

Bondholders have won over 100 U.S. Federal court judgments against Argentina. Additionally, Argentina has not paid claims brought by U.S. companies and other bondholders in international forums, which have collectively issued over \$900 million in judgments against Argentina.

I have been approached on this matter by my constituents in Mississippi who are concerned about the outstanding court judgments. The issue of Argentina's default also reaches beyond my state's borders to every U.S. taxpayer because some of these losses are qualified tax deductions.

In light of my concerns, I am considering introducing legislation next year to address this issue. This is a step I hope I do not have to make, but I believe previous obligations should be honored.

PORTEOUS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to address two matters concerning the impeachment of Judge Porteous. As a former Federal prosecutor and State attorney general, I have reviewed and drafted a number of indictments. I do not believe that evidence of acts committed before confirmation should be withheld from consideration in the impeachment process or that it is inappropriate to aggregate claims together.

The Constitution does not require that all conduct be committed post Federal appointment nor does it stipulate at all when the conduct must occur. Whether treason or bribery occurs before or after confirmation is not the question, but whether or not it occurred. If this were not so, individuals like Judge Porteous, who are very capable of practicing the art of deception and are confirmed, could not be removed from office.

I believe that all four counts against Judge Porteous were well drafted. The Senate has previously stated that "the House has substantial discretion in determining how to aggregate related alleged acts of misconduct in framing Articles of Impeachment and has historically frequently chosen to aggregate multiple factual allegations in a single impeachment article . . . Judge Porteous engaged in a number of elaborate schemes. Having prosecuted fraud, conspiracy, and racketeering cases, I understand that the facts in these types of cases can be extensive and can build up over a period of years. What we should look at is whether the events are sufficiently related so as not to produce prejudice. Each of these counts told a complete story of wrongdoing that was coherent and was held together logically.

Finally, let me say that Judge Porteous's behavior should serve as a reminder to the President of the critical importance of vetting his nominees and as a reminder to this body that a thorough confirmation process is imperative. The process should al-

ways emphasize character, integrity, mental and emotional health, and high morals.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to join in a colloquy with my ranking member, Senator BOND, to correct clerical errors to project and attribution tables in the transportation, housing, and urban development title to the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Senator CASEY should be added for attribution to the Economic Development Initiative project for the city of Wilkes-Barre, PA.

The project under the Bus and Bus Facilities Account for Longview Transit Vehicle Replacements, Clark County, WA, should read Longview Transit Vehicle Replacements, Cowlitz County, WA.

The project under Surface Transportation Improvements Bench Boulevard Improvements, Helena, MT, should read Bench Boulevard Improvements, Billings, MT, where the project construction will be taking place.

The project under Surface Transportation Improvements for the Maritime Fire and Safety Administration, WA, should read Maritime Fire and Safety Association, WA.

Senator BOXER should not be listed for attribution to the Marin-Sonoma Narrows, CA, project under the Surface Transportation Investments account, and she should be listed for attribution for the Sonoma-Marina Area Rail Transit, SMART, CA project under the Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Grant account.

The project under the Surface Transportation Improvement Account listed as SR 522 Corridor Improvements should read SR 522 Corridor Signal Improvements, 61st and 181st Street, WA.

Additionally, Senator FRANKEN should be added as a requester of the Economic Development Initiative project for the Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, MN, Renovation of Homes for the Disabled.

Mr. BOND. My colleague and chair, Senator MURRAY, is correct. In addition to the projects she mentioned, the project description under the Economic Development Initiative Account for the City of Brewer, ME, should read "For the development of a riverfront trail system as part of the Penobscot Landing redevelopment initiative."

Further, under the technical corrections table, Senators CHAMBLISS and ISAKSON should not be listed for attribution for the Newton County Eastside High School to County Library Trail, GA.

Mrs. MURRAY. I have confirmed with my staff that these projects have been properly disclosed and have been certified to be free of any pecuniary interest.

Mr. BOND. My colleague and chair, Senator MURRAY, is correct, and I concur with these changes.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST MATTHEW W. RAMSEY

Mr. BENNET. M. President, it is with a heavy heart that I honor the life and heroic service of SPC Matthew W. Ramsey. Specialist Ramsey, assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, based in Fort Campbell, KY, died on November 29, 2010, of injuries sustained when his unit faced small arms fire. Specialist Ramsey was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. He was 20 years old.

A native of Quartz Hill, CA, Specialist Ramsey graduated from Quartz Hill High School in 2008 and enlisted in the Army. He served two tours of duty in Afghanistan, both with decoration. Among many other awards, Specialist Ramsey earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the NATO Medal.

During over 2 years of service, Specialist Ramsey distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and unrelenting commitment to family. Shortly after enlistment, Specialist Ramsey learned from his wife that he was to become a father. He saw the Army as a path to attaining a bright future for his new family. His wife, Mirella, is expecting a second child in early 2011.

Specialist Ramsey worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. His family remembers him as a dedicated son, husband, and father.

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." Specialist Ramsey's service was in keeping with this sentiment by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

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, Specialist Ramsey will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Wayne and Melissa, Specialist Ramsey's parents, Mirella, his wife, Zachary, his son, and his entire 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 Matthew's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES E. THODE

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I honor the life and heroic service of SFC James E. Thode. Sergeant Thode, assigned to the 118th Engineer Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard, died on

December 2, 2010, from injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol. He was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Khost Province, Afghanistan. He was 45 years old.

A native of Kirtland, NM, Sergeant Thode graduated from Catalina High School, in Tucson, AZ, and the University of Arizona. Sergeant Thode served as an officer in the Farmington, New Mexico, police department for 14 years. He was a senior member of the SWAT team and also served in the Army National Guard, deploying for tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During his years of service, Sergeant Thode distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to take on any job. Fellow soldiers respected his intensity, and they relied heavily on his leadership. Sergeant Thode was awarded numerous medals and awards, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

Sergeant Thode worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. Friends at the Farmington Police Department note that he was beloved by his colleagues. They remember Sergeant Thode as an effective manager who led by example.

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 Thode's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

Sergeant Thode braved the chaos of combat zone throughout Iraq and 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 Thode will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Sergeant Thode's entire 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 James's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN SOLARZ

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and former colleague of mine, former Congressman Stephen Solarz, who passed away late last month at the age of 70. I would like to take this moment to convey my heartfelt condolences to Stephen's wife, Nina, the rest of his family, and everyone else who knew,

worked with, and enjoyed Stephen during his life.

Stephen and I were both elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in 1974, members of a historic class of 75 Democratic freshmen who came to Washington in the wake of the Watergate scandal. Stephen remained a stalwart of the House, serving the people of his Brooklyn-based congressional district with distinction for nearly two decades.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Stephen was always attentive to the needs of his constituents, even going so far as to nickname himself "Representative Pothole" for his work on local issues. But in spite of this, Stephen's tenure was perhaps most clearly defined by his work on foreign policy issues. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee throughout his nine terms, Stephen demonstrated a strong and abiding passion for world affairs. Indeed, during his first month in office, Stephen went on an 18-day congressional delegation trip to the Middle East, meeting with the leaders of Israel, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

Beginning in 1979, Stephen took on some important leadership positions within the committee, serving first as chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, and subsequently as chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. During that time, Stephen was absolutely committed to ensuring that human rights and respect for the rule of law remained key pillars of U.S. policy in those regions.

He was an uncompromising supporter of sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa; one of Congress's most vocal and persistent critics of the authoritarian government led by Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines; and a tireless advocate of peace in Cambodia. Stephen was also a strong proponent of diplomacy and engagement, becoming the first United States Congressman to visit North Korea in nearly three decades in 1980. And perhaps just as significantly, Stephen was a committed defender of the House of Representatives who worked extremely hard to carve out a more prominent place for that body in foreign policy discussions.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee myself, I had the opportunity to work with Stephen on a number of occasions. And I must say that I was consistently impressed by Stephen's tenacity, intelligence, and commitment to justice and democracy. In nearly everything he did as a Member of Congress, Stephen was always well-prepared, knew the issues inside and out, and was not afraid to challenge those with whom he disagreed. That is the Stephen Solarz that my colleagues and I got to know over the years, and that is, in my view, the kind of Congressman Stephen will most be remembered as.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Stephen's family and all those individuals who, like me, had the privilege of knowing

him over the years. And I take this opportunity to thank Stephen for his many years of service to this country and his tireless efforts to create a more just and peaceful world.

REMEMBERING RICHARD HOLBROOKE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I pay tribute to the memory of my friend Richard Holbrooke, who passed away earlier this week. Richard was a masterful diplomat who brought his extraordinary skills to bear on some of the thorniest issues in U.S. foreign policy. Every step of the way, from his tremendous accomplishments at the Dayton Accords to his work as U.S. Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, he showed his deep commitment to our country, and to serving the greater good the world over.

I came to know Richard when we travelled to Africa together in 1999, when he was serving as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. He had never been to Africa before, and yet on the trip he was able to thoroughly grasp the complex issues facing the continent immediately. His brilliance was apparent, and it enabled him to identify emerging issues quickly and push for critical action. On that trip our purpose was to focus on the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but we also saw the incredible devastation of the HIV/AIDS crisis firsthand. Richard called then-U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and told him that the Security Council needed to address AIDS directly. When the Secretary-General responded that the Security Council only addressed security issues, Richard replied that this was, indeed, a security issue. He was right, and the Security Council's subsequent discussion was a turning point as the world community began to understand the depth and severity of the crisis on the African continent.

In the years since, Richard always made time to discuss foreign policy issues with me, and he always truly listened and wanted to understand my point of view, even when we disagreed. This was especially true of his work on Afghanistan and Pakistan. We didn't always see eye to eye about U.S. policy in the region, but he always reached out to me and solicited my views, and I was so appreciative of that. Those efforts on his part said volumes about him and his thoughtful approach to the complex issues he worked on with such commitment and such skill.

We had breakfast the morning after one of his last trips. I could see the toll his work was taking on him, but he was terrific to be with as usual. He was completely engaging and interested in my perspective, yet still managed to work the whole room, multitasking as always.

Richard Holbrooke was an extraordinary man of many talents who spent his life building a better, more just