

genomics, and related fields the opportunity to provide their thoughtful recommendations on the best ways to further the promise of personalized medicine.

I thank the bill managers and their staffs for their assistance.

RISK OF GUNS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

MR. LEVIN. Mr. President, in order to get a handle on today's gun violence among students, we must increase our awareness on the issue. Last week, the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence released a report that draws attention to the gun lobby's efforts over the past few years to change college campus rules that prohibit firearms. The report details the gun lobby's efforts in multiple States to pressure colleges to allow the possession and use of firearms by students and others on campus.

The report, "No Gun Left Behind: The Gun Lobby's Campaign to Push Guns into Colleges and Schools," reveals a letter addressed to a Maine legislator from the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action on April 2, 2007, emphatically opposing legislation to "allow any college or university to regulate the possession of firearms on the property of the college or university." It also describes the gun lobby's support for a law passed in Utah that expressly prohibits public school districts, public schools, and State institutions of higher education from keeping guns off campuses. Similar legislation was proposed in Virginia last year.

"Our schools should be sanctuaries, not armed camps," stated Paul Helmke, President of the Brady Center. "Institutions of higher education already have chosen policies either banning or tightly controlling guns on campus. That is as it should be. These institutions are responsible for the safety of their students and the security of their campuses and should continue to have the right to control firearms."

No Gun Left Behind also details some of the reasons bringing guns onto campus increases the danger to students and faculty alike. Every year approximately 1,100 college students commit suicide, with an additional 24,000 attempting suicide. Roughly 90 percent of those who attempt suicide with a firearm are successful. And, there is a significant danger of guns being stolen in the dorm setting.

As Congress considers sensible gun legislation, I urge my colleagues to read this important report.

MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY

MR. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the men and women that serve our Nation as military spouses. I greatly admire the strength, courage, and commitment of these special individuals.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan recognized the vital importance and personal sacrifice of the military spouse by declaring the Friday before Mother's Day as Military Spouse Appreciation Day. The impact that the military spouse has on the readiness and effectiveness of today's all-volunteer Armed Forces cannot be overstated.

However, military spouses are rarely thanked or recognized for the vital role that they play in maintaining our national security.

Today, more than 50 percent of our total force is married. Of the 1.12 million military spouses 92 percent are women, 78 percent are enlisted spouses, 57 percent are between the ages of 25-40 years, 73 percent have children, and 65 percent also work outside of the home.

The Armed Forces' current operational tempo has placed unique challenges and extraordinary strain on our military families. Months of waiting and late nights filled with worry about a forward deployed loved one can take a toll on the most steadfast and stout-hearted man or woman. Despite this intense strain, military spouses have remained committed and loyal to their servicemember and families. These men and women know the true meaning of sacrifice and devotion.

Today, America says thank you to our loving military spouses.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MR. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the hard work and sacrifices made daily by law enforcement officers all across our great land. Many officers have lost their lives in the line of duty so that our families and communities may remain safe. We must never forget those who have given their lives to protect us all.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy first declared the annual celebration of Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week in "recognition of the service given by the men and women who, night and day, stand guard in our midst to protect us through enforcement of our laws."

Sadly, since the turn of the last century, more than 126 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty in New Mexico. This year, two New Mexico police officers will be honored and remembered by having their names added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC.

The first, Deputy James McGrane was tragically shot and killed on March 22, 2006 while making a traffic stop. Unknown at the time to Deputy McGrane, the driver of the vehicle Michael Paul Astorga was wanted for a 2005 murder. As he approached the vehicle, Deputy McGrane was cold bloodedly shot twice and died at the scene. A massive manhunt in New Mexico ensued. After the case was profiled on the television show Americas Most Wanted Astorga was apprehended in Juarez, Mexico and expedited to the

United States. Deputy McGrane had served with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department for three years and had previously served with the New Mexico State Police and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Also being honored this week is Patrolman James Archuleta of Espanola who was killed June 4, 2006, in an automobile accident. Patrolman Archuleta was responding to a shooting when the accident occurred. Patrolman Archuleta had served with the New Mexico State Police for 2 years and was also a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

This week we remember the dedication of Deputy McGrane and Patrolman Archuleta and all of our fallen policemen and women who protect and serve our communities, and the tragic price they paid for that devotion. We must also remember the families of all fallen officers and the sacrifices they have incurred because of a deep-seated commitment to duty and public service. All of us from New Mexico owe a debt of gratitude to each and every officer who has lost their life in the line of duty. To those who continue to serve, we are grateful. You have my utmost admiration.

VOTE EXPLANATION

MR. REED. Mr. President, due to my flight from Rhode Island being delayed, I was unavoidably absent for vote No. 151, the Cochran second-degree amendment No. 1010 to the Dorgan amendment No. 990.

Had I been present, I would have opposed the Cochran amendment. While I have supported the Cochran amendment in the past, the amendment this time seeks to amend a different and vastly strengthened Dorgan reimportation proposal. Senators DORGAN and SNOWE have acknowledged the safety concerns that have been raised in the past and have sought to address them. Specifically, their amendment establishes a framework for the registration and regulation of exporting pharmacies and wholesalers. It also directs the FDA to initiate a process to approve identical medications as FDA-approved products in the United States. The amendment also requires clear labeling and documentation of the drug from the point of origin to the point of sale. I believe these series of measures greatly improve the Dorgan amendment, reduce the risk of counterfeit products entering the domestic drug supply chain, and assure the safety of reimported drugs. The Dorgan-Snowe proposal also meets the second test set forth in the Cochran second degree amendment—cost savings. According to Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimates, implementation of prescription drug importation provisions would lead to \$50 million in direct savings. However, the CBO also found that imposing the Cochran amendment would reduce those potential savings to zero.

The time has come for Congress to move forward with a thoughtful and responsible framework for drug reimportation. In a free market economy such as ours, it seems unfair that we have permitted a system that only allows the manufacturers to reimport drug products. It is essential that we find ways to reduce drug prices for Americans and one approach is by allowing drug reimportation. As such, we can and should, with the appropriate safeguards, allow a more open prescription drug reimportation regime to take hold in this country. The Dorgan-Snowe proposal offers a reasonable and responsible framework for such an endeavor to begin.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I will be unable to be in Washington from Tuesday, May 15, to Wednesday, May 16, due to the graduation of my daughter from Columbia University in New York. I therefore ask that I be granted leave from the Senate under rule VI, paragraph 2.

WACHOVIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the fifth anniversary of the Wachovia Championship golf tournament and its contribution to charitable causes in North Carolina.

Several years ago, a group of North Carolinians gathered to begin the planning for this first-class event. Under their leadership, the Wachovia Championship has quickly risen to the top echelon of sporting events in the country. In only 5 short years, the Wachovia Championship has become known as one of the preeminent golf tournaments in the country—second only to the major championships.

The organizers desired to create a premier sporting event that would provide a first-class experience for patrons, PGA tour players, and volunteers that at the same time would have a significant economic impact for the Carolinas, showcase our State and region to a national and international television audience, and most importantly, raise significant funds for charitable causes in the State.

On all accounts, the Wachovia Championship has been a resounding success story. This year alone, the Wachovia Championship will have an economic impact of over \$45 million in the state of North Carolina.

The primary beneficiary of the success of the Wachovia Championship is Teach for America. Funds generated from the tournament are used to support the national efforts of this organization. Teach for America is the national corps of outstanding college graduates who commit 2 years to teach in low-income communities and become advocates for expanding educational opportunity. Since 1990 nearly 17,000 college graduates have joined Teach for America, impacting the lives of over 2.5 million students.

In North Carolina, Teach for America has over 250 corps members teaching in Charlotte, Durham and communities across the eastern half of the State.

Since the inception of the tournament, over \$4 million has been generated for Teach for America from the success of the Wachovia Championship in Charlotte.

As you can see, this is much more than just a golf tournament. The Wachovia Championship is a community and economic success story.

I congratulate the organizers and the thousands of volunteers that make the Wachovia Championship one of the special events that makes our state of North Carolina proud.

HONORING DEE SARTON

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as you know, the month of May is Foster Care Month, when we take special note of the young people served by our Nation's foster care system, and the dedicated volunteers and professionals who work with and for them.

Today, I rise to pay tribute to a fellow Idahoan who is making a tremendously positive difference in the lives of foster children in our State.

Dee Sarton is a reporter at KTVB News Channel 7. Since November 1998, she has used her talent and experience to produce segments promoting the adoption of children out of the foster care system. On Wednesday nights, just before signing off the early evening news, she introduces sibling groups or older youth who are waiting for adoptive homes, and her compelling, sensitive interviews with these young people have touched the hearts of families across the Nation. She has introduced more than 500 children and has partnered with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in helping them find stability and love through adoption.

Dee brings energy, intuition, and a sincere concern for the future of each child to each production day. Although these young people have troubled histories and range from the gregarious to the shy, she manages to form an immediate bond with them. Her empathy and patience come from an abiding desire to help them achieve the normalcy they have described over and over in similar ways: "I just want to be treated like a regular kid."

For her outstanding work on behalf of Idaho's youth, I nominated Dee Sarton to receive the 2006 "Angel in Adoption" award presented by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, and I am very proud to share her story with my colleagues today.

RECOGNIZING RALEIGH TIAHRT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Raleigh Tiahrt, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Raleigh is a graduate of Vermillion High School in Vermillion, SD. Currently he is attending the University of Minnesota where he is pursuing majors in mathematics and philosophy. He plans to finish his education at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Raleigh for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING SARA KOCH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Sara Koch, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Sara is a graduate of Custer High School in Custer, SD. Currently she is attending South Dakota State University where she is pursuing majors in business and political science. She has also been active in Teenage Republicans and College Republicans. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sara for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ARMY RESERVES

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a special group of Americans—the members of Company B, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. The dedication and patriotism of this Army Reserve unit from Olathe, KS, truly makes all Kansans and Americans proud.

In October 2005, Pakistan suffered a severe disaster when a 7.6-magnitude earthquake devastated the country. This unit, known as the Spartans, was in the midst of training at Fort Sill, OK, to prepare for its deployment to Afghanistan when they received orders to assist in the humanitarian relief efforts. The unit immediately responded by disassembling their entire fleet of Chinook helicopters, flying to Afghanistan where they reassembled their aircraft, and then deploying to Islamabad to participate in relief efforts. All this was accomplished in a mere 4 days—a phenomenal feat. During the 5 months of this operation, the Spartans flew 2,633 missions where they delivered more than 18 million pounds of supplies, transported almost 7,000 refugees, and medically evacuated 311 casualties. This mission proved to be the longest and largest helicopter relief mission in the history of the United States.

Following their relief mission, the unit deployed to Afghanistan to provide heavy-lift support for combat operations at Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan. During their 7-month