

Our sympathies are with his parents, Curtis and Teri Shimp; his brother Chad; and his sister Misty.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring CPT Scott Shimp.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH: A TIME TO TAKE STOCK

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, this month is National Preparedness Month, and activities are underway that will help educate Americans on actions they can take to safeguard their family and their community. During this time, not only should we be inspired but we should also be mindful that this past August 29 marked the 2-year anniversary of the time in which Hurricane Katrina decimated parts of Louisiana and Mississippi. In addition, we are now in the midst of a record-setting hurricane season, with an unprecedented two hurricanes making landfall simultaneously from the Pacific and Atlantic oceans on the same day. It is also the sixth anniversary of the attack by al-Qaida on our country.

These catastrophic events underscored the need for our country, and each and every one of its citizens, to be prepared for disaster, regardless of its form. Much has been done since these terrible events to do so, but so much more needs to be done. As time separates us from those terrible events, we must not become complacent.

During this month, we should use this time to reflect on how far we have come and how much further we need to go and what should be done to protect ourselves as individuals and as a country. While we may have incident, training, and contingency plans in place to help ensure that certain situations may be appropriately addressed, it is important for us to remember that acts of terror may not always be prevented, and nature continues to show its fury in many ways.

As several reports have indicated, the threats to our homeland have not gone away; they have simply changed form. The July 17, 2007, National Intelligence Estimate, NIE, entitled "The Terrorist Threat to the U.S. Homeland," confirmed that, although many plots to attack the United States after 9/11 have been disrupted, al-Qaida "is and will remain the most serious terrorist threat to the Homeland" and that its "plotting is likely to continue to focus on prominent political, economic, and infrastructure targets with the goal of producing mass casualties . . ." Furthermore, and of greater concern, the NIE assessed that Hezbollah, which has, until now, only conducted anti-U.S. attacks outside the United States, "may be more likely to consider attacking the Homeland over the next three years . . ."

In addition to these threats, it is important to note that there are significant number of vulnerabilities at home. Even as memories of the massive August 14, 2003, North American power

outage fade, the tragic August 1, 2007, bridge collapse in Minneapolis has provided yet another reminder that the Federal Government can no longer ignore our aging infrastructure. In the words of author Stephen Flynn, "we depend on complex infrastructure built by the hard labor, capital, and ingenuity of our forbears, but . . . it is aging—and not very gracefully." In this regard, we must be focused on training, resources, and contingency plans to ensure that our Nation is prepared.

Another point of concern is the impact severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS, had on the health infrastructure in Ontario, Canada, that revealed a vulnerable system unable to cope with an epidemic that originated outside its borders. The World Health Organization, WHO, predicted that the deadly H5N1 avian influenza would likely be the source of the next global pandemic. In the United States, a new study published by researchers from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the University of Washington has confirmed the first incidence of human-to-human transmission of H5N1 avian influenza, a beginning step in its becoming a human pandemic. The impact of such a pandemic would be enormous. A February 2006 study by the Lowy Institute for International Policy at the Australian National University concluded that, in a worst-case scenario, a global influenza pandemic would result in 142.2 million deaths and a \$4.4 trillion loss in GDP. Given these studies and cases, it is imperative that United States be prepared for such a pandemic. We should not wait for another disaster to hit the United States—we must prepare now.

I commend the Department of Homeland Security for conducting its National Preparedness Month campaign and am pleased that more than 1,700 State- and local-level organizations will be participating in preparedness activities around the country. I urge all Americans to take responsibility for their own preparedness, for that of their families, their businesses, and their schools. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia under the Homeland Security Committee, I am committed to making sure that the Federal, State and local governments are properly organized for the next natural or manmade disaster and to holding these agencies responsible when they are not. The passage of time since Katrina and 9/11 has done nothing to lessen the threat to the United States either from outside or within. It is not a matter of if such an event will occur but when it will occur. We must take the necessary precautions to be better able to deal with the disasters or incidents that will occur.

ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF CHARLES McDONALD LUGAR

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased to share the news of the birth of Charles McDonald "Mac" Lugar on September 5, 2007, at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC. Mac was a healthy 8 pounds 6 ounces at birth. His parents are David Riley Lugar, son of Richard and Charlene Lugar, and his wife Katherine Graham Lugar, daughter of Lawrence and Jane Graham. Mac was born at 4:50 p.m. and in the next few hours was joined in the hospital delivery room by Jane Graham, Richard and Charlene Lugar. We shared together a wonderful experience. On the next day, Mac met his sisters, Elizabeth Merrell Lugar, who was born at Sibley Memorial Hospital on May 25, 2004, and Katherine Riley Lugar, born on December 28, 2005, at Sibley Memorial Hospital. Mac and his sisters are now safe and healthy with their parents in their McLean, VA, residence.

Katherine and David were married on June 3, 2000, in St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin, TX. Katherine, a graduate of the University of Colorado, is senior vice president of government affairs for the Retail Industry Leaders Association. David Lugar, who came with us to Washington, along with his three brothers, 30 years ago, graduated from Langley High School in McLean, VA, and Indiana University. He is a partner of Quinn Gillespie & Associates. Both Katherine and David are well known to many of our colleagues and their staff members. We know that you will understand our excitement and our joy that they and we have been given this divine blessing and responsibility for a glorious new chapter in our lives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS COMMAND MAINTENANCE CENTER

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Marine Corps Logistics Command Maintenance Center at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, GA. The Maintenance Center Albany was the 2007 winner of the Robert T. Mason Depot Maintenance Award, and was also named Marine Logistics Unit of the Year.

This prestigious award, established in 2004, commemorates the former Assistant Deputy Secretary of Defense for Maintenance Policy, Programs, and Resources, Robert T. Mason, a staunch supporter of excellence in organic depot maintenance operations throughout his three decades of Government service. In winning this award, the Maintenance Center Albany has exemplified responsive and effective depot level support to operating units.

The Maintenance Center Albany's Dedicated Design and Prototype Effort Team was singled out for its outstanding support to our men and

women in uniform through their hands-on innovation. I could not provide higher tribute than the Marine Corps itself when it described the Albany team as clearly demonstrating the ability to be responsive, resourceful, agile, and creative by designing and prototyping multiple systems in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This is not the first time the tenant organization of Albany's Marine Corps Logistics Base has received this great honor. In 2005, the Maintenance Center was recognized for its Design and Manufacture Vehicle Armor Protective Kits Program which provided protective armor kits for U.S. Marine Corps combat vehicles, making the Marines a more effective fighting force and profoundly impacting both safety and morale.

I also want to individually recognize Christopher Tipper, a Maintenance Center Albany employee who was named Civilian Marine Logistician of the Year. Through his achievements Mr. Tipper brings great credit upon himself, MCLB Albany, and the U.S. Marine Corps.

The national recognition of the achievements of the team and this individual is extremely well deserved. They comprise a dedicated workforce committed to meeting the needs of the warfighter. I am proud to pay tribute to these men and women and congratulate them and the leadership of the Maintenance Center Albany, as well as the entire Marine Corps Logistics Command on a job well done.●

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I honor Montclair State University of New Jersey as they celebrate 100 years of service to the students of our State.

The 100th anniversary of Montclair State University is a wonderful cause for celebration. However, the real celebration lies in the extraordinary success of the faculty and administration of Montclair State University in preparing some of New Jersey's finest students to be the next leaders of this country and to succeed in a global economy.

While much has changed since Montclair State University first opened its doors as a normal school in 1908, the university has remained true to its mission of providing an exceptional educational experience to a diverse student body that is reflective of the population of New Jersey. Montclair State University has become one of the leading educational institutions in our State, quickly turning into the second-largest and the fastest-growing university in New Jersey.

Montclair State University is leading the way to help develop the next generation of teachers by training promising students to be successful, innovative teachers in schools across the State. The university has also main-

tained an active and positive role in the local community, by bridging education and community service.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me as I honor Montclair State University for its extraordinary success in providing 100 years of world-class education to New Jersey's students and for providing service to our communities.●

HONORING WINDOWS ON THE WATER

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the outstanding accomplishments of Windows on the Water, a popular restaurant from my home State of Maine. Windows on the Water's chef and owner, John Hughes, was recently awarded the National Restaurant Association Award for his active role in assisting the local community.

Founded in June 1985, Windows on the Water has been a favorite of locals and visitors to the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport area for over 20 years. Known for its fresh seafood and made-from-scratch desserts, Windows on the Water boasts a diverse menu with something for everyone. Moreover, it is committed to preparing healthy meals for diners. As such, most of the cooking products used are either organic, all-natural, or sustainable. In its 22 years of business, Windows on the Water has received 27 awards for various accomplishments. As patrons of the restaurant will tell you, Windows on the Water is also renowned for its creativity. In addition to providing fresh, quality food, Chef Hughes frequently offers programs such as cooking class dinners, which include a multicourse demonstration and meal, combined with a question-and-answer session.

Chef Hughes's National Restaurant Association award is truly something to be proud of. Dedicating his life to helping others, including by way of his culinary skills, Mr. Hughes cofounded the Community Harvest organization in 1999, a nonprofit community service group that provides food to those in need. The organization's motto, "people loving people is the heart of the journey, the heart of our community," is exemplified well in Chef Hughes's work. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, he prepares countless dinners for the community, which volunteers then deliver to local underprivileged households and individuals. Mr. Hughes began the home delivery service because he noticed that Meals on Wheels did not deliver on Christmas and Thanksgiving.

While Chef Hughes routinely uses his cooking skills to benefit vulnerable members of his community, he is also at the forefront of numerous other community efforts. He leads an annual scholarship program for select local students who demonstrate a commitment to community service. Moreover, in keeping with his background as a chef, Mr. Hughes spearheads an annual

scholarship program for recipients in the greater Kennebunk area who have displayed an interest in the culinary arts. Having begun his culinary studies at age 15, Chef Hughes recognizes that nurturing an ambition from a young age can lead to great success.

Windows on the Water is not only a restaurant; it is also a fount of unbridled service to others, thanks to Chef Hughes. While Chef Hughes has reached the top of his profession, being appointed to the Master Chefs Institute of America, he still sees the crucial role that generosity and giving play in the livelihood of a community. I commend Chef John Hughes and everyone at Windows on the Water who set a valuable example for the Kennebunks, and for all of Maine.●

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Special Operations Command, USSOCOM.

In 1987, USSOCOM was officially established to create a unified command structure for the special operations forces of all military branches. Since that time, the special operations forces from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps have deployed to all parts of the globe and participated in every major American military operation in support of USSOCOM missions.

It is with good reason that the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines of USSOCOM are considered the most elite military forces in the world. These individuals complete extremely rigorous training and are called upon to accomplish the most difficult and dangerous missions in our military.

We in New Mexico are excited that USSOCOM's 16th Special Operations Wing will soon be making the move to Cannon Air Force Base. Though we are sad to see the men and women of the 27th Fighter Wing go, we are proud to be the new home of this elite unit.

Since its inception, the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines of USSOCOM have served with the utmost distinction. I salute their bravery and dedication to duty, and I hope that New Mexicans will take time to thank the members of USSOCOM who have served and honor the memory of those who have given their lives in our defense.●

HONORING MR. VIRGIL E. BROWN, SR.

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I wish to honor and congratulate an outstanding community and business leader from my hometown of Cleveland, OH. Virgil E. Brown, Sr., has become a well-recognized name in Cleveland after serving our community and great State of Ohio for nearly three decades. On August 12, 2007, Virgil celebrated his 90th birthday. Also this year, his lovely wife Lurtissia celebrated her