

tenets of tribal sovereignty are thus essential responsibilities of this country.

South Dakota's tribes have a special place in this history due to their proactive leadership in the Federal-tribal relationship. For example, the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie was entered into by Indian tribes in South Dakota that desired a peaceful relationship with the United States and a mutual recognition of sovereignty. In this treaty, like many others, the United States entered an agreement to end hostilities and for the cession of land, in return entering into a contract to provide assistance with education, health care, farming and other necessities; these responsibilities continue today. During this month of recognition and remembrance it is only appropriate to recognize the special status of the treaty tribes.

In addition to this unique governmental relationship, American Indians actively enrich the fabric of our Nation's character in many ways. Tribal members have courageously served to protect America in every conflict since the Revolutionary War, and they have served at the highest rate of any group in the country. Tribal educational models are rapidly gaining respect for an approach that stresses the importance of history and culture as well as the skills necessary for students to prosper in an increasingly global world.

American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month falls in the same month as Thanksgiving and I hope this affords us with the time to give thanks for the sacrifices of the first Americans. Once reduced to a population of less than 50,000, the American Indian population is now some 4.5 million strong. Their story, like that of the country as a whole, is a proud, resilient history and I am committed to supporting tribes as they continue to build a strong future. Observance of American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month honors the unique heritage of this country's first inhabitants, and most importantly reaffirms our responsibility to honor Indian treaties.

RETIREMENT OF MARGO CONNOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Margo Connor, who has retired after 33 years of service to the Senate community. During the past three decades, Margo Connor has assisted in providing catering for Senate functions on Capitol Hill. In a fast-paced environment with a high turnover rate, she remained dedicated and personal, with a keen ability to establish close relationships.

Margo spent 17 years in the special functions office for the former Dirksen Senate Dining Room. She compiled menus and prepared the former Senate Dining Room for functions. Meeting and interacting with many different people were her favorite aspects of her service; she was on a first-name basis with former Senators such as David Pryor, Thomas Eagleton, Gary Hart,

and Jennings Randolph. Margo's commitment to providing a pleasant, comfortable, and professional environment for Senate functions resulted in close friendships. Senator Randolph would often call her at home, making requests for a special bread with nuts on it. After returning from their honeymoon, Senator JOE BIDEN and his wife shared their pictures with her. Instead of calling it the Senate Dining Room, Senator PRYOR referred to the Senate Dining Room as simply "Margo's Room."

After working in the Senate Dining Room, Margo took a position in the accounting office processing bids for the Senate Restaurant. Several years later, she moved to the Capitol Senator's Dining Room where she was a hostess. After working as a hostess, she worked in the Senate catering office, where she has been for the last 13 years.

In her years on Capitol Hill, Margo has seen a great variety of events. She hosted functions with the NFL, the Dalai Lama, and a number of other notable people. Among others, she met Paul Newman, whose suitcase she watched in the kitchen as he spoke at an event. During annual events at Union Station commemorating Columbus Day, Dr. David R. Curfman, president of the National Columbus Celebration Association, told her that she was the only one who understood what he needed.

Margo will miss the people she works with, whom she considers to be like family. In turn, I know she will be missed greatly by those who have had the opportunity to know and work with her. In fact, Margo has been such a presence in the Senate, and has befriended so many over the years, that it is difficult to express how much she will be missed. I am pleased to join the entire Senate community in thanking Margo for her years of service and wishing her a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JIM SHANE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to salute the service of a distinguished Kentuckian. This gentleman recently ended a long career devoted to the service of his country and our commonwealth.

His name is Jim Shane, and I am proud to say Jim is a friend of mine. Jim recently stepped down as executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs, a post he held since 1997. During his tenure, Jim can point to many accomplishments, but he was particularly instrumental in preparing Kentucky for the rigors of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure—BRAC—process. The commonwealth, in particular Fort Knox, was a big winner in the BRAC process, and no one was more instrumental in this success than Jim.

Jim had a vision for Fort Knox, one in which the installation would again be a home to combat troops and to a number of major Army commands. He

then worked tirelessly with Federal and State officials, the BRAC Commission and the Department of Defense to make that conception of Fort Knox a reality. The result was that Fort Knox emerged revitalized from the BRAC process. Consequently, central Kentucky stands to gain immeasurably from the economic benefits stemming from the installation's enhancement, and our armed forces will be the better for Fort Knox's improved stature.

Prior to his service for Kentucky, Jim served his country with great distinction. He spent 27 years of commissioned service in the Army, rising to the rank of brigadier general. His career highlights include service as Deputy Commanding General, United States Recruiting Command, in which he was responsible for manning the Army's all-volunteer force.

Jim also received numerous medals, awards and decorations for his efforts in the Army including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification badge.

I am proud to say that Jim is also a fellow alumnus of the University of Louisville.

Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this fine Kentucky patriot for his long and notable career of public service.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JOHN LEE McELROY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it is never too late to honor great heroism and sacrifice. That is why I am proud to say that after 40 years, a brave Kentuckian lost in battle will finally return home with honor to American soil.

On May 12, 1968, MAJ John Lee McElroy of the U.S. Air Force undertook what would be his final mission. Stationed in the Quang Tin province of the Republic of Vietnam, he was the navigator on a C-130 Hercules aircraft when his plane was struck by intense enemy fire and crashed. There were no survivors.

"On this particular day [Major McElroy] was flying a most important mission of aerial evacuation for American and allied personnel," wrote COL Marion F. Garuthers, the major's commander, in a letter to his parents. "His example of Christian living significantly influenced all persons with whom he associated."

Sadly, while the family of Major McElroy knew his final fate, they did not get to say their final goodbyes. For four decades, his remains went unrecovered. His wife, Regina M. McElroy, and his parents, Oscar L. and Gladys V. McElroy, passed away never knowing if

their loved one's remains would be found and brought back to the United States.

Now, thanks to the work of some dedicated men and women in the Department of Defense, Major McElroy's remains have been identified. Along with the rest of his flight crew, Major McElroy will return from Vietnam and join the honored few who rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Born in Eminence, KY, in 1932, Major McElroy served his country in the Armed Forces for 12 years. Several months after his tragic death, he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and the Purple Heart for his valor in uniform.

At that medal ceremony were Major McElroy's three children—Russell Lee McElroy, Mary McElroy Tucker, and Linda Anne McElroy Starnes. Russell, the oldest, was just 14 years old at the time.

Now every one of them is older than their father ever was. And now it's their turn to take care of the father who cared for them, by seeing him laid to rest this December 18 in a hero's grave.

Our Nation and the Commonwealth of Kentucky cannot be grateful enough for MAJ John Lee McElroy's service and immense sacrifice. We owe the McElroy family a debt that cannot be repaid, because he died defending all of us and our freedoms.

I know the entire U.S. Senate joins me in expressing comfort and pride that this courageous airman has finally returned home. It is never too late to honor our heroes. And it is never too late for one Kentucky family to say their farewells and see a hero rest in peace.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, another 4 months have passed, and more American troops have lost their lives overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. I wish to memorialize their service and sacrifice by including their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Since I last included the names of our fallen troops on July 15, the Pentagon has announced the deaths of 162 troops in Iraq and in Operation Enduring Freedom, which includes Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten and today I submit their names into the RECORD:

CPL Aaron M. Allen, of Buellton, CA;
CWO Christian P. Humphreys, of Fallon, NV;

CWO Donald V. Clark, of Memphis, TN;

SGT Jonnie L. Stiles, of Highlands Ranch, CO;

SGT James M. Clay, of Mountain Home, AR;

SPC Corey M. Shea, of Mansfield, MA;

SGT Jose Regalado, of Los Angeles, CA;

SPC Armando A. De La Paz, of Riverside, CA;

SSG Timothy H. Walker, of Franklin, TN;
PFC Theron V. Hobbs, of Albany, GA;
SPC Adam M. Wenger, of Waterford, MI;
SGT Daniel W. Wallace, of Dry Ridge, KY;
PFC Bradley S. Coleman, of Martinsville, VA;
SSG Scott J. Metcalf, of Framingham, MA;
ILT Trevor J. Yurista, of Pleasant Valley, NY;
SSG Kevin D. Grieco, of Bartlett, IL;
SGT Nicholas A. Casey, of Canton, OH;
PFC Cody J. Eggleston, of Eugene, OR;
LCpl San Sim, of Santa Ana, CA;
CPL Adrian Robles, of Scottsbluff, NE;
SSgt Brian P. Hause, of Stoystown, PA;
SGT Deon L. Taylor, of Bronx, NY;
LCpl Stacy A. Dryden, of North Canton, OH;
MAJ Robert D. Lindenau, of Camano Island, WA;
SPC Heath K. Pickard, of Palestine, TX;
SPC Justin A. Saint, of Albertville, AL;
SGT Federico G. Borjas, of San Diego, CA;
SGT John M. Penich, of Beach Park, IL;
SPC Cory J. Bertrand, of Center, TX;
SPC Stephen R. Fortunato, of Danvers, MA;
SGT Preston R. Medley, of Baker, FL;
SPC Christopher A. McCraw, of Columbia, MS;
CPL Scott G. Dimond, of Franklin, NH;
SGT Michael K. Clark, of Sacramento, CA;
SPC Geoffrey G. Johnson, of Lubbock, TX;
SGT Reuben M. Fernandez III, of Abilene, TX;
CPL Jason A. Karella, of Anchorage, AK;
COL Michael R. Stahlman, of Chevy Chase, MD;
SGT William P. Rudd, of Madisonville, KY;
SPC Jason E. von Zerneck, of Charlotte, NC;
PFC Tavarus D. Setzler, of Jacksonville, FL;
SPC Christopher A. Bartkiewicz, of Dunfermline, IL;
CPT Richard G. Cliff Jr., of Mount Pleasant, SC;
SFC Jamie S. Nicholas, of Maysel, WV;
SFC Gary J. Vasquez, of Round Lake, IL;
SPC Christopher T. Fox, of Memphis, TN;
PFC Jamel A. Bryant, of Belleville, IL;
SGT William E. Hasenflu, of Bradenton, FL;
CPT Michael J. Medders, of Ohio;
SSG Ronald Phillips Jr., of Conway, SC;

ILT Thomas J. Brown, of Burke, VA;
CH COL Sidney J. Marceaux Jr., of Beaumont, TX;
CPT Bruno G. Desolenni, of Crescent City, CA;
SSG Matthew J. Taylor, of Charleston, SC;
PO3 Matthew J. O'Bryant, of Duluth, GA;
SSG Nathan M. Cox, of Walcott, IA;
PVT Joseph F. Gonzales, of Tucson, AZ;
SGT Jerome C. Bell Jr., of Auburn, NY;
SSG Brandon W. Farley, of Grand Prairie, TX;
SSG Jason A. Vazquez, of Chicago, IL;
ILT Mohsin A. Naqvi, of Newburgh, NY;
CPT Bruce E. Hays, of Cheyenne, WY;
SGT Joshua W. Harris, of Romeoville, IL;
MAJ Rodolfo I. Rodriguez, of El Paso, TX;
ILT Robert Vallejo II, of Richland Hills, TX;
CPL Michael E. Thompson, of Harrah, OK;
CWO Brady J. Rudolf, of Oklahoma City, OK;
SGM Julio C. Ordonez, of San Antonio, TX;
SSG Anthony L. Mason, of Springtown, TX;
SGT Daniel M. Eshbaugh, of Norman, OK;
CWO Corry A. Edwards, of Kennedale, TX;
LTC James L. Wiley, of North Bend, OR;
CPT Darrick D. Wright, of Nashville, TN;
PFC Leonard J. Gulczynski I, of Carol Stream, IL;
HM3 Eichmann A. Strickland, of Arlington, WA;
LTC Ralph J. Marino, of Houston, PA;
PVT Michael W. Murdock, of Chocowinity, NC;
SGT Wesley R. Durbin, of Hurst, TX;
SSG Darris J. Dawson, of Pensacola, FL;
CWO Michael Slobodnik, of Gibsonia, PA;
SFC Daniel R. Sexton, of Wentzville, MO;
SPC Marques I. Knight, of San Juan Capistrano, CA;
CPO Jason Richard Freiwald, of Armaida, MI;
SCPO John Wayne Marcum, of Flushing, MI;
CPT Jesse Melton III, of Randallstown, MD;
ILT Nicholas A. Madrazo, of Bothell, WA;
PVT Vincent C. Winston Jr., of St. Louis, MO;
PVT Michael R. Dinterman, of Littlestown, PA;
PVT Jordan P. P. Thibeault, of South Jordan, UT;
PFC Bryan R. Thomas, of Battle Creek, MI;
SSG Kenneth W. Mayne, of Fort Benning, GA;