

forests, dramatic vistas, and opportunities for solitude that not only fulfill us individually but form a fundamental part of the American character. Our public lands are part of who we are and the diversity of their uses, like the diversity of their landscapes, reflects our identity. In many areas, they provide timber, ore, and forage that are the economic bedrock of rural America. In other areas, Congress has designated them as wilderness, places “untrammelled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain.”

I recognize and thank the thousands of Federal employees who manage these lands year-round. The Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and other Federal land management agencies ensure that public lands in Nevada and across the Nation meet the changing needs of our communities. They provide a vital, though rarely reported, service to our nation.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the many Nevadans who will spend September 26 improving our public lands. Volunteers across northern Nevada will be working to improve our public lands in places like the Carson and Truckee Rivers, Cain Spring, the East Fork of the Walker River, Eight Mile Creek, Dry Mountain, and Sacramento Pass. At the same time, southern Nevada volunteers will work in sites like Ash Springs, Gold Butte, Lake Mead, Pittman Wash, Red Rock Canyon, and the Great Unconformity.

The focus of National Public Lands Day this year is water on the public lands. Clean water is essential to the health of our environment and the health of our citizens. Many parts of our Nation have faced severe droughts in recent years, and caring for our water resources is as important as it has ever been. In Nevada, as the driest State in our Nation, we are particularly aware that water is a precious resource.

The preservation of our public lands is a priority for me. Mr. President, our public lands are part of what makes the United States a great nation. I voice my gratitude to all who will participate in National Public Lands Day this year.

WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today is World Alzheimer's Day, a day to raise awareness about this neurodegenerative disease that afflicts over 5 million Americans, including about 600,000 people in my home State of California.

It has been 100 years since Alzheimer's was first identified, yet there is still no cure and no proven way to prevent the disease. In fact, every 70 seconds another American develops Alzheimer's, this is alarming.

People who suffer from Alzheimer's disease experience symptoms that take an extreme toll on both those afflicted with this disease, and their loved ones.

Certainly the most well-known symptom of Alzheimer's is amnesia, or loss of memory, but Alzheimer's can also disrupt a person's ability to communicate or accomplish daily tasks. These debilitating symptoms create large challenges for Alzheimer's sufferers, their caretakers, and their loved ones.

Unfortunately these symptoms tell only half the story. Those afflicted may also suffer from psychiatric symptoms like personality changes, depression, hallucinations, and delusions. These terrible symptoms may cause people with Alzheimer's not to recognize familiar faces, including their own children and grandchildren. They may also become fearful, paranoid, irritable or withdrawn.

The number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to triple by 2050. If nothing is done, Alzheimer's will cost Medicare and Medicaid \$19.89 trillion between 2010 and 2050. Already, Alzheimer's disease costs the nation \$175 billion annually, and caregivers spend 10 percent of their household income caring for a loved one who is suffering from this horrible disease.

That is why I have joined 29 of my colleagues in cosponsoring the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2009, which responds to this crisis by helping us learn more about Alzheimer's disease, develop better treatments, and prevent this disease. This legislation will help advance the study and treatment of Alzheimer's to make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans by equipping caregivers with the resources and support services they need to care for their loved ones.

This bill would double funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health, create the National Summit on Alzheimer's, support public education campaigns, and expand the Alzheimer's 24/7 call center, which provides assistance to caregivers.

I am also pleased to be joined by Senator COLLINS in sponsoring the Caring for an Aging America Act. This legislation would make critical investments in the workforce specially trained to care for older Americans, many of whom suffer from this disease. By working to train more of these essential health professionals, I am hopeful that we can not only improve the quality of care for Alzheimer's patients, but also provide their caregivers and family with better resources to meet the needs of their loved ones.

On this World Alzheimer's Day I am happy to join the millions of people coming together across the globe to raise awareness about this devastating disease, and to support these two bipartisan bills, which are critical in the fight of our Nation, our Nation's citizens, and our families against this terrible affliction.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, on World Alzheimer's Day, it is important that we pause to consider the devastating impact of this debilitating disease and the importance of sci-

entific research into its causes, effects, and treatment.

More than 5 million Americans are affected by Alzheimer's, and it is estimated that this number will increase to between 11.3 and 16 million by the year 2050. One in 10 individuals has a family member with the disease.

I am a proud cosponsor of S. 1492, which would increase National Institutes of Health funding for Alzheimer's research to \$2 billion for fiscal year 2010 and provide grants for research designed specifically to help caregivers. This bill would establish a National Summit on Alzheimer's to examine promising research programs and raise awareness.

We must find ways to prevent this disease before it starts. The vital investments made by this bill will put us ahead of the curve, both in terms of research and increasing public understanding of the disease. On this day, when we remember those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and those who have succumbed to it, let us recommit ourselves to meet the challenge posed by this disease and do everything we can to alleviate the suffering it causes.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to increase awareness of a debilitating and ultimately fatal disease that right now, more than 5 million Americans and 35 million people worldwide live with—Alzheimer's.

Today is World Alzheimer's Day, a day when the individuals and families affected by this devastating disease around the globe unite to increase understanding about the disease and its impact. Unfortunately, as this disease continues to steal an ever growing number of memories and ultimately lives, this global recognition continues to grow in importance.

According to new data released in the 2009 World Alzheimer Report, the 35 million people worldwide suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia is a startling 10 percent increase over the 2005 number. This devastating number is only expected to grow. In fact, according to the newly released report, the number of people with Alzheimer's is expected to nearly double every 20 years, to 65.7 million in 2030 and 115.4 million in 2050.

For too many years the millions of Americans living with this disease and their families suffered silently in a nation that misunderstood the tragedy of Alzheimer's and dementia. In 1994, the courage of one family changed the public face of Alzheimer's when in a letter to the American people Ronald Reagan announced he was one of the millions of Americans living with the disease. With this selfless act, the former President and his wife Nancy increased the public awareness of Alzheimer's and increased the awareness of the need for research into its causes and prevention.

Public awareness is a key part of the fight against this disease, which is why I thank actor David Hyde Pierce for

being a vocal champion in the fight against Alzheimer's and Lisa Genova who wrote the moving book, "Still Alice," about a brilliant woman blindsided by the disease.

In 2004 Senator MIKULSKI and I first introduced legislation in honor of Ronald Reagan, who took public awareness of Alzheimer's to the national stage. This legislation—a living tribute to the courage of our 40th President—made a Federal commitment to increase research for Alzheimer's and increase assistance to Alzheimer patients and their families.

Today, Senator MIKULSKI and I are still leading the fight in the Senate to pass this critical legislation. This year we reintroduced the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act. This bipartisan legislation strengthens our nation's commitment to Alzheimer's research and to finding cures and treatments for this devastating disease.

This legislation doubles funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, to \$2 billion and makes Alzheimer's research a priority at NIH. The bill also provides support for families by providing caregivers with the vital resources and tools to assist them.

We can't afford to wait another 5 years to pass this bill. After all, in this country, someone develops Alzheimer's every 70 seconds. Experts estimate Alzheimer's could affect as many as 10 million baby boomers as they age. And in my State of Missouri, there will be as many as 110,000 people age 65 and older who will have Alzheimer's disease by 2010.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to join me and Senator MIKULSKI in our fight against this terrible disease and cosponsor the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act. I also ask that today you keep all those who have lost loved ones to Alzheimer's, all those living with Alzheimer's and all those carrying on the fight against Alzheimer's in your thoughts.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT YOUVERT LONEY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of Army Sergeant Youvert Loney. Sergeant Loney, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO, died on September 5, 2009. Sergeant Loney was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Abad, Afghanistan, and sustained injuries when insurgents attacked his vehicle using small arms and rifles. He was 28 years old.

A native of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, Sergeant Loney moved to Fort Carson in 2006 when he was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. Sergeant Loney joined the Army in October 2005. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from October 2006 until December 2007, contributing to renewed

efforts to successfully secure Baghdad. He had served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with Fort Carson's Fourth Brigade Combat Team since June. Last month, his battalion worked to ensure security for Afghanistan's recent presidential elections.

During his nearly 4 years of service, Sergeant Loney distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to take on any challenge—no matter how dangerous. Commanders recognized his extraordinary bravery and talent, bestowing on Sergeant Loney more than 12 awards and medals, including two Purple Heart Medals, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Sergeant Loney is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional and friend who they could turn to in times of need. Most of all, they remember his devotion to his wife, his children, and his country.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant Loney's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived without fear.

At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Afghanistan. And though his fate on the battlefield was uncertain, he pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Sergeant Loney will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Sergeant Loney's father Loakim, his wife Flora, his children, and all his friends and family—I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that in time the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Youvert's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

COMMENDING SENATOR MEL MARTINEZ

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my colleague, Senator Mel Martinez, who recently resigned his Senate seat. Senator Martinez has represented the State of Florida in the Senate since his election in 2004.

Mel Martinez's inspiring personal story is an example of how the American dream can be attained through hard work and determination. Born in Sagua La Grande, Cuba, Mel fled to the United States when he was 15 years old after the Castro government came to power in his homeland. Arriving in Florida with one suitcase and limited English language skills, Mel spent the next few years in youth facilities and with foster families until he was later reunited with his parents in Orlando.

He went on to earn a law degree from Florida State University, and he prac-

ticed law in Orlando for over two decades. In 1998, Senator Martinez was elected chairman of Orange County. He went on to serve as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President George W. Bush. Since 2004, Mel Martinez served the people of Florida in the U.S. Senate.

Reforming our immigration system was an issue close to Senator Martinez's heart. Mel worked vigorously with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to try to advance a solution to one of the most difficult problems confronting our Nation. As the only immigrant in the Senate, Senator Martinez brought a unique perspective to the immigration debate. By striving for comprehensive immigration reform, he hoped to share the American dream.

Senator Martinez was deeply concerned about advancing the cause of freedom in the most oppressive corners of the world. Mel experienced the loss of liberty that resulted from Castro's rise, and he often spoke out for those who lost their voices—not only for those in Cuba, but for those who suffered anywhere from tyranny and despotism.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and drought in the Midwest, Senator Martinez and I worked together in an attempt to bring relief to America's farm and ranch families. Even though agricultural production in North Dakota and Florida is far from similar, we were able to unite to support legislation that would have provided much-needed disaster assistance to affected farmers and ranchers throughout the country.

I thank Senator Martinez for his public service and wish him and his family the best in the future.

NOMINATION OF ALAN D. SOLOMONT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to the proceeding to the nomination of Alan D. Solomont to be Ambassador to Spain and Andorra at the Department of State for the following reasons.

I object to the proceeding to the nomination as I have yet to receive a full response to my letter(s) and document request(s). On June 12, 2009, I sent a letter requesting specific documents from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Mr. Solomont is the chairman of CNCS's board of directors. My request called for documents relating to the firing of Gerald Walpin, the former inspector general at CNCS. Despite promises to be responsive under Mr. Solomont's leadership, CNCS has complied with my requests selectively, withholding entire categories of responsive documents and refusing to even provide a log to identify the particular documents being withheld and the specific reasons for withholding them.