

Bob Forbuss has touched the lives of countless Nevadans and others throughout our Nation, and in so doing has established a legacy of service for all to follow.

THE RELEASE OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this past weekend produced the first heartening news out of Burma in recent memory. Coming just days after the junta held its charade-like elections, this past Saturday Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest where she had spent 15 of the past 21 years.

While fellow advocates of democracy in Burma rightly rejoice in her being freed, our feelings of joy and relief are tempered by several sobering concerns. First, there is the matter of her safety. We all remember the brutal attack against her in 2003. That must not be permitted to happen again. Second, we know Suu Kyi has been released in the past only to be later detained on trumped-up charges. We want her release to be permanent, not temporary. Third, although she was granted unconditional release, it remains to be seen whether the regime will tolerate her active participation in public affairs. And that is essential for Burma to undertake any meaningful progress toward democracy. Finally, while Suu Kyi has been released from detention, more than 2,000 other prisoners of conscience remain imprisoned in Burma. Only when all are unconditionally freed can the people of Burma truly begin the process of democratic reform and reconciliation.

Make no mistake, the release of Suu Kyi is a positive step forward in Burma. Yet it is only the first—and by no means the final—step that must take place in that beleaguered country.

REMEMBERING SENATOR TED STEVENS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a friend and former colleague, former Senator Ted Stevens, who passed away this August in a plane crash. I know that I speak for all of my colleagues when I say how difficult it was to receive news of Ted's passing this summer, and I would like to take this moment to convey my heartfelt condolences to everyone who knew, worked with, and enjoyed Ted during his life.

I believe that Ted will long be remembered as a man of the Senate. First appointed to his seat more than four decades ago, Ted Stevens became the longest-serving Republican in the history of this body in 2007. Throughout his tenure in Washington, Ted served in a number of key leadership positions, including as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and as President pro tempore.

Over the years, I had the pleasure of being able to collaborate with Ted on a number of critically important issues,

including, perhaps most recently, legislation that I introduced during the 110th Congress to provide paid leave to workers under the auspices of the Family and Medical Leave Act. And while Ted and I did not substantively agree on much, he didn't shy away from reaching out across the partisan divide to get things done. In fact, it was his willingness to work with Democrats—to seek out common ground and compromise on areas of contention when necessary—that made him such a prolific, effective, and well-respected member of this body.

The incredibly strong bonds Ted forged with his colleagues over the years were in full display at his memorial service in Alaska over the summer. I made the trip up north to attend his funeral, and I found it incredibly moving to hear the words of Ted's longtime friend, my colleague Senator INOUYE, who delivered Ted's eulogy, and our Vice President JOE BIDEN, who also made some remarks during the service. Clearly, this was a person who left not only an indelible mark on the Senate as a body, but on many of the individual Senators who had the opportunity to serve with him over the years.

That was certainly the case for me. Years ago, Ted Stevens and I participated in the U.S.-Canadian interparliamentary meeting together. It was one of the most enjoyable 4 days I spent in my 30 years in the Senate for one simple reason—in addition to all his substantive talents, Ted Stevens was great fun—he loved his family, Alaska, his country and his friends.

And on that last point, while it is true that Ted was a creature of the Senate, I believe Ted Stevens will be remembered far into the future first and foremost as a man of Alaska. Ted truly loved his home State, and over the years, he cultivated a strong reputation as one of its greatest champions.

Indeed, Ted's own life was inextricably linked to many of the major events and advancements that occurred in Alaska's history over the past half century. Having served with distinction in World War II as a pilot for the U.S. Army Air Corps in Asia, Ted graduated from Harvard Law School in 1950 and moved to Fairbanks to practice law. Several years later, Ted was brought on to work for the Interior Department under President Eisenhower. In that capacity, Ted advocated very persistently for Alaskan statehood, finally helping make that goal a reality in 1959. Later on, as a Senator, Ted once again worked hard on behalf of his State, its people and interests, fighting to direct federal resources to that vast, sparsely populated, and incredibly beautiful corner of our country.

Ted viewed himself as Alaska's chief advocate here in Washington, and throughout his four decades in the Senate, he never deviated from that mission. Known by many of the Alaskans he helped over the years simply as

“Uncle Ted,” Ted Stevens was singularly devoted to serving his constituents and ensuring their needs and concerns were given a voice on Capitol Hill. And it is that level of dedication to the people who sent him here to represent their interests that will ultimately be Ted Stevens' greatest legacy.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Ted's wife Catherine; his children Susan, Elizabeth, Walter, Theodore, Ben, and Lily; and his 11 grandchildren. And I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ted for his years of tireless and selfless service on behalf of his State and country.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this past summer the people of Alaska lost one of its favorite sons, and many of us in the U.S. Senate lost one of our mentors and friends. His name was Senator Ted Stevens.

By the time I took my seat in this Chamber, Senator Stevens had already held his for more than three decades. He chaired numerous committees, served as President pro tempore, and was widely regarded as one of the most gifted parliamentarians on our side of the aisle. His forty years of service is the longest tenure of any Republican in the history of the United States Senate.

Senator Stevens championed landmark legislation that has transformed Alaska, America, and the world. He helped settle land claims of Native Americans, guard fisheries and protect natural wonders of his home State. He helped guide the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Act into law, which has dramatically improved our Nation's energy security. He helped strengthen our Armed Forces to defend America's interests and values. He helped reform the United States Olympic Committee, and has given generations of American athletes the chance to succeed at the highest levels of international competition.

Ted Stevens' devotion to his adopted home State extended well beyond his service in Washington. After earning a Distinguished Flying Cross in World War II and graduating from Harvard Law School, he served as U.S. attorney in Fairbanks. In 1958, as legislative counsel for the Department of the Interior here in Washington, he helped shepherd Alaska's Statehood Act into law. In 1999, his State's legislature named him the “Alaskan of the Century.” As one of his family members put it, the legacy of Ted Stevens is the 49th star on the American flag.

Four other individuals perished in the plane crash that claimed the life of Senator Ted Stevens on August 9, and we pray for all those who lost loved ones on that night. Sandy and I especially keep in our hearts those whom Ted Stevens loved most: his wife Catherine, his 6 children, his 11 grandchildren, and the nearly 700,000 Alaskans who cherish the memory of “Uncle Ted.”

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT INGLÉS DOSREIS

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of SSG Inglés DosReis, who was tragically killed on August 28, 2009, while serving at Aviano Air Base in Italy.

Staff Sergeant DosReis enlisted in the Air Force in February 2005, immediately following his graduation from high school. He was a member of the 51st Security Forces Squadron stationed out of Osan Air Base in South Korea from August 2005 until August 2006. He was subsequently transferred to the 31st Security Forces Squadron at Aviano Air Base, where he started as an installation entry controller. He deployed to Iraq in August 2007 and received the Army Achievement Medal for his service. Staff Sergeant DosReis served in Iraq until February 2008 and upon his return he became a certified desk sergeant at Aviano Air Base. He was posthumously promoted by the Air Force to the permanent grade of staff sergeant in August 2009.

Staff Sergeant DosReis' family fondly remembers him as an intelligent and kindhearted man and a loving husband to his wife Katherine and father to his son Christian. A great athlete, Staff Sergeant DosReis spent much of his childhood playing basketball and had a passion for sports. He was also a natural student, earning honors in high school and later going on to take classes at the Community College of the Air Force with a major in political science.

Over a year has passed since SSG Inglés DosReis was tragically taken from those who love him. Today, I join Staff Sergeant DosReis' family and friends in commemorating his life by entering his name in the RECORD. As a member of the Air Force, he showed his loyalty and commitment to freedom and peace and today we honor his service and sacrifice for our country.

LANCE CORPORAL IRVIN M. CENICEROS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I honor of LCpl Irvin M. Ceniceros, 21, of Clarksville, who died on October 14, 2010, while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

My heart goes out to the family of Lance Corporal Ceniceros, who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation. Along with all Arkansans, I am grateful for his service and for the sacrifice he and his family have made. I am committed to ensuring that all of our veterans always have the full support they need and deserve, and I can assure our brave soldiers and their families that our grateful Nation will not forget them when their military service is complete.

More than 11,000 Arkansans on active duty and more than 10,000 Arkansas Reservists have served in Iraq or Afghanistan since September 11, 2001. These men and women have shown tremendous courage and perseverance through the most difficult of times. As neighbors, as Arkansans, and as Ameri-

cans, it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to honor their service and to provide for them and their families, not only when they are in harm's way but also when they return home. It is the least we can do for those whom we owe so much.

Lance Corporal Ceniceros was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

STAFF SERGEANT CARLOS A. BENITEZ

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of SSG Carlos A. Benitez. Staff Sergeant Benitez, who was assigned to the 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, in Fort Carson, CO, died on October 14, 2010, from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Staff Sergeant Benitez was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was 24 years old.

A native of Carrollton, TX, Staff Sergeant Benitez graduated from Creekview High School and joined the Army in October 2004. He served three tours of duty: two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan—all with decoration. His wife and young daughter and son moved to Colorado for Staff Sergeant Benitez's most recent assignment.

During 5 years of service, Staff Sergeant Benitez distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to take on any job. He was awarded numerous awards and medals, including two Army Commendation Medals, the Valorous Unit Award, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with four Campaign Stars.

Staff Sergeant Benitez worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Iraq and Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. Friends and loved ones remember his commitment to his wife. His mother, Imelda, remembers how her son wanted to enlist in the Army when he was just 17. She made him wait an extra year.

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." Staff Sergeant Benitez'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 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, Staff Sergeant Benitez will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Staff Sergeant Benitez's wife, their children, 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 Carlos's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION

Mr. COBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the following letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE.

Washington, DC, November 16, 2010.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL: I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements or time limitations regarding S. 2925, Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2010.

I support the goals of this legislation and believe slavery, in any form, is morally reprehensible. Sex trafficking is a global epidemic, and we should endeavor to eliminate this industry, especially due to its effects on minors who are victims of this practice. However, I believe we can and must do so in a fiscally responsible manner that upholds the Constitution. My concerns are included in, but not limited to, those outlined in this letter.

While the Judiciary Committee considered and amended this bill in its Executive Business Meeting, making some positive changes, I still have several concerns with the committee-reported language. First, although the new grant program created by this legislation will be inserted into existing trafficking law, the bill extends the current funding authorization period. The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA) established the current law regarding trafficking, but its funding authorizations expire in 2011. However, in combining this bill's new grant program with existing TVPRA grants, it also extends the grant's authorization through 2014. Thus, the bill authorizes new spending of \$15 million per year from 2012-2014, totaling \$45 million that is not offset by reductions in real spending elsewhere in the federal government.

It is irresponsible for Congress to jeopardize the future standard of living of our children by borrowing from future generations. The U.S. national debt is now over \$13 trillion. That means over \$43,000 in debt for each man, woman and child in the United States. A year ago, the national debt was \$10.2 trillion. Despite pledges to control spending, Washington added \$4.6 billion to the national debt every single day last year—that is \$3.2 million every single minute.

Second, the Sex Trafficking Block Grants in S. 2925 go beyond the responsibility of the federal government by allowing grantees to use grant money for activities that are rightly the responsibility of individual states. The grants may be used to provide clothing, daily necessities, counseling and legal services to trafficking victims. They may also be used to provide training for state and local law enforcement officers and social service providers. Finally, the grants may be used to fund salaries for state and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors, as well as investigation expenses for