

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BENNETT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendments, requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and the Chair is authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate:

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. INOUE, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. BROWNBACK, conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

DELAWARE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome home the Delaware Army National Guard's 261st Tactical Signal Brigade from Iraq. Just over 1 year ago, on October 2, 2008, 110 brave citizen soldiers left behind their families in the great State of Delaware to serve their country with honor in Iraq. Nearly 1 year later, on September 30, 2009, all 110 members of the 261st returned to Dover Air Force Base to be reunited with their families.

I am extremely grateful that each member of the 261st has returned safely to Delaware, and I offer them my deep gratitude, respect, and admiration for their service. I know I speak for all Delawareans when I say just how proud I am of their contributions in Iraq.

Under the leadership of the Delaware National Guard Adjutant General, MAJ Frank Vavala, the 261st trained for 1 year to prepare for their deployment. Under the command of BG Scott Chambers they served with distinction at Camp Victory in Baghdad. I had the privilege of visiting the 261st in April and then again in September during my two visits to Iraq. I was enormously proud to see the tremendous work they were doing, and I was honored to spend time with these inspiring men and women from Delaware during my trip.

While in Iraq, the 261st played a critical role as the first National Guard

unit to maintain and administer the communications network. They also ran the Baghdad Signal University which trained Iraqi nationals in communication skills. During each visit, I was impressed by the professionalism and the commitment of the members of the 261st. There is no question that their unique skill set and unwavering commitment greatly contributed to the U.S. mission in Iraq.

As we see progress in infrastructure and security in Iraq, it is due in no small part to the efforts of the Delaware National Guard. The 261st worked tirelessly to share their expertise and knowledge with their Iraqi counterparts, expanding the Iraqi capacity to manage their own communications networks and systems. The families of the Guard can rest assured knowing that despite their great sacrifice over the past year and the difficulties they faced in being separated from their loved ones, the 261st left Iraq a better place because of their service.

The volunteers of the 261st are part of a proud and historic Delaware tradition. For decades, the 261st has served its country with great honor and distinction. Since 1924, it has deployed in times of need, first, as a part of the Delaware National Guard 261st Coast Artillery Battalion. The 261st was activated again on January 27, 1941, to participate in coastal defense operations during World War II. Since then, the mission of the 261st has evolved from defending the homeland to a broader global mission, such as that in Iraq, where it played a vital role in building communication networks and engaging in information operations.

We are truly fortunate as a nation to have so many dedicated volunteers willing to serve on the front lines defending our interests at home and abroad, and I am especially grateful to the 261st for their courageous service.

As we welcome this unit home from Delaware, we also send our prayers for the safe return of all of those serving our Nation in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, due to family-related reasons, I was unable to cast a vote for rollcall vote No. 306, the nomination of Thomas Perez to be Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" to confirm the nominee.

SOUTHGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department for celebrating its centennial this October. Over the past century, the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department has been comprised of numerous men

and women who have dedicated their lives to serving their community.

The record of excellence at Southgate Volunteer Fire Department has made all the difference in reaching this glorious milestone in its history. This year the department won its fourth State Fire Olympics; the State Fire Olympics hosts five different events that test the skills of firefighters and explorer teams. The extensive 3,000 hours spent per year on training has no doubt aided in the achievements made by the department. The Southgate Volunteer Fire Department became one of the first in Campbell County to develop life squads, and it has also been recognized as one of the first in Kentucky to carry semiautomatic external defibrillators.

The strength and dedication of the department was tested at the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire in May of 1977, surely the most difficult day in its 100-year history. The Southgate Volunteer Fire Department was at the forefront of that firefighting effort and was aided by another 500 firefighters from throughout Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. There were 3,800 people rescued from the fire that night, all because of the valor and dedication shown by these heroes.

The department's current chief, John Beatch, manages 75 members of the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department, and in 2004 and 2005 the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department boasted the induction of two previous chiefs into the Firefighters Hall of Fame. Early in 2000, with aid from the State, the department received a new administration office, sleeping quarters, new dress and work uniforms, and two new semiautomatic external defibrillators.

The foundation of excellence that began 100 years ago still stands as the volunteers of this brave department have dedicated their lives to protecting their community. I am confident that tradition will continue on for the next 100 years as the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department continues to keep the people of Kentucky safe. I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the men and women of the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department for their service and their heroism.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN SKLAVER

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of U.S. Army Reserve CAPT Benjamin Sklaver, who was killed on October 2, when his patrol came under attack in Muscheh, Afghanistan. He was 32 years old.

Captain Sklaver personified the values and qualities of a U.S. Army officer, and dedicated himself to improving his country and helping those most in need, both in uniform and as a private citizen. As a U.S. Army captain, Benjamin Sklaver distinguished himself as a capable and talented leader; and as an employee of the CDC and

FEMA Captain Sklaver used his skills to help Americans prepare for and recover from disaster.

Perhaps the most inspiring chapter of his life came after a 2007 deployment to the Horn of Africa, where Captain Sklaver saw how hard it was for rural Ugandan villagers to obtain clean drinking water. Upon his return to the United States, Sklaver helped found the ClearWater Initiative to help bring access to clean water to war torn regions. In just 2 short years, Captain Sklaver's Initiative provided access to clean, potable water to over 6,500 people in Africa, where his charity work earned him the nickname "Moses Ben."

Guided by a deep sense of patriotism and the Jewish principle of Tikkun Olam, or fixing the world, Captain Sklaver touched the lives of thousands, and his contributions to his country and to those he helped around the world will not soon be forgotten.

All of us owe a deep debt of gratitude to Captain Sklaver and his family. I extend my deepest condolences to Captain Sklaver's parents Gary and Laura, his brother Samuel, his sister Anna, his fiancé Beth Segaloff, and to all those who knew and loved him.

SPECIALIST JUSTIN PELLERIN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army SPC Justin Pellerin, a 21-year-old resident of Concord, NH. Specialist Pellerin was killed while conducting combat operations in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, on August 20, 2009.

Specialist Pellerin was a 2006 graduate of Concord High School. It was there that he met Chelsea, his high school sweetheart, whom he would later marry. The two had just celebrated their 1-year anniversary and were looking forward to Justin returning home in December. His family and friends remember him for his sharp sense of humor, his selflessness, and his love of American muscle cars.

Justin joined the Army because he wanted to make a difference in the world. For his distinguished service, he has been awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. He, and the thousands of brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, represent the best in America's long tradition of duty, sacrifice, and service.

In addition to his wife Chelsea, Specialist Pellerin is survived by his mother Melissa; stepfather Dale Farmer; and two younger sisters Molly and Hannah. He will be missed dearly by all those who knew him.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring the life of SPC Justin Pellerin.

SERGEANT MICHAEL C. ROY

Mr. President, I wish to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Marine SGT Michael C. Roy, a 25-year-old native of Manchester, NH. Sergeant Roy was killed while conducting combat op-

erations in Nimroz province, Afghanistan on July 8, 2009.

Sergeant Roy was born in Manchester and grew up in nearby Candia before moving with his family to Florida. He served two tours of duty in Iraq prior to his deployment to Afghanistan as a member of the 3rd Marine Special Operations Battalion based out of Camp Lejeune, NC.

According to his family, Sergeant Roy loved being a marine. He joined the service at the age of 18 and often shared his stories of the Corps with his siblings. He was also a devoted husband and the loving father of three young children.

No words can diminish the loss of this devoted husband and father, but I hope Sergeant Roy's family will take solace in the deep gratitude and appreciation all Americans share in honoring his service to our country. He, and the thousands of brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces serving today, deserve America's highest honor and recognition.

In addition to his wife Amy and their children Olivia, Michael, and Landon, Sergeant Roy is survived by his father Michael and his mother Lisa Hickey. He will be missed dearly by all those who knew him.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring the life of SGT Michael C. Roy.

RECOGNIZING ACT, INC.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come before the Senate today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of an Iowa educational organization that has become a household word for Americans entering postsecondary education or the workforce, and which has gained a solid international reputation as well, ACT, Inc. Over those 50 years, this organization has grown to be one of the most significant gateways between secondary education and postsecondary education or the workplace. I would like to describe some of the work this institution has done that has made such an important contribution to American education.

ACT was founded in 1959 at a meeting in Iowa's old State capitol on the campus of the University of Iowa. It was launched as the "American College Testing Program" by a University of Iowa professor of education, the University of Iowa's registrar, and representatives of 16 Midwestern States. Their goal was to help all students who wanted to attend college find a good match for their interests and abilities, and to help colleges and universities place students into appropriate freshmen-level classes. On November 7, 1959, about 75,000 students took the first ACT assessment. By comparison, in the high school graduating class of 2009, nearly 1.5 million students, or 45 percent of all high school graduates in the Nation, took the ACT.

ACT now conducts extensive research designed to help provide solutions to

the complex education problems facing the country. For example, they have developed a college and career readiness system for students beginning in middle school and continuing through postsecondary education. This system helps students stay on target to be ready to succeed in college or workforce training programs when they graduate high school, without the need for remedial classes, and monitors their success in postsecondary education once they leave high school.

ACT is also involved in researching solutions to the Nation's workforce challenges. For example, ACT developed the National Career Readiness Certificate to confirm that individuals have essential core employability skills. ACT is one of several partners in a new manufacturing skills certification system designed by the National Association of Manufacturers, the Nation's largest industrial trade organization.

Furthermore, ACT is helping build bridges between the United States and many other nations to help them improve their education and workforce systems, and to help people in other nations learn the English language. For example, through local partners, ACT conducts a 9-month pre-university program in 13 countries, including China, Korea, Indonesia, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, and countries in South America. There are more than 30 teaching centers in China. This program prepares students to study in English-language universities in the United States and elsewhere. This contributes to our country's standing in the world. As a nation, we benefit from foreign talent, as students from other nations come to study in U.S. colleges and universities. Individuals who return to their home countries in turn go back with a greater understanding of Americans and our way of life.

I offer my congratulations to the over 1,000 Iowa residents employed with ACT, its directors, and other members of its State organizations on their 50-year history of helping people achieve education and workplace success. I look forward to following their accomplishments for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DRS. WILLARD S. BOYLE AND GEORGE E. SMITH

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to extend my deepest congratulations to Drs. Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith—two New Jersey scientists who have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, an incredible honor for extraordinary ingenuity in their chosen field and fitting recognition for their outstanding achievement.

They have expanded the boundaries of science, inventing something most of us do not understand, but which has made a difference in our lives. The invention of the charged-coupled device,