

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 first hand 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 lifesaving 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

with what we have to spend, and if used wisely, the funds in this bill will advance U.S. interests and improve the lives of countless people less fortunate than we are.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DANE BALCON

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to reflect on the life and service of a fallen Coloradan: PFC Dane Balcon of Colorado Springs.

Private Balcon graduated from Sand Creek High School in 2006, joined the Army, and was deployed to Iraq in July with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, TX. Private Balcon was killed last Wednesday alongside CPL William T. Warford, III, of Temple, TX, when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle. Dane Balcon was 19 years old.

Private Balcon was looking forward to a long career in the military. Since he was 3 years old he dreamed of being a soldier, of following the path of service that his father, John Balcon, and his mother, Carla Sizer, chose. Dane was eager for the opportunity to serve in Iraq, and was dismayed when his unit's deployment was delayed. He knew that the longer he was at Fort Hood, the longer another soldier would have to stay in theater. "Every day I stay at Fort Hood," he told his mother, "someone is away from their family." He wanted to get into the fight and lift his weight, so that the weight on others might be lifted.

Dane's loss has left a hole for his community, his friends, and his family that no words can ever fill. At Sand Creek High School, Dane's friends remember a young man dedicated to his future in the military. He joined the ROTC program, was in the drum line, and had a voracious appetite for learning the soldier's craft.

His charm won him widespread admiration and friendship. His habit of playing his drumsticks alongside an imaginary chorus during the school day exasperated his teachers, but his jokes would gain their smiles, and his heart would earn their respect. When he deployed in July, their thoughts and prayers, like those of his classmates, friends, and family, were with him.

The values that led Private Balcon to enlist and to serve on the battlefields of Iraq are the values that have guided American soldiers for more than two centuries. "Duty, honor, country," GEN Douglas MacArthur told young soldiers at West Point in 1962. "These are the words that dictate what a soldier wants to be, can be, and will be. . . . They teach you to be proud and unbending in honest failure, but humble and gentle in success; not to substitute words for action; not to seek the path of comfort, but to face the stress and spur of difficulty and challenge; to learn to stand up in the storm, but to have compassion on those who fall; to master yourself before you seek to master others; to have a heart that is clean, a goal that is high; to learn to laugh, yet never for-

get how to weep; to reach into the future, yet never neglect the past; to be serious, yet never take yourself too seriously; to be modest so that you will remember the simplicity of true greatness; the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength."

PVT Dane Balcon, who dreamt of serving his country and of devoting his life to its protection, embodied this creed. He donned the soldier's uniform at the first opportunity, he showed his bravery on the battlefield, and he perished in service.

Duty, honor, country, GEN MacArthur's "hallowed words" characterize Private Balcon's sacrifice. They are the values of America's great soldiers, the giants to whom we owe our freedom. There is a debt we cannot repay.

To Carla and John, I cannot imagine the sorrow that you are feeling with the loss of your son. I hope that in time your grief will be salved by your pride in your son's extraordinary dedication to service. Dane served the Nation with honor and dignity. His sacrifice will never be forgotten.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SCOTT OSWELL

Mr. President, I rise today to reflect on the life, service, and sacrifice of CWO Scott Oswald, who died on July 4 when his helicopter went down in Mosul, Iraq. Chief Oswald was on his second tour of duty in Iraq, piloting OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopters with the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry out of Fort Lewis. He was 33.

Scott grew up the son of an Army officer and was a stoic servant of the greater good. He joined the Marines soon after graduating from Air Academy High School in Colorado Springs, CO. He later transferred to the Army, where he became a helicopter pilot and, in 2006, earned his instructor rating.

At his funeral at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, friends and family spoke of Scott's devotion to his family and to his service. He was "family man" to his wife, Cheri, and to his three children, Caitlyn, Amanda, and Ian. He was a patient "big brother" to the pilots he taught. And he was a brave soldier to those with whom he served in Iraq, willing to risk his life to defeat an enemy or to lift others to safety.

For his service to his country and his unit, and for his death on Independence Day on a mission to save another, Chief Oswald will always be remembered as a patriot. But he is also a patriot in a larger sense. Frances Wright, one of America's most famous lecturers, reminds us that patriotism is a virtue that characterizes an individual's dedication to the public good, to the preference of the interests of the many to the interests of the few, and to the love of liberty. "A patriot," she told an Indiana crowd on July 4, 1828, "is a useful member of society, capable of enlarging all minds and bettering all hearts with which he comes in contact; a useful member of the human family, capable of establishing fundamental principles and of merging his own in-

terests, those of his associates, and those of his Nation in the interests of the human race."

Chief Oswald wore his patriotism with humility. He did the job, and he did it well amid the perils of war. At Scott's memorial service, a fellow soldier recalled how they flew out to examine a suspicious flicker of light along a supply route to Baghdad. Finding an insurgent with a rocket-propelled grenade in hand, Chief Oswald hovered within the enemy's range, committed to preventing an escape. "This guy is not going to get away," he said.

Even with the best training and preparation, keeping calm and composed in difficult circumstances demands something more from an individual. Chief Oswald had what it takes. His friends recall that on missions he would often sing popular children's songs. He was steady and stoic.

CWO Scott Oswald sacrificed his life for this Nation as a patriot, in service to something larger than himself. He accepted the great risks of being a pilot with a smile and used his talents and temperament to teach others what he had learned. His extraordinary courage is a lesson to us all, a debt we cannot repay, a loss we cannot replace. He was a father, a teacher, a pilot, and a patriot. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

To Chief Oswald's wife Cheri, to his children, Caitlyn, Amanda, and Ian, and to his parents, Barry and Nancy, I know that even now, no words can fill the hole left by Scott's death. I pray that you can find comfort in knowing that he was always, and will remain always, a true patriot. He will endure in our hearts and prayers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CELEBRATING EL GRITO DE DOLORES

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, next week, Idahoans of Hispanic and Latino heritage will be joining others in the United States and Mexico to celebrate the beginning of the decade-long battle to liberate Mexico from Spain almost 200 years ago. They gather to celebrate "El Grito de Dolores," or "The Cry from Dolores," issued by Father Miguel Gregorio Antonio Ignacio Hidalgo y Costilla Gallaga Mondarte Villaseñor, better known as Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, Mexican priest and revolutionary leader. Cura Hidalgo, although ethnically a criollo, or Mexican of Spanish or European descent, became sympathetic at a young age to the terrible plight of the Indians and mestizos—those of mixed ancestry—who had been subjugated by the Spanish for 300 years in Mexico. Hidalgo was an intellectual, well-versed in a number of languages and well-read. Some historians tell that his classmates called him "el zorro," or "the Fox." He was