

This past week, we were reminded yet again of the need to improve the operations of the Terrorist Screening Center, which failed to make watch list records of suspected known terrorists available to front-line screening agents but continues to list the names of innocent Americans in its watch list database. I won't go through all of the stories that come out of some of these things: a year-old child having to get a passport to fly and prove they are not a 45-year-old terror suspect or one of the most senior Members of the Senate being blocked 10 times from taking a flight he has been taking for 30 or 40 years because he is on a terrorist watch list. Somehow, they got the names mixed up. We saw a recent Government Accountability Office report on the Department of Homeland Security with its failing grades, having failed to achieve half its performance expectations since 2003. If you or I in college were to get a 50 or less on all our exams, we would be out on our ear in a moment. This is what we have seen from the Department of Homeland Security. We heard from an independent commission and former military leaders who indicated the Iraqi police force is so riddled with corruption and sectarianism that they should be disbanded, and after 4 years and hundreds of millions of American taxpayer dollars, we should start over from scratch. We can't even find half the weapons we have given them until they turn up in terrorist hands. But we send these hundreds of millions of dollars to the Iraqi police force and we tell the police in America: We have to cut out the COPS Program. We don't have money for our American police. We can't afford to improve our American police because we have to send hundreds of millions of dollars to the Iraqi police. If I have to call a police officer, I am going to call an American police officer. I would like to know that some of that money was spent on them.

This past week also provided a reminder of the need to refocus our efforts on bin Laden. Six years after 9/11, he has not been brought to justice but continues to taunt us. He should never have been allowed to escape when our forces had him cornered in Tora Bora. One of the greatest mistakes of this administration—not counting the great mistakes made before 9/11—was withdrawing our special forces and not providing the support needed. That was another mistake driven by ideology. Think how much better it would be today had they actually succeeded in the one thing the whole Congress agreed on—to go and get bin Laden. They failed. The bipartisan leaders of the 9/11 Commission are right that the occupation of Iraq has provided a recruiting bonanza for al-Qaida and a costly distraction. Iraq, a country that didn't have al-Qaida, is now a recruiting bonanza for them. We need to be smarter and more focused in countering terrorism.

How many costly mistakes are the American people going to be asked to

bear? I hope all Senators, Republicans and Democrats, will join together in the days ahead as we did 6 years ago, when so many of us stood on this floor and joined hands to do the things that needed to be done. The American people deserve a government that works and that works for them. American freedom and values need to be defended and reinforced, not mortgaged to fleeting and ill-considered promises of security.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER SENATOR DANIEL BREWSTER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the State of Maryland and the United States lost a brave and committed public servant last month. Former Senator Daniel Brewster, who served in this esteemed Chamber during the 1960s, died of cancer on August 19.

Few Americans have the political ancestry of Senator Brewster, who was a direct descendant of Ben Franklin and the former Attorney General for President Chester Arthur. Public service came naturally to this man, whose life and work showed his commitment to our country. He first gave to this country through his military service as a decorated war hero, wounded seven times during his service in Guam and Okinawa. Then he served as an elected official for 18 years. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates starting in 1950, was elected to the House of Representatives in 1958 and then to the Senate in 1962.

Senator Brewster first came to politics as an advocate for civil rights. In his own Baltimore neighborhood, neighbors complained when he invited African-American servicemen from World War II to his home. This was an outrage to him. He would never slight a person, particularly soldiers who had courageously served to defend the American flag. Senator Brewster went on to cosponsor the Civil Rights Act of 1964, forever changing the course of history in this country.

Senate Brewster represented much of what is great about public service: a desire and commitment to make this country better and stronger for every American, black and white, rich and poor, farmer and businessman.

Senator Brewster had some very trying times in his life: First, at the age of 10 when his father died; then when he was beset with personal struggles in the very public forum of public life. The lesson he left for all of us is one can rise above adversity, even in the face of trying times, and continue to serve the people of this great Nation. He did that and left this country and this Congress with a lasting legacy of accomplishments.

He left another legacy quite apparent today, introducing some of our country's strongest leaders to the world of politics. House Speaker NANCY PELOSI and House Majority Leader STENY HOYER both started their political careers working for Senator Brewster.

I am personally indebted to Senator Brewster for the wisdom and advice he shared with me as a newly elected Senator. This past spring, he, along with former Senators Joe Tydings and Charles Mathias, Jr., met with me to share their insights. For this, I am forever grateful.

Senator Brewster and his wife Judy Lynn had five children: Gerry, who served in the Maryland legislature, Daniel, Jr., Dana, Danielle, and Jennilie. On behalf of the citizens of Maryland and this body, I wish to extend our sincere condolences to Senator Brewster's family. He will be missed by all.

CONGRATULATING DR. BILLINGTON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, an important anniversary will be marked on September 14, at the Library of Congress. Twenty years ago, in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building, then-President Reagan presided over the swearing-in of Dr. James H. Billington as the 13th Librarian of Congress.

When he was appointed, Dr. Billington brought great expertise to the Library, both as the world's premier scholar of Russian culture and history and as director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. His vision, and the hard work of so many dedicated Library staff members, has led to continued growth of the Library of Congress. He has fulfilled the promise made on September 14, 1987—to make the riches of the Library more broadly available to ever widening circles of our society.

At the time, Senator Wendell Ford remarked that the Library of Congress "represents our nation's commitment to a knowledgeable citizenry." Dr. Billington has upheld that commitment by enhancing the Library and making its riches and inspiration available to all Americans. Under his leadership, the Copyright Office, the Law Library, the Congressional Research Service, and the National Library have seamlessly worked together to build the collections and preserve them for future generations.

The Library's accomplishments of the last two decades are extraordinary. The collections have expanded by 50 million items, and state-of-the art facilities have been built to ensure their long-term preservation. The establishment of the Kluge Center for Scholars and the Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Human Sciences have enriched not only the scholarly life of Washington but also have enabled Members of Congress to meet thought leaders and benefit from their perspectives. Also, the Library was a pioneer in online collections and services, launching American Memory, THOMAS, the World Digital Library and resources for teachers, students and families across the Nation and world.

The Library's pioneering work in education has had a great impact in my home State of Illinois. The Library's educational mission, shaped by Dr. Billington's vision, is that young people benefit from learning with primary sources such as Lincoln's magnificent Gettysburg Address, seeing the Founding Father's notes and revisions to the Bill of Rights, and exploring maps and sound recordings to understand history and culture firsthand. As the Library developed and focused its massive resources in ways that teachers could explore and use for their classrooms, Dr. Billington recognized the profound impact of incorporating primary sources into teacher education. Many of us in Congress recognized the potential around this idea and helped create and fund the Adventures of the American Mind, which is now poised to become a national program—Teaching with Primary Sources. The 10 universities in Illinois that have benefited from working with the Library have transformed their teacher education programs. I have seen firsthand the programs and curricula that have been created using the amazing resources from Congress's Library to improve teaching in our Nation's schools.

Dr. Billington's energy is unflagging. He has led efforts to launch the World Digital Library, the reinstallation of Thomas Jefferson's Library in the Jefferson Building, and the Library's celebration of the Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009 and beyond. In short, I have valued and look forward to continuing leadership from Dr. Billington. He and his colleagues at the Library of Congress are a tremendous resource to our work as a legislature.

The Library of Congress has benefited immeasurably from the first 20 years of Jim Billington's leadership. We are grateful to him and congratulate him, his wife Marjorie, and his family on this milestone of service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING TOSTAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, during my time in the Senate, I have been a vocal advocate of programs that help the nations of Africa improve the living conditions of their citizens. Much of this work is done through dedicated nongovernmental organizations that work year after year on issues of health, literacy, women's empowerment, democracy, human rights, and microfinance lending. Today I wish to recognize one such group, Tostan, which recently won the 2007 Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Prize for its extraordinary contributions to help alleviate human suffering in Africa.

Tostan means "breakthrough" in the Wolof language of Senegal. The efforts of Tostan have truly been a breakthrough in the West African countries in which it works. Tostan was founded by a University of Illinois alumna, Molly Melching. When Molly arrived in

Senegal in the 1970s, she began teaching literacy through traditional African stories, songs, and theater. Later, in 1991, she founded Tostan, which began offering a community empowerment program that helped Africans address problems they found in their daily lives, while teaching reading, math, health, hygiene, problem solving, and management skills. In 1996, human rights and democracy components were added, with particular attention toward ending domestic violence and the exploitation of children, empowering women, and expanding health and education for all.

The Hilton award recognizes Tostan for its ability to empower African communities, focusing on change from within and from the ground up. Its program has helped reduce infant and maternal mortality, improve community health care and nutrition, reduce female genital cutting, and lower rates of domestic violence in the nine countries where it works. Thousands of women and children have learned to read and perform basic math and have used these skills to start local cooperatives, build stoves, and improve health care. It is not surprising, therefore, that Tostan has been recognized by others for its outstanding work, including by UNESCO, which called it "one of the most innovative educational programs."

Tostan's work deserves to be applauded and should receive our continued support. As one of the world's richest countries, we have a responsibility to help lift up the large numbers of people in our country and around the world who are still living in poverty. Again, I congratulate Tostan for its important work.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last Thursday, September 6, after less than 12 hours of debate, the Senate passed by a vote of 81 to 12 the fiscal year 2008 State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill. I think it was the shortest amount of time we have taken to debate and pass this bill. I also think that on the whole we can be satisfied with the outcome. It is a bipartisan bill, and while neither I nor Senator GREGG, the ranking member of the subcommittee who played an indispensable role in getting it done, supports every provision in the bill, that is the nature of the process.

I also know there are things in this bill the administration supports and things they don't like. I would remind them that our allocation was \$700 million below the President's budget, and the President underfunded a number of programs that have strong bipartisan support—the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria, to give one example. I would hope the White House would recognize that we tried hard to fund not only the President's priorities but also the requests of Senators of

both parties. This is, as sometimes the White House needs to be reminded, a government of equal branches.

Senate conferees were named immediately after final passage, and I look forward to sitting down with the House to finish this bill so we can send it to the President for signature as soon as possible.

Mr. President, the last vote on the State, Foreign Operations bill did not occur until late at night, and Senators were anxious to go home. I want to take this opportunity to again thank Senator GREGG and his staff, Paul Grove, minority clerk for the subcommittee, whose good humor and penchant for thoroughness and bipartisanship have served the committee extremely well. I also want to thank Michele Wymer, who joined the subcommittee's minority staff this year. Michele has been a pleasure to work with. She did a superb job last week on the floor keeping track of the flurry of amendments.

On the majority side, I want to thank Kate Eltrich, who for the past 5 years has handled the State Department Operations appropriations. Kate's budgetary skills, dating from her time at OMB during the Clinton administration, are a great asset to the subcommittee. She has done an excellent job and is someone whose judgment I have great confidence in. Nikole Manatt joined the subcommittee staff earlier this year, and she has already distinguished herself as energetic, willing and capable of taking on any project, and is a pleasure to work with. J.P. Dowd, my legislative director, spent most of last Thursday on the Senate floor helping out in more ways than I can count. I want to thank Tim Rieser, the majority clerk, who has worked for the Senate for 22 years, either as a staff member in my office or, since 1989, for the Appropriations Committee. Tim was my lead staff member on this bill. Tim and Paul Grove have worked together to draft these bills year after year, and to deal with the amendments on the floor. Last Thursday, we disposed of 73 amendments. That is no small feat, and the staff deserves our thanks for the long hours and hard work that made it possible.

Among the other Appropriations Committee staff whose contributions to this process were indispensable are Richard Larson and his outstanding staff in Editorial and Printing, and chief clerk Bob Putnam and Jack Conway, who make sure our numbers add up as they are supposed to.

The funds in this bill support life-saving programs for the poorest people in Africa. They help protect the economic and security interests of this country and our allies from South America to South Asia. In a world as complex and dangerous as this, we should be doing far more to exert U.S. leadership, particularly in countries and regions plagued by poverty, injustice, and conflict or where the United States is regarded unfavorably or misunderstood. We have done our best