

used ammonium nitrate as their main explosive ingredient. This is the No. 1 killer of United States and coalition forces. In 2009 alone, 275 American troops were killed by IEDs. In addition to the lethality of IEDs, they have a tremendously demoralizing effect on our troops. Just the threat of IEDs forces troops to move at a slower pace and take away their focus from the mission at hand.

Ammonium nitrate bombs, often crude wood and graphite pressure-plate devices buried in dirt lanes or heaps of trash, are very difficult to detect.

Americans remember, unfortunately, the deadly power of ammonium nitrate from its use by Timothy McVeigh in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing which killed 168 Americans. It can be used, as we know, as a fertilizer as well as an explosive in the mining and construction industry. Its use in the United States is tightly restricted. President Karzai of Afghanistan has rightly recognized the threat and has banned its use as a fertilizer. Afghan troops and police, supported by ISAF forces, have begun a concerted effort to crack down on its proliferation, distribution, and sale. On Wednesday, ISAF reported that 11 tons of ammonium nitrate were seized by Afghan forces supported by NATO troops. These 11 tons would have been enough to build more than 500 IEDs—IEDs that could have been used to kill NATO forces, Afghan troops, and civilians.

The Afghan Government appears committed to this fight and has enacted the appropriate legal measures and enforcement efforts. But ammonium nitrate is still ubiquitous in Afghanistan due to smuggling along supply routes from its neighbors, particularly along Pakistan's tribal belt where smuggling is a way of life. The Los Angeles Times newspaper reported last month that as much as 85 tons of ammonium nitrate is smuggled into Afghanistan from Pakistan in a single night, a shipment that could yield more than 2,500 bombs. Even as we heard recently that 11 tons were intercepted, this published report says that 85 tons can be smuggled in a single night.

Along with seven of my colleagues—Senators LEVIN, REED, SNOWE, WEBB, KYL, MCCASKILL, and KAUFMAN—I have submitted a resolution calling for continued support for and increased efforts and focus by the Governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the central Asian countries in that region to effectively monitor and regulate the manufacture, sale, transport, and use of ammonium nitrate fertilizer in order to prevent criminal groups, insurgents, and terrorist organizations from transporting ammonium nitrate into Afghanistan where it is used in these improvised explosive devices.

I am committed to highlighting this threat and supporting United States and international efforts to crack down on the proliferation of precursor chemicals such as ammonium nitrate.

The Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization—JIEDDO—which includes coalition partners from the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia, has led an impressive effort to combat IEDs at every step in the process. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency will soon commence Project Global Shield, which is an unprecedented multilateral law enforcement operation aimed at countering the illicit diversion and trafficking of precursor chemicals, such as ammonium nitrate.

Pakistan has made efforts to contend with ammonium nitrate in large part because the threat has begun to impact the security of its country as well. Recent coordination between Pakistani civilian and military entities on the IED issue has been positive. The Government of Pakistan has formed an interagency national coalition IED forum. We are also beginning to see efforts at the local level, such as small-scale bans and regulations in the community of Malakand. I hope Pakistan expeditiously approves its draft legislation to better control explosive materials in the country and make a concerted effort at enforcement.

We must exercise extraordinary vigilance in stemming the unregulated flow of ammonium nitrate in this region because of its importance to U.S. national security interests, as well as, of course, to the lives of our troops.

The United States, together with our allies, must do everything we can to make it more difficult for our enemies to make IEDs. I am committed to this task for the long term. I also understand terrorists will resort to different strategies and different ingredients after we are better able to restrict the flow of ammonium nitrate. Implementing more robust and interdiction measures is important, but we also must do more to disrupt and dismantle terrorist and criminal organizations in making IEDs. This will involve multilateral engagement, regulatory measures, training, and technological efforts, building border control capacity, and other means as well.

There are a host of other ingredients terrorists can and probably will utilize in IEDs. But ammonium nitrate is what they are using today to kill scores of U.S. troops. We must do all that is in our power to ensure the job of making these bombs is made more difficult. When they shift tactics and use other ingredients, we will go after those too. Restricting the flow of ammonium nitrate is, in fact, a very difficult challenge. But we must do all we can to protect our troops on the ground across the world, but especially our troops in Afghanistan. There is no more important task at hand.

REMEMBERING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to offer a few words in remembrance of Senator BYRD. I will offer a longer

statement for the RECORD, but I wish to give a few thoughts now.

We do mourn his passing. We see at his desk today a reminder of his passing. To say that ROBERT BYRD was a towering figure in the history of the Senate does not begin to describe his impact, his influence and, indeed, the memory he leaves behind, the legacy he leaves behind for those of us in the Senate, for his home State of West Virginia, and I know for millions of Americans.

He was a strong advocate for not just his point of view but, more importantly, for the people of West Virginia. He arrived in the Senate in 1958—before I was born. I was pleased to have the opportunity and honor, the chance to serve with him a couple of years.

He was a strong advocate. He was also a remarkable orator. Even in the last couple years of his life when some thought he might have been slowing down a little, when he got the microphone, he could deliver a speech like no other. He was a tremendous orator who believed in what he was saying, believed in the traditions of the Senate but mostly, and most importantly, believed in fighting for the working men and women and the families of West Virginia.

We also knew him as a scholar—a scholar of not just this institution, maybe the leading scholar of all time when it comes to the institution of the Senate, but also as well as a constitutional scholar.

His was a life of commitment, of real fidelity, first and foremost I believe to his family. He spoke often of his wife Erma. In the portrait that is just outside the door, there are three items in his area of control in the picture. He has his hand on the Bible, the Scriptures, he has a copy of the Constitution, and a picture of his beloved wife Erma, about whom he spoke so often.

He was committed and had a life of commitment to his family and his faith. But he was also committed to the people of West Virginia for so many years, so many battles on their behalf and especially the families of West Virginia.

Of course, he also led a life of commitment and fidelity to the Constitution and knew it better than anyone I have ever met and certainly better than some of our more renowned constitutional scholars.

Of course, we know of his commitment to this institution, to the Senate. He loved this institution and wrote volume after volume about the Senate. We know that the multivolume work he did, the one volume in and of itself—hundreds of pages on the history of the Senate—is a compilation of speeches he gave on the floor of the Senate, some of them written out, but some of them he could give by memory.

We know of his capacity to extemporaneously talk about so many topics, whether it was history or poetry or Scripture or the history of the Senate.

We will miss his scholarship, we will miss his service, and we will miss his

fidelity to his country and to his home State. I, along with others here, am honored to have served with him in this body. For me it was 3½ years. To be in his presence, to listen to him, to learn from him is a great gift. We mourn his passing. I do not think any of us will believe there will ever be a Senator quite like him in the 50 years he served in this body, in addition to serving the people of West Virginia in the House of Representatives, as well as in the legislature in West Virginia.

We say farewell and God bless and Godspeed to ROBERT BYRD and his memory. We are praying for and thinking this day and I know many future days about his legacy and his family.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO JOE FRANK NEIKIRK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to Joe Frank Neikirk and the business success he has helped build. Mr. Neikirk is the president and general manager of Paul's Discount in Somerset, KY. Paul's Discount has become a local institution in the region, and this month celebrated its 50th anniversary of operations.

The land that Paul's Discount now sits upon was purchased by Joe's ancestor, Franklin Neikirk, and his spouse for 500 cords of wood in 1856. Joe's parents, Paul E. and Frances R. Neikirk, opened the first discount store in south-central Kentucky on that land 104 years later in the early spring of 1960.

Founder Paul Neikirk passed away in 1974. Today Joe runs the store with his wife Jamie. The original store occupied only about 1,800 square feet and had three employees. Today, Paul's Discount boasts more than 20,000 square feet of selling space, plus three warehouses.

They offer sporting goods, hardware, automotive goods, clothing and crafts.

Joe's glad he's still in the same original location, saying, "You can't duplicate the atmosphere of this building." Judging by the crowd that turned out for the 50th anniversary, he must certainly be right.

The Commonwealth Journal recently published an excellent article about Paul's Discount, the Neikirk family's legacy and the 50th anniversary celebration that I would like to share with my colleagues. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Somerset Commonwealth Journal, June 13, 2010]

50 YEARS OF SERVICE—"UNIQUE" PAUL'S DISCOUNT—A PULASKI GEM

(By Tricia Neal, CJ Staff Writer)

Paul's Discount has always had a steady stream of customers, but yesterday, the customers came in droves—packing the parking lot and spilling out onto Ky. 2227 to help president and general manager Joe Frank Neikirk and his employees celebrate 50 years in business. Paul's Discount, opened in 1960 by Joe's parents, Paul and Frances Neikirk, is described by Joe as a "unique" store—offering sporting goods, hardware, automotive goods, clothing, and crafts.

What started as an Army surplus store with three employees has evolved into a sprawling, multi-department retail store with 30 employees, all of whom Joe says help make Paul's what it is. "God has blessed us with good employees at every level, from department managers to cashiers," he said.

Some of Paul's Discount's employees have worked in the store for nearly 30 years. Joe himself worked in his parents' store while he was in high school and college—and even earlier, he recalled, passing out baby chickens to customers at Easter.

"Customer service is the big thing about Paul's," Joe said. "You actually get somebody to ask you if you need help." That kind of friendly service is what brings customers from Pulaski and surrounding counties—and even, Joe says, from northern Kentucky, southern Ohio, and from other points east and west.

Paul Neikirk opened Paul's Surplus on his ancestors' land north of Somerset in 1960. In the beginning, the shop—the first discount store in south central Kentucky—occupied only about 1,800 square feet of space. Paul passed away in late 1974. At that time, his brother, Lyle Neikirk, took over management of the business. Lyle retired about 14 years later, leaving the shop in the hands of Paul's sons, Joe and Randy Neikirk.

Joe continues to manage the store, which now offers more than 20,000 square feet of selling space plus three warehouses, but he says his job has been made easy by those who surround him. "Today, my wife, Jamie, and I run the store. She does human resources, the employees do most everything else, and I handle whatever is left," he said.

"Our employees are almost self-sufficient." While the merchandise available at Paul's is constantly changing, Joe hopes the store's quality customer service and its atmosphere will keep customers loyal.

"We could never open another Paul's," Joe said. "You can't duplicate the atmosphere of

this building." Joe adds that his employees help create the atmosphere there.

While many things have remained the same at Paul's throughout the years, the current management is making sure the business keeps current. Paul Neikirk never would have imagined that his little shop would eventually be accessible to millions on the Internet. Now, the business can be found at www.paulsdiscount.com and on Facebook. "That's part of it nowadays," Joe said. But he still believes customers appreciate a good, old fashioned brick and mortar shopping experience.

"People still like to come to a store and look at what they're buying," he said. Paul's Discount is located on Ky. 2227, just north of SomerSplash water park. Ky. 2227 is part of the former North U.S. 27, and was once the most highly traveled road in the county. The store is now a little more out-of-the-way than it once was, but Joe says the change in traffic patterns hasn't hurt his business.

"Many local people were lost for a while," Joe recalled. "We were really dead for a couple of weeks. But people find their way. . . . It was an incredible risk (to stay in the same location). I thought it would affect us a lot more than it has." Store hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays.

NOMINATION OF ELENA KAGAN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, this morning, the Supreme Court concluded its work for the term and, accordingly, it was Justice John Paul Stevens' last day on the Court. This afternoon, the Senate Judiciary Committee began the hearing on the nomination of Elena Kagan to succeed Justice Stevens on the Supreme Court of the United States.

Solicitor General Kagan appropriately included a tribute to Justice Stevens in her opening remarks. The Nation is indebted to Justice Stevens for his decades of service to this country, from his days as a Navy intelligence officer during World War II for which he was awarded a Bronze Star, to his contributions as a circuit judge, to his 35 years on our highest Court and his leadership there.

When I visited with Justice Stevens earlier this year he shared with me the note President Ford had written a year before his death in which the President said: "I am prepared to allow history's judgment of my term in office to rest (if necessary, exclusively) on my nomination 30 years ago of John Paul Stevens to the U.S. Supreme Court." President Ford was justifiably proud of his nomination. Despite those on the far right who have ranted against Justice Stevens' refusal to be bound by narrow, conservative ideology and who have criticized his good judgment—just as they have Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Justice David Souter—his was principled jurisprudence founded on adherence to the rule of law and