

constitutional responsibilities in a safe and open environment.”

I have no doubt in my mind that the Capitol Police has done just that in a manner that is nothing short of heroic.

The U.S. Capitol Police has faced every danger undeterred, ensuring that Congress and its mission can continue uninterrupted. Their courage, efficiency, and commitment allowed Congress to continue with its constitutional responsibilities. We could not do this without them. For this, and for our safety, all of us owe them a great debt of gratitude.

As we proceed today with the routine business of the Senate—floor consideration of the fiscal year 2010 Defense authorization bill, Judiciary Committee hearings on the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor for the U.S. Supreme Court nomination hearings and other myriad legislative tasks—all of us are able to breathe easily knowing that we are protected by such a dedicated and talented force.

Thank you again for all of your hard work and sacrifice.

CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am gratified that the Senate is poised to approve S. Con. Res. 11, which condemns all forms of anti-Semitism and reaffirms the support of Congress for the U.S. Special Envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism around the world.

I cosponsored this resolution with Senator COLLINS to affirm my commitment to ending global anti-Semitism, bigotry, and hatred. In the 21st century, there is no place for people or groups who would harm or deny rights to others based on their religion, race, gender, or ethnic identity. Yet anti-Semitism—spawned from centuries of hatred, persecution, and repeated attempts to destroy the Jewish people from their early days of slavery through the Inquisition, Holocaust, and beyond—still pervades many cultures and societies.

In some places around the world, this deeply rooted hatred can quickly turn political rallies into hate crimes, with chants of “death to Israel” and expressions of support for suicide or terrorist attacks against Israeli or Jewish civilians all too frequent. These calls have often been followed by violence and vandalism against synagogues and Jewish institutions. Hate crimes send a powerful message because they affect more than the individual victims; they are meant to intimidate and instill fear in entire groups of people. Hate crimes create a sense of vulnerability and insecurity in others who may share characteristics with the victims. And this sense of fear is precisely the intent of those who commit such crimes.

Even here in the United States, anti-Semitism frequently rears its ugly head, most recently in the horrific shooting attack at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

I am privileged to be chair of the Helsinki Commission and a member of the both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee. In those capacities and as a Senator generally, I am afforded numerous opportunities to speak out against the scourge of anti-Semitism, racial bigotry, and ethnic hatred worldwide. Part of the battle is to publicize intolerant and hateful activities. This resolution is meant to shed light upon anti-Semitism, and I am grateful that so many of my colleagues have joined me in these efforts and on this resolution.

COMMENDING NORM COLEMAN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I commend the extraordinary career of Norm Coleman. Norm began his public service as a prosecutor for the Minnesota State Attorney General’s Office, working his way up to chief prosecutor before eventually serving as solicitor general of Minnesota. In 1993, he became mayor of St. Paul. During his tenure as mayor, Norm worked faithfully to revitalize the city, even securing a National Hockey League franchise for St. Paul. In 2002, at the urging of President Bush, Norm ran for U.S. Senate. He was the challenger in a close, hard-fought race, and his ultimate victory was an exciting one.

I am proud to have served alongside Norm in the Senate. He was an excellent comrade in the fight against partial birth abortion and worked hard to prevent waste and fraud at the United Nations. Known for his willingness to work with both parties, Norm fought for tax cuts, renewable energy, and prescription drug benefits for seniors. He worked for the passage of legislation improving rural health care, increasing funding for Pell Grants and securing our ports.

He leaves an impressive record as testament to his service in the Senate, but his presence here will be missed. Though the outcome of last fall’s election ended differently than I had hoped, I know great things are in store for Norm. He has much more to offer our great country. I wish Norm, his wife Laurie, and their two children, Jacob and Sarah, all the best as they embrace the new and exciting opportunities before them.

COMMENDING REV. LEONARD ROBINSON

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the word “hero” is used often and lightly these days. Yet there are those special people that walk among us in our hometowns across America who genuinely rate that title. The terrible days of the Second World War produced an entire generation of such people. Today they are our friends and neighbors. They endured great trials and gave so much of themselves for so many of us in the most difficult of circumstances. They served in our nation’s darkest

hour. And then they came home. They went back to work, to school, bought homes, and raised families. Many did not care to speak about what they had seen or suffered through. I come to the floor of the U.S. Senate today to honor one such individual.

Mr. President, on April 9, 1942, American and Filipino forces defending the peninsula of Bataan from the invasion of Imperial Japan ended a gallant holding action to prevent the Japanese conquest of the Philippines. The soldiers lacked supplies and air support, and were crippled by starvation and disease when they were finally overwhelmed on that fateful day. What would follow the surrender would go down as one of the most brutal and ghastly chapters written in human history.

More than 75,000 men, including nearly 12,000 Americans, were turned out onto a broken, dusty road and forced to march nearly 70 miles to the dreadful prison camp, Camp O’Donnell, that would be their home until the war’s end. The journey was barbarous. Over the next 5 days, thousands died from starvation, dehydration, disease, heat prostration, and sheer exhaustion. Survivors of the Death March of Bataan tell of the horrific atrocities of their captors. Prisoners were beaten at random and denied food and water. Those who fell behind or stopped to help fallen comrades were executed. One survivor tells the story of Japanese soldiers driving alongside the column of weary men with outstretched bayonets, slicing throats and decapitating those poor souls who happened to get in the way. The sides of the trail were littered with the bodies of the dead. There are no words that can describe such horrendous barbarity and inhumanity. It is estimated that 54,000 of the 75,000 who started the march made it to Camp O’Donnell—a death rate of about 1 in 4. Many more would meet their deaths at the Camp. But there were also those who made it.

A hero is someone who displays courage, bravery, and perseverance in the face of great adversity. Those who survived the Bataan Death March exhibited a heroism that we rarely see today. One of those heroes is from my hometown of Casper, WY, the Reverend Leonard L. Robinson. Leonard is my friend and neighbor. In fact, I had the privilege as a surgeon to replace both of his knees.

Leonard L. Robinson was born in Englewood, CO, and spent his youth growing up in the Englewood and Denver area. While attending college at the University of Colorado, Leonard was drafted to the U.S. Army in 1941. He was assigned to Battery E of the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment, Anti-Aircraft, at Fort Bliss, TX. In September 1941, he was shipped out to Fort Stotsenburg in the Philippines. Leonard was in the first group of U.S. soldiers captured at Cababayan and started the march out of Bataan towards Camp O’Donnell. He was then held as a Japanese prisoner of war for 3½ years; 2 of

those years were spent as a forgotten slave on the docks of Niigata. At the war's end, he returned to Fort Logan, CO, where he was discharged from the U.S. Army.

Upon his discharge in 1946, Leonard returned to school on the G.I. bill and earned his bachelor of science in architectural engineering from the University of Colorado. He then attended Northwestern Seminary in Minneapolis, where he earned his bachelor of theology. He later earned his master's and doctorate in theology from Pioneer Seminary in Rockford, IL. Throughout his years as an ordained pastor, he served in Wyoming, Washington, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Colorado before returning back to Wyoming. He has served as Chaplain for military, law enforcement and veterans groups. Leonard and his wife Erma enjoyed 53 years together and they were blessed with three children, Paula Chelewski, Len Robinson, and Pamela Robinson, as well as two grandchildren. His beloved Erma passed away in 2005. Mr. President, the life example of Rev. Leonard Robinson has taught so many to appreciate and be thankful for the blessings of life.

This week, all the eyes of Wyoming will be on Cheyenne as we kick off the annual Daddy of 'Em All, Cheyenne Frontier Days. And I am proud to announce that Wyoming will honor Leonard as he leads the Cheyenne Frontier Days Parade on Tuesday, July 21, as its grand marshal. It is but a small tribute to this brave man who sacrificed and suffered so much for our country, for you and for me.

My father was a veteran of World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge. My wife Bobbi's father was in both World War II and Korea. My dad always told me that I should thank God every day that I was born in America and how fortunate I was. He was right. This is the greatest country on Earth. And it is because of the sacrifices made by men like Rev. Leonard Robinson. I was so honored to greet him and his fellow veterans on the National Mall this spring when they made the Wyoming Honor Flight trip to Washington to visit the World War II Memorial. He is a hero in every sense of the word. Leonard, thank you my friend. All of Wyoming, and indeed America, is proud of you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING CECIL HARRIS

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Cecil Harris. The following statement was read at the dedication of a highway named in his honor on May 25, 2009. I ask that the statement be printed in the RECORD.

The statement follows.

CECIL HARRIS HIGHWAY DEDICATION CEREMONY, CRESBARD, SOUTH DAKOTA, MAY 25, 2009

Thank you for the invitation to attend the recognition celebration for Captain Cecil E.

Harris to honor his achievement as a World War II fighter pilot. While I regret I am unable to be with you to recognize Captain Harris at this important event, I want to extend my greetings and best wishes to all of you in attendance. I applaud those individuals, many of whom are here today, whose hard work and dedication have made this event possible.

It is especially fitting that you are celebrating this event on Memorial Day. We should pause to remember what Memorial Day is all about: honoring those who have defended our freedom and especially those who have paid the ultimate price. Captain Harris is certainly worthy of this celebration. As an educator by profession, his willingness to serve others was apparent at a young age. He answered the call to service while enrolled at Northern State Teachers College in March 1941. Twenty-seven years later, Captain Harris retired as one of the most decorated heroes of the United States Navy. During his World War II service, he was the second highest scoring Navy ace in the Pacific Theater with 24 victories.

Captain Harris serves as a shining example of South Dakota's proud legacy of military service that extends from our state's earliest days to our current conflicts around the globe. South Dakotans of every background have always answered the call to defend America from those who seek to destroy the freedom that we cherish. I doubt there are many South Dakotans who do not have a family member or friend who has worn our nation's uniform. Upon reflection, we quickly realize that without the liberty that these men and women have defended through the years, our nation would not be what it is today, nor would citizens enjoy the freedoms that we sometimes take for granted.

My father, Harold Thune, served in the same squadron as Cecil Harris in World War II, and was Cecil's assistant flight officer. I recently had the opportunity to interview my father about his World War II experience for the Veterans History Project, an oral history archive held at the Library of Congress, and my father spoke very highly of Cecil. In fact, the advice Cecil gave my father helped him avoid being shot down. Cecil Harris was responsible for training my father's squadron, and my father describes Cecil as unqualifiedly the best pilot he had ever seen, and that he had never seen a pilot fly a plane like he did.

The tragic reality is that our nation loses hundreds of veterans every day. Memorial Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices of our veterans from every conflict, and it is fitting that we do so. Our veterans deserve to be remembered and celebrated, and these programs help do just that.

Again, I wish you all the very best as you gather to celebrate in Cresbard. My thoughts are with you all.●

COMMENDING EMILY SUSANNA TSCHETTER

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Emily Susanna Tschetter, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Emily is a graduate of Brookings High School in Brookings, SD. Currently she is attending South Dakota State University, where she is majoring in biology. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Emily for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following message from the President of the United States was transmitted to the Senate by one of his secretaries:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency and related measures dealing with the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor are to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2009.

The actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and sequestering of Liberian funds and property, continue to undermine Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 16, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:51 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: