

the mission that will send them to Iraq, they leave behind spouses, children, and other family members. We know that piano recitals and football games will be missed this fall. There will be an empty chair at too many holiday meals.

The 819th is an Active Associate unit, meaning that it is compromised of both Active-Duty airmen and Air National Guardsmen. For the citizen soldiers of our Air Guard, these deployments can be especially difficult, and I hope all Montanans will keep these airmen and their families in their thoughts and prayers.

And when they return home, we have a moral responsibility to care for the folks who have worn the uniform of our country. Whether they return to Active Duty or reenter civilian life, the Federal Government must support them. Congress has taken numerous steps this year to provide more resources for the VA and to improve the quality of life for our troops. I hope we will continue to make progress in these areas so that when the 819th comes home we are able to welcome these airmen back home with our deeds and not just our words.

COST ESTIMATE OF S. 966

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on June 27, 2007, the Committee on Foreign Relations ordered reported S. 966, the Passport Backlog Reduction Act of 2007. On July 30, the President signed the bill into law, Public Law 110-50.

At the time the committee filed its report, the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, was not available. It was recently provided to the committee by CBO. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the CBO estimate be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

PUBLIC LAW 110-50—PASSPORT BACKLOG REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

Public Law 110-50 (formerly S. 966) grants the Department of State additional flexibility in rehiring Foreign Service annuitants on a temporary basis to reduce backlogs in visa and passport processing. The new authority will expire in 2008 for visa backlogs and in 2009 for passport backlogs. CBO estimates Public Law 110-50 will cost \$2 million in 2008 and \$3 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. The law does not affect direct spending or receipts.

Under previous law, Foreign Service retirees could work for the department for up to six months, provided they didn't reach a certain salary cap. According to information provided by the department, about half the retirees hit the salary cap before six months (at four months, on average). The department is already in the process of hiring 55 retirees and plans to hire an additional 250 retirees to work on visa and passport backlogs. By providing a waiver for the salary cap, Public Law 110-50 allows the department to retain some of those retirees for an addi-

tional two months. Under this law, CBO estimates that about 150 retirees will work an additional two months in 2008 at a cost of \$2 million, and about 65 retirees will work an additional two months in 2009 at a cost of \$1 million.

Public Law 110-50 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT KEVIN GILBERTSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow, on this day of the 6th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks, that I speak in honor of a fallen American hero. Army Sgt. Kevin Gilbertson died August 31st at the Landstuhl Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany, after losing a 2-day battle with injuries suffered after insurgents attacked his unit in Ramadi, Iraq. His courage and patriotism will be remembered. My thoughts and prayers go out to his friends and family, especially his parents, Keeley Peters and Don Gilbertson, as well as his wife, Nina, and sons, Timothy and Nickolas.

Sergeant Gilbertson was an independent, complex, and highly involved individual. He loved his family, he loved his country, and he loved being a U.S. Army soldier. Kevin Gilbertson's service to this country is greatly appreciated, and he will be sorely missed.

Kevin was a native of Cedar Rapids, IA. His father, Don Gilbertson, remembers him as "the greatest kid in the world" who "joined the Army right out of high school to get a college education when he got out . . . His dream was getting a degree and supporting his family." Kevin Gilbertson will always be remembered as someone who gave everything he had for his country and who thought more about others than himself. For that we are eternally grateful.

DEATH OF SENATOR DANIEL BREWSTER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life and legacy of Senator Daniel Baugh Brewster. I was a great admirer of Senator Brewster, and I hold the Brewster seat in the U.S. Senate.

Senator Brewster was a true patriot. He was a hero at the age of 19 when he volunteered for the Marine Corps and was sent to the front lines of the war in the Pacific. There he served bravely—leading the 1944 assault on Guam and the 1945 assault on Okinawa. He bore the wounds of war like so many of our heroic veterans. He was wounded seven times and had a permanent scar on his forehead from a bullet that lifted his helmet and grazed his scalp while battling for Sugar Loaf Hill on Okinawa.

For his bravery, he was awarded a Purple Heart, two Gold Stars, and two Bronze Stars.

As with many World War II veterans, Senator Brewster came back a changed man. He was disappointed when some of his neighbors in Green Spring Valley voiced outrage at him for inviting African-American friends he had served with during the war to his home. This experience further fueled both his desire to run for office and his lifetime commitment to civil rights.

Senator Brewster graduated from University of Maryland School of Law in 1949, and was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1950. After serving two terms, Senator Brewster ran for and was elected to represent Maryland's Second District in Congress in 1958. In 1962, Mr. Brewster was elected to the Senate. He was just 39 years old.

In the Senate, Brewster was a champion for civil rights. He cosponsored the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and served as the stand-in candidate for President Lyndon Johnson's 1964 Presidential primary campaign in Maryland against segregationist candidate George Wallace of Alabama. The contest was seen as a crucial battle in the fight for civil rights. Despite threats to his family, he campaigned vigorously and won the primary for President Johnson.

Senator Brewster served as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee at the time the war in Vietnam was escalating. Publicly, he took a hawkish position on the war, but privately he expressed concerns about the war and shared those concerns with President Johnson.

After leaving the Senate, Senator Brewster devoted his time to his family, farming, and volunteering. He was an original director and former president of the Maryland State Fair and chaired the Governor's Commission on Alcoholism and the Governor's Commission on AIDS.

Senator Brewster's congressional legacy lives on today as two of his Senate interns from Maryland, NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI and STENY HOYER, went on to prestigious political careers of their own.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to Senator Brewster's family and to his friends and to all those whose lives he touched. Senator Brewster's family is in my thoughts and prayers.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, in the 2 months since Hamas took control of Gaza, 40 tons of explosives have been smuggled from Egypt into Gaza. It is estimated that 80 tons have been smuggled in the last 2 years. Rafah, in southern Gaza, has long been a key conduit for smuggling assault rifles, pistols, ammunition, explosive materials, grenade launchers and other munitions. While smuggling has long been

a problem along this stretch of the border, the Israeli military has reported a surge in smuggling of anti-aircraft missiles, anti-tank rockets and bomb components when Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

There has also been a clear loss of progress made with regard to democracy and the rule of law in Egypt. Prominent members of parliament like Ayman Nour who have criticized the regime have been jailed. Nour was the leading opponent in Egypt's 2005 presidential race and was arrested on dubious charges shortly after that election.

According to Human Rights Watch, "Security forces and police routinely torture and mistreat detainees, particularly during interrogations. Torture in the past was used primarily against political dissidents, but in recent years it has been rife in police stations as well, affecting ordinary citizens." Cellphone videos posted on the Internet have shown the police sodomizing a bus driver with a broomstick and hanging a woman by her knees and wrists from a pole for questioning.

The United States has provided substantial help to Egypt over the years. For its part, Egypt should do more to control its border with Gaza and improve its record on democracy and the rule of law.

To that end, section 699 of H.R. 2764, as passed by the House of Representatives, requires the Secretary of State to certify that the Government of Egypt has taken "concrete and measurable" steps to stop the smuggling of arms into Gaza, improve the independence of the judiciary, and improve criminal procedures and due process rights. It conditions \$200 million of \$1.3 billion of fiscal year 2008 foreign military financing assistance on demonstration of that clear and measurable progress.

We note that between the date the House passed H.R. 2764 and final action by the Congress on this legislation, more than 3 months will have passed. Even more time will pass if it becomes necessary for the Senate to take up an omnibus appropriations act this fall. Consequently, there is plenty of time for Egypt to show progress in stopping arms flows to Hamas in Gaza and to reverse recent backsliding in democratic reforms before the U.S. Congress finalizes this legislation.

The amendment I offer with Senators LIEBERMAN, COLLINS and ENSIGN, and which I am pleased has been accepted unanimously, puts the Senate on the record stating unambiguously that Egypt must take clear and measurable steps to demonstrate progress on both reducing the flow of arms into Gaza as well as to undoing damage done to the rule of law and democracy.

As Congress moves toward enactment of this appropriations bill, it is imperative that support to Egypt be based on an evaluation of the performance of the Egyptian government since the initial House action. Congress must consider these results in determining what ap-

proach Congress should take regarding Egypt's foreign military financing aid during fiscal year 2008.

EXPLANATION OF "BY REQUEST" LEGISLATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the meaning of "by request" legislation and more specifically about my continuation of a longstanding practice in the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the chairman introducing legislation at the request of the administration.

While I expect that those who deal regularly with the Veterans' Affairs Committee, such as the established veterans service organizations, understand the meaning of a bill introduced "by request," I have recently become aware that there are some veterans who are unfamiliar with this practice and who, therefore, have misinterpreted my recent introduction of certain "by request" legislation as support for the passage of the bills into law. This is not the case.

As our colleagues know, periodically the administration sends forward to the Congress legislation for consideration. Those measures that fall within the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Affairs Committee are referred by the Parliamentarian to our committee. In a tradition that began in the earliest days of the committee, the chairman, as a courtesy to the administration, introduces such bills on a "by request" basis. This is a courtesy that has generally been extended to every administration and by every chairman, regardless of the party affiliation of the administration or chairman, and one that I am pleased to continue.

When I introduce legislation "by request," I am taking no position on the legislation. In fact, I introduce such legislation without including any statement or explanatory materials. I do so for the express purpose of both accommodating the administration and ensuring that others are aware of the proposed legislation so that they might analyze it and, if they wish, comment upon it. As chairman, I am committed to the development of the best possible policy in the area of veterans issues and I firmly believe that this goal is most successfully achieved with the free exchange of ideas, not by stifling different points of view.

During this Congress, in accordance with this practice, I have introduced four "by request" bills, S. 1757, S. 2025, S. 2026, and S. 2027. It is one of these measures, S. 2026, relating to certain Agent Orange issues, that has generated the most confusion among some veterans. I hope that my explanation of "by request" legislation helps to clear up these misunderstandings.

I have taken no position on any of these four bills and simply introduced them as a professional courtesy to the administration. Indeed, at this point, I do not know whether these bills will receive consideration by the com-

mittee. For those who have views on some or all of these measures, I welcome your input. I ask that in providing your views you recognize that my introduction of "by request" legislation should not be interpreted as a reflection of my views on the content of any such bill.

NATIONAL PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I am in support of S. Res. 222, a resolution that recognizes November as National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. This resolution represents a way to educate communities across the Nation about pancreatic cancer and the need for increased research funding, early detection methods, and effective treatments and educational programs. I am pleased to be joining my colleague, Senator CLINTON, as the lead sponsor of this important measure.

Like many Americans, I have seen the ramifications of cancer firsthand. I support this resolution in honor and loving memory of the millions of Americans who have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and their families, and for my mother Jessica Udall Smith whom I lost to this killer.

Pancreatic cancer is hard to detect in its early stages as it doesn't cause symptoms right away. Also, because the pancreas is hidden behind other organs, health care providers cannot see or feel the tumors during routine exams. Because there are no early detection methods, pancreatic cancer often is found late and spreads quickly.

This year, more than 37,000 Americans will receive a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and for over 33,000 of them their diagnosis will ultimately end in their death. While overall cancer death rates have declined, the number of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer is increasing. It is projected that this year, 440 Oregonians will die from pancreatic cancer. That represents a 17 percent increase in pancreatic cancer deaths in Oregon over the last 3 to 4 years.

Pancreatic cancer has been forced into the national spotlight in recent weeks. On August 18, 2007, Michael Deaver, one of former President Ronald Reagan's closest advisers, succumbed to the disease at age 69. Just last week, famed opera singer Luciano Pavarotti died after a yearlong battle at age 71. Something that is striking about both of their cases is that despite their celebrity and contacts, neither man had much more than a fighting chance of overcoming this disease. There are simply no curative treatments—experimental or FDA approved—that currently are available to fight this disease, even when price is no object.

Individuals fighting pancreatic cancer continue to face discouragingly low odds of survival. In 1975, the 5-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer was 2 percent. Twenty-five years later, the survival rate remains at an unacceptably low level of 5 percent, making this cancer the fourth leading cause of cancer-related death. Indeed, pancreatic