

shrift—most notably in senior State Department meetings with foreign governments. Perhaps the starkest example was the Secretary of State's visit to China last year, where she said that U.S. efforts to advance human rights “can’t interfere on the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis and the security crisis.”

Since joining Congress in 1993, I have emphasized that human rights must be at the center of our foreign policy. The Obama administration shares this view, but I remain troubled that in certain instances human rights continue to take a back seat to other competing concerns deemed more pressing. As we seek to address the many crises we face both at home and around the world, we cannot afford to miss—or avoid—opportunities to raise human rights concerns. I do not believe quiet tradeoffs are necessary or consistent with the principles for which the United States stands. Moreover, whatever the perceived short-term benefit of remaining quiet when human rights are being undermined, there is often a long-term cost to us. Our commitment to and enforcement of international human rights standards is part of our strength—when they are called into question, our own national security is undermined.

Human rights, good governance and the rule of law are important not only in their own right, but also for the positive contributions they can provide to our efforts on counterterrorism, stability, and development. As we continue the fight against al-Qaeda and its affiliates, a robust human rights agenda that is deeply intertwined with our broader national security goals will help us achieve our counterterrorism objectives. At the same time, our counterterrorism policies and those of our partners must respect basic, fundamental rights in order to be truly effective.

Developing a coherent and effective foreign policy that successfully incorporates trade, security, and human rights concerns is no easy task. But we cannot further perpetuate the current imbalance by remaining silent on critical human rights concerns. Silence speaks volumes and gives a free pass to those who commit such abuses, as well as those who might commit them in the future. We must voice our concerns loudly and consistently as we seek to build global partnerships rooted in policies that incorporate good governance, the rule of law, and human rights alongside our economic and security priorities. By downplaying the former in order to focus on the latter, the administration risks weakening a key pillar of American strength.

RECOGNIZING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, today I wish to commend and congratulate the League of Women Voters, in honor of the league's 90th anniversary.

This nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920—just 6 months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle. It was designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. Today, there are 900 State and local Leagues in all 50 States.

While the league neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government, it works to influence policy through advocacy on issues such as voting rights, health care reform, global climate change, and election administration. This grassroots citizen network is directed by the consensus of its members nationwide.

In honoring the league, we commemorate the past achievements of women and highlight the successes of women today. From the suffragists who founded the league 90 years ago to the incredible women who work today to improve our communities and our country as elected officials and as volunteers, the league's women are making a profound and lasting civic impact. I wish the League of Women Voters continued success as they bring more women into the political arena as candidates, informed voters and advocates.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA TASK FORCES ONE AND TWO

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise today to commend the efforts of Virginia Task Forces One and Two on their recent deployment to Haiti. Their combined efforts in the immediate aftermath of the devastating earthquake resulted in the successful rescue of 19 men, women, and children.

These teams are made up of over 150 firefighters, physicians, and structural engineers from Fairfax and Virginia Beach, VA.

Both teams were manned and ready within 24 hours of the call for help. That included preparing and staging over 100 tons of cargo and gear for airlift to Haiti.

One of the rescues involved Jens Christensen, a United Nations worker from Denmark who was trapped in the United Nations compound. The teams worked for over 8 hours to free him, and kept him alive by inserting a feeding tube through the rubble to provide him water during the rescue.

Acting on a tip from local residents, the team also rescued two children, “Kiki and Sabrina,” almost a full week after the earthquake. These two Haitian girls were still alive in a building no one had previously searched.

Another woman was rescued from the rubble of a collapsed market, and the

team was able to provide paramedics and physicians to treat her on site and stabilize the woman for transport to a local hospital.

These teams leveraged their countless hours of training to hit the ground running at full speed. They have extensive international and domestic disaster response experience, and are recognized throughout the United States and the world as leaders in readiness, response and recovery techniques.

This is an important capability—and just yesterday I understand the teams were put on ready alert to potentially deploy again, this time to Chile to help with search and rescue efforts.

Please join me in commending the heroic and humanitarian efforts of Virginia Task Force One and Virginia Task Force Two.

I offer sincere thanks to all the team members, support personnel, and the families of these brave men and women.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARY SCOTT

• Mr. CARPER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Mrs. Mary Scott, former Smyrna School District superintendent, whom I have been privileged to know for the past two decades. A role model of integrity, Mrs. Scott served the Smyrna School District in a series of roles of increasing responsibility from 1965 until July 1998, when she retired as the district's superintendent.

Born and in Wilmington, DE, Mrs. Scott attended public school until she was 10. When her family moved to Smyrna, a town some 40 miles south of Wilmington, she attended a two-room school there that housed grades 1 through 8 before attending the Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Dover for grades 9 and 10. Mary Scott graduated from the laboratory high school for students in grades 11 and 12 that was located on the campus of Delaware State College, now Delaware State University. Four years later, Mrs. Scott graduated from Delaware State College with a bachelor of arts degree in English and a minor in biology, after which she went on to receive her masters of arts degree in psychology from Washington College in Chestertown, MD.

The first minority educator to join faculty of the Smyrna District, Mrs. Scott began her career as an English teacher at Smyrna High School, the home of the Eagles. Later, she served the district as assistant to the president and as human relations counselor at the high school until 1978 when she became director of the Title 1 Program and supervisor of the Early Childhood Education Center, serving in that capacity until 1985. Next, she was appointed principal of North Elementary School and held that position until her promotion to the district's supervisor

of education in 1988. Finally, from 1991 to 1994, Mary Scott served as the district's assistant superintendent until her appointment as the superintendent of schools in the Smyrna District in October of 1994. She was the first African-American to serve in that role in that district.

The Smyrna School District has served the towns of Smyrna and Clayton in Kent County for more than 125 years and currently includes more than 4,800 students in central Delaware.

The core values of the district include compassion, perseverance, respect, responsibility, and integrity. At the recent "I Love Smyrna School District Day," Mrs. Scott was honored as a role model of integrity. The Smyrna District community committee defines integrity as "being honest, fair, good, and trustworthy." Mary Scott is the epitome of all of these things and more. A person of deep faith, Mary believes in giving back to her community, her church, and her State and has been recognized for her service to education by numerous educational, civic, and religious organizations. On top of all this, Mrs. Scott has been married to William L. Scott, a retired probation and parole officer, for 56 years. They are parents to 3 children, Sheldon, Jeffrey, and Rachel, grandparents to five, and great-grandparents to two.

Through her tireless efforts over a third of a century, Mary Scott has made a profound difference in the lives of thousands of students in the Smyrna District—many of whom remain dedicated and committed alumni of the district. Mrs. Scott leaves a legacy of commitment to public service for her children, grandchildren, students, and for the rest of us to follow. On behalf of all who have benefited from her tireless and enlightened leadership, I thank her for her commitment to educating every child and for the inspiration she provides through a lifetime of caring.

On behalf of all Delawareans, I congratulate her on being honored for her service and extend to her my very best wishes for every success in the future.●

REMEMBERING DR. DON C. GARRISON

● Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I would like to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Don C. Garrison of Easley, SC. On February 27, 2010, South Carolina lost a true visionary and leader who dedicated almost half of his life to improving higher education.

For more than three decades, Dr. Garrison devoted himself to nurturing and developing Tri-County Technical College, one of the largest community and technical colleges in South Carolina. In 1971, Dr. Garrison took over as president of Tri-County, which at the time was a rural technical school. During his tenure as president, Dr. Garrison expanded this institution to become one of the State's largest community colleges, providing degrees, di-

plomas, and certificate programs in a variety of subject areas.

Under his tutelage, Tri-County has become an exemplary 2-year technical institution that educates students across Pickens, Anderson and Oconee Counties. Dr. Garrison worked tirelessly to improve the lives of many South Carolinians and used his unique position to advocate for technical education.

Dr. Garrison was one of the early pioneers of technical schools in South Carolina, which quickly transformed South Carolina's economy. South Carolina's technical schools have always been some of the highest performing schools in the nation, much to do with the leadership of Dr. Garrison. He was an optimist by nature, who always tried to find a way forward, no matter how difficult the problem. The people of South Carolina were well served by his leadership and vision.

Dr. Garrison will be remembered as a passionate educator, a steadfast advocate of education, and for the tremendous contributions he has made to countless members of our community. His legacy will be carried on by the many lives that he influenced. I truly admire his dedication to his students and to the State of South Carolina.

In his final commencement speech, Dr. Garrison told the graduating class, "The key to success in life is attaching yourself to a cause that is greater than yourself." Dr. Garrison was a shining example of this very statement. I was truly saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Don Garrison and I want to take this opportunity to send my condolences to his wife Carol, his family, and friends. I also want to express my sincere appreciation for his long service to the State of South Carolina.●

TRIBUTE TO SANDI SANDERS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, today I recognize Sandi Sanders of Fort Smith, AR, for her leadership on the U.S. Marshals Service National Museum to be located in Fort Smith. Because of her efforts, Sandi will be honored during a "Salute to Sandi" event hosted by the museum later this month.

In January 2007, Fort Smith was given a highly sought after opportunity: designation as the site for a national museum, the U.S. Marshals Museum. As the oldest Federal law enforcement agency in the Nation, the U.S. Marshals Service reflects the history of the United States. Throughout their 219-year history, U.S. marshals and deputy marshals have been involved in many of the Nation's most historic events. Within the history of the Service are powerful stories that touch and inspire all people.

Sandi's involvement with the museum dates back to 2007, when she was named director. She has worked tirelessly to create a museum that will educate all visitors about the history, values, and dedicated individuals of the

U.S. Marshals Service. Although she no longer serves as director, Sandi has remained an integral part of the Nation's U.S. Marshals Museum.

Madam President, I salute Sandi and all of the residents of Fort Smith for their dedication and commitment to this project. The entire community of Fort Smith should be proud of its efforts to bring the U.S. Marshals Museum home where it belongs.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT L. HOWARD

● Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, today I pay tribute to COL Robert L. Howard. Colonel Howard grew up in Opelika, AL, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1956 at age 17. He retired as a full Colonel in 1992 after 36 years service. After retiring, Howard worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs. During Vietnam, he served in the U.S. Army Special Forces, Green Berets, and spent most of his five tours in the secret Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group, also known as Special Operations Group, which ran classified cross-border operations into Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam.

These men carried out some of the most daring and dangerous missions ever conducted by the U.S. military. The understrength 60-man recon company at Kontum in which he served was the Vietnam war's most highly decorated unit of its size with five Medals of Honor. It was for his actions while serving on a mission to rescue a fellow soldier in Cambodia that he was submitted for the third time for the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism. Colonel Howard was a sergeant first class in the Army's Special Forces on Dec. 30, 1968, when he rallied a badly shot-up platoon against an estimated 250 enemy troops. Despite being unable to walk because of injuries, he coordinated a counterattack while aiding the wounded and was the last man to board a helicopter, according to military records.

He served five tours in Vietnam and is the only soldier in our Nation's history to be nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor three times for three separate actions within a 13-month period. He received a direct appointment from master sergeant to first lieutenant in 1969 and was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Richard M. Nixon at the White House in 1971. His other awards for valor include two awards of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Defense Superior Service Medal, four awards of the Legion of Merit, four Bronze Star Medals and eight Purple Hearts. He was wounded 14 times while serving in Vietnam.

Colonel Howard, 70, died at a hospice in Waco, where he had been for about 3 weeks, suffering from pancreatic cancer. He was buried in Arlington on February 22, 2010. Colonel Howard is survived by his son, Army SGT Robert