

But I hope they can take comfort in the knowledge that he will be forever honored and remembered by a grateful nation.

As we remember Commander Wolfe and honor his service to the United States, we are also reminded of the eight other Californians who have been killed in Iraq since April 21. This brings to 879 the number of servicemembers either from California or based in California that have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 20 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

SSgt Mark A. Wojciechowski, 25, of Cincinnati, OH, died April 30 while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Staff Sergeant Wojciechowski was assigned to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Sgt James R. McIlvaine, 26, of Olney, MD, died April 30 while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Sergeant McIlvaine was assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SPC Jake R. Velloza, 22, of Inverness, CA, died from wounds sustained after he was shot by enemy forces in Mosul, Iraq on May 2. Specialist Velloza was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX.

SPC Jeremiah P. McCleery, 24, of Portola, CA, died from wounds sustained after he was shot by enemy forces in Mosul, Iraq on May 2. Specialist McCleery was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX.

PVT Justin P. Hartford, 21, of Elmira, NY, died May 8 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, of injuries sustained from a non-combat related incident. Private Hartford was assigned to the 699th Maintenance Company, Corps Support Battalion, 916th Support Brigade, Fort Irwin, CA.

MAJ Jason E. George, 38, of Tehachapi, CA, died May 21 near Baghdad, Iraq of wounds sustained when his unit was attacked by enemy forces using improvised explosive devices while on dismounted patrol. Major George was an Army Reservist assigned to the 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, Fayetteville, NC.

CPT Kafale H. Sims, 32, of Los Angeles, CA, died June 16 in Mosul, Iraq, of a non-combat related incident. Captain Sims was assigned to the 18th Engineer Brigade, Schwetzingen, Germany.

LCpl Brandon T. Lara, 20, of New Braunfels, TX, died July 19 while supporting combat operations in Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Lara was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

I would also like to pay tribute to the nine soldiers from CA who have

died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom since April 21.

SSG Esau I. De la Pena-Hernandez, 25, of La Puente, CA, died May 15 at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his patrol was attacked by enemy forces using small-arms fire in Chak, Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant De la Pena-Hernandez was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, Fort Drum, NY.

1SG Blue C. Rowe, 33, of Summers, AR, died May 26 in Panjshir Province, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. First Sergeant Rowe was assigned to the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion, Up-land, CA.

LCpl Joshua R. Whittle, 20, of Downey, CA, died June 6 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Whittle was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kaneohe Bay, HI.

MAJ Rocco M. Barnes, 50, of Los Angeles, CA, died June 4 in Afghanistan of injuries sustained during a vehicle rollover. Major Barnes was a member of the Tactical Command Post, 40th Infantry Division, California Army National Guard, assigned as an individual augmentee to the 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

SPC Eduardo S. Silva, 25, of Greenfield, CA, died June 9 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, of a non-combat related incident. Specialist Silva was assigned to the 563rd Aviation Support Battalion, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY.

PFC Justin A. Casillas, 19, of Dunnigan, CA, died July 4 at Combat Outpost Zerok, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his outpost using small arms and indirect fire. Private First Class Casillas was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Airborne, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, AK.

PFC Nicolas H. J. Gideon, 20, of Murrieta, CA, died July 6 at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered earlier that day in Paktya, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. Private First Class Gideon was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team Airborne, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, AK.

LCpl Pedro A. Barbozaflares, 27, of Glendale, CA, died July 11 while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Barbozaflares was assigned to 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC.

Sgt Michael W. Heede Jr., 22, of Delta, PA, died July 13 while sup-

porting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Heede was assigned to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I appreciate the assistance of the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services last week in clearing an amendment I offered to the fiscal year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act dealing with irregular warfare aircraft. As the conference committee prepares to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the NDAA, I want to provide in the RECORD some context for this provision.

Years of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq have shown that insurgents take refuge among regular civilians to complicate our ability to find them and increase the chances of civilian casualties that inflame local populations. We also have learned that fighting insurgencies requires an enormous amount of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, ISR, data. Our highly advanced tactical aircraft can perform close air support, light strike, and ISR missions, but repeatedly using such fighters for these missions shortens their lifespan without ever employing their most advanced capabilities. It is like buying a laptop computer to use as a calculator.

Indeed, smaller, lighter planes designed for counterinsurgency missions can provide the firepower and intelligence data the warfighter needs at a fraction of the cost to purchase and operate bigger, faster aircraft. Moreover, such aircraft would allow us to provide ideal platforms to partner nations struggling to develop their own air forces and deal with local insurgencies.

Secretary Gates, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Schwartz, and other officials from the Air Force, Navy, and special operations forces have commented recently that the Department of Defense needs to consider developing a light strike, light reconnaissance aircraft specifically designed for irregular warfare. And to their credit, the Air Force and Navy are beginning to explore the utility of such aircraft in detail.

I want to ensure, however, that the Department of Defense makes the best possible use of money Congress has already spent in this area. Over the past 2 fiscal years, Congress has appropriated \$8.4 million to the Air National Guard for a project to demonstrate the capabilities of a light strike, light reconnaissance aircraft. In fact, the demonstrator aircraft in that project made its first flight yesterday and will demonstrate its capabilities over the course of the rest of this year. The knowledge gained in this demonstration program should be incorporated into the Air Force, Navy, and special

operations discussions of manned irregular warfare aircraft.

My amendment, then, simply declares it the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should include the reserve components when establishing requirements for manned airborne irregular warfare platforms. Congress has led the way in examining the concept of a light attack, light reconnaissance aircraft. In this era of constrained defense budgets, it is vital to make every dollar count. I am pleased that in this amendment the Senate signaled the importance of reserve component work on this concept, and I hope that the language is retained in conference so the House can send a similar signal. It is increasingly clear that the Nation needs this capability, and the combined efforts of all components at the Defense Department will bring these aircraft to the warfighter sooner rather than later.

GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE DEFENSE ELEMENT

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, there are some very important provisions in the Armed Services Committee bill, S. 1390, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010, regarding the Ground-based Midcourse Defense, GMD, element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System, BMDS. GMD is a system designed to protect the homeland against long-range missile threats. Would the chairman agree that GMD plays an important role in the architecture of the overall BMDS?

Mr. LEVIN. GMD is an important element of the overall Ballistic Missile Defense System. It is important that the GMD element be an operationally effective, cost-effective, affordable, reliable, suitable, and survivable system capable of defending the United States from the threat of long-range missile attacks from nations such as North Korea and Iran, and that adequate resources be available to achieve such capabilities.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, Alaska plays a critical role in GMD. The majority of infrastructure currently required to support deployment of the GMD system is located at Fort Greely in Alaska. Recently, the Missile Defense Agency determined that in order to ensure the best infrastructure is available to support deployment of interceptors from Alaska in defense of the Nation, a seven-silo configuration in Missile Field 2 is warranted to replace older, less reliable, silos in Missile Field 1. In the Armed Services Committee report accompanying S. 1390, the committee expressed the view that, if the Department of Defense believes there is a benefit to completing the seven silos at Missile Field 2 during fiscal year 2010, the committee would look favorably upon a reprogramming request from the Secretary of Defense to provide the funds to complete the seven-silos in fiscal year 2010. Would the chairman agree that providing a

seven silo capability in Missile Field 2 is beneficial to GMD in defense of the homeland?

Mr. LEVIN. I agree with my colleague from Alaska that Fort Greely plays an integral role in supporting the GMD element of Ballistic Missile Defense System, and will continue to do so in the future. Constructing Missile Field 2 in a seven-silo configuration to replace the older silos at Missile Field 1 will provide updated and more reliable infrastructure in support of GMD. If the Department of Defense believes there is a benefit to completing the seven silos in fiscal year 2010 and the Secretary submits a reprogramming request to do so, I believe the committee would look favorably upon such a request, although subject to evaluation of course. If the Department does not submit such a reprogramming request, I believe the Department will request the funds to complete construction of the seven-silos in fiscal year 2011.

Mr. BEGICH. I thank the chairman for his response. Section 243 of S. 1390, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010, would require the Department of Defense to submit to Congress early next year two reports concerning the GMD element. Would the chairman agree that until the reports required in section 243 of S. 1390 are delivered to Congress the Department of Defense should not make any irreversible decision concerning operational silos in Missile Field 2 at Fort Greely, and that decommissioning of Missile Field 1 should not be completed until the seven-silos have been emplaced at Missile Field 2?

Mr. LEVIN. During consideration of S. 1390, the Senate adopted an amendment, offered by the Senator from Alaska, that would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that Missile Field 1 does not complete decommissioning until seven-silos have been emplaced at Missile Field 2. It would also require the Secretary to ensure that no irreversible decision is made with respect to the disposition of operational silos at Missile Field 2 until 60 days after the reports required by section 243 are submitted to Congress.

Mr. BEGICH. I thank the chairman and appreciate his work on improving GMD and recognizing Alaska's infrastructure is necessary to support GMD in defense of the homeland now and in the future.

U.S.-CHINA STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the meeting of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue this week in Washington is an important opportunity. It is a chance to advance a comprehensive relationship between our two countries and to highlight the importance of fundamental rights to that relationship.

I am chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. The Commission examines human rights

and rule of law developments in China. In recent years, I have witnessed human rights concerns being pushed to the margins of the U.S.-China relationship. This is due in part to China's growing financial, diplomatic and military strength. Sidelining our human rights concerns with China is a strategic mistake for the U.S.

The advancement of human rights concerns with China is more important to U.S. interests than ever. The reporting of the Commission I chair makes this crystal clear.

Press censorship in China makes it possible for toxic food and public health crises to spread globally.

The harassment of whistleblowers and the suppression of criticism and dissent remove internal checks against environmental damage that not only hurts ordinary Chinese citizens but has a global impact.

Abuses of low-wage labor compromise goods that come to the U.S. have harmed U.S. consumers, as well as Chinese consumers.

The government's control of mass media and the internet allow it to stoke nationalist anger against the United States in moments of crisis. This can be terribly dangerous.

Let there be no doubt—I have enormous respect for China. I respect the progress China has made by lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. I admire its rich and remarkable culture and immensely talented people. But I firmly believe that its people should be free to speak their minds and practice their chosen faiths without fear.

The news is not all bad. There have been positive developments in recent years. The government has enshrined in its Constitution the state's responsibility to protect and promote human rights. The Congressional-Executive Commission on China has also reported on China's recent adoption of new labor protections, and the relaxing of restrictions on foreign journalists inside China. These and other gains were made partly as a result of sustained international pressure. The meeting of the Strategic Economic Dialogue presents another opportunity to press for more such gains.

But let us be clear: Nothing we ask of China regarding human rights is inconsistent with commitments to international standards to which China in principle already has agreed. So we are not necessarily looking just for more agreements. We are waiting for action. We are waiting for China's leaders to demonstrate true commitment, not just in words but in deeds, to prioritizing human rights, including worker rights, and the development of the rule of law in no lesser way than they have prioritized economic reform.

In closing, the Strategic and Economic Dialogue this week provides an opportunity to underline how advancing the welfare of citizens must not be separated from a demonstrated commitment to human rights and the rule