

law committed during Sierra Leone's 11-year civil war. Tens of thousands died in this conflict that ended in 2002, and more than a third of Sierra Leone's 6 million people were forced to flee. His trial is expected to have significant impact across Sierra Leone but also throughout neighboring countries as his raging brutality was in no way confined by national borders.

For over a decade, the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia not only suffered from deprivation and displacement at the hands of Charles Taylor, but they also endured forced recruitment of child soldiers, widespread and brutal sexual violence, and horrifying murders and mutilations. Those responsible for these crimes abandoned all human decency in their quest for power and wealth.

I have long been a strong supporter of accountability mechanisms around the world—and in particular Sierra Leone's Special Court and Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I have worked to ensure that the United States provides appropriate financial and political support for such important institutions, which are crucial to building a framework for the rule of law in postconflict countries. I commend the court for taking its mandate seriously and for following the evidence where it led—directly to a sitting head of state.

Despite Charles Taylor's unwillingness to appear at the opening of yesterday's trial, the message this critical trial sends—to current and would-be corrupt, violent, and brutal leaders—is momentous: the international community will no longer stand silently by but will support efforts to break the worst cycles of violence and impunity. When the trial continues later this month in The Hague, it is essential that international fair trial standards be adhered to, that robust and transparent outreach programs continue uninterrupted so the trial remains as accessible as possible to those most affected by the conflict and that great care is taken to ensure the security of victims, witnesses, and their families.

While I welcome the proceedings in The Hague, more needs to be done on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone and Liberia. True accountability for the horrific atrocities they endured will only be achieved when the rule of law is respected at every level in the governments of both countries and all citizens have access to justice. Great steps forward have been taken, but much more work remains. I will continue to press the United States and the international community not to desert the people of Sierra Leone—or the region—as they work to reconcile their grievances and seek to heal from one of Africa's worst conflicts.

CONQUER CHILDHOOD CANCER ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to talk about 8-year-old Jenessa Byers, known as "Boey" by her friends and family.

Last year, Boey was diagnosed with a very rare childhood cancer called rhabdomyosarcoma. Showing tremendous courage and strength as she underwent radiation and chemotherapy, Boey battled the cancer into remission. Unfortunately, that cancer returned and Boey is back in treatment undergoing radiation and chemotherapy once again.

While I was in Oregon over the recess, I had a chance to visit with Boey and her family at the Children's Cancer Center at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, as well as with other children at the hospital who are battling a variety of childhood cancers. Boey refers to herself as a warrior in the fight against cancer, and there is no doubt about it, Boey is a warrior. As I witnessed firsthand when I visited her last week, she is fighting the cancer as hard as she can. This in itself makes Boey a very brave and very special little girl.

But what makes her especially amazing is that in spite of what she is going through, Boey has been working tirelessly to help other children who are also battling cancer. Each month, she donates special bears and handmade cards titled "Be Strong" to other children at the hospital. The day before her eighth birthday last month, Boey participated as a survivor in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, for which she raised over \$500. In addition, she has raised money to help fight cancer on a local radiothon, and she has raised awareness using her own videos, which she has posted on YouTube.

Because of Boey's incredible compassion and determination to help the other children fighting cancer, she was recently asked to be a spokesperson for Doernbecher Children's Hospital. On May 31, she spoke about her experiences at a reception for the Children's Miracle Network. Just this past weekend, she was featured in a segment of the Doernbecher Children's Miracle Network Telethon.

While I was visiting Boey, she asked me to cosponsor the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act. Introduced by Senators REED and COLEMAN, this act would provide critical resources for the treatment, prevention, and cure of childhood cancer. The act would authorize \$150 million over a 5-year period to expand support for biomedical research programs of the existing National Cancer Institute-designated multicenter national infrastructure for pediatric cancer research. It would also establish a population-based national childhood cancer registry; enable researchers to more accurately study the incidence of childhood cancers and long-term effects of treatments; and provide funding for informational and educational services to families coping with a diagnosis of childhood cancer. The Conquer Childhood Cancer Act brings hope to the more than 12,500 children who are diagnosed with cancer each year, as well as more than 40,000 children and adolescents currently being treated for childhood cancers.

On behalf of Boey and the other courageous and wonderful children I met at Doernbecher Children's Hospital recently, and every child with cancer, I would like to announce that I am cosponsoring the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act. I will be working with my colleagues to get this bill signed into law so that we can find a cure for childhood cancer once and for all.

D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the great sacrifices made by our Nation's veterans on the anniversary of D-day and to once again highlight the need for all of us to do more for those serving today.

On this day 63 years ago, 3,393 American troops gave their lives on the beaches of Normandy defending the freedom of America and its allies. These brave young men sacrificed themselves to stop an empire born of hatred from consuming Europe and fought to prove that freedom and justice would never bow to terror and intolerance. Their valor and service will forever endure in our Nation's memory.

Today, a new generation faces new challenges. The nearly 170,000 American troops currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan exemplify the kind of courage and dedication that has defined the American military throughout our history. And for the sacrifices they are willing to make, we in the Senate, our colleagues in the House, the military leadership, the President, and the American people have an absolute moral obligation to provide our servicemen and women with the best possible protection when we send them to war.

I know that when President Roosevelt sent his men into battle, he did not simply pay lip service to their courage, he made sure that they had the strongest artillery, the best gear, and the most advanced equipment available. He did not worry that the landing craft he needed for D-day would not be needed when the war ended. He made equipping the force the entire Nation's top priority. Calling on the patriotism of American businessmen to ensure military needs were met before all else. And so I ask why—a half century later—we cannot do the same for our troops today.

Today, improvised explosive devices, IEDs, are the single greatest threat to the lives of our troops, causing 70 percent of U.S. casualties in Iraq. The military has indicated that mine-resistant ambush protected, MRAP, vehicles, which provide four to five times more protection than up-armored Humvees, will reduce casualties from IEDs by two-thirds. These vehicles have already been tested fully at Aberdeen Proving Center and our allies have been using similar technologies in the field for years.

So why, then, are these critical vehicles not already in the field?

We learned recently that in February of 2005, Marine commanders in Iraq realized that they needed vehicles designed specifically to defeat the IED threat and asked the Pentagon to build them. Yet 2 years later their request remains unfulfilled. Secretary Gates has indicated that MRAPs compete with other defense spending, which may make it difficult to produce all we need. I just don't get that logic. I can see no greater use of our dollars than getting American troops the best possible protection that exists today. This Nation can afford to do that and whatever else is necessary to do right by our military men and women and their families.

At a later date we will get to the bottom of what happened in 2005, but our first order of business today should be making sure that we get our troops the technology they need as soon as possible. That will require a genuine assessment of how many MRAPs are needed in the field and how much it will cost to build that critically needed inventory.

We also need to provide our troops with all the latest in tested technology to defend against the new weapons which insurgents are using in Iraq: shaped charges called EFPs, or explosively formed penetrators/projectiles, those shaped-charges which hit our vehicles from the side with devastating effect. We cannot wait another 2 years to field technology to protect against these devices when Americans are dying today.

Today I ask of my colleagues, of the President, of our military commanders, and of the American people, that we pay respect to American servicemembers with more than words. We have the ability and the obligation to do more and we must.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, 63 years ago today, many brave Americans and other allied forces members were dropped out over the frigid North Atlantic coastline of Normandy; numerous others stormed the beaches from the sea. Ultimately, well over 100,000 determined Allied troops were involved in one of the most remarkable and well orchestrated military events in history. D-day was among the greatest victories of World War II. June 6, 1944 is a day all lovers of freedom should hold on high. We cannot ever forget the sacrifice and meaning of that day.

Were it not for the supreme leadership—both here and abroad—of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and many other government and military leaders—and a patriotic citizenry—we might be living in a starkly different world today. D-day does not just signify singular success; it symbolizes the power of our fearless democracy and way of life. This triumph—not only on D-day, but in the war effort at large—helped to further a clear message made by an earlier American President, one who

was considering the weight of World War I. As Woodrow Wilson remarked a generation earlier, "The world must be made safe for democracy." The events of June 6, 1944, helped to make the world a safer place. Victory would not have come about without the smart and strong dedication of our military.

We must take it upon ourselves as Americans, and as grateful citizens, to continue to thank the brave patriots who served in what has become a legacy of freedom; we thank them for their service and their sacrifice. Every generation faces new challenges and must accept the consequences of inaction. We are better off for the actions of the Greatest Generation. Across the beaches of Omaha, Utah, Juno, Gold, and others, our brave Allied troops sacrificed mightily on June 6, 1944. That sacrifice lives on.

For all those veterans of D-day, and for that matter, any campaign of World War II, thank you. You helped to make the world safe for democracy. Your victorious struggle of more than 60 years ago makes this Nation proud and grateful. Thank you for your dedication and sacrifice.

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Los Alamos National Laboratory for its part in completing the 100th genome sequence. Like the Human Genome Project, this achievement serves as a constant reminder of the possibilities before us and a step forward in scientific knowledge. The scientists of Los Alamos National Lab constantly achieve excellence through their various endeavors, and I am proud of their contribution to this vast project. This well-deserved recognition highlights their continuing dedication to serving this country through research in health and environment-related fields.

Los Alamos National Laboratory has championed the advancement of national security for over 60 years. In the tumultuous times of World War II, it stood as our Nation's front line in acquiring a superior tool with which we could be certain that freedom would prevail. However, once its mission was complete it continued to pursue the advancement of American security and research. What began as an installation solely focused on the creation of an atomic bomb has developed into a diverse and advanced institution dedicated to securing our nuclear ordinance, combating the effectiveness of weapons of mass destruction, and addressing many problems in areas such as energy and health.

Los Alamos National Laboratory serves as one of five national laboratories working with the Department of Energy to sequence genomes. Labeled the Joint Genome Institute, this group of research institutions first helped to complete the Human Genome Project, which has since been called one of the

greatest scientific advances of our time. The benefits of this outstanding achievement are many. For example, we can now match organ donors and recipients with less uncertainty and even diagnose disease more efficiently.

Over the years, the mission of the Genome Project has oriented itself towards other vital interests. The Joint Genome Institute is now targeting specific animals and microbes with traits that, if harnessed, could aid in areas such as biotechnology, alternative fuels, and the environment. For example, the organism just completed has shown potential in aiding the cleanup of uranium-contaminated areas. This application would greatly benefit Los Alamos itself, which has several radioactive wastesites.

In the past, I have strongly supported the research of Los Alamos National Laboratory and the advancement of the Genome Project and have helped each of them secure defense and biotechnology funding. In return, their research has yielded important advances in areas such as health, energy, and the environment. Furthermore, the continuing excellence of Los Alamos National Laboratory has led to the creation of many jobs in the northern New Mexico region. Los Alamos continues to succeed in its purpose of national service, and I am pleased to offer my support and congratulations for their contribution to the 100th mark in the Genome Project.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100th ANNIVERSARY OF HETTINGER, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 3-8, the residents of Hettinger will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Hettinger is a vibrant community in southwest North Dakota. Hettinger holds an important place in North Dakota's history. The townsite was founded in 1907, and Erastus A. Williams of Bismarck, whose son-in-law was Mathias Hettinger, was credited with naming the community. It became the county seat of Adams County in 1907. The post office was established in May 17, 1907, and Hettinger was organized into a city in 1916. One of the last living survivors of the Titanic, Ole Abelseth, was a longtime resident of Hettinger.

Today, Hettinger is a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts who come to enjoy bird watching, fishing, and big game hunting. Nearby Mirror Lake offers camping and other outdoor activities for all ages. In 2004, Hettinger was recognized as Hometown of the Year by the Bismarck Tribune and it received the North Dakota Capital Community Designation by the Federal Home Loan