

action: the immediate end to violence, rebuilding confidence in the Palestinian Authority by focusing on their ability to prevent terrorism while the Israelis froze settlement activity, and then the resumption of direct negotiations. It took eight years to get this process moving, but look where we are today.

Senator Mitchell has also had a long and storied career, including bringing peace to Ireland. He did not take this job to be one for two. You can bet that he is confident that an answer is within reach, and within reach soon. He is not preparing an eight-year plan.

My third reason for optimism is the Israeli and Palestinian leadership, particularly Bibi and Abu Mazan. Much has been made of Prime Minister Netanyahu's unwieldy coalition and the multitude of small conservative parties which each have vested interests that could sink a peace deal. But after numerous meetings with him, I am convinced that he wants peace.

I have no doubt that Bibi has wanted peace his whole life, as so many do, because the security of his country and his family depends on it. But, like with the Arab leaders, current events have provided an added realpolitik impetus right now. In my last trip, Defense Minister Ehud Barak sketched out why achieving a solution based on two states, living side-by-side in peace and security, is an existential issue for the unique Jewish democracy that exists in Israel. The alternative to lasting security through two states, he said, is the complete annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. The resulting state would either be non-Jewish, because of the size of the Israeli Arab and Palestinian population, or non-democratic, if Palestinians are disenfranchised. I believe Abu Mazan also really wants peace. Like Bibi, though, current conditions give him an unprecedented flexibility for achieving it. The Arab states that have awoken to the danger of Iran now give Abu Mazan, perhaps for the first time, a true green light to come to a negotiated settlement with the Israelis.

The Arab League in the past has acted as a break on negotiations, but now its members appear more eager for a conclusion to the long-running crisis. I am hopeful that when they meet on October 4 to consider what to do about the end of the settlement moratorium, amidst a great deal of angry rhetoric will be a go-ahead for Abu Mazan to continue talks. It is that important to both him and Arab leaders to achieve peace, and time is of the essence.

So those are three good reasons for optimism, but now the bad news: those that benefit from opposing peace will do everything they can to try to destroy the process. We know that both Hamas and Hezbollah will lose a major reason for their existence, if not the only reason for their existence, if peace is achieved. We should expect them to do everything in their power to stoke violence and provoke a reaction they can turn to their benefit.

After all, they do not need to defeat the peace process, they only need to delay it long enough that Abu Mazan follows through on his announced retirement or loses credibility, leaving a leadership vacuum for Palestinians—and in all my travels, briefings, meetings, and hearings not a single person has been able to suggest a Palestinian leader who can effectively replace him. Or they only need to delay the peace process long enough that President Obama's dream team breaks up. Or delay it long enough that more Arab states follow the path of Syria and increasingly Lebanon and decide that the benefit of kowtowing to Iran outweighs the cost of being in their crosshairs.

As I said at the beginning, the Middle East will break your heart. Whenever you are

most optimistic things are most dangerous. But the focus of Arab states on Iran as the true threat, the United States peace process team, and the leadership of Palestinians and Israelis are each new features in this long story. Well aware of the pitfalls, I remain optimistic. Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

TAIWAN'S DOUBLE TEN DAY

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, on October 10, 2010, Taiwan—ROC—our good friend and our partner in peace and economic development will celebrate "Double Ten Day," its national day. I call upon my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to stand with Taiwan and to celebrate this important holiday.

The people on Taiwan have a vibrant democracy which sustains one of the region's most important and dynamic economies. Taiwan's economy has become an attractive base for international investment, and it has achieved economic growth of over 6 percent at a time when many world economies are faltering. Taiwan's economic strength has enabled it to become a major international investor, promoting economic development throughout the region. Clearly, Taiwan has much to offer on the world stage, and much to be proud of as they celebrate their Double Ten Day.

My good friend Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou deserves both recognition and congratulations for his leadership in negotiating and signing the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, ECFA, this summer which is helping to expand trade between Taiwan and mainland China, reducing regional tensions and encouraging regional prosperity.

Taiwan has been a strong partner to the United States in our collective work with the World Health Organization, WHO, and I feel strongly that Taiwan should play a similarly valuable role in the work of global aviation safety and security initiated by International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO. I hope my colleagues will join me in urging that important international body to welcome the participation of Taiwan.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today in standing to salute Taiwan, as a partner and friend on the world stage, on its Double Ten Day and to reaffirm our friendship, support, and continued progress together and for many years ahead.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LES MEYER

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an outstanding education leader from my home State of Montana. Les Meyer, principal of Fairfield High School in Fairfield, MT, has been recognized by the Montana Association of Secondary School Principals as the Montana Principal of the Year for 2010.

Les has served in the Fairfield school system for over 13 years, beginning as an English teacher in 1997 and since 2002 as the principal of Fairfield High School. Under his leadership the school has seen test scores and student achievement rise every year, while the dropout rate has fallen to almost zero. Les has expanded professional development opportunities to help his teachers do an even better job of educating our children. He is well liked and admired by the staff and students alike.

When Les was recognized as the Montana Principal of the Year, he humbly accepted the award and praised his teachers, staff, students, parents, and community members who have all contributed to the success of the young people in Fairfield schools. He noted how fortunate he is to be working in a community where folks take the education of their children seriously—a trait in communities across Montana both large and small.

There is nothing more important to Montanans than giving children the best opportunities to succeed in life. Providing our young people with a solid education is the best thing we can give them. The investments we make in our education system today will provide our children with the skills and knowledge to be successful in the 21st-century economy. Montana has some of the best teachers and principals in the country, and I look forward to working with Les and other education leaders across the State to make sure that we continue to keep the promise of a good education to our children.

Les also knows that life's lessons extend beyond the classroom. Since 2004, in addition to being principal, Les has served as the football coach for Fairfield High. Under his leadership, the team has advanced to four Class B State Championship games in the past 5 years. This season the Eagles are off to a 4 to 0 start and are ranked No. 1 in the State. Les works to instill in the young men on his team the importance of teamwork, being role models and good citizens in the community, and giving it their all both on the field and in the classroom. I wish Coach Meyer and the team the best of luck.

Les is in Washington, DC, this week along with other award winning principals from across the country who are being recognized for their achievements and are sharing their insights on how to make our education system even better. I congratulate Les on being chosen as the Montana Principal of the Year, and I applaud all our teachers, principals, and school administrators across Big Sky Country and thank them for their dedication to making our schools the best they can be. •

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 20-year anniversary of the Holy Family Hospital in

Bethlehem, Palestine, which has long stood as an oasis of hope and peace in the Holy Land. This celebration also marks another significant milestone for the Holy Family Hospital, the 50,000th baby delivered.

In 1990 the Order of Malta, responding to the critical need of maternal care in the region, opened Holy Family Hospital. Since its opening, the hospital has become the premier maternity hospital and newborn critical care center of the entire region which includes Bethlehem, neighboring towns and villages, four United Nations refugee camps, and Bedouin encampments in the Judean Desert.

The need for Holy Family Hospital has continued to grow over the years, with an increase from 1,000 births annually to now over 3,000 and its outpatient clinics increased from 3,600 consultations a year, to over 22,000. The hospital built and maintains the only neonatal intensive care unit in the region. Thanks to their presence, the lives of 400 premature and low-birth-weight infants are saved every year. In addition, 90 midwives have been trained, which accounts for all the midwives working in all of the hospitals in the entire West Bank.

Holy Family Hospital continues to offer the latest in medicine to the Bethlehem area, including mammography, laparoscopic surgery, and Echo Doppler diagnosis not found anywhere else in the region. Additionally, a program of continuing medical education has been instituted which has brought renowned medical professionals to the hospital as visiting professors.

As well as providing critical health care, the hospital provides many a livelihood. Mr. President, 150 hospital employees are provided steady work and a fair wage, many of whom are the sole support of large extended families.

The top-notch care and much-needed jobs in an underserved area make the hospital special, but what makes Holy Family truly shine is their commitment to bringing peace to the families in the region. From facilitating Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in the medical field to their care of pregnant mothers and babies regardless of race or religion, Holy Family Hospital is a beacon of hope in the West Bank.

This 20th anniversary celebration and 50,000th baby delivered would not be possible without the Holy Family staff and volunteers from around the world and for their dedication to the most vulnerable Palestinians.

Over the next 20 years, it is critical that the U.S. continue to partner with Holy Family so the hospital can carry forward their critical vision for hope and peace.

Congratulations and thank you for not only saving the lives of thousands of babies, but touching the lives of countless more.●

TRIBUTE TO LOU RICE

●Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, For over 25 years, the Edison Welding

Institute, EWI, has been a national leader in helping manufacturers improve their products and productivity through advanced engineering. Based on the campus of the Ohio State University, EWI is a world-class model of a public-private partnership that works with universities and entrepreneurs, and small businesses and large corporations to strengthen Ohio's position as a national leader in aerospace, automotive production, and emerging advanced clean energy manufacturing.

Among its team of cutting-edge scientists and technicians, industry experts and project managers is an employee whose voice and face has made EWI among the most important assets of the great State of Ohio.

For the last 21 years, senior receptionist Willie Lou Rice has welcomed more than 1.5 million visitors by phone and in person at EWI. No one can walk through EWI without first being greeted by Lou not even Vice President Al Gore or U.S. and State Senators or Members of Congress representing districts from across the Nation. She has greeted high-ranking officials from the U.S. Departments of Energy, Commerce, Defense, and Transportation who visit EWI to learn about its latest work. Military personnel, corporate executives, university presidents, and dignitaries from all over the world have received Lou's greeting before meeting with EWI staff.

Her commitment to the mission of EWI also extends to the community. Each year Lou has welcomed 3rd graders from Columbus School For Girls and helps introduce them to the opportunities for women in welding technology. She regularly welcomes vocational school students and local science teachers to inspire them about engineering and to show them that Ohio has long been home to inventors and innovators behind the mask and torch, and the workers in a factory.

Lou has merged her role as frontline public relations ambassador for EWI with her love for her family, friends, and church. Willie Lou Rice will retire from EWI on October 31, 2010, having served her State with distinction and honored her community with a commitment to all. On behalf of a grateful State, I congratulate her for all that she has accomplished and wish her well in her retirement. Her legacy is clearly one of strength, loyalty, and integrity. Congratulations, Lou. ●

MAINE'S "BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS"

●Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Today I commend the James F. Doughty School of Bangor, ME, on being named a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School. This recognition of high accomplishment was bestowed by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

The Blue Ribbon Schools award, created in 1982, is considered the highest honor an American school can obtain. Schools singled out for this national honor reflect the goals of our Nation's

education reforms for high standards and accountability. Specifically, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program is designed to honor public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. This award recognizes that the James F. Doughty School has worked with its students to improve their academic standing and educational excellence.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students of the James F. Doughty School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate confidence and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens.

I also wish to commend Kennebunkport Consolidated School in Maine on being named a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School. This recognition of high accomplishment was bestowed by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

The Blue Ribbon Schools award, created in 1982, is considered the highest honor an American school can obtain. Schools singled out for this national honor reflect the goals of our Nation's education reforms for high standards and accountability. Specifically, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program is designed to honor public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

I applaud the administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students of the Kennebunkport Consolidated School. Together, they have built a quality, caring, and supportive educational community. The school is making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens.●

TRIBUTE TO LUCY S. GARVIN

●Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lucy S. Garvin on the occasion of her retirement as chairman of the board and president of the United States Tennis Association, USTA.

Lucy's truly outstanding career in the world of tennis directly reflects her over 30-year commitment to advancing and improving the game. She has impacted tennis as a competitor, instructor, referee, industry representative, and an avid volunteer. As a recreational player, she won titles at all levels between 1976 and 1990, and in 33 years as a certified referee, she has officiated at countless tournaments.

Leading with charm, determination, and humility, Lucy has worked to expand the sport of tennis at every level around the country. On a local level, she has been a tireless advocate of tennis in South Carolina and in the Southern Region. A former president of the