

into our legal system from what Vice President Cheney called “the dark side” will be an enormous challenge and a thicket of thorny legal and policy issues.

However, we are already seeing the international system reorganize itself around an America that is willing to be a moral leader. Countries such as Portugal and Ireland have made welcome offers to join Albania in resettling detainees who cannot be returned to their home countries. Already we are seeing the fruits of a good-faith effort with our allies.

Still, it will take time and effort to overcome numerous hurdles. The new administration faces tough challenges handed over from the previous administration. Looming questions must be addressed about the inadmissibility of evidence improperly coerced. It is difficult or impossible in some cases to return detainees—including many cleared for departure—who would face torture or worse in their home countries; and we already know that some released from Guantanamo have returned to the battlefield. In some cases we simply lack evidence to charge men we know to be extremely dangerous and threatening to the American people. And we owe it to those we believe made grave mistakes to acknowledge the urgency of the moment they inherited, the sacred responsibility to protect American lives, which they strove to honor, and the humbling reality that there are no easy answers when it comes to such life-and-death matters.

But the American story is one of perfectibility and striving for ever-greater fidelity to our ideals—it is a journey from Colony to Republic, from slavery to freedom, from sexism to suffrage, from stark poverty to shared prosperity. The President himself famously said, “the union may never be perfect, but generation after generation has shown that it can always be perfected.”

It is true that today we face unprecedented, unorthodox, and vastly destructive enemies that respect neither borders nor rules of war. But it is equally true that we have done so before. This is not the first new challenge America has evolved to meet. Sometimes that evolution requires us to admit mistakes, learn from them and grow as a nation. Our progress in response to new threats and new fears has been halting but real, and our setbacks have always been followed by a strong corrective impulse. The desire to do better has always been a core part of America’s greatness.

Today Barack Obama and his administration wrote a new chapter in that old story. I commend them and look forward to helping them make good on their goals, keep Americans safe, and usher in a new era of America’s moral leadership.

Today’s Executive orders were a promising sign of things to come—America will again honor the values that make us strong.

36TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today, January 22, 2009, marks the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Today, concerned Americans, including many North Carolinians, are gathering on the National Mall to March for Life, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to Washington, DC.

On January 17, 2009, in anticipation of today’s events, North Carolinians gathered for their annual Rally and March for Life in Raleigh.

I congratulate them on their successful event, and I would like to thank them for their efforts to promote a culture of life in America.

In recent years we have made great strides in protecting the unborn through various measures, such as passage of the partial birth abortion ban, Lacey and Connor’s Law, and tax incentives to enable more families to adopt.

These achievements are a testament to the advocates who work tirelessly every day to remind us of the value of life.

With these achievements and others, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues in the Senate will continue to work together to protect our children.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, today marks the 36th year since the Supreme Court issued its decision in the case of *Roe v. Wade*, a court decision that evokes strong emotions all across America. Today, thousands of Americans who support life have taken time out of their busy schedules to travel to Washington to take part in the “March for Life,” an annual event on the National Mall. I share their hope for seeing the day where the sanctity of life is cherished, valued, and affirmed under the law.

This morning, I had the opportunity to meet with some of these individuals, students from Cardinal Newman High School in West Palm Beach, and I expressed my gratitude for their steadfast commitment to protecting innocent human life.

As a Nation, we have made significant progress in creating a culture that respects life in recent years. As someone who believes that every life is sacred, I encourage President Obama to follow the lead of his predecessor, and continue to restrict the use of taxpayer funding for organizations that perform abortion services or refer patients to abortion providers.

This policy, known as the Mexico City Agreement, was first signed into order by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. Over the years, the policy has been wrongly attacked and falsely characterized as a restriction on foreign aid for family planning. The truth is that the policy has not reduced aid at all.

Instead, it has ensured that family planning funds are given to organizations dedicated to reducing abortions

instead of promoting them. If the policy were to be reversed, it would blur the line that has been drawn between funding organizations that aim to reduce abortions, and those that promote abortion as a means of contraception. President Obama should make the right choice in keeping the Mexico City Agreement in place.

In conclusion, on this 36th year since the Supreme Court handed down its decision, I commend the leaders of “March for Life.” Supporters are in Washington today, marching down Pennsylvania Avenue, reminding lawmakers of the importance of preserving and protecting life. Their voices are heard. They are heard year after year. I hope there is a day when their voices are heard in celebration that life is preserved and protected by the rule of law.

U.S. AIRWAYS FLIGHT 1549 HEROES

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the heroic efforts of the pilots, crew, passengers, emergency responders, and volunteer organizations that led to the extraordinary outcome of U.S. Airways flight 1549, which was bound for Charlotte, NC, on January 15, 2009.

U.S. Airways flight 1549 departed New York’s LaGuardia Airport on the afternoon of January 15 with 150 passengers and 5 crew, including 2 pilots and 3 flight attendants, aboard. Charlotte was the final destination of 104 of the passengers, many of whom are my constituents.

Within minutes of take-off, the aircraft experienced engine trouble forcing the pilot, Captain Chesley B. “Sully” Sullenberger, to perform an emergency landing on the Hudson River.

I understand that a water landing of this sort is rare and technically challenging, making it extremely dangerous for all aboard. But Captain Sullenberger executed the difficult landing expertly. His skill and decisiveness has been heralded with saving the lives of all on board.

As passengers emerged from the plane onto emergency life rafts and the wings of the still buoyant aircraft, boats were on the scene to assist with the rescue in minutes. Vessels were dispatched from the New York police and fire departments, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the New York Waterway, which reportedly sent all 14 of its boats to the scene.

Without the immediate assistance of these boats, I am certain the passengers and crew on board would not have fared as well as they did, given the extreme temperatures in New York City on the day of the incident. All participating rescue parties are to be commended for their swift and professional response.

In fact, the tales of heroism emerging from this event are numerous. For example, I was moved by the story of Josh Peltz, a Charlotte resident, husband, and father of two. Flying home

to Charlotte from a business meeting, Josh was seated in the emergency row's window seat. Not only was Josh integral in opening the emergency hatch after impact, but he was also helpful in reassuring passengers and assisting others, including a mother and her 9-month-old baby, up the ladder and onto the awaiting ferry. And as rescuers assisted passengers, I understand that Captain Sullenberger continued to demonstrate true heroism as he refused to deplane until all others onboard had been safely evacuated.

I again commend all who contributed to making this disastrous event a true miracle, including the first responders; volunteer organizations, such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army; and most of all the crew and passengers of 1549. The acts of heroism and the stories of selflessness that have emerged from this event are truly inspiring.

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN DUBEE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, Melvin Dubee, one of the Senate's most highly valued staff members and one to whom I am personally grateful, will soon conclude two decades of government service in order to apply his considerable talents in the private sector. While I do not, for a moment, believe that this is the end of Melvin's public duties—one day a wise official will certainly summon him back to public service—it is fitting to note his accomplishments to date.

As evident to even casual observers, particularly around key Longhorn or Cowboy games, Melvin has roots in Texas, where he received at the University of Texas at Arlington a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance. His path to public service then included a Masters degree in international affairs from George Washington University in 1988 and two years as a Presidential management intern between 1987 and 1989.

The Presidential Management Intern Program was established by President Carter to attract to Federal service, through a national competition, outstanding individuals from a variety of disciplines who are interested in a career in Federal service. During the internship Melvin worked in the Office of the Inspector General in the Department of Defense, where he began to build expertise in defense issues that carried into his Senate work. During that time he received a congressional fellowship, which introduced him to the Senate in the office of the Senate's master teacher, my senior Senator, ROBERT BYRD, where Melvin continued to work on defense management issues.

It doesn't take long for those with whom Melvin works to be impressed by his considerable skills and calm demeanor. His audition as a Congressional Fellow led to 5 years of service as national security assistant to Senator BYRD, between 1989 and 1994. In that capacity, he advised Senator

BYRD, who was then in the midst of his distinguished leadership of the Senate Appropriations Committee, on foreign policy and defense issues. This included serving as Senator BYRD's staff representative to the Armed Services Committee, during which Melvin complemented his growing knowledge of defense issues with his impressive legislative process skills concerning hearings, markups, floor action, conference committee negotiations, and negotiations with other congressional offices and with the Executive Branch.

In 1994, Melvin began his service on the Senate Intelligence Committee. This service continued until now with brief interruptions, including a year during President Clinton's administration in the Office of National Drug Policy where he advised Director Barry McCaffrey on that office's interaction with Congress.

Melvin has contributed to the committee in a variety of positions.

As a professional staff member, which is the general entry point for our staff, Melvin developed expertise in a number of key intelligence community oversight issues, including counterdrug, counterterrorism, international organized crime issues, as well as area expertise concerning Latin America and Southeast Asia. As a professional staff member, he also served as an adviser and liaison to Senator JOHN KERRY and then to me, during the early part of my service on the committee in 2001.

One of Melvin's particular contributions during that time was leadership of the committee's investigation of the tragic April 2001 shoot-down of a U.S. missionary plane in Peru. Our report, entitled "Report on a Review of United States Assistance to Peruvian Counter-Drug Air Interdiction Efforts and the Shootdown of a Civilian Aircraft on April 20, 2001," S. Prt. 107-64, bears witness to a number of his skills. They include an ability to gather and carefully analyze facts, write accurately and clearly, help the Committee draw sound conclusions and make needed recommendations, and do so in a manner that draws bipartisan support. And, I should add, also to do all that expeditiously so that the committee was able to report publicly within 6 months of the incident.

The skills that Melvin amply demonstrated as a professional staff member led to his selection to fill two key staff management positions.

From mid-2001 through 2002, Melvin served as the committee's budget director. Our budget director post is an immensely important responsibility. The total national intelligence budget when Melvin was budget director is classified. But we have declassified the top line for the last 2 fiscal years. The most recent figure, \$47.5 billion in fiscal year 2008, conveys the importance of the task of reviewing, making recommendations about, and monitoring implementation of the Nation's intelligence budget. As budget director,

Melvin led the committee's budget monitors for each of the individual intelligence community elements in scouring the President's budget numbers and evaluating the broad span of human and technical collection, analytical, acquisition, and management issues they involve. The budget director arranges for the presentation of these issues at classified hearings of the committee, their consideration at committee markups, coordination with the Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, and negotiation with the House and also with the Executive Branch. This work is at the heart of the committee's responsibilities.

Confidence in Melvin, starting with former Vice Chairman Richard Bryan in 2000 and then myself from 2003 through the 110th Congress, also led to Melvin's designation as deputy staff director, initially on the minority side and then beginning in 2007 as the committee's deputy staff director. There are two aspects of that responsibility. One is leadership within the staff, helping it to maintain the high level of professionalism and effectiveness that has been the hallmark of our Intelligence Committee staffs. The other is being a close adviser to the chairman or vice chairman, as the case may be, on the full breadth of issues relating to the oversight of the U.S. intelligence community.

In both respects, as a partner with the staff director in managing the committee and as a close adviser to me, Melvin performed magnificently. On a daily basis, I most often saw Melvin as a trusted adviser. In that role, Melvin combines key capabilities and attributes.

Melvin knows his material. This includes current intelligence and historical background. It includes detailed knowledge of the elements of the intelligence community, from the CIA, to components of the Defense Department, to intelligence elements in the State, Treasury, and Energy Departments, as well as the FBI. And it includes knowledge of the functioning of the Senate, with respect not only to the Intelligence Committee, but also to the committees with which we work, and its leadership and floor proceedings.

Melvin has an admirable ability to express his considerable knowledge succinctly and clearly. He has no hesitation in expressing disagreement or dissent, respectfully but clearly, particularly when a matter of principle is involved, as is often the case when addressing sensitive matters. When a decision is made, he has an uncanny ability to find and recommend the right words for remarks in committee, on the floor, in letters or press releases, or in speeches outside the Senate. And, in all of our endeavors, Melvin has been forever guided by a deep commitment to the protection of our Nation and our values.

It would be incomplete, however, to talk only about Melvin at work. A