

that our Constitution vests exclusively in the executive branch. It is not a decision that the Constitution allows to be made through legislative enactments. Although the Boxer amendment's mandate to the executive was modified to state that the criminal investigation shall only commence "under applicable standards and procedures," this change does not cure the amendment's constitutional infirmity. There are no "applicable standards and procedures" for a legislative mandate to the executive to initiate a criminal investigation. Whether to initiate such an investigation is a matter of prosecutorial discretion and is a decision entrusted firmly and solely to the executive branch. To the extent that the Boxer amendment purports to commandeer this function, it is a dead letter and will surely be ignored as unconstitutional legislative interference in an executive function.

I would finally note that by insisting on replacing Senator COBURN's amendment with a me-too amendment of their own, the Democratic majority has undercut the likelihood that there will be any investigation of the Coconut Road matter. Senator COBURN's proposal to create a committee of Congress to investigate this matter was perfectly constitutional and would have gotten to the bottom of this issue. The Boxer amendment is an unconstitutional nullity. And even if that amendment weren't unconstitutional, or if the Justice Department undertook an investigation of this affair on its own initiative, such an investigation would only answer whether a Federal crime has been committed. Congress and the people deserve to know the circumstances and potential ethical violations raised by this matter regardless of whether a criminal offense occurred.

I regret that the Coburn amendment was not adopted and was replaced by the Boxer amendment. By taking these actions, the Senate has crossed a constitutional line and has reduced the likelihood that the underlying matter will be adequately investigated.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity today to solemnly observe the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century. From 1915 until 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were brutally killed by the Ottoman Turks in a systematic effort to eradicate the Armenian people. There were unbearable acts of torture; men were separated from their families and murdered; women and children were put on a forced march across the Syrian desert without food or water.

Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913 to 1916, recalled:

When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race;

they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact . . . I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.

Tragically, 1915 was just the beginning. We saw the horrors of genocide in World War II when Jews were subjected to systematic extermination at the hands of Adolf Hitler and his followers. Indeed, Hitler remarked at the outset of this unbridled evil, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Unfortunately, the phrase "never again" turned out to be a hollow slogan. In the later half of the last century, countries like Cambodia and Rwanda were ravaged while the world was silent. And even now, in this new century, Darfur is the latest place to experience such brutality and inhumanity as the world stands idly by, either incapable or unwilling to do what is necessary to stop the devastation and murder.

Today, the Turkish Government denies what happened in the dying days of the Ottoman Empire and thus this scar on history cannot be healed until history is accurately spoken, written, and recalled. These are lessons that must be told and repeated to each and every generation.

In order for democracy and human rights to flourish, we must not support efforts to rewrite and deny history. In the United States, we strive to make human rights a fundamental component of our democracy. It is long overdue for our Nation to demand that the truth be told. We must recognize the Armenian genocide in the name of democracy, fairness, and human rights.

To that end, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of Senator RICHARD DURBIN's S. Res. 106, calling on the President to accurately characterize the Armenian Genocide in his annual message around April 24 and to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

It is important that we recognize the Armenian Genocide while its survivors are still with us to tell their stories. We must recognize the genocide for the survivors. We must recognize the genocide because it's the right thing to do. We must recognize the Armenian Genocide to help shed light on the darkness and move toward a more humane world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ROY E. JUNE

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a distinguished and decorated World War II U.S. Army Air

Corps veteran from my home State of Montana. Born in the small, humble town of Forsyth, 1LT Roy E. June comes as an inspiration to those who wish to lead a life of service to their country and their communities.

From the tragedy of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, came America's greatest generation responding to the certain urgency of that era. Like many young men of that generation, Roy and his buddies enlisted in the Armed Forces to defend their country and to advance the just cause of freedom. In the U.S. Army Air Corps, Roy's bravery and skills as a fighter pilot set him above the rest. As a P-51 Mustang fighter pilot, Roy escorted B-29 bombers to Japan, strafed and dive-bombed strategic military installations on Chi Chi Jima. For his heroism in the Pacific Theater, Roy earned an Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Distinguished Flying Cross. His 15th Fighter Group, the 47th Fighter Squadron was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation.

A fellow returning from Hawaii brought news about the end of the war. "Atomic Bomb Dropped On Japan" read the headline of the Honolulu Daily Advertiser. After 11 missions over Japan and more than 500 combat hours in the P-51s, Roy returned home to Missoula in January 1946.

Having grown up in the great State of Montana, Roy could recall many fond memories from his youth in his hometown of Forsyth. Roy was a Boy Scout and played center on the high school football team. Summers meant Huck Finn adventures and odd jobs; winters, though harsh, saw skating parties on the Yellowstone and ice hockey using sticks and tin cans. Before he joined the Air Corps, Roy studied engineering at the Montana State College in Bozeman.

And like all Montanans who believe a good education is a lifelong process, Roy went back to school after his return from war. With degrees in journalism and business administration from the University of Montana in Missoula, Roy entered law school in 1949. There he met his wife Laura Jane Brautigam, also a native of Montana.

Receiving his law degree in 1952, Roy went on to practice law in Helena where he helped to draft bills for State senators during the 1953 session. In Billings, he became an associate in the law firm of Sanders, Cresap and Koch representing groups such as the National Beef Council and the National Livestock Auction Markets. A few years later, Roy moved to California to serve as the city attorney for Costa Mesa. He took with him the spirit of Montana generosity and incorporated several nonprofit companies pro bono as his contribution to his community.

Even after his retirement in December 1996, Roy continues to give back to his community by volunteering at the Palm Springs Air Museum. Armed with firsthand knowledge of World War II aviation and the conflicts in the Pacific Theater, Roy shares his vivid

experience with all, much to the delight of visitors, young and old.

Mr. President, 1LT Roy June is a testament to the Montana spirit. We believe in courage, sacrifice, and service. From Montana to the Japanese Islands of Iwo Jima and Chi Chi Jima, wherever Roy was, he put up his best for his community and more importantly, his country. My fellow Montanans and I are extremely proud of Roy and his contributions to our State and Nation. A son of Montana from America's greatest generation, Roy reminds all of us that commitment and service to this country never end.●

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMY RESERVE CENTENNIAL

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I join the citizens of New Mexico and the United States in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the United States Army Reserve. In 1916 Congress passed the National Defense Act, creating the Officers' Reserve Corps, later named the Organized Reserve Corps, all of which are forerunners of the current Army Reserve.

The Army Reserve has been an integral part of numerous conflicts. In both World Wars, Army Reserve soldiers answered the call of duty. In World War I, 89,500 reserve officers were mobilized and during World War II, 200,000 members of the Organized Reserve Corps served, with reserve officers providing 29 percent of the Army's officers. More than 70 Army Reserve units were deployed to the Korean Peninsula providing combat support and combat service. Army Reserve members have also participated in Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Army Reserve mission has changed over time. Today, the Army Reserve has partnered with FEMA, State, and local agencies in defending the American homeland against terrorist attacks, providing resources and training to "first responder" organizations across the Nation.

New Mexico started deploying Army Reserve soldiers after September 11, 2001; in fact, as early as December 2001, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, OEF. New Mexico Army Reserve soldiers are currently deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, OIF. Over 50 percent of New Mexico's Army Reserve force have deployed in support of both campaigns.

Once again I would like to congratulate the Army Reserve on their centennial. I wish them continued success as they help protect our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL DEBAKEY

● Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the accomplishments of a Texan—Dr. Michael DeBakey—who changed the world. I am proud we are honoring Dr. DeBakey with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Dr. DeBakey's accomplishments are legendary. His lifelong commitment to the medical field and helping others has impacted the lives of countless Texans and, indeed, people around the world.

Dr. DeBakey, now 99 years old, is the son of Lebanese immigrants. He was born and educated in Louisiana, but has been a Texan for nearly 60 years. His accomplishments as a researcher, surgeon, and teacher have impacted the entire world, and may never be duplicated.

As Dr. DeBakey once said: "I take pride in the outstanding surgeons I've trained who have returned to their homes throughout the world to provide the best available health care for their patients."

He is especially recognized for his revolutionary contributions to cardiovascular medicine. Including two important inventions, the roller pump—an essential component of the heart-lung machine—and the DeBakey Ventricular Assist Device, an apparatus implanted into the heart to increase blood flow. Dr. DeBakey also designed countless medical devices now considered basic tools, such as specialty clamps, and wrote the book on numerous surgical procedures that have become standard practice in the operating room.

Dr. DeBakey was an innovator from the start of his medical career. During World War II, he helped develop the concept of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital M.A.S.H. units, a concept that saved thousands of lives during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Dr. DeBakey later helped create a medical and surgical center system for the Veterans Administration and improved the care of thousands of returning service personnel.

But Dr. DeBakey will always be best known as a pioneer in cardiovascular surgery. He became head of surgery at the Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston in 1948, and helped lead the Texas Medical Center to the position of international prominence it enjoys today.

He was one of the first surgeons to undertake coronary artery bypass surgery. And the first to successfully perform a carotid endarterectomy. And although generations have passed, his medical students, inspired by his example, have made countless additional breakthroughs.

In 1996, Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a heart attack during his re-election campaign. His doctors told him he could not survive surgery. But Yeltsin called in Dr. DeBakey for a consultation and later asked him to oversee his coronary bypass, which proved successful. It was a tacit acknowledgment of U.S. medical leadership and Dr. DeBakey's international reputation.

Dr. DeBakey's worldwide fame has even translated into a few humorous medical anecdotes. It seems that an auto mechanic, working on a car, good-

naturedly compared his job to DeBakey's: "I also take valves out, grind them and put in new parts. So how come you get the big bucks?"

According to the tale, Dr. DeBakey quietly replied, "Yes, but I do it with the engine running."

On the last day of 2005, a sharp pain in his upper torso told Dr. DeBakey he was suffering an aortic aneurysm—the very condition that his research had addressed years before. Initially, Dr. DeBakey chose to wait out the situation in hopes that it would heal itself.

It didn't. After a 7-hour surgery and 9 months of touch-and-go recuperation, Dr. DeBakey went back to work.

Over the years, as he helped establish Houston as an internationally known center of medical excellence, Dr. DeBakey would always be best remembered for the broader humanitarian aspects of his work. He dedicated countless hours to advising developing nations, and training doctors and medical authorities to establish stronger and more efficient health care systems.

Dr. DeBakey has been honored by a multitude of organizations, governments and medical institutions. He has received the Library of Congress Living Legends Award, the American Heart Association Gold Heart Award, the National Medal of Science and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, to name a few. Today, Dr. DeBakey will be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian award Congress can bestow.

Dr. Michael DeBakey has helped millions of people to live longer and more productive lives. He is a Texan who has helped change the world, and a Texan worthy of this honor.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WORLD WAR II VETERANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 99 World War II veterans from Louisiana who are traveling to Washington, DC, this weekend to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable servicemembers.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, is sponsoring this Saturday's trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring each surviving World War II Louisiana veteran by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. On this trip, the veterans will visit the World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iwo Jima memorials. They will also travel to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns.

This is the seventh flight Louisiana HonorAir has made to Washington, DC, and there will be two additional flights this spring.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs, but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people