

refuses to permit the kind of international inspections that could establish whether Iran's nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes. After Iran was offered the option of sending its enriched uranium to Russia and France for refinement into fuel rods for its research reactor, he responded by stalling with one contradictory counteroffer after another, all the while continuing to enrich increasing amounts of uranium to the point when Iran now is believed to have enough to build two nuclear bombs.

Mr. President, I want to commend Secretary of State Clinton for her measured, strong statements at the United Nations about Iran's duplicitous, dangerous flaunting of the international nuclear control regime. It does not appear that anything short of sweeping, multilateral sanctions has a chance of convincing Iran's leaders to change their reckless course.

It is tragic that Iran, a country of such talented, sophisticated people—many of whom risked their lives to protest a blatantly fraudulent election and who want peaceful relations with the United States—currently has a President who is squandering Iran's resources and reputation in pursuit of a narcissistic, foolhardy quest for a nuclear bomb that will only increase his country's isolation and intensify Iran's confrontational relationship with its neighbors and the international community. The potential consequences could not be more frightening for ordinary people everywhere, including the people of Iran, and the Security Council should delay no further in imposing the strongest possible sanctions.

MILITARY FAMILIES APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in Oregon, we just honored the return of 2,700 members of the Oregon National Guard's 41st Brigade Combat Team. Although the 41st's service in Iraq was Oregon's biggest single contribution to a war effort since World War II, it is not the only one.

The soldiers of the Oregon National Guard's 162nd Engineer Company are currently clearing roads in Afghanistan. The 1249 Engineer Battalion in Salem, OR, is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan this winter, and about 600 soldiers from Eastern Oregon will be part of the 116th Cavalry when it deploys to Iraq this fall.

I know I will return to the floor of the Senate to talk about the bravery and service of these men and women. But today I want to talk about the often unrecognized other half of these deployments—the military families that support the service members and keep things together at home. The spouses, sons, daughters, parents, grandparents and community supporters who work together and toil alone to pay the bills, get the kids to school, and help find employment while their loved ones are away.

May 8 is Military Families Appreciation Day in Oregon. On this special day, our State honors the dedication and service of military families and veterans who have helped make America's military the strongest the world has ever seen.

Being left behind when a loved one goes to war is not an easy mission. Yet our military families continue to make the difficult sacrifices, and call upon their inner reserves, to nurture family life so that their service member can focus on the business at hand.

Our military spouses are the glue that holds our military families together. They unselfishly give up their husband or wife, their partner and friend to help serve our Nation. They celebrate important events like birthdays, anniversaries, and sometimes a child's first step or first word alone. They assume the difficult role of being both mother and father—shouldering the responsibility of creating and nurturing a loving family environment when their loved one is away. Their strength and determination are examples to the rest of the country.

And to all of the grandparents and friends who step up when our single-parent service members are called to duty, I thank you. You unselfishly answer the Nation's call by caring for our future generation. You help relieve the pressures of military service by making sure our service members' children are safe, happy, and loved. Stand tall, stand proud. You, too, are our unsung heroes.

Finally, I would like to recognize the sons and daughters who grow up in a military family. As the children of America's defenders, they cope with unbelievable circumstances. The smells of shoe polish, starch, and Brasso may remind them of home more than the smells of cookies and apple pie. Their mothers and fathers are called to duty at a moment's notice, and they have no choice but to be strong, even when it hurts to say goodbye. Their contribution to the Nation and personal strength does not go unnoticed. They are our future and represent the best America has to offer.

Today's military family—spouses, sons, daughters, parents, grandparents and community—inspire us through spirit and strength. They proudly wave flags and keep the candles burning as a reminder of those who are gone.

Their dedication reminds us all that the U.S. flag is brilliant indeed; patriotic songs are not just reserved for the fourth of July; that a parting kiss can hold for months; and that shared tears can somehow bring us closer together. They put their own priorities aside. They take care of one another. They take care of America.

So to all military families, I thank you. Thank you for your service to your family, our community, and to our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA L. MUNSCH

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to honor a North Dakota woman retiring from a long and honorable career dedicated to assisting U.S. military veterans throughout Burleigh County in the State of North Dakota.

Cindy Munsch, of rural New Salem, ND, started her professional career as a teacher, educating young people on the Standing Rock Reservation, in the Bismarck Public Schools, and at United Tribes Technical College.

In 1985, after 14 years in education, Cindy commenced employment with the Burleigh County Veterans Service Office. Initially the office secretary, Cindy's outstanding work ethic and duty performance was recognized by the Burleigh County Commission with promotion to the position of Deputy County Service Officer. She is now retiring after 25 years of service to our veterans.

Cindy has assisted thousands of veterans with obtaining needed benefits and services. She is recognized by her peers across the State as an expert in veterans benefits, and she frequently provides advice and counsel at the request of other veterans service providers. She also assists in the administration of the veterans transportation program, which provides van transport to veterans from western and central North Dakota to the VA Regional Medical Center in Fargo.

Seeing a need for women veterans in the area to have the opportunity to address issues and experiences unique to their gender, in conjunction with staff from the Bismarck Vet Center, Cindy started a Women Veterans Group that meets monthly for the purpose of discussion and support, education and community service projects. In addition, Cindy cochaired the inaugural Women Veterans Summit, held recently in Bismarck, to bring women veterans issues into focus and to provide a networking opportunity for women veterans from throughout the State.

There is no more admirable vocation than one of service to others. Cindy Munsch dedicated her professional career to ensuring that our service members, who stepped forward to serve the Nation by preserving our freedom and way of life, receive the benefits and assistance they deserve. I am honored to salute Cindy Munsch for her dedicated and selfless service to our veterans for the past 25 years and to congratulate her on her retirement from the Burleigh County Veterans Service Office. •

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH W. BASCUAS

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to thank Dr. Joseph W. Bascuas for his invaluable contributions as interim president to Becker College and

for his dedication to quality education and high academic standards.

Becker College, which traces its history to 1784, is comprised of two separate campuses only 6 miles apart, one in Leicester and the other in Worcester, MA. The college serves more than 1,700 students from 18 States and 12 countries, and offers more than 25 diverse, top-quality bachelor degree programs in unique, high-demand career niches and serves as an invaluable community partner. In September of 2008 the Becker College Board of Trustees named Dr. Bascuas as interim president and since that time he has served admirably.

Dr. Bascuas brought more than 25 years of experience in higher education to Becker College. In addition to his teaching and leading experiences, he has written and coauthored numerous papers on psychological topics and has presented at symposia and conferences. Dr. Bascuas served as president of Medaille College, Buffalo, NY; founding president of Argosy University Atlanta, GA, campus; and held administrative and teaching positions at the Georgia School of Professional Psychology, Antioch University, Nova/Southeastern University and Salve Regina University. Moreover, he served recently as a site visit team chair for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and served on the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Presidents Council. He received a B.A. from LaSalle University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Temple University.

Dr. Bascuas took on the role of interim president during a challenging time and was not content with simply being a placeholder. Dr. Bascuas was willing to tackle serious issues including technology, financial aid, and improving retention and graduation rates. He successfully positioned the College for significant growth rates and progress in the future, and for that, the citizens of Massachusetts greatly appreciate and commend him for his efforts.

Mr. President, I would like to wish Dr. Joseph W. Bascuas continued success in the future. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Joseph W. Bascuas for his services at Becker College.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF "OLD FOLKS SINGING"

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the 125th anniversary of "Old Folks Singing," a time-honored tradition in Tull, AR.

Each year, Tull residents and other Arkansans gather at Ebenezer United Methodist Church on the third Sunday of May to sing gospel hymns from the church's original Christian Harmony and Cokesbury hymnals. Since 1885, this event has brought together Arkansans for praise, worship, and fellowship.

Old Folks Singing is steeped in tradition. As event organizers proudly say,

"not much will change this year." The day begins with a prayer and welcome address before attendees join in song. After a potluck lunch and memorial service, the afternoon's music gets underway, ending with prayer and the final hymn, "God Be with You 'Till We Meet Again."

Mr. President, I also recognize the organizers of "Old Folks Singing," including President Richard Tull, Vice President Wilson DuVall, Secretary Karen Westbrook, Treasurer Lena Ramsey, and Chaplain John Victor Burton. Numerous other volunteers help the day run smoothly by coordinating lunch, serving as ushers, creating the church bulletin, leading songs, and various other tasks.

"Old Folks Singing" represents the best of our Arkansas communities. In good times and bad, Arkansans come together to share faith, family, and community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great Arkansas tradition.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDY TENENBAUM

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Little Rock philanthropist Judy Tenenbaum and her lifetime of service for the people of our great State of Arkansas.

Judy will be recognized during this year's "Red Jacket Ball," an annual benefit gala for City Year Little Rock/North Little Rock, a leading nonprofit organization that unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service. Throughout communities across the U.S., City Year members are easily recognizable by their red jackets, which symbolize the power of citizen service and provide the namesake for their annual fundraiser.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Red Jacket Ball, and Judy joins a distinguished list of Arkansas philanthropists to have received this honor. Judy donates her time and resources to countless organizations throughout Central Arkansas, with causes ranging from the arts to cancer research to community development. Judy has touched thousands of Arkansans who may never know her name but who feel her generosity and support.

Mr. President, I am proud to call Judy a friend. We have worked together on a number of charitable projects throughout the years, and she is always willing and able to lend support where it is needed the most. I join all Arkansans in recognizing Judy with the Red Jacket Ball Lifetime of Service Award from City Year Little Rock/North Little Rock.●

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD L. ROCA, PH.D.

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a distinguished scholar, accomplished leader, and a treasured member of the Maryland family. Dr. Richard Roca, director of the Johns

Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, who will soon step down after a decade of distinguished leadership and service in that position.

The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab is a national treasure. Since it was created in the early days of the Second World War, APL has helped maintain our Nation's military, our intelligence agencies, our space community, and our medical profession on the cutting edge of technological achievements. Now the largest university affiliated research lab in the Nation, the dedicated scientists, engineers, technicians, and researchers at APL have time and again solved the problems no one thought possible, and in the process kept us safe and secure. Since 2000, Dr. Roca has led this uniquely talented and diverse team of world renowned scientists as they rose to the challenges of the post-September 11 world.

Dr. Roca was the right leader at the right time to guide APL through these fast-paced and challenging times. Like many visionary leaders in his field, Dr. Roca understands that for a forward-leaning, high-tech institution like the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab can never be static. He knows that in order for APL to play its role solving the problems of the 21st century and helping our Nation's national security apparatus adjust to an ever-changing world, that APL itself must continually be updating and reinventing itself.

Dr. Roca's leadership over the last 10 years has embodied that mindset on continual improvement and self-reinvention. During his tenure, APL adapted to a changing world by expanding its roles and capabilities into homeland security, cyber defense, space exploration, and information-centric operations. After September 11, under Dr. Roca's leadership APL established the Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics—ESSENCE—at APL to monitor the threats from new diseases in the United States. That system is now on watch across the country to provide early warnings against new epidemics created by nature or by terrorist activity. Dr. Roca was also one of the first to recognize the threat from cyber attacks and call for comprehensive cyber defenses. It was under his leadership that APL established major partnerships with the National Security Agency to develop and test new cybersecurity tools. These are just a few examples of how Dr. Roca saw the world changing and mobilized APL to meet the new challenges. We are safer for his leadership in keeping APL on the cutting edge of helping counter new and emerging threats to our national security.

Dr. Roca also kept APL on the cusp of new explorations in space and science. During his tenure, APL helped design, build, and send satellites into space that have explored the Eros asteroid; that are enroute to explore