

There is little to inspire confidence in our efforts to hold these terrorists to account for their actions and even less to show for our work to date. Our reliance on the government of Yemen to detain and prosecute these known members of al-Qaida—and their inability or unwillingness to do so—calls into question the partnerships and relationships we have secured in our efforts to meet the number one threat we face. The State Department's 2007 "Country Terrorism Report" notes that Yemen has "experienced several setbacks to its counterterrorism efforts" and recounts multiple examples of the Yemeni government's inability to apprehend escaped convicts—many of whom are members of al-Qaida and are associated with the USS *Cole* attack. Furthermore, for the past two years Yemen has been listed as a terrorist safe haven because of al-Qaida's ability to "reconstitute operational cells there" and carry out "several terrorist attacks against tourist targets."

How reliable is the Yemeni government as a partner in the fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates if it has been designated as a safe haven for terrorists? What efforts are being taken to ensure the Yemenis commit to combating terrorists and work with us to hold those responsible for the USS *Cole* attack accountable? Can we assure the American people that the Yemenis will ensure al-Qaida is denied access to resources, opportunities and safe spaces from which to operate? We cannot simply rely on others to do our work—especially when they are clearly not doing the job that needs to be done. We cannot sit back and allow others to take the reins while we remain distracted.

The war in Iraq has brought about a dramatic and regrettable shift in our priorities—a shift away from the top threat to our national security. Despite the persistent calls from the majority of Americans, we remain bogged down in Iraq—while it drains our resources, saps our attention, and depletes us of our ability to focus on our top national security concerns. I am concerned that this same lack of focus may be behind the administration's failures with respect to the attack on the *Cole*. The administration has paid relatively little attention to the marginalization of the USS *Cole* investigation, despite how critically important it remains to our national interest.

The global fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates must be our top priority, and the administration must take seriously its responsibility to ensure that the al-Qaida operatives behind the attack on the USS *Cole* are held to account for their heinous actions.

NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize National Arson Awareness Week, May 4-10, and its theme for 2008: "Toy-like Lighters Playing with Fire."

The major goal of National Arson Awareness Week is to promote national recognition, awareness and understanding of the arson problem in the United States. By creating a new theme each year, the National Arson Awareness Week encourages local communities to come together and promote a different aspect of arson awareness information. Intentionally set fires are a leading cause of fire deaths and a frequent cause of financial losses in the United States. The theme for this year's Arson Awareness Week, "Toy-like Lighters—Playing with Fire," focuses public attention on the dangers of toy-like or novelty lighters in the hands of children.

Novelty lighters are frequently mistaken by children for play toys, some complete with visual effects, flashing lights and musical sounds. Such cases of mistaken identity often carry devastating consequences.

National Arson Awareness Week greatly benefits communities in California and across the Nation, as it highlights awareness of the dangers posed by arson-related issues throughout local communities. I commend the local fire departments and localities that have worked to promote awareness of the dangers posed by toy-like and novelty lighters through the National Arson Awareness Week of 2008.

CELEBRATING PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today, Senator INOUE and I celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard has held a significant place in both Hawaii and our Nation's history. Even before Congress passed an act in 1908 officially creating the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor has been an important port for ships and sailors from across the world.

Early in the 19th century, Pearl Harbor, or "Wai-Momi," served as a primary port for exploration and trade. By the late 1800s, the United States was looking toward Pearl Harbor to serve as the center of its expanding Pacific Fleet. On May 13, 1908, Congress solidified Pearl Harbor's strategic importance by appropriating \$3 million to officially establish the Navy Yard at Pearl Harbor. Over the next 33 years, the new naval facility at Pearl Harbor was transformed into a site capable of basing the then-newly formed U.S. Pacific Fleet, and changed the face of Hawaii in the Pacific forever.

Every schoolchild in the United States learns about the events on the morning of December 7, 1941. That was the day the U.S. Naval forces at Pearl Harbor were devastated by the Imperial Japanese Navy's surprise attack. Nine ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet sank, and more than 2,300 American lives were lost. However, our children are taught far less often about the courageous resolve and dedication demonstrated by the shipyard's employees. After resurrecting much of the fleet

from the bottom of Pearl Harbor, and repairing 18 of 21 severely damaged vessels, the workers earned the motto, "We Keep Them Fit to Fight." Their commitment to duty became a model of the U.S. war effort during World War II.

The effort and hard work by Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard personnel to maintain the ships of the U.S. Navy helped to turn the tide of war at sea in the Battle of Midway. Their tireless work ultimately ensured that of the ships damaged on December 7, salvaged, repaired, and returned to service, one, the USS West Virginia, survived the duration of the war to sail triumphantly into Tokyo Bay in August 1945. The integrity, ethos, and determination of Pearl Harbor Shipyard workers continued throughout the Cold War, and provided the United States with a national treasure and a strategically critical base of operations for Pacific naval and air power.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, the rich history and unflagging service of the men and women at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard highlighted by Senator AKAKA continues today.

Once again our Nation is at war, and our Naval Forces engaged in the global war on terror can rely on the shipyard to provide top quality support. The shipyard's work focuses on the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and makes the shipyard the largest repair facility between the west coast of the United States and the Far East. The shipyard provides full-service maintenance for both the Pacific Fleet's ships and submarines throughout the Asia-Pacific theater. In addition to this significant responsibility, the shipyard has demonstrated its diverse capabilities by supporting our nation's space exploration, Antarctic expeditions, missile defense, and its ability to rapidly respond by deploying worldwide to perform emergency repairs.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is a national treasure, and it is known as "No Ka Oi," or "The Best" Shipyard. In the tradition of upholding this moniker, it has earned multiple national awards for its excellent safety and environmental stewardship programs. These awards include the prestigious Occupational Safety and Health Administration Star, and the White House Closing the Circle Environmental Quality Awards.

Beyond the numerous contributions to our U.S. Navy, the shipyard is also an integral part of Hawaii. It is the largest single industrial employer in the State, and its direct annual economic impact is greater than \$600 million in Hawaii. Through its apprentice, engineer co-op, and other student hire programs, Hawaii residents are provided with extraordinary training, employment, and career opportunities. For some families this tradition to keep our ships and submarines "fit to fight" runs throughout a generation

and is being passed down to the next generation.

Mr. AKAKA. Honor, courage, and commitment are the core values of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. These words speak volumes about both the local and national contributions of the proud men and women who have served under its banner. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring these outstanding Americans by celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, and to wish it as much success over the next century as it attained during the last.

Mr. INOUE. When Congress established the "Navy Yard Pearl Harbor" in 1908, Hawaii and the U.S. Navy were inextricably linked together. Just as it did in 1908, America understands the need for a strong presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Both the shipyard and its achievements are special. However, it is the shipyard's heart, the dedicated men and women who work there, that make those achievements possible. I join my colleague Senator AKAKA in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, and I look forward to celebrating its future successes in the next 100 years.

HONORING MONSIGNOR JOSEPH G. QUINN

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, it is with the greatest respect and personal gratitude that I stand today to honor our guest Chaplain, Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, and thank him for his humble and moving blessing upon us this morning. I am proud to say that Monsignor Quinn hails from my hometown of Scranton, PA, and lives and works there today as pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale.

Monsignor Quinn is one of the most dedicated and committed servants of God whom I have ever had the privilege to know. I am honored to say that he is my good friend and has been an invaluable and steadfast friend to my family for decades. He has provided us comfort and strength in times of sorrow and loss. When my father, Governor Casey, was ill and when he died in May of 2000, Monsignor Quinn grieved with us. In times of happiness and celebration like christenings and other occasions or celebrations, he has brought his sense of humor and his warmth.

Monsignor Quinn is a beloved church servant. He has made extraordinary contributions to his family, the city and diocese of Scranton and all of northeastern Pennsylvania. Interestingly, Monsignor Quinn's journey to the priesthood first took a detour through a short, but remarkable, legal career. I would like to highlight just a few of his accomplishments over the last three decades.

After graduating from the University of Scranton and Seton Hall University School of Law in 1976, he was appointed a Federal magistrate-judge for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Then 25 years of age,

he was the youngest person in the country to serve in that position. After 6 years of distinguished service in the judiciary, he answered his call to the priesthood and went on to complete his studies at the North American College in Rome and was ordained in 1985.

Monsignor Quinn's numerous professional contributions include serving as: parish priest and pastor; dean of the Scranton Central Deanery of the Diocese of Scranton; member of the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission; diocesan moderator of the Bishop's Annual Appeal for the 1998, 1999 and 2000 campaigns; member of both the Diocesan College of Consultors and the Diocesan Presbyteral Council; chairman of the Diocesan Communications Commission; member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Scranton; and personal representative of the Bishop of Scranton to the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, a statewide body that addresses and advances public policy issues on behalf of the Pennsylvania Bishops.

Monsignor Quinn has been a key contributor to the community in a wide variety of capacities, and has been honored with numerous awards. The following are just a sampling: the B'nai B'rith Americanism Award; the Scranton Preparatory School Outstanding Alumnus of the Year as well as its most significant honor, The Ignatian Award; a Marywood University Presidential Scholarship in his honor; and the Lackawanna Bar Association's President's Award as well its highest award, the Chief Justice Michael J. Eagan Award. The University of Scranton honored Monsignor Quinn with its O'Hara Award in recognition of his community service, and in the fall of 2004, the Monsignor's nearly 30 years of service by naming a Presidential scholarship in his honor. In 2005, Scranton's Central City Ministerium named Monsignor Quinn its Clergyman of the Year.

These are only a few of Monsignor Quinn's many awards and accomplishments. He should be proud of these commendations but I have no doubt that his tremendous joy in serving God through service to his brothers and sisters in Christ, each and every day is what continues to inspire him. Monsignor Quinn is a truly beloved servant of the Church and its people. It is heartening to me, both personally and as a Member of the Senate, to listen to today's blessing by Monsignor Quinn and to welcome his vision of God's grace for our world into this Chamber.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BRIDGER HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to give special recognition to the music department of Bridger High School for putting together an award-winning music education program. By

demonstrating outstanding commitment to music education, Bridger High School won this year's GRAMMY® Signature School Award. This distinction is a national honor and a cause for celebration for the town of Bridger in my home State of Montana.

Music plays an integral part in our daily lives. It helps to define who we are as individuals and as a nation. Through music we celebrate, we laugh, we grieve and we heal. An old song, like an old friend, helps to recall feelings and memories lost in time.

The power of music is undeniable. Music education, therefore, is a sound investment. It teaches discipline and provides an avenue to express deep and powerful emotions. It enhances a student's performance in other subject areas. It makes a fundamental difference in the quality of life.

It makes an even bigger difference in the lives of students from economically underserved school districts. Bridger is a small town with a population less than 1,000. Under the watchful guidance of their music director Michel Sticka and principal John Ballard, the 28 music students from Bridger High strived to distinguish themselves and their school. They have succeeded. And so, they deserve our respect and admiration.

Being selected as a GRAMMY® Signature School is no small task. Bridger High School competed against 20,000 other public schools across the Nation to capture the distinction. In addition, the students at Bridger High went on to win the GRAMMY® Signature Schools Enterprise Award. The award recognizes three schools across the country for their efforts towards achieving music excellence. This national honor comes with a grant of \$5,000 designed to benefit Bridger High's music program.

Because of a strong music education, for the students of Bridger High, the greatest reward comes from the lifelong benefit of being able to lead richer and fuller lives.

I couldn't be more proud of the students and faculty members at Bridger High School. They have gone above and beyond to put Bridger, MT, on the map, setting the standard for all Montana schools. I join my fellow Montanans in a chorus of praise for these 28 bright students on their extraordinary achievements: Benton D. Asbury, Katryna N. Asbury, Samantha J. Bobby, Jonathan E. Bostwick, Devon B. Caballero, Jenny M. Cooke, Jessica Denney, Karissa J. DeRudder, Sommer D. Dykstra, Rebekah Edelman, Hayden D. Forsythe, Hannah Goetz, Jacey K. Griswold, Elliott G. McCarthy, Forrest C. McCarthy, Kimberly M. McClurg, Heidi R. Mudd, Wendi N. Mudd, Tara R. Murray, Lenore K. Pierson, Cole D. Schwend, Edward Stevenson, Andrea D. Sticka, Bailee M. Vaughn, Ryan J. Witt, Kyla M. Young, Tyler D. Young, Brit-tany N. Zentner.●