

centralized source for free credit reports. In fact, I hope the FTC utilizes all of its authority to end the deceptive marketing of free credit reports.

Today, deceptive marketing of “free” credit reports is big business. Ads appear on television, the internet, and other media. One of the leading advertisers of ostensibly free credit reports that are, in fact, linked to paid services is Experian, which vigorously opposed the disclosure requirements in Section 205. Despite its best efforts to sugarcoat its marketing practices, Experian acknowledged that if it were required in its advertising to inform potential customers of their legal right to get a no-strings-attached free credit report, it would have a harder time selling a “free” credit report that also requires consumers to sign up for credit monitoring at \$15 per month.

Experian spends tens of millions of dollars advertising FreeCreditReport.com, dwarfing government efforts to publicize the availability of free credit reports at AnnualCreditReport.com and effectively undermining the intent of the free credit report provision of the FACT Act. So it is no surprise that Experian defended its marketing practices with aggressive lobbying. I am confident that the FTC will stand up to that kind of pressure and issue strong pro-consumer regulations by the February 2010 deadline in the law.

If, however, the FTC has not issued final rules by the statutory deadline, Section 205 requires an interim disclosure, “Free credit reports are available under Federal law at: AnnualCreditReport.com,” to be included in any advertisement for free credit reports in any medium. That interim disclosure is intended to be required in all ads from February 2010, until the FTC rulemaking is finalized.

As chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I have spent the last 4 years working to expose industry-wide credit card abuses. In 2007, my subcommittee held hearings which brought before the Senate not only consumers victimized by unfair practices, but also the credit card CEOs who approved those practices. In many cases, the card issuers that engaged in these practices relied upon information in a credit report.

Section 205 of the Credit CARD Act will help prevent the subversion of a key consumer protection. Again, I thank my colleagues for enacting Section 205 into law.

REMEMBERING TIANANMEN SQUARE

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today marks a somber anniversary. Twenty years ago today, months of peaceful protests throughout China culminated with the violent deaths of hundreds, if not thousands, of Chinese citizens advocating for democratic reforms. It is with sadness that we mark this occasion, but it is also an opportunity to

renew our call for political reform in the People’s Republic of China.

One of the first things you see when you walk into my office is a large poster depicting the iconic image of a lone man staring down a line of Chinese tanks. This image has come to symbolize the worldwide struggle for democracy, the rule of law, and the promotion of basic human rights. Unfortunately, a generation of students in China can’t identify the image or tell you about the events leading up to June 3 and 4, 1989. This is because China has failed to acknowledge or account for the actions that led up to this event.

While the intervening years since the tragedy have seen China grow into a rapidly developing country, economically intertwined with the rest of the world, China’s failure to deal with the Tiananmen events prevents the nation from making the political reforms necessary to truly become a respected member of the international community.

In the years following Tiananmen, leaders of the Communist Party of China including Jiang Zemin, declared, “If we had not taken absolute measures at the time, we would not have the stability we enjoy today. A bad thing has turned out to be good.” General Chi Haotian, the General in charge of the People’s Liberation Army’s response to the protest later stated that, “I can tell you in a responsible and serious manner that at that time not a single person lost his life in Tiananmen Square.” Leaders of the military crackdown such as Deng Xiaoping and Li Peng, have never been held accountable for the actions of the People’s Liberation Army and there has never been an official acknowledgement of the number of protesters killed or put in prison. Some accounts have claimed that more than 20,000 people were arbitrarily arrested and held without trial. A number of these people remain in prison today.

Today would have been a landmark occasion for the Chinese government to announce that they were starting an independent and open investigation relating to the events of June 4, 1989. However, other than checkpoints set up in Tiananmen Square and efforts by the Chinese government to prevent international media outlets from filming in the square, there are no signs that today is anything other than an ordinary day in China.

While the events of 20 years ago by the Chinese government launched a coordinated effort to prevent further unrest, it also helped crystallize a movement that continues today. Democracy advocates in China have built upon the legacy of Tiananmen and have led various efforts to force accountability and political reforms. All who watch China applaud the tireless work of Ding Zilin, the leader of Tiananmen Mothers, Liu Xiaobo and the rest of Charter 08, as well as countless others such as Jiang Qisheng who continue to face intimidat-

tion and imprisonment, yet persist with their cause.

They can rest assured that ultimately their efforts will be successful. Today’s world is increasingly interconnected. Communication and travel have gotten easier, and with the development of the internet, despite censorship efforts, information is becoming more readily available to the Chinese people. Every day it becomes more difficult for the Chinese government to keep its people in the dark. They will find out about Tiananmen, they will find out about how the outside world operates, they will demand changes at home.

SRI LANKA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the recent defeat of Sri Lanka’s Tamil Tigers, otherwise known as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or LTTE, is a very welcome development. Led by a reclusive, cult-like figure who apparently saw no evil in forcibly recruiting and brainwashing young children to become suicide bombers, the LTTE long ago forfeited any legitimate claim to representing the interests of the Tamil population. This resounding victory offers the possibility—after 30 long years of conflict, including ruthless acts of terrorism by the LTTE and other atrocities against civilians by both sides—of lasting peace for all inhabitants of that small island nation.

I first became interested in Sri Lanka when a good friend, James Spain, was the U.S. Ambassador there. He often told me of the beauty of the country and its people, and it has been painful to observe the suffering that has befallen them. That suffering was further exacerbated by the tsunami which crashed ashore in December 2004, causing immense destruction and loss of life. A member of my staff was in Sri Lanka at that time, but far enough inland to escape harm.

I have strongly supported humanitarian aid for Sri Lanka, and 2 years ago, as chairman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I included additional funding for economic development in the north eastern region of the island after the LTTE were forced to retreat from that area. I look forward to being able to support additional reconstruction aid, so the northern communities that have been trapped in poverty and devastated by the conflict can recover. But for that to occur, several things need to happen.

The war claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Sri Lankan soldiers, LTTE combatants, and civilians. The tremendous loss and grief suffered by the families of both sides needs to be acknowledged in order for reconciliation to occur.

The government should immediately account for all persons detained in the conflict. It should provide access by international humanitarian organizations and the media to affected areas

and to populations of internally displaced persons who remain confined in camps, which should be administered by civilian authorities. These people should be allowed to leave the camps as soon as possible so they can start to rebuild their lives.

As soon as possible, the government needs to begin implementing policies for the devolution of power to provincial councils in the north and east as provided for in Sri Lanka's Constitution. This and other steps are needed to demonstrate that all Sri Lankans can live without fear and participate freely in the political process. It must address the longstanding, legitimate grievances of the Tamil population so they can finally enjoy the equal rights and opportunities to which they, like other Sri Lankan citizens, are entitled.

There is also the issue of accountability for violations of the laws of war. The LTTE had a long history of flagrant violations of human rights, including kidnappings, extrajudicial killings, disappearances, and deliberately targeting civilians. The Sri Lankan military engaged in similar crimes. Although the Sri Lankan Government prevented access for journalists to the war zone in order to avoid scrutiny of the military's conduct, video footage was smuggled out. And as the smoke has lifted from the battlefield there are reports that thousands of Tamil civilians who were trapped in the so-called safe zone perished in the last months of the war. There is abundant evidence that they were deliberately targeted with relentless shelling and aerial bombardments, despite repeated appeals by the international community that they be spared. There are also growing fears of retaliatory attacks against those who criticized such tactics.

The recent decision of the United Nations Human Rights Council rejecting calls, including by Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for an international investigation of these violations is unfortunate but not surprising. Several of the Council's members routinely arbitrarily imprison and torture political opponents in their own countries. The Sri Lankan Government, which seeks international aid to rebuild, insists that what occurred there is an "internal" matter and that for outsiders to call for an independent investigation and justice for the victims is an "infringement of sovereignty." To the contrary, the denial of basic rights and freedoms is a legitimate concern of people everywhere, whenever it occurs.

It is now incumbent on the Sri Lankan authorities to demonstrate that the rule of law is respected, that sweeping security measures that have been used to silence journalists, doctors, lawyers and other citizens who have criticized government policies are revised or repealed, that the government takes seriously its duty to defend the rights of all Sri Lankans irrespective of religious affiliation or eth-

nicity, and that those responsible for crimes against humanity or other violations of human rights are held accountable.

Thankfully, a long, bloody chapter of Sri Lanka's history has ended. But it is the next chapter that will determine whether justice and lasting peace can be achieved. If the Sri Lankan Government seizes this opportunity to unite the Sri Lankan people in support of an inclusive effort to address the causes of the conflict, the United States will be a strong partner in that effort.

HONORING AMERICA'S WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, this week, we pay tribute to those who fought for freedom's cause during World War II. Two monumental efforts occurred that resulted in turning the war efforts in favor of the Allied Forces. These events are D-day and the Battle of Midway. Each was a demonstration of our nation's commitment to freedom, a blow against tyranny, and the tremendous sacrifice everyday Americans are willing to make for peace and security.

This Saturday marks the 65th anniversary of D-day, the day the tide began to turn against totalitarianism in World War II. On that day, Allied troops stormed a Normandy beachhead to claim a foothold on the edge of Nazi-occupied Europe. More than 1,400 Americans sacrificed their lives during the invasion, including 130 Floridians.

As the largest land, air, and sea invasion in history, D-day brought together Allied forces and unprecedented military resources, including more than 150,000 servicemen, 13,000 aircraft, and 5,000 ships. By the day's end, more than 9,000 Allied warriors had sacrificed life and limb so that others could begin the perilous journey into Europe to defeat the forces commanded by Adolf Hitler.

D-day tested the courage and character of every American involved in the invasion. Like those who came before them, the soldiers who fought that day fought courageously for a freedom the men and women of our military still fight to defend.

Coinciding with the anniversary D-day is the 67th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, another turning point in the war. The battle claimed the lives of more than 300 Americans and helped to slow Japan's advance across the Pacific. America's forces executed the mission with tremendous skill and helped deliver one of the war's most decisive and crucial victories.

On these anniversaries, let us remember and recognize the courage of those who sacrificed their lives to restore hope through the liberation of those in occupied territories. Let us honor and thank those veterans that continue to share their unique stories from these extraordinary battles. May God bless the men and women of the U.S. military, and continue to bless our great Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, before I became a member of this body, I was privileged to serve as the president of University of Tennessee and as Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush. Therefore, I know how important it is for our nonprofits to make investments in our system of higher education. That is why I am pleased to report that Meharry Medical College in Nashville is poised to receive the single largest endowment gift in the college's 130-year history.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the largest philanthropic organization in America devoted exclusively to health care, has selected Meharry to receive a multimillion-dollar endowment and other funding to establish the Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health Policy at Meharry Medical College to produce our country's next generation of health care policy experts. Meharry will be partnering with Vanderbilt University College of Arts and Science on this project.

This gift is especially timely as the Nation grapples with economic challenges and millions of uninsured citizens amid growing bipartisan support for reforming the U.S. health care system. The new center aims to serve as a think tank for the pressing health care issues of the day; to increase the diversity of health policy scholars with doctors who are formally trained in sociology and economics; and to provide students and faculty with new curricula, research and academic offerings in health policy. The center seeks to reshape the future of America's health policies by creating a more inclusive pool of experts trained in health policy and allied disciplines.

Meharry Medical College is the Nation's largest private, independent, historically Black academic health center. It produces over 20 percent of the Nation's African-American physicians and 33 percent of the Nation's African-American dentists. These health professionals take care of those most in need: the underserved in our rural and urban communities across the country.

I know Meharry is pleased to be selected to receive this gift and produce scholars who will make a real impact on our health policy at this critical time. Though their graduates may serve the country, we Tennesseans are especially proud of Meharry and its many contributions to our State and the Nation. •

COMMENDING KATHLEEN L. "KATIE" WOLF

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I wish to honor my fellow Hoosier, Kathleen L. "Katie" Wolf. Today we recognize the many accomplishments of Katie, a distinguished public servant and a model citizen who over the years