

place by 2015 to meet the double-hull requirement under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

To address the dire situation facing the domestic shipbuilding industry, I am seeking the establishment of a loan guarantee program, where the Secretary of Transportation can issue a loan guarantee for \$165 million to qualifying shipyards. Because of loan guarantees leverage funding, the program would require only \$15 million to leverage \$165 million. This \$15 million is offset by reprogramming previously appropriated funds, so there is no additional spending associated with this program.

The Federal assistance would be a short-term financing bridge to enable shipyards to remain in operation and meet the future anticipated demand for domestically produced ships. I encourage my colleagues to help maintain the commercial shipbuilding capacity of the United States through the inclusion of a loan guarantee program.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I am pleased to have filed an amendment that would give Alaska Native corporations, ANCs, parity for an important tax incentive encouraging the permanent protection of land through the charitable donation of a conservation easement.

America's wildlife, waters, and land are an invaluable part of our Nation's heritage. It is imperative to preserve these natural treasures for future generations. Congress long ago concluded that it was good public policy to encourage the charitable contribution of conservation easements to organizations dedicated to maintaining natural habitats or open spaces help protect the Nation's heritage. A conservation easement creates a legally enforceable land preservation agreement between a willing landowner and another organization. The purpose of a conservation easement is to protect permanently land from certain forms of development or use. The property that is the subject to the easement remains the private property of the landowner. The organization holding the easement must monitor future uses of the land to ensure compliance with the terms of the easement and to enforce the terms if a violation occurs.

In 2006, Congress enhanced the charitable tax deduction for conservation easements in order to encourage such gifts. With the 2006 legislation, Congress temporarily increased the maximum deduction limit for individuals donating qualified conservation easements from 30 percent to 50 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. Congress also created an exception for qualified farmers or ranchers, which are nonpublicly traded corporations or individuals whose gross income from the trade or business of farming is greater than 50 percent of the taxpayer's gross income. In the case of a qualified farmer or rancher, the limitation increased from 30 percent to 100 percent. The 2008 farm bill extended

the temporary rules for 2 additional years to charitable contributions made before December 31, 2009.

Unfortunately, the way the law was crafted has disadvantaged a number of important landowners in my home State. Alaska Native corporations, ANCs, own nearly 90 percent of the private land in Alaska, including some of the most scenic and resource rich. However, although they are very similar to the small communal family farms that are eligible, subsistence-based Alaskan Native communities are ineligible for these important new tax incentives. For thousands of years, Alaska has been home to Native communities, whose rich heritages, languages, and traditions have thrived in the region's unique landscape. Members of Alaska Native communities continue to have a deeply symbiotic relationship with the land even today. Much like their ancestors, many Native Alaskan communities engage in traditional subsistence activities, with nearly 70 percent of their food coming from the land or adjacent waters. For many communities, subsistence is an economic necessity considering both the lack of economic development and the cost and difficulty involved in purchasing food. For example, in Kotzebue a community in northwestern Alaska, milk costs nearly \$10 per gallon. In Buckland, a village home to approximately 400 people, a pound of hamburger—when it is actually available—costs \$14.

In Alaska, the Native corporations have an important role to be stewards of the land. Their shareholders see themselves as the caretakers of the land and water as their ancestors have for thousands of years. Nonetheless, in Alaska today this means they have to balance the need for resource development and the need to cultivate the land for subsistence activities. The traditional lifestyles of Native Alaskans are under increasing stress from outside influences. Population growth and the pressure to pursue cash-generating activities have increased the desire for substantial development, significantly adding to the ecological stress on already fragile ecosystems. Without permanent protection, their lands could be developed in a manner that would destroy its ability to support the traditional ways and subsistence lifestyles crucial to Alaskan Native communities. Making use of tax incentives available to other Americans will make it easier for Native communities to make the right decisions for their shareholders.

Today, Alaska Native communities are not eligible for the 50 percent deduction available to individuals because they are federally chartered as C corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, ANCSA. This leaves Alaska Natives without the ability to convert to an eligible entity as other landowners can. In addition, most Alaska Native corporations do not have sufficient gross income from

the trade or business of what is considered traditional farming to be eligible for the 100 percent deduction available to qualified farmers or ranchers. This is in spite of the fact that as a group the Alaska Native shareholders of Alaska Native corporations receive far more in subsistence benefits than they receive in income from the Alaska Native Corporation. As a result, Alaska Native corporations do not have the same ability to offset the cost to permanently protect their properties, which contain important wildlife, fish, and other habitats, through donations of qualified conservation easements.

This amendment will allow Alaska Native corporations to protect these important wildlife habitats, many used for subsistence, by providing an enhanced deduction for qualified conservation easements. The amendment modifies section 170(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code by creating a new subsection that provides Alaska Native corporations with a deduction for donations of certain qualified conservation easements. In order to be eligible, a qualified charitable conservation contribution must: (1) otherwise qualify under section 170(h)(1); (2) be made by a Native corporation; and (3) be land that was conveyed by ANCSA. The corporations would be limited to 10 percent of their land allotment under ANCSA. Under section 170(b)(2)(iii)(I), "Native Corporation" is defined by ANCSA, section 3(m). Under section 170(b)(2)(i), the maximum deduction limit would be set at 100 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. If the taxpayer has deductions in excess of the applicable percentage-of-income limitation, section 170(b)(2)(ii) would allow the taxpayer to carry-forward the deduction for up to 15 years.

Congress must act to assist Alaska Native communities in permanently protecting their culturally, historically, and ecologically significant land, preserving the communities and their rich traditions in the process. I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN JOHN PATRICK MURTHA

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise in commemoration of the life of John Patrick Murtha.

John Murtha gave nearly six decades to the country he loved. At the age of 20, he left college to join the Marines. As soon as he arrived, the Marines knew they had a gem of a young man on their hands. Routed to Officer Candidate School, he became a leader of

his peers, earning the American Spirit Honor Medal during training.

Although his duty to the Marines ended in 1955, his desire to serve did not. He remained in the Reserves for the next decade, and then volunteered for service in Vietnam.

There, he cemented his reputation as an American hero, earning the Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and two Purple Hearts.

John's service in the Reserves lasted long into his political career. He didn't retire until 1990, at which time he was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. But when he returned from Vietnam, he decided that serving the people of the State of Pennsylvania was another way to give back to his country.

He came to Congress roughly a year before I did, the first Democrat to hold that seat since World War II. As long as I have been here, it seems like John has been as much of a fixture in the House Chamber as the desks themselves.

John being a marine, it is probably not surprising that he never stopped fighting to give our troops in the field the resources they needed to do their jobs. He became the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and was a reliable advocate for our military—and for the people of his district.

His deep passion for our military and his commitment to making sure they had the resources they need reached as far as Connecticut, where we make the finest submarines and aircraft in the world. He knew that the products we make there are critical to the success of our military, and he was always there alongside me, standing up for our defense workforce and the fine products they make.

Many of us will remember with great admiration the courage John showed when he came to the floor in November 2005 to call for an end to a war he had supported. Colleagues on both sides knew that John Murtha would never make a statement like that lightly, and his bold stance played a large role in bringing towards an end that misguided war.

Of course, most Americans never got to know John Murtha's soft side. But his beloved wife Joyce—they were married for 55 years—and his three wonderful children knew him as his colleagues did: as a funny, warm man who loved his job, loved his constituents, and loved his country.

A colleague of his, Congressman BOB BRADY, said, "There will never be another Jack Murtha." And he is right. But we can all carry on his work, impressed by his long record of service and inspired by his deep patriotism and commitment.

I was proud to know John Murtha, and we were all lucky to have him.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ZACHARY LOVEJOY

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, in the almost 9 years our

Nation has been at war in Afghanistan, thousands of men and women have volunteered for service in defense of our country and the freedoms we hold so dear. These brave men and women sacrifice time with their families, with their wives and husbands and children and friends. They put their own safety on the line to protect the safety of others—to protect the safety of all who call the United States home. Tragically, some of these men and women make the ultimate—sacrifice giving their lives for a country and a people they love.

PFC Zachary Lovejoy was one of those brave soldiers. He was 20 years old when he died February 2, while serving in Zabul Province. His vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb. Private First Class Lovejoy spent the last day of his life doing what he loved. While his life may have ended too soon, his legacy will live on though the people who loved him, and through all of us who owe him our own lives and safety and freedom.

That is why today, I honor Zachary Lovejoy by telling the people of America about a young man who—from early in life—loved his country and dreamed of being a soldier.

Private First Class Lovejoy was born in Indiana but moved to my home State of New Mexico when he was three. He grew up in Albuquerque, the beloved son of Terry and Mike Lovejoy, and brother to Ashley. He was an active teen who loved football and wrestling and camping and skiing. He was an enthusiastic member of his school's ROTC program. Private First Class Lovejoy was a happy-go-lucky kind of guy, whose fun-loving attitude and zest for life was contagious, according to his family.

Even before he graduated from La Cueva High School, Private First Class Lovejoy knew what he wanted to do with his life. He enlisted in the Army during his senior year in high school and began basic training in August 2008. Private First Class Lovejoy was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. He received his first deployment to Afghanistan in August 2009.

Private First Class Lovejoy's dedication to our country and its ideals made his family, his community, and everyone who knew him proud. Upon hearing of his death, the people of New Mexico—especially those who knew Lovejoy from high school—were shocked and saddened. They turned out in droves to leave messages for his family in a special memory book. And it is those messages that offer an intimate view of the legacy Private First Class Lovejoy leaves behind.

"You had such a big and amazing heart," one person wrote.

"You put an incredible amount of living in your all too short life," said another.

"It is an honor to have been a part of a true hero's life," wrote a third.

But there was one message that I believe sums up Private First Class Lovejoy's life best: "Your last name described you so perfectly. You loved all your friends deeply, and spread joy around every place you went."

To Private First Class Lovejoy's parents and sister and grandparents and fiancée Kaitlin, I offer my deepest sympathies for your loss, and my deepest thanks for your loved one's service to our country. You are forever in our hearts, and we are forever in your debt.

#### 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to celebrate service—specifically the dedication of Americans volunteering in the Peace Corps, which this week marks its 49th year of connecting committed volunteers with meaningful work around the globe.

There are a lot of ways to give of ourselves. We donate food. We donate money. We donate time. But the Peace Corps takes community service—global service, really to another level, with volunteers committing 27 months to improve the quality of life in developing countries.

Some projects focus on agriculture; others business. Some improve health, while others emphasize education or the environment, but all programs build a unique international relationship with a spirit of volunteer service at its core.

As Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I recently saw one program up close during a congressional delegation I led to Morocco, which is an active Mediterranean partner country in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Meetings with local government officials there were informative. And the briefings from the embassy staff were important. But the time we spent with a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Aitourir was nothing short of inspiring.

The Youth Development Program there run by Peace Corps volunteer Kate Tsunoda, with help from local community volunteers, is giving children from kindergarten through high school critical education, language, and art skills.

Inside a small community center, below a library still in need of dictionaries and elementary schoolbooks, we sat down with a group of young men, some in college, some recently graduated. In a part of the world where unemployment tops 15 percent, these are the people one may see as most susceptible to recruitment by extremists, but not these men. They spoke of dreams that included higher education, better jobs, and a transforming of their local towns.

These men credit the Peace Corps program for empowering them and building their language skills. I credit the Peace Corps for something even greater—forging international understanding, something the Peace Corps