

year-old on the other side of the country in Oroville, CA, held students hostage at Las Plumas High School, also resulting in a lock-down. Around that same time, an armed student suspected of plotting a Columbine-style attack on fellow high school students was arrested in Norristown, PA. The students in these situations were lucky and escaped without injury.

University of Memphis student Taylor Bradford was not so lucky. He was killed on campus last September in what university officials believe was a targeted attack. He was 21 years old. Shalita Middleton was not so lucky. She died last October from injuries she sustained during the Delaware State incident. She was 17 years old. Nathaniel Pew was not so lucky. He was wounded at Delaware State. High school teachers Michael Grassie and David Kachadourian and students Michael Peek and Darnell Rodgers—all of whom were wounded by a troubled student at SuccessTech Academy last October—were not so lucky. And the two female students killed this past Friday in Baton Rouge were not so lucky.

The School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act responds directly to incidents like these by addressing the problem of violence in our schools in several ways. The bill authorizes Federal assistance for programs to improve the safety and security of our schools and institutions of higher education, provides equitable benefits to law enforcement serving those institutions including bulletproof vests, and funds pilot programs to develop cutting-edge prevention and intervention programs for our schools. The bill also clarifies and strengthens two existing statutes—the Terrorist Hoax Improvements Act and the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act—which are designed to improve public safety.

Specifically, the bill would improve the safety and security of students both at the elementary and secondary school level and on college and university campuses. The K-12 improvements are drawn from a bill that Senator BOXER introduced last April, and I want to thank Senator BOXER for her hard work on this issue. The improvements include increased funding for much-needed infrastructure changes to improve security as well as the establishment of hotlines and tip-lines, which will enable students to report potentially dangerous situations to school administrators before they occur.

These improvements can save lives. After the four students and teachers were wounded at SuccessTech Academy, the press reported that parents had been petitioning to get a metal detector installed and additional security personnel added, and that the guard who was previously assigned to the school had been removed 3 years ago. In fact, at the time, the entire city of Cleveland had just 10 metal detectors that rotated throughout the city's

more than 100 schools. Title I of the bill would enhance the ability of school districts to apply for and receive grant money to fund the installation of metal detectors and the training and hiring of security personnel to keep our kids safe.

To address the new realities of campus safety in the wake of Virginia Tech and more recent college incidents, title I also creates a matching grant program for campus safety and security to be administered out of the COPS Office of the Department of Justice. The grant program would allow institutions of higher education to apply, for the first time, directly for Federal funds to make school safety and security improvements. The program is authorized to be appropriated at \$50,000,000 for the next 2 fiscal years. While this amounts to just \$3 per student each year, it will enable schools to more effectively respond to dangerous situations on campus.

The bill would also make sworn law enforcement officers who work for private institutions of higher education and rail carriers eligible for death and disability benefits, and for funds administered under the Byrne Grant program and the bulletproof vest partnership grant program. Providing this equitable treatment is in the best interest of our Nation's educators and students and will serve to place the support of the Federal Government behind the dedicated law enforcement officers who serve and protect private colleges and universities nationwide. I commend Senator JACK REED for his leadership in this area.

The bill helps law enforcement by making improvements to the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2003, LEOSA. These amendments to existing law will streamline the system by which qualified retired and active officers can be certified under LEOSA. It serves us all when we permit qualified officers, with a demonstrated commitment to law enforcement and no adverse employment history, to protect themselves, their families, and their fellow citizens wherever those officers may be.

The bill focuses on prevention as well, by incorporating the PRE-CAUTION Act at the request of Senators FEINGOLD and SPECTER. This provision authorizes grants to develop prevention and intervention programs for our schools.

Finally, the bill incorporates the Terrorist Hoax Improvements Act of 2007, at the request of Senator KEN-NEDY.

The Senate should move forward and act. The Virginia Tech Review Panel—a body commissioned by Governor Kaine to study the Virginia Tech tragedy—recently issued its findings based on a 4-month long investigation of the incident and its aftermath. This bill would adopt a number of recommendations from the Review Panel aimed at improving school safety. We must not miss this opportunity to implement

these initiatives nationwide, and to take concrete steps to ensure the safety of our kids. I hope the Senate will promptly move forward to invest in the safety of our students and better support law enforcement officers across the country by considering and passing the School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvement Act of 2007.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT LEE MYUNG-BAK

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, in just 2 weeks President-elect Lee Myung-bak will be inaugurated as the next President of South Korea. His inauguration offers a fresh opportunity to reaffirm and reinvigorate the U.S.-South Korea relationship for a new era.

The U.S.-ROK alliance has been a remarkably strong and successful one. Forged in blood during the Korean war more than a half-century ago, the alliance has sustained itself through the crucible of the cold war and remains central to U.S. security policy in East Asia. Our bonds have only deepened through the extensive social and cultural ties that have formed between our two countries, including 100,000 Americans who live in Korea, and the 2 million Korean-Americans who enrich our society through their classic American ethic of hard work, strong families, and tight-knit church communities.

Nonetheless, I do not think it is an overstatement to say that the U.S.-Korea relationship has been adrift in recent years. At the heart of it have been our respective approaches to North Korea. The Bush administration has been divided within itself on how to deal with Pyongyang, branding it a member of the “Axis of Evil” and refusing bilateral discussions with it before subsequently reversing course. This unsteady approach not only has allowed North Korea to expand its nuclear arsenal as it has resumed reprocessing of plutonium and tested a nuclear device. It also has understandably caused anxiety in South Korea, as its leaders and people have tried to figure out what the Bush administration policy is.

I have no illusions about North Korea, and we must be firm and unyielding in our commitment to a nonnuclear Korean peninsula. In the process we must pay attention to the interests of the South Korean people to ensure that we move forward in unity and common purpose.

The U.S.-Korea economic relationship has also benefited both nations and deepened our ties. I look forward as well to supporting ways to increase our bilateral trade and investment ties through agreements paying proper attention to our key industries and agricultural sectors, such as autos, rice, and beef, and to protection of labor and environmental standards. Regrettably,

the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement does not meet this standard.

Given the importance of getting this relationship right I would encourage President Bush to invite President Lee to the White House as early as possible after his inauguration as a signal of the commitment of the United States to the alliance, and to reaffirm the importance of the alliance to the United States. In the process, we need to work with South Korea on a common vision for the alliance to meet the challenges of the 21st century, not only those on the Korean Peninsula but in the region and beyond.

An alliance that once was built solely on defense against common threats must today be built also on our shared values and strong mutual interests. I congratulate President-elect Lee on his election, pass on my good wishes for him and the Korean people for his inauguration, and honor the Korean people for their vibrant democracy. I look forward to the opportunity to work with him in the years ahead to replenish and revitalize this crucial relationship.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CARROLL COLLEGE FIGHTING SAINTS

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, the December 24, 2007, "Year in Pictures" edition of Sports Illustrated featured a mud-soaked and elated Brandon Day on the cover. Day is a junior linebacker for the Fighting Saints of Carroll College in my hometown of Helena, MT. This amazing image was captured by photographer John Russell following the Fighting Saints fifth National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics football title in the past six seasons on December 15, 2007, in Savannah, TN.

The story of this team and the cover photo on Sports Illustrated has really moved me. With all the negative stories recently in the sports world, it was both heartening and appropriate for the magazine to honor the spirit of intercollegiate athletics by shining the spotlight on such a hard-working and deserving group of student athletes. The young men that make up Carroll's football squad truly embody the best of these ideals and Montana values. They have worked hard both on and off the field and have achieved not only athletic glory, but also success in the classroom and have given much back to the Helena community and their hometowns. Coming from small towns across Montana and the West, these student athletes certainly don't demand or expect this kind of recognition for their achievements, but they certainly are worthy of the praise. This group of young men are great ambassadors for the college they so proudly represent and are terrific role models for their fellow students and the many younger kids who look up to them.

This strength of character is certainly a tribute to their fine and caring

coach, Mike Van Diest, who has taught his players that devotion to school, family, and faith come before football. He demands excellence from his players both on and off the field, as does the president of the school, Dr. Thomas Trebon. Dr. Trebon recently wrote a letter to Sports Illustrated that tells the story of the Fighting Saints. I thank Dr. Trebon for all of his hard work and leadership at Carroll College, and I look forward to cheering on the Saints again in 2008. I know that they will continue to make Montana proud.

Mr. President, I ask to have the letter from Dr. Trebon printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

DEAR SPORTS ILLUSTRATED: All of Montana is thrilled by the SI "2007 Pictures of the Year" front cover featuring Carroll College junior linebacker Brandon Day's euphoric reaction to the Fighting Saints' fifth NAIA National Football Championship win.

The untold story about the Saints found honest reflection in the SI cover photo, with Day and his victorious teammates soaked in mud while overcome with joy. It's a story about humble happiness through hard work, where every standout member of the Saints who receives recognition promptly points to his teammates as the real reason for their success. It's the story of Fighting Saint Luke DenHerder, who returned to the gridiron after beating a lethal cancer, while his fellow student-athletes cheered him and even shaved their heads in solidarity during his chemotherapy. It's the story of a team comprised of men hailing primarily from rural Western towns, ranches and farms, from struggling middle-class families, who know the meaning of hard work and who haven't seen much glory in return. Until now.

Carroll's story is about two-time NAIA National Coach of the Year (2003 and 2005) Mike Van Diest, who led the Saints to all five national championship wins, all while demanding that our athletes' priorities must be God first, family second, school third and football last. Indeed, the press corps following our team to Tennessee took more photos of our players studying for their final exams and volunteer reading to school children in Savannah, Tenn., than engaged in pre-game practice. This fall, seven Fighting Saints were named national Daktronics-NAIA Football Scholar-Athletes, the team maintains a grade point average over 3.2, and nearly half of our football squad is selected yearly as All-Academic honorees in the Frontier Conference. Yet, the true story about the Saints was told before the clock ran out during the championship game. After each play, our Carroll student-athletes showed their commitment to sportsmanship by helping their opponents up from tackles and shaking hands with the University of Sioux Falls players.

In these days when more of us long for a return to civility and yearn to see our star athletes and athletic programs meet the high standards of role models, SI's cover photo was distinctly gratifying. In one shot, photographer John Russell captured both a moment of athletic triumph and distilled our dream of bringing back the values of simpler times, when good men from humble beginnings win out in the end and become heroes.

THOMAS TREBON,
President, Carroll College.●

UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME 2008

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am proud to be involved for a second year

in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, an exchange program in which outstanding college students from Australia's top universities compete to serve as interns for the U.S. Congress. The program is in its ninth year of bringing the Washington experience to our friends from Australia, firsthand. In addition to working in congressional offices, the program provides students with a number of other opportunities and activities, including visits to historic sites, visits to government agencies, meetings with government leaders, and educational events.

This year, Suzi Allan, a student from the University of Canberra, Australia, is taking a 2-month hiatus from her communications degree to help me serve Idaho constituents. Of the program, Suzi says, "The UCWIP has given me the unique opportunity to gain firsthand insight into the world's most influential government. I have had incredible experiences while working in Senator Crapo's office and have enjoyed learning more about the U.S. Congress. Working in the heart of America's political establishment is a fantastic experience that I will always remember."

This year, I would again like to thank Director Eric Federling and his wife, Daphne, for their continued commitment to enlarging the educational experience of students in their home country of Australia. Free nations have a responsibility to work together to promote the liberty that have provided social, cultural, and economic success. Bringing young people together in their formative educational years promotes these partnerships for prosperity across national lines and highlights our Nations' shared goals and interests. I am pleased to be able to participate in this well-crafted and successful program.●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WEBSTER TWO HAWK

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to speak today to recognize an outstanding lifelong resident of South Dakota, Rev. Webster Two Hawk.

Recently, Reverend Two Hawk marked 50 years of service to his church and his faith. His congregation is the St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierre, SD, where he has been a volunteer priest for the last 27 years. Reverend Two Hawk, now retired, has a long list of accomplishments throughout his lifetime.

Reverend Two Hawk was born and lived near White River, SD, until going to schools in Todd County. Upon completion of high school in Mission, SD, now Todd County High School, he attended the University of South Dakota, my alma mater, where he graduated in 1952 with a degree in business administration. Upon leaving college, Two Hawk enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve in the Korean war. Upon his return from service, he attended Kenyon College in Ohio where he graduated