

companies are not truly investing in renewables or adding to its refineries and production. And then we have to put that pressure on OPEC.

These are the kinds of short-term, bold measures the people of this country are looking for. So tomorrow we have our chance. I implore my colleagues to join us. Let's get this done and do something real for the people of this country.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING ROBLEY REX

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize a very special individual from my home State of Kentucky, Mr. Robley Rex. Earlier this month, Mr. Rex celebrated his 107th birthday. To live 107 years in and of itself is an achievement by anyone's standard. In the case of Robley Rex, those 107 years have been especially full of accomplishment and patriotic service. He has filled his lifetime with loyal service to our Nation's Armed Forces, to the U.S. Postal Department, to local businesses, to the Methodist ministries and, perhaps most importantly, to his family and his fellow veterans.

Robley Rex was born in Hopkinsville, KY 1901. Upon turning 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and proudly served our Nation. He returned to Kentucky after serving with 5th Infantry in Germany in 1922. Mr. Rex then joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, and married Ms. Grace Bivens. He held jobs with local Kentucky businesses before beginning his career as a U.S. Postal Department railroad mail clerk. At the spry, young age of 86, Robley Rex began volunteering through the VFW and was honored by the group for having performed more than 13,600 hours of service over a 20-year period. He also volunteered his time at the VA Medical Center in Louisville, KY, helping the hospital staff and inspiring the patients and their families. He also found time to become an expert in proper flag etiquette. Mr. President, I don't know I anyone who knows more about how to properly care for an American flag than Mr. Rex.

I am proud to represent such a remarkable model of honor and duty and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize Robley Rex in front of this distinguished body. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his continued service to our Nation and to Kentucky, and to wish him all the best on his 107th birthday and in the future.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT CHAD A. CALDWELL

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, my thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of SSG Chad Caldwell who left this world fighting for democracy and peace for the Iraqi people. By all accounts, he loved his family and country and served three combat tours to safeguard their future.

After graduating from Cheney High School in 2001, Staff Sergeant Caldwell joined the Army. The decorated soldier served one tour in Iraq, followed by a second combat tour in Afghanistan. In February 2007, he signed up for a third tour in Iraq. During this time, he earned two Army Commendation Medals, including one for saving the life of a pregnant woman after the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad was bombed in 2003. The second medal was awarded to Staff Sergeant Caldwell for saving the life of his lieutenant colonel that was caught in gunfire.

I join Arkansans and Washingtonians in lifting his wife Raechel and two young sons, Trevor and Coen, in my prayers. We will never forget the sacrifice made by the Caldwell family.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ISRAEL

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel, which is being celebrated today around the world. Since May 1948, the Jewish state has transformed itself from a fledgling band of pioneers and immigrants to a strong, robust, and democratic state. Israel has been an indispensable friend over the years and remains our greatest ally in the Middle East. One of the world's most innovative and exemplary countries, Israel has lived up to its founding ideal of being a "light unto the nations."

Beset on all sides by enemies, Israel declared its independence under cover of night on the fifth day of the Jewish month of Iyar. The new country was immediately recognized by U.S. President Harry Truman, a decision which continues to make America proud. Still, the surrounding armies immediately invaded. Challenged in a war for its survival, Israel prevailed to enjoy its independence. Israel would face existential threats from larger foes several times again, prevailing each time and steadily growing stronger.

And yet, for 60 years now, the State of Israel has done far more than just survive and persevere. Mr. President, it has thrived.

Politically, Israel has built a sanctuary of democracy, the rule of law, and basic rights and freedoms. Religiously, Israel has built a tolerant society for the Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Bahai who share the Holy Land. Economically, it is a modern marvel, home of some of the most high-level technological advances in the world. In

the field of agricultural production, which is so important to my home State of South Dakota, Israel has done the so-called impossible and it has made the desert bloom. The invention of the surface drip irrigation system revolutionized farmers' ability to bring water to their crops, creating a lasting benefit for the entire world.

Congratulations to Israel on 60 years of statehood. Our friendship and alliance with Israel is an extension of our interests and our values, and I look forward to a strong U.S.-Israel relationship for generations to come.

GREAT LAKES LEGACY ACT OF 2008

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last week, my colleagues from the Great Lakes and I introduced the Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008. This bill will reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002, which significantly benefited efforts to clean up contaminated areas of the Great Lakes.

The focus of the Legacy program is to clean up "Areas of Concern" in the Great Lakes. These are sites that do not meet the water quality goals established by the United States and Canada in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The primary reason that these areas fail to meet water quality goals is the result of contaminated sediments from industrial activity. This contamination results in fish advisories, degradation of fish and wildlife populations, taste and odor problems with drinking water, beach closures, and bird and animal deformities or reproductive problems.

The existing Legacy program has funded several projects throughout the region to remove contaminated sediments in Areas of Concern. In fact, almost 800,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments have been removed since the program was created in 2002. This is material that has been safely removed from riverbeds so that it no longer poses a threat to human health or the wildlife.

Still, there are 13 Areas of Concern in the State of Michigan alone. The environmental problems are far too grave considering the fact that the Great Lakes holds one-fifth of the world's freshwater, supplies drinking water to tens of million people, and provides a \$5 billion fishery. They threaten the Great Lakes as a source of potable water, as a recreational resource, as a commercial asset, and as a natural habitat.

The bill that we have introduced would build on the existing Legacy program in several ways. It would increase the authorization of appropriations from \$54 million to \$150 million annually in order to clean up the Areas of Concern within 10 years. The bill would give the EPA greater flexibility to manage funds by allowing the EPA to distribute funds directly to contractors and would not require States to maintain previous year's funding levels at a

site. Under this bill, eligible projects would be expanded to include habitat restoration. Many Areas of Concern cannot be delisted until habitat restoration work is done. Also, the bill would give the EPA the discretion to provide Legacy Act funds to demonstration and pilot projects. Finally, the bill would clarify the role of polluters in participating in future projects.

We have been working for decades to try to clean up the Areas of Concern. This bill was drafted based on recommendations from a coalition of environmental and industry groups that are working to protect and restore the Great Lakes, and I want to thank them for their dedication. I hope that my colleagues will support this legislation to continue progress on cleaning up these sites and protecting our precious Great Lakes for the use and benefit of citizens throughout the Midwest and across Nation.

TRIBUTE TO PLACIDO DOMINGO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to someone who has touched the lives of millions not just in this country but across the world. This week, tenor Placido Domingo sings the title role in the new Washington National Opera production of Handel's "Tamerlano." It is his 130th role, an unprecedented feat. He has made each of these parts into something alive and multidimensional. Tragic figures like Otello or Cavaradossi have come to life and, through their actions, have laid out time-honored truths about human emotions and how we live. Mr. Domingo's singing, marked by a clarion tone and natural sense of the shape of a musical phrase, can move us to great heights and the deepest depths. He is a positive force in the world and someone that everyone can celebrate.

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of his debuts at the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the country's premiere opera house, the Metropolitan Opera. He frequently sings across the globe, gracing stages of esteemed European opera houses like London's Royal Opera and Milan's La Scala. He might be most widely known as one of the "3 Tenors." His recording of grand productions and solo recitals fill store racks in my home State of Vermont, as well as the whole country. These are unheralded achievements for any tenor, undertakings that have led to numerous awards like several Grammy awards and his recent election by a respected British magazine as the "King of Singers."

Thankfully, his ego is not nearly as long or wide as that list of laurels. He is a deeply respectful individual, and he takes interest in others. He came be extremely kind. He paid me one of the nicest favors last year, when, at a special function, my wife Marcelle asked him to sing "Happy Birthday" to me. Rarely has the simple tune been heard

with such color and finesse. It was a moment that I will never forget.

Even in that straightforward, if always sweet, tune that amazing sense of the inner workings of music was there. There have been other great tenors but few who have shown such a strong musical sense. The word used most often to describe Mr. Domingo's approach to each score is "scrupulous," a word that means meticulous, fastidious, conscientious. That quality extends into his work from the podium as a conductor and from the boardroom as a general manager, not only of the Washington National Opera but also the Los Angeles Opera. He gets inside whatever he is doing—singing, conducting, administration—and makes it come out fresh, natural, and seemingly right.

He has literally lived and breathed opera throughout his life. As a child, he sang the popular Spanish operas known as zarzuela. The two companies that he directs have commissioned new operas, and it is new operas that make all the difference between a "has-been" and a living, breathing art form. Just 2 years ago, the Washington National Opera put on Scott Wheeler's "Democracy." Its themes of politics, love, and Washington still resonate today.

Mr. Domingo spends a great deal of time in the United States, which has received him like the hero he often sings on stage. He knows New York, Washington, and Los Angeles like a native. He undertakes tours to sing across the Nation, sometimes bringing music to communities that may not have a major opera house. He is not an American citizen, but he embraces some of the best qualities of what it means to be an American, energetic and open, alive to life's possibilities. He has forged a special bond with the country, and for that we are all grateful.

As Mr. Domingo takes on his role this week at the Washington National Opera, I know the entire Senate joins me in congratulating and thanking him for his relentless work and his spectacular ability to move us to tears, laughter, and sheer joy.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORAD

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the North American Aerospace Defense Command Agreement between the United States and Canada. For Colorado, the home to the headquarters of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, NORAD, this is a proud and joyous 50th anniversary.

Since the May 12, 1958, signing of the first NORAD agreement, NORAD has been a model for international cooperation in defense planning, execution, training, information management, and technological innovation. For half a century, the command has helped detect, deter, and defend against threats to the North American Continent.

Today, we honor this legacy of success, but we also look ahead to the next half century of this partnership, so that NORAD can continue to provide for the security of our continent and our homeland.

Over the last 3 years, I have visited frequently with the commanders of NORAD and U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs. I am humbled by the work that the men and women of NORAD do day-in and day-out to carry out their mission. At all hours, NORAD executes its missions of aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning. If any aircraft, missiles, or space vehicles pose a threat to the North American Continent, NORAD provides accurate, unambiguous, and timely warning. The command works closely with its homeland defense, security, and law enforcement partners to prevent air attacks, to safeguard the sovereign airspaces of the United States and Canada, and to provide a capability to respond to unknown, unwanted, and unauthorized air activity approaching and operating within North American airspace. At sea, NORAD provides binational warning of any maritime threat that may be approaching the continent.

Over the last half century, NORAD has been a mechanism for collaboration between the United States and Canada in the interest of security. NORAD exercises command and control of military forces of both countries, so that we can respond to threats efficiently and jointly. NORAD has also allowed a growing level of information and intelligence sharing between the Canadian and American militaries, intelligence services, and other agencies and organizations. This is absolutely vital to our efforts to confront and defeat the threats of the 21st century.

NORAD brings together not only the Active-Duty components of the U.S. and Canadian militaries but also the capabilities of our nations' Reserve components and national, provincial, state, local, and tribal organizations. The product of NORAD's efforts is the broad, binational, multiagency cooperation that has been, and will continue to be, fundamental to our national defense.

Mr. President, today's milestone is an opportunity to reflect on the rewards of the NORAD partnership. These rewards are measured by the security of our citizens but also by the strength of the relationship between our two countries. NORAD's 50-year legacy of cooperation has helped build respect, trust, and confidence between Canadians and Americans. It is a relationship that is longstanding, stable, mutually beneficial, and absolutely essential in today's security environment, where the threats and challenges we face are always evolving.

We must always remember, though, that the success of NORAD is a product of the men and women who make it work. To the Americans and Canadians