the school and will help raise its level of visibility in the Army.

I also cosponsored a number of important amendments that have been included in the Senate's bill. One amendment will ensure the Pentagon provides the citizens of southeastern Colorado with the information they have been asking for regarding the Pinon Canyon Maneuvering Site. Another helps provide contractors at Pueblo Chemical Depot with incentives to finish by the deadline. On a national level, I was proud to cosponsor a fiscally responsible amendment authored by Senator MCCAIN that requires future money for ongoing military operations to be properly budgeted and paid for, instead of continuing to use emergency funding in a way that avoids oversight. And I was pleased to cosponsor a successful amendment to strengthen the mandate of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

During consideration of this bill, the Senate engaged in many hours of debate regarding the course of U.S. policy in Iraq. I was proud to be a cosponsor of the Levin-Reed amendment that built upon last year's Senate consensus that 2006 should be a year of transition in Iraq. While this amendment was not

successful, I believe that the debate was important, and that Congress must continue to search for constructive and responsible ways to help ensure success in Iraq by insisting on more direction and clarity in U.S. policy. Our brave men and women in uniform are doing such a remarkable job in Iraq. We need to work hard here in Washington to ensure that our policy is worthy of their efforts.

Our troops need every opportunity for success. This funding bill, and the amendments and projects it contains, send a powerful message to our troops and the enemies they bravely face: this country supports our men and women in uniform. Our brave service men and women are the best in the world, and this bill will ensure they have the training, supplies, and materials they need to continue to produce such positive results.

U.S. POLICY IN IRAQ

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the policy in Iraq is not working and must change. The current plan does not have incentives that encourage the Iraqis to take full responsibility for their own security or to make the difficult compromises necessary for a unity government to work.

We have been in Iraq fighting this war for more than 3 years. The United States has sent hundreds of thousands of our finest troops to liberate Iraq from a brutal dictator. More than 2,500 have died for Iraq's freedom and close to 20,000 have been wounded, many very seriously. America has also spent more than \$300 billion fighting the war in Iraq.

Those sacrifices continue. We have about 130,000 troops in Iraq today and, regrettably, we will have more deaths and injuries before this war is over. We will also continue to spend tens, if not hundreds, of billions of dollars more in fighting this war.

I believe that we need a change and we need a change now. That change is the Levin-Reed amendment currently before us.

This amendment says that we will begin a phased redeployment of our troops by the end of 2006.

This will force the Iraqis to take responsibility for their own security and to do so soon. They will have to replace our redeployed troops with Iraqi troops. This will create incentives to build their own police and military because some time soon they will not be able to count on Americans doing those jobs. This will also encourage them to put aside their political differences and agree on a government that works.

This action will not come as a surprise to the Iraqis or anyone else. Last year, by a vote of 79 to 19, the United States Senate said 2006 "should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty, with Iraqi security forces taking the lead for the security of a free and sovereign Iraq, thereby creating the conditions for the phased

redeployment of United States forces from Iraq." What we are now saying is it's time for the phased redeployment to happen.

The Levin-Reed amendment that I voted for says that "the current open ended commitment of United States forces in Iraq is unsustainable and is a deterrent to the Iraqis making the political compromises and personnel and resource commitments that are needed for the stability and security of Iraq."

Reducing the U.S. role in Iraq also reduces the arguments made by the insurgents and terrorists that they are fighting an occupying army. When Iraqis are in charge of security, they will be forced to decide if they are going to continue to fight their own government and their own military or work together to rebuild their own country.

We are not pulling out or abandoning the Iraqi people. We are moving to a support role while the Iraqis take the lead. That is what phased redeployment means.

It is time for the Iraqis to work together and build their future. We cannot do that for them. This amendment sets in place a plan to provide the conditions for them to do it themselves. We have done our part. They must do their part and they must do it soon.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today marks the 34th anniversary of title IX. Since 1972, title IX has opened doors to athletics, education and success for millions of young women across our Nation. For 34 years, the program has increased participation under Republican and Democratic administrations, because title IX is not about politics it is about helping young women realize their dreams.

The statistics are amazing—millions of young women breaking down barriers. But behind these numbers, the lives of these women have been improved because of the changes brought about through title IX.

I have seen how title IX has changed the experience of women in my own family. When I went to school 30 years ago, the atmosphere was much different. Back then at Washington State University, I could only participate in a few sports, and women receiving athletic scholarships was unheard of.

The difference between my daughter's generation and my own could not be more stark. Women of my generation never had the chance to go to college on a sports scholarship, even though many deserved them. Some of my daughter's friends have done just that.

I am so proud of my home State of Washington, which is the first State in the Nation to boast two women Senators and a woman Governor. It is also home to WNBA champions the Seattle Storm.

There is no doubt that title IX has opened doors for women over the past

34 years. The challenge for all of us today is to make sure that those doors of opportunity stay open for our granddaughters and great-granddaughters.

As we celebrate the anniversary of this important law, I urge President Bush and Secretary of Education Spellings to protect existing title IX policies and give every young girl in America the chance to experience the roar of a crowd—and not just cheer from the sidelines.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

U.S. ARMY LT SHAW VAUGHN

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment of the Senate's time to remember a Coloradan who was lost to us last week in defense of this Nation.

Shaw Vaughan was a loving and supportive son and older brother, an avid hunter and fly fisherman. One of his most prized possessions was his 1969 Jeepster Commando, an off-roading vehicle he had personally rebuilt, affectionately named Hercules. Hercules sits quiet today, its red finish gleaming undimmed in the mountain sun.

U.S. Army LT John Shaw Vaughan, of Edwards, in Eagle County in my State of Colorado, was killed on June 7 in Mosul, Iraq. Lieutenant Vaughan was a young man with his entire life before him: He was a mere 23 years old, and had been in Iraq only a month.

As a middle school student, Shaw Vaughan caught the eye of our military leaders for his regional science fair project: comparing the accuracy of store-bought ammunition with that assembled by him. He graduated Battle Mountain High School in 2001 and attended the prestigious Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. Upon graduation, Lieutenant Vaughan was 1 of only 70 cadets, out of 5,000, to receive a much-sought-after assignment in military intelligence in the infantry. It was a high honor, reflecting his intellect, work ethic, and commitment to our Nation.

Lieutenant Vaughan was stationed in Alaska, a part of our country he had visited with his family years earlier. I guess you could say that Alaska had "hooked" the fisherman in Lieutenant Vaughan, and he was looking forward to his service there after he completed his time in Iraq.

Lieutenant Vaughan was eager to get to Iraq, to serve with his unit. In his emails and phone calls back home, Lieutenant Vaughan spoke of how strongly he felt about America's mission in Iraq. He told stories of Iraqi families leading him into their homes, telling him horror stories of their families' sufferings under the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein.

As one newspaper in my home State observed, it seems that every story about Shaw Vaughan was different, and yet, the same: "one of a great guy and a courageous man lost too soon."

In Act III of William Shakespeare's classic Henry V, King Henry says with

pride, "As I am a soldier, A name that in my thoughts becomes me best."

I will think of this today as I bow my head in prayer for the loss of Lieutenant Vaughan, a life of such great promise that was snuffed out too soon. LT Shaw Vaughn took pride in his life as a soldier, and it is truly a name that, in all of our thoughts, becomes him best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILLER, SD

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of Miller, SD. Miller is the county seat of Hand County, and a center of commerce and civic-mindedness. I am proud to recognize Miller on this historic occasion.

The site for the town was selected by Henry Miller in 1881 as he came north from Benton County, IA. An immigrant train was secured from Chicago that brought 22 men to the site. The men drew lots for claims and formed the town plat on a 40-acre area. Shortly a grocery store, hardware store, hotel, and lumber yard were established. A metropolitan hall was also built in order to hold public meetings, dances, and other social events.

Miller is still a thriving community, with two high schools, a public library, Hand County Memorial Hospital, the Miller Press weekly newspaper, many civic organizations, numerous churches, and a variety of stores.

The people of Miller will be celebrating the quasquicentennial June 30 through July 4. Some of the scheduled events include a stage performance of "\$400, 40 Acres and Fortitude: The Making of Miller," school reunions, softball, a parade, fireworks, and community potluck. These activities will serve to bring this close-knit community even closer together.

I am proud to publicly honor the progressive and innovative community of Miller on this important milestone. Even 125 years after its founding, Miller continues to be a vibrant addition to our wonderful State, and I once again congratulate them on this achievement.●

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF BALTIC, SD

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the city of Baltic, SD.

Baltic was founded in 1881 by Richard Franklin and Justin Pettigrew. Baltic, originally named St. Olaf, came into being when the Milwaukee Railroad laid down track between Dell Rapids and Sioux Falls. A weigh station was established on the current site of Baltic. This development was quickly followed by the construction of the power dam and the St. Olaf Roller Mill, the latter being the work of the town's

founders, Franklin and Pettigrew. The flour mill was located on the Big Sioux River and used water as its main source of power, producing 120 barrels of flour each day. In 1884, a bridge was built between Sverdrup and Dell Rapids townships over the Big Sioux River. In 1890, the first school house was built and the first church, Baltic Lutheran, was constructed in 1903. In 1907 three lamp posts were purchased in order to light the city streets. Baltic had several population booms, one in early 1900 and another in the 1970s.

Baltic's placement on the Big Sioux River has brought people to the community and increased the town's commercial importance. Today, Baltic is a progressive community of about 900 citizens. They have many thriving businesses including a post office, coop, seed company, bank, and the Baltic Beacon newspaper. Baltic is also home to the Baltic High School Bulldogs.

Baltic will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on July 1 through July 4 with a number of events, including a community block party.

Even 125 years after its founding, Baltic still exemplifies what it means to be a great South Dakota community. I am proud to publicly honor Baltic on this memorable occasion, and congratulate the people of Baltic on their achievements.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:16 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4890. An act to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for the expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions of budget authority.

H.R. 5638. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000 and to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 409) commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 5638. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000 and to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted: