

Voinovich Warner	Webb Whitehouse	Wicker Wyden
NAYS—2		
Bond	DeMint	
NOT VOTING—13		
Bennett	Gregg	Menendez
Bunning	Hutchison	Murkowski
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Corker	Leahy	
Cornyn	McCaskill	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 2. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Closure having been invoked on amendment No. 2712, the motion to commit falls.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, the Senate has just voted on a motion to advance the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act. This is the second time—that is right, the second time—we voted on this critical legislation. But, unfortunately, opponents of the extension are still holding it up.

The bill under consideration today incorporates important ideas from both sides of the aisle. When the House bill included additional weeks only for workers in States with unemployment rates above 8.5 percent, the chairman and the majority leader allowed us to work out a compromise that would support jobless workers in all 50 States.

An amendment by Senator ISAKSON to extend the home buyers tax credit has now been incorporated into the Senate bill, as well as an important amendment from Senator BUNNING to extend the carryback of net operating losses for up to 5 years. Both of these are good ideas that will help homeowners, help our housing market, and provide relief to businesses that are trying to weather this economic recession. Both have now been included in the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act.

Now it is time for all of us to stop playing politics and to focus on the critical issue we started to address a month ago: the devastating rates of unemployment and the nearly 2 million Americans who are exhausting their benefits at the rate of 7,000 a day.

This is good legislation. It is legislation that provides at least 14 additional weeks of unemployment insurance for those Americans who have been hardest hit by this recession and those whose benefits are starting to be exhausted. I was pleased that once again the motion to advance this bill received broad bipartisan support. The vote was 85 to 2. The first vote was 87 to 13. It should receive this kind of support because unemployment isn't a New England problem or a Montana problem or a southern problem; it isn't a Republican or an Independent or a

Democratic problem; it is a hardship that hits every community in every State in every part of our country.

Last week, I spoke about my constituent Jane McDermott from Stoddard, NH. Jane wrote me last week that without this extension, she doesn't know how she is going to pay for the gas she needs to get out and look for a job, she doesn't know how she is going to pay for groceries for her family or any of the other family necessities. I was hoping that today Jane would get the news she has been waiting for—that this extension will be put into effect and that she, along with millions of other Americans who need it, will get the help to be able to continue to look for a job and continue to get the family necessities while she does that.

I think it is time—again, way past time—for us to put politics aside. We shouldn't make Jane or any of the other hundreds of thousands of Americans who have been waiting for this extension wait one more day.

Mr. President, I yield the floor with the hopes that we will get an agreement today, tomorrow, as soon as possible, to help the people who need help. Thank you.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. 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, and that the time during morning business count against the postclosure time.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, another 6 months have passed, and more American troops have lost their lives overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. I wish to honor their service and sacrifice by including their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Since I last included the names of our fallen troops on April 23, 2009, the Pentagon has announced the deaths of 310 troops in Iraq and in Operation Enduring Freedom, which includes Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten and today I submit their names into the RECORD:

PFC Lukas C. Hopper, of Merced, CA; SPC Adrian L. Avila, of Opelika, AL; Frank R. Walker, of Oklahoma City, OK; PFC Brian R. Bates, of Gretna, LA; SPC Joseph L. Gallegos, of Questa, NM; SPC Robert K. Charlton, of Malden, MO; SSG Keith R.

Bishop, of Medford, NY; SFC David E. Metzger, of San Diego, CA; SGT Nikolas A. Mueller, of Little Chute, WI; SGT Josue E. Hernandez Chavez, of Reno, NV; SSG Shawn H. McNabb, of Terrell, TX; CW3 Niall Lyons, of Spokane, WA; CW4 Michael P. Montgomery, of Savannah, GA; PFC Christopher I. Walz, of Vancouver, WA; SPC Jared D. Stanker, of Evergreen Park, IL; SGT Patrick O. Williamson, of Broussard, LA; SGT Issac B. Jackson, of Plattsburg, MO; SGT Dale R. Griffin, of Terre Haute, IN; SGT Fernando Delarosa, of Alamo, TX; SSG Luis M. Gonzalez, of South Ozone Park, NY.

LCpl Cody R. Stanley, of Rosanky, TX; SPC Brandon K. Steffey, of Sault Sainte Marie, MI; MAJ David L. Audo, of Saint Joseph, IL; PFC Devin J. Michel, of Stockton, IL; SGT Eduviges G. Wolf, of Hawthorne, CA; Capt Kyle R. Van De Giesen, of North Attleboro, MA; Capt David S. Mitchell, of Loveland, OH; Capt Eric A. Jones, of Westchester, NY; CPL Gregory M.W. Fleury, of Anchorage, AK; PFC Kimble A. Han, of Lehi, UT; SPC Eric N. Lemcke, of Tampa, FL; SPC Kyle A. Coumas, of Lockeford, CA; SSG Bradley Espinoza, of Mission, TX; LCpl David R. Baker, of Painesville, OH; SPC Michael A. Dahl Jr., of Moreno Valley, CA; PFC Daniel J. Rivera, of Rochester, NY; PFC Brandon M. Styer, of Lancaster, PA; SPC Daniel C. Lawson, of Deerfield Beach, FL; SPC Jesus O. Flores, Jr., of La Mirada, CA; SSG Glen H. Stivison, Jr., of Blairsville, PA.

SPC Anthony G. Green, of Matthews, NC; SSG Chris N. Staats, of Fredericksburg, TX; SGT Christopher M. Rudzinski, of Rantoul, IL; SSgt Aaron J. Taylor, of Bovey, MN; LCpl Alfonso Ochoa Jr., of Armona, CA; SPC George W. Cauley, of Walker, MN; SFC Kenneth W. Westbrook, of Shiprock, NM; SPC Kevin O. Hill, of Brooklyn, NY; PFC Kevin C. Thomson, of Reno, NV; SPC Stephan L. Mace, of Lovettsville, VA; SPC Christopher T. Griffin, of Kincheloe, MI; SGT Michael P. Scusa, of Villas, NJ; SGT Joshua J. Kirk, of South Portland, ME; SGT Joshua M. Hardt, of Applegate, CA; SGT Justin T. Gallegos, of Tucson, AZ; SSG Vernon W. Martin, of Savannah, GA; MAJ Tad T. Hervas, of Coon Rapids, MN; PFC Alan H. Newton Jr., of Asheboro, NC; CPT Benjamin A. Sklaver, of Medford, MA; SPC Paul E. Andersen, of Dowagiac, MI.

SSG Thomas D. Rabjohn, of Litchfield Park, AZ; SPC Brandon A. Owens, of Memphis, TN; SGT Aaron M. Smith, of Manhattan, KS; SGT Roberto D. Sanchez, of Satellite Beach, FL; SGT Ryan C. Adams, of Rhinelander, WI; SPC Russell S. Hercules Jr., of Murfreesboro, TN; SSG Jack M. Martin, III, of Bethany, OK; SFC Christopher D. Shaw, of Markham, IL; SSG Alex French, IV, of Milledgeville, GA; SPC Ross E. Vogel, III, of Red Lion, PA; LCpl Jordan L. Chrobot, of Frederick, MD; SPC Kevin J. Graham, of Benton, KY; SPC Joseph V. White, of Bellevue, WA; SGT Edward B. Smith, of Homestead, FL; SGT Titus R. Reynolds, of Columbus, OH; LCpl John J. Malone, of Yonkers, NY; PFC William L. Meredith, of Virginia Beach, VA; TSgt James R. Hornbarger, of Castle Rock, WA; SGT David A. Davis, of Dalhart, TX.

SPC Damon G. Winkleman, of Lakeville, OH; SPC Corey J. Kowall, of Murfreesboro, TN; SPC Michael S. Cote Jr., of Denham Springs, LA; SRA Matthew R. Courtois, of Lucas, TX; PFC Jeremiah J. Monroe, of Niskayuna, NY; SSG Joshua M. Mills, of El Paso, TX; SFC Shawn P. McCloskey, of Peachtree City, GA; SFC Bradley S. Bohle, of Glen Burnie, MD; SGT Robert D. Gordon, II, of River Falls, AL; 1LT David T. Wright, II, of Moore, OK; SGT Andrew H. McConnell, of Carlisle, PA; SPC Demetrius L. Void, of Orangeburg, SC; SSgt Bryan D. Berky, of

Melrose, FL; SPC Daniel L. Cox, of Parsons, KS; SSG Nekl B. Allen, of Rochester, NY; PFC Matthew M. Martinek, of DeKalb, IL; SFC Duane A. Thornsberry, of Bridgeport, WV; SGT Tyler A. Juden, of Winfield, KS; 1LT Tyler E. Parten, of AR; LCpl Christopher S. Fowlkes, of Gaffney, SC.

PFC Zachary T. Myers, of Delaware, OH; PFC Thomas F. Lyons, of Fernley, NV; SSG Shannon M. Smith, of Marion, OH; SGT Youvert Loney, of Pohnpei, Micronesia; SSGt Aaron M. Keneffick, of Roswell, GA; 1LT Michael E. Johnson, of Virginia Beach, VA; GySgt Edwin W. Johnson Jr., of Columbus, GA; PO3 James R. Layton, of Riverbank, CA; Capt Joshua S. Meadows, of Bastrop, TX; 1st Lt Joseph D. Helton, of Monroe, GA; SSG Michael C. Murphrey, of Snyder, TX; SGT Randy M. Haney, of Orlando, FL; 2LT Darryn D. Andrews, of Dallas, TX; LCpl Christopher S. Baltazar Jr., of San Antonio, TX; PO3 Benjamin P. Castiglione, of Howell, MI; SPC Jordan M. Shay, of Salisbury, MA; SSG Todd W. Selge, of Burnsville, MN; SPC Tyler R. Walshe, of Shasta, CA; PFC Jordan M. Brochu, of Cumberland, ME; SPC Jonathan D. Welch, of Yorba Linda, CA.

LCpl David R. Hall, of Elyria, OH; PFC Eric W. Hario of Monroe, MI; SSG Jason S. Dahlke of Orlando, FL; SPC Abraham S. Wheeler, III, of Columbia, SC; PVT Taylor D. Marks, of Monmouth, OR; SGT Earl D. Werner, of Mondovi, WI; SSG Kurt R. Curtiss, of Murray, UT; PFC Matthew E. Wildes, of Hammond, LA; SPC Dennis M. Williams, of Federal Way, WA; SFC Ronald W. Sawyer, of Trenton, MO; CPT Cory J. Jenkins, of AZ; CPT John L. Hallett, III, of Concord, CA; LCpl Donald J. Hogan, of San Clemente, CA; CPL Darby T. Morin, of Victoria, Canada; 2LT Joseph D. Fortin, of St. Johnsbury, VT; SSG Andrew T. Lobosco, of Somerville, NJ; PFC Jonathan C. Yanney, of Litchfield, MN; SPC Troy O. Tom, of Shiprock, NM; SGT Matthew L. Ingram, of Pearl, MS; SPC Justin R. Pellerin, of Boscawen, NH.

PFC Brian M. Wolverton, of Oak Park, CA; 1SG Jose S.N. Crisostomo, of Inarajan, Guam; SSG Clayton P. Bowen, of San Antonio, TX; PFC Morris L. Walker, of Chapel Hill, NC; SPC Paul E. Dumont, of Williamsburg, VA; SPC Matthew D. Hastings, of Claremore, OK; SPC William Z. Van Osdol, of Pinson, AL; GySgt Adam F. Benjamin, of Garfield Heights, OH; LCpl Leopold F. Damas, of Floral Park, NY; SFC William B. Woods Jr., of Chesapeake, VA; CPL Nicholas R. Roush, of Middleville, MI; LCpl Joshua M. Bernard, of New Portland, ME; SGT William J. Cahir, of Washington, DC; CPT John Tinsley, of Tallahassee, FL; LCpl Bruce E. Ferrell, of Perdido, AL; SPC Richard A. Walters Jr., of Cleveland, OH; LCpl Patrick W. Schimmel, of Winfield, MO; LCpl Javier Olvera, of Palmdale, CA; LCpl Dennis J. Burrow, of Naples, FL; SGT Jerry R. Evans Jr., of Eufaula, AL.

SPC Matthew K.S. Swanson, of Lake Forest, CA; SSG Tara J. Smith, of Nashville, NC; Capt Matthew C. Freeman, of Richmond Hill, GA; Sgt Jay M. Hoskins, of Paris, TX; Cpl Christian A. Guzman Rivera, of Homestead, FL; LCpl Travis T. Babine, of San Antonio, TX; LCpl James D. Argentine, of Farmingdale, NY; PO3 Anthony C. Garcia, of Panama City, FL; PVT Keiffer P. Wilhelm, of Plymouth, OH; SFC Severin W. Summers, III, of Bentonia, MS; SFC Alejandro Granado, of Fairfax, VA; CPT Ronald G. Luce Jr., of Fayetteville, NC; PVT Patrick S. Fitzgibbon, of Knoxville, TN; PFC Richard K. Jones, of Roxboro, NC; CPL Jonathan M. Walls, of West Lawn, PA; SPC Alexander J. Miller, of Clermont, FL; SSG Johnny R. Polk, of Gulfport, MS; LCpl Jonathan F. Stroud, of Cashion, OK; LCpl Gregory A. Posey, of Knoxville, TN; CW2 Douglas M. Vose, III, of Concrete, WA.

SGT Gerrick D. Smith, of Sullivan, IL; AT Andrew Scott Charpentier, of Great Falls, MT; SPC Justin D. Coleman, of Spring Hill, FL; PFC Donald W. Vincent, of Gainesville, FL; SPC Herberth A. Berrios-Campos, of Bealeton, VA; Cpl Nicholas G. Xiarhos, of Yarmouth Port, MA; LCpl Jeremy S. Lasher, of Oneida, NY; Sgt Ryan H. Lane, of Pittsburgh, PA; SPC Randy L.J. Neff, Jr., of Blackfoot, ID; SGT Joshua J. Rimer, of Rochester, PA; SGT Raymundo P. Morales, of Dalton, GA; PFC Dennis J. Pratt, of Duncan, OK; SPC Andrew J. Roughton, of Houston, TX; SGT Anthony M. Lightfoot, of Riverdale, GA; SGT Gregory Owens Jr., of Garland, TX; Cpl Benjamin S. Kopp, of Rosemount, MN; LCpl Brandon T. Lara, of New Braunfels, TX; Capt Mark R. McDowell, of Colorado Springs, CO; Capt Thomas J. Gramith, of Eagan, MN; SPC Carlos E. Wilcox, IV, of Cottage Grove, MN.

SPC James D. Wertish, of Olivia, MN; SPC Daniel P. Drevnick, of Woodbury, MN; SFC Jason J. Fabrizi, of Seffner, FL; Sgt Michael W. Heede, of Delta, PA; SSGt David S. Spicer, of Zanesfield, OH; CW2 Rodney A. Jarvis, of Akron, OH; SSG Eric J. Lindstrom, of Flagstaff, AZ; MSgt Jerome D. Hatfield, of Axton, VA; LCpl Pedro A. Barbozaflores, of Glendale, CA; Cpl Matthew R. Lembe, of Tualatin, OR; SPC Joshua R. Farris, of La Grange, TX; MSgt John E. Hayes, of Middleburg, FL; LCpl Roger G. Hager, of Gibsonville, NC; SPC Gregory J. Missman, of Batavia, OH; PFC Lucas M. Bregg, of Wright City, MO; Sgt Michael C. Roy, of North Fort Myers, FL; AO Darren Ethan Tate, of Canyon, TX; SPC Issac L. Johnson, of Columbus, GA; SPC Chester W. Hosford, of Hastings, MN; SGT Brock H. Chavers, of Bulloch, GA.

2LT Derwin I. Williams, of Glenwood, IL; CPT Mark A. Garner, of Elkin, NC; PFC Nicolas H. J. Gideon, of Murrieta, CA; SPC Christopher M. Talbert, of Galesburg, IL; PO2 Tony Michael Randolph, of Henryetta, OK; LCpl Charles S. Sharp, of Adairsville, GA; PFC Aaron E. Fairbairn, of Aberdeen, WA; PFC Justin A. Casillas, of Dunnigan, CA; SPC Robert L. Bittiker, of Jacksonville, NC; SGT Juan C. Baldeosingh, of Newport, NC; SGT Roger L. Adams Jr., of Jacksonville, NC; SFC Edward C. Kramer, of Wilmington, NC; SGT Terry J. Lynch, of Shepherd, MT; SSG Timothy A. David, of Gladwin, MI; PFC Steven T. Drees, of Peshtigo, WI; SPC Joshua L. Hazlewood, of Manvel, TX; 1LT Brian N. Bradshaw, of Steilacoom, WA; SPC Casey L. Hills, of Salem, IL; SGT Rodrigo A. Munguia Rivas, of Germantown, MD; SGT Ricky D. Jones, of Plantersville, AL.

1SG John D. Blair, of Calhoun, GA; MCPO Jeffrey J. Garber, of Hemingford, NE; SPC Chancellor A. Keesling, of Indianapolis, IN; SSG Joshua A. Melton, of Carlyle, IL; SSG Paul G. Smith, of East Peoria, IL; SGT Joshua W. Soto, of San Angelo, TX; MSG Kevin A. Dupont, of Templeton, MA; CPT Kafele H. Sims, of Los Angeles, CA; SPC Jonathan C. O'Neill, of Zephyrhills, FL; SSG Edmond L. Lo, of Salem, NH; CWO2 Ricky L. Richardson Jr., of Franklin, MO; MAJ Rocco M. Barnes, of Los Angeles, CA; LCpl Joshua R. Whittle, of Downey, CA; LCpl Robert D. Ulmer, of Landisville, PA; SGT Christopher M. Kurth, of Alamogordo, NM; SPC Charles D. Parrish, of Jasper, AL; SPC Jeffrey W. Jordan, of Rome, GA; SFC John C. Beale, of Riverdale, GA; MAJ Kevin M. Jenrette, of Lula, GA; SGT Jasper K. Obakrairur, of Hilo, HI.

SPC Jarrett P. Grielme, of La Porte, TX; SPC Roberto A. Hernandez, I, of Far Rockaway, NY; SGT Justin J. Duffy, of Cozad, NE; PFC Matthew W. Wilson, of Miller, MO; PFC Matthew D. Ogden, of Corpus Christi, TX; SSG Jeffrey A. Hall, of Huntsville, AL; LCpl Matthew G. Reza, of Austin, TX; SPC Marko M. Samson, of Columbus, OH; SPC

Samuel D. Stone, of Port Orchard, WA; PVT Bradley W. Iorio, of Galloway, NJ; PVT Thomas E. Lee, III, of Dalton, GA; SPC Chad A. Edmundson, of Williamsburg, PA; Dr. Maged M. Hussein, of Cairo, Egypt; 1SGT Blue C. Rowe, of Summers, AR; CDR Duane G. Wolfe, of Port Hueneme, CA; SrA Ashton L. M. Goodman, of Indianapolis, IN; Lt Col Mark E. Stratton, II, of Houston, TX; SFC Brian Naseman, of New Bremen, OH; CW4 Brent S. Cole, of Reedsville, WV; SSG Paul F. Brooks, of Joplin, MO.

1LT Leevi K. Barnard, of Mount Airy, NC; MAJ Jason E. George, of Tehachapi, CA; 1LT Roslyn L. Schulte, of St. Louis, MO; SGT Carlie M. Lee, III, of Birmingham, AL; SSG Esau I. De la Pena-Hernandez, of La Puenta, CA; SPC David A. Schaefer Jr., of Belleville, IL; CPL Ryan C. McGhee, of Fredericksburg, VA; MAJ Steven Hutchison, of Scottsdale, AZ; PFC Michael E. Yates Jr., of Federalsburg, MD; SPC Jacob D. Barton, of Lenox, MO; SSG Christian E. Bueno-Galdos, of Paterson, NJ; MAJ Matthew P. Houseal, of Amarillo, TX; SGT Lukasz D. Saczek, of Lake in the Hills, IL; SPC Omar M. Albrak, of Chicago, IL; CDR Charles K. Springle, of Wilmington, NC; PVT Justin P. Hartford, of Elmira, NY; SSG Randy S. Agno, of Pearl City, HI; SPC Shawn D. Sykes, of Portsmouth, VA; SPC Jake R. Velloza, of Inverness, CA; SPC Jeremiah P. McCleery, of Portola, CA.

SPC Ryan C. King, of Dallas, GA; SGT James D. Pirtle, of Colorado Springs, CO; SGT Christopher D. Loza, of Abilene, TX; PO2 Tyler J. Trahan, of East Freetown, MA; SSG Mark A. Wojciechowski, of Cincinnati, OH; Sgt James R. McIlvaine, of Olney, MD; SSG Leroy O. Webster, of Sioux Falls, SD; CSM Benjamin Moore Jr., of Waycross, GA; CPL Brad A. Davis, of Garfield Heights, OH; Cpl William C. Comstock, of Van Buren, AR.

We cannot forget these men and women and their sacrifice. These brave souls left behind parents, spouses, children, siblings, and friends. We want them to know the country pledges to preserve the memory of our fallen soldiers who gave their lives for our country.

SERGEANT MICHAEL P. SCUSA

Mr. Ben NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Army SGT Michael P. Scusa, who lost his life as the result of an attack in Kamdesh, Afghanistan, on October 3, 2009.

As a child in Crete, NE, Michael Scusa had his sights set on a military career. He joined the U.S. Army in 2005, immediately following his high school graduation in Villas, NJ, where he had been living with his mother. After basic training in Kentucky, Scusa was assigned to Fort Carson, CO.

While stationed at Fort Carson, Sergeant Scusa met his wife Alyssa. She describes her husband as a man with a wonderful sense of humor who always brightened other people's spirits. He never complained and always wore a smile. The two had been married for 2 years and had a son Connor, named after one of Scusa's close friends who was also killed while serving his country. Scusa was deployed to Afghanistan when Connor was just 8 months old.

Sergeant Scusa had been in Afghanistan for 5 months and was on his second tour overseas, having deployed to Iraq from October 2006 to December 2007. He and seven other soldiers out of

Fort Carson, all of the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, were killed in combat while bravely defending their outpost against a coordinated attack by hundreds of insurgents in the mountainous Nuristan Province. Over the course of his service, Sergeant Scusa received an array of honors and awards, including a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Army Good Conduct Medal; and he was posthumously promoted from specialist to sergeant.

Upon his wishes, Sergeant Scusa has been laid to rest in Colorado in order to be near his wife and son. He also leaves behind his mother Cindy; father and stepmother George and Kelley; sisters Susan and Kami; brothers John and Jimmy; and numerous other family members and friends.

Sergeant Scusa passed away making the ultimate and most valiant sacrifice. My condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends. His heroism and selflessness will remain an inspiration for all of us.

CALLING UPON TURKEY TO FACILITATE THE REOPENING OF THE HALKI SEMINARY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week's visit to Washington by the Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew I, is an appropriate occasion to renew calls for the reopening of the Halki Seminary, without further delay. Founded in 1844, the Theological School of Halki, located outside modern-day Istanbul, served as the principal seminary for Ecumenical Patriarchate until its forcible closure by the Turkish authorities in 1971. Counted among alumni of this preeminent educational institution are numerous prominent Orthodox scholars, theologians, priests, and bishops as well as patriarchs, including Bartholomew I. Many of these scholars and theologians have served as faculty at other institutions serving Orthodox communities around the world. Despite occasional indications by the authorities of pending action to reopen the seminary, to date all have failed to materialize.

Earlier this year, several of my colleagues from the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which I chair, joined me in a letter to President Obama to underscoring our long-standing concern over the continued closure of this unique institution. The continued denial of requests for the reopening of the seminary stands in clear violation of Turkey's obligations pursuant to the 1989 OSCE Vienna Concluding Document which affirmed the right of religious communities to provide "training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions." While there is no question that the Halki Seminary is the appropriate institution for training Orthodox clergy in Turkey, the Government of Turkey continues to refuse to reopen the school.

In his address to the Turkish Gran National Assembly in April, President

Obama said, "Freedom of religion and expression lead to a strong and vibrant civil society that only strengthens the state, which is why steps like reopening Halki Seminary will send such an important signal inside Turkey and beyond." In a welcomed development, Turkey's Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with the Ecumenical Patriarch in August. In an address to a wider gathering of minority religious leaders that day, Erdogan concluded by stating, "We should not be of those who gather, talk and disperse. A result should come out of this."

Mr. President, I urge Prime Minister Erdogan to follow through on the sentiment of those remarks by actions that will facilitate the reopening of the Halki Seminary without further delay. I am told that the Theological School of Halki is situated atop the summit of the Hill of Hope. For those of us who have pursued this issue over the years, our hope has been that we would indeed witness the reopening of this historic institution. I remain hopeful and encourage Prime Minister Erdogan to act decisively and without condition on this matter before his upcoming visit to Washington.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING GEORGE M. SULLIVAN

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to remember one of the great public officials in the history of the State of Alaska, the former mayor of Anchorage, George M. Sullivan, who died peacefully in his sleep last month at age 87. George served Alaska during a time of transition in our State's history.

A lifelong Alaskan who was born and raised in Valdez, George worked for the U.S. Army's transportation corps during World War II in the Aleutians. He later won a seat in the Alaska House of Representatives in 1964 and 1965, being an excellent representative for Anchorage to represent the city's vast economic needs in the State legislature. He was a convincing spokesman for Anchorage in securing the aid that the city so desperately needed to rebuild.

George became the mayor of the city of Anchorage in 1967, just 8 years after statehood, but more importantly just 3 years after the Good Friday earthquake of 1964 that destroyed most of downtown Anchorage. The city was still in the early phases of rebuilding when George became the leader of city government. He guided the city through crafting new building and zoning codes as well as implementing land use planning to prevent further earthquake damage from occurring in the future.

Meanwhile, an economic earthquake struck Alaska—the discovery of oil on Alaska's North Slope in December 1968. That discovery did more than any

other event, even the earthquake, to turn Anchorage from a small port city to Alaska's largest city and the center of business, commerce, and supply in the State.

In preparation for the construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline and the subsequent economic boom, Sullivan had the vision to see that municipal government needed to have greater authority to regulate and supervise growth. He led the effort to bring about the merger of the city of Anchorage with the surrounding borough to build a unified government, helping to write the city-borough's first charter in 1975. He then stayed on to guide the young unified city-borough government, serving as mayor for 14 years, longer than any other person before or since.

While guiding Anchorage to become the State's largest city, he also found time to represent Alaska as the State's first member of the executive board of the National League of Cities in 1972. He also served as the president of the Alaska Municipal League.

George also worked tirelessly to represent Alaska's needs during congressional consideration of the Alaska lands act that eventually passed in 1980. It was then that I first met him since I was working as an aide for the Alaska Legislature. George truly was an inspiration. He could light up a room in Juneau just by entering it and could influence legislation simply with a few words of wisdom.

George did not speak to hear himself talk, but everyone listened when he did talk. That was because everyone who knew George knew he was a straight shooter, a totally honest, fair, dedicated and hard-working man of outstanding judgment. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word.

He worked tirelessly to develop a complete city, one with services for the young which is why the town's sports center—the Sullivan Arena—is named after him. He also worked to build facilities for senior citizens and low-income individuals and he worked to build the infrastructure necessary for a modern city in a cold climate.

While we had known of his ill health and his battle with cancer for some time, there is still a great emptiness at his passing. While his wife Margaret passed away 2 years ago, George is survived by nine children, one of which, Dan, is Anchorage's current mayor.

As much as George was known for his leadership in the community and State, he was also known to be a family man. He and his wife Margaret were married for 59 years and raised nine children. I offer my deepest condolences to all of his children and grandchildren.

George was truly one of Alaska's original pioneers, a giant who will be sorely missed. His many accomplishments will live on in Alaska's history. Many Alaskans, including myself, will continue to remember the good humor, wisdom, and selflessness of the man who will always be called Mr. Mayor.●