

That guard the nation's homes from harm.
 Of a strong defense on land and sea—
 Flag of our country, flag of the free!
 We see in the flag a union grand,
 A brotherhood of heart and hand,
 A pledge of love and a stirring call
 To live our lives for the good of us all—Help-
 ful and just and true to thee, Flag of
 our country, flag of the free!
 Flutter, dear flag, o'er the lands and seas!
 Fling out your stars and your stripes to the
 breeze, Righting all wrongs, dispelling
 all fear,
 Guarding the land that we cherish so dear,
 And the God of our fathers, abiding
 with thee, Will
 bless you and trust you, O flag of the free!

IOWA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize a group of Iowans who distinguished themselves in their service on behalf of the security of the United States. Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry, of the Iowa Army National Guard, brought honor to itself and the State of Iowa while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Troop C entered the Iraq theater of operations on October 30, 2005, and completed its mission on October 30, 2006.

Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry was based at Camp Ashraf in the Diyala Province of Iraq. Diyala is one of the most contested provinces in Iraq, and the mission of Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry was to provide perimeter defense at Camp Ashraf, reconnaissance and security patrols, improvised explosive device clearance missions, and convoy escorts. Troop C missions were conducted in such contested cities as Baghdad, Baqubah, and Khalis, as well as anywhere else required. Dangerous does not quite capture the situations that Troop C faced on a daily basis.

During this tour of duty, Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry conducted more than 3,000 missions, drove in excess of 150,000 miles on treacherous Iraqi roads, sustained over 50 improvised explosive device strikes, discovered more than 25 emplaced improvised explosive devices and provided security while these devices were destroyed; and on a routine basis conducted security missions to Ashraf's West Water Pump Station. Troop C put themselves in harm's way to ensure continual water supply to Ashraf and the surrounding villages. For its actions while performing these missions, Troop C has earned to date eleven Purple Hearts and nearly one-hundred combat action badges.

Battlefield success came at a price. SGT Dan L. Sesker made the ultimate sacrifice, giving his life while conducting a convoy operation in Baghdad.

On May 29, 2006, members of Troop C arrived on scene immediately after 4th Infantry Division Soldiers and a Columbia Broadcasting System news crew were attacked while conducting Memorial Day interviews. The soldiers of Troop C heroically took up the secu-

rity mission and provided first aid to the wounded Soldiers and news crew. The treatment provided to the correspondent, Kimberly Dozier, saved her life.

Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry deserves the highest praise of this body and the entire Nation. The courage, selfless sacrifice, and dedication to their mission displayed by Troop C exemplifies what is best in our brave soldiers and I am very proud to call them fellow Iowans. It is to the valor of those in Troop C and others like them past and present that we Americans owe our freedom and security today.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, over half a century ago, in *Brown v. Board of Education*, a unanimous Supreme Court struck down laws requiring racial segregation in our public schools. Yesterday's decision limiting voluntary efforts to desegregate public schools is false to Brown's promise of equality by making it far more difficult for local school boards to bring students of different races together in the classroom.

The landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* called on us to honor not only the requirements of the Constitution but also of our consciences. America was made stronger as a result. Although the *Brown* decision initially met with intense resistance in many parts of the country, it eventually came to be recognized as one of the Court's finest hours.

Yesterday's decision, however, makes it far more difficult to achieve equal educational opportunity for children of all races. *Brown* was a giant step in ending racially segregated public schools, but achieving integration takes more than a court decision. It takes good will, vision, creativity, common sense, and a firm commitment to the goal of educating all children, regardless of race. Above all, it takes a realistic assessment of local communities to determine what will work to bring students together.

That challenge is difficult to meet, because in many parts of the Nation, neighborhoods continue to be highly segregated by race and national origin. Without specific efforts by local school boards to promote diversity, public schools often reflect the same racial segregation as the neighborhoods around them. As over 500 prominent social scientists who have studied residential segregation explained in their brief in the *Seattle and Jefferson County, KY*, cases, without voluntary efforts, neighborhood schools cannot achieve the integration that we as a society recognize is so important.

The benefits of integration, both for individual students and for society, are enormous. Children who participate in classes attended by students of many races enjoy greater parental involvement in public schools, and greater cross-cultural understanding. It helps

close the racial gap in education by helping African-American children achieve greater academic success. One of the Nation's leading conservative judges, Alexander Kozinski, described Seattle's integration plan as an "eminently sensible" "stirring of the melting pot," which helps children learn to interact as citizens of our common society. Without integrated schools, children will not learn these important lessons. That's a result we cannot afford.

Local school boards such as Jefferson County's have transcended the legacy of Jim Crow segregation to achieve not only enhanced opportunities for students but greater cooperation, participation, and genuine friendship between children of different races. We should honor that achievement. We should also ensure that school districts such as Jefferson County's, that do not want to return to the days of all-White and all-Black schools, receive the support and information needed to continue that success.

The Court's ruling undermines the important goal of racial integration by ignoring the real world consequences of its decision. Ironically, Chief Justice Roberts, who helped form the majority on this decision, stated at his confirmation hearing that this was something he would not do.

My first question to John Roberts at his confirmation hearing was about *Brown v. Board of Education*. I asked whether he agreed that the Court in *Brown* properly based its opinion on "real world consideration[s] . . . at the time of its decision." "Certainly, Senator," he responded, "you have to look at the discrimination in the context in which it is occurring."

Yet his plurality opinion in yesterday's decision ignores the context of *Brown* that Chief Justice Roberts said at his hearing was so important. In fact, Chief Justice Roberts would have gone even further than a majority of the Court and argued to outlaw virtually any use of race in voluntary efforts to integrate public schools.

The central tragedy in *Brown* was society's abandonment of African-American children to second-class schools. Every child relegated to such schools is harmed. Chief Justice Roberts' opinion disregards that reality by defining the only harm in *Brown* as the consideration of race in assigning children to school. The harm to these children is not less just because their segregation is the result of housing patterns rather than discriminatory laws. The cruel irony of the Chief Justice's view is that it would undermine *Brown* by ensuring that thousands of minority children would continue to attend segregated schools. Fortunately, a majority of the Supreme Court understood that we cannot afford to ignore the harm to students in segregated schools.

Despite professing moderation and promising to uphold precedent, the Court's newest members have already voted to radically limit the Clean Water Act. They have argued that the

Environmental Protection Agency has no power to control air pollution, and overturned a 7-year-old precedent on a woman's right to choose. More recently, they cut back on workers' ability to hold companies responsible for pay discrimination, ignoring the intent of Congress by imposing unreasonably narrow deadlines for pay discrimination claims. But their decision striking down voluntary integration is the most sweeping proof that they failed to be candid about their extreme views when they testified before the Senate in their confirmation hearings.

Fortunately, the views of the newest Justices, which would have made voluntary integration almost impossible, were not shared by a majority of the Court. The majority recognized that local school boards have a compelling interest in preventing de facto racial segregation in public schools, so long as they do so in a way that is narrowly tailored to meet that interest. Although the majority wrongly concluded that the carefully crafted programs in Seattle and Jefferson County, KY, were not permissible, it made clear that local school districts still have the ability to create racially inclusive public schools.

Congress is not powerless to address this important issue. We should support school districts that desire to achieve diversity in their public schools within the limits of the Court's ruling. I plan to hold hearings in the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on the effects of the decisions. It is my hope that those hearings will shed new light on the best way to support schools that want to continue our national progress toward integration in public education.

The words of Brown ring as true today as they did half a century ago. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court declared that "education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. . . . It is the very foundation of good citizenship. . . . In these days, it is doubtful that any child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education," and that opportunity "is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms."

These words could have been written today. It is up to us to revitalize them for the years ahead. The promise of Brown will never be fulfilled until America opens opportunity to all, not just to some.

Brown showed that even against great odds, we can change America for the better. We must renew our commitment to genuine educational equality for all children in America. Despite yesterday's decision, we must not falter, now or ever. Separate can never be equal. We must continue the racial progress of the last 50 years. Only then will America truly become one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CURRENCY REFORM AND FINANCIAL MARKETS ACCESS ACT OF 2007

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached letter from the American Council of Life Insurers be printed in the RECORD, along with the materials I submitted for S. 1677, the Currency Reform and Financial Markets Access Act of 2007.

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

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON LIFE INSURERS,
Washington, DC, June 21, 2007.

Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD,
Senate Banking Committee, Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DODD: I am writing on behalf of ACLI member companies to applaud the focus you have given to market access in Title II of the Currency Reform Act and Market Access Act of 2007. I commend your bipartisan efforts to introduce legislation that recognizes the importance of true and improved market access for all U.S. financial services firms to China's markets.

A more effective, modern and efficient financial sector in China is a prerequisite to successfully addressing a shift in China's export-driven economic stance globally, as well as to ameliorating issues that have complicated the U.S.-China economic relationship, China's WTO implementation and the trade imbalance.

For ACLI member companies, access to China's market cannot be overstated. China is the world's 11th largest insurance market by total premium volume (8th by life insurance), up from 16th in 2000, with premium volumes of almost \$68 billion in 2006—life premiums accounted for the lion's share at \$48 billion, a near threefold increase since 2001. Although ranked in the top ten globally, China's life market is under-penetrated. As China's burgeoning middle class grows, incomes grow, and consumption patterns change, average yearly per capita expenditures on life insurance will surge—predictions are that China will rank among the world's largest life insurance markets by 2020.

While China has come a long way in opening up its life insurance market, in another arena, up until last year, there was no formal supplementary retirement savings program in China despite the fact that it began dismantling its "cradle to grave" social safety net beginning in the 1980s. Pensions are largely unfunded, under-funded or non-existent for scores of citizens. China is only now beginning to appreciate the critical role that enterprise annuities needs to play in providing retirement security to Chinese households.

To address the pension gap, Chinese regulators started in the spring of 2005 to establish an Enterprise Annuity Pension System (EA)—as a second pillar individual account, defined contribution retirement program (similar to our 401(k)). Conservatively, our estimates indicate that within 10 years the assets under management for this program should be close to \$100 billion. Within 25 years they should reach \$1 trillion. While a number of foreign firms have been licensed to provide custodial, trustee, management, and related services for pension assets, no American firm has been licensed to underwrite pension products directly.

Participating in the type of growth noted above is paramount for firms in worldwide life insurance and retirement benefits leadership positions. It is equally important for China's economic leadership, regulators and

industry to view our greater involvement and participation as win-win for the economy, consumers, and capital markets generally.

For these reasons, I look forward to working with you on efforts such as this to shine light on market access issues that can be addressed in China to improve opportunities for ACLI companies to participate in the Chinese market.

Sincerely,

FRANK KEATING.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:59 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2829. An act making appropriations for Financial Services and General Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that, in accordance with the request of the Senate, the bill (S. 1612) entitled "An act to amend the penalty provisions in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and for other purposes," and all the accompanying papers were hereby returned to the Senate.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 801(b) of Public Law 101-696 (2 U.S.C. 2081(b)), the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library serve ex officio on the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission, but each may designate another Member to serve in his or her place; the Vice Chairman and the Joint Committee for the 110th Congress, ROBERT A. BRADY, hereby designates the following Member to serve on the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission as Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library in lieu of himself, as provided for in section 801(c) of Public Law 101-696 (2 U.S.C. 2081(c)): Mr. CAPUANO of Massachusetts.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1830. An act to extend the authorities of the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 12:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 277. An act to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land within the GT Park Subdivision, and for other purposes.

S. 1704. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.