

deliberations on important legislation, Joe's willingness to be available to committee staff on evenings, weekends and holidays was much appreciated.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in thanking Joe Richardson for his 40 years of service and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I rise to congratulate Joe Richardson on his pending retirement. Joe exemplifies the meaning of public servant. I have served as chairman and ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture, and today I serve as the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. All along the way, Joe has served the Congressional Research Service and thereby the Congress with excellence and distinction over the course of 40 years. His focus has included the nutrition assistance programs, almost from their inception. From programs ranging from SNAP, WIC, school meals, and faith-based initiatives, Joe is a recognized expert, a prolific writer, and unparalleled in his field.

A nonpartisan professional, Joe has been an invaluable resource for Members and staff and has regularly been relied upon to navigate the complexities of statutes, rules, and regulations, and the myriad of forms public assistance has taken over the last several decades. From farm bills to child nutrition reauthorizations and related legislation in-between, he has been a compendium of information on the ideas generated, efforts attempted, reforms enacted, and the effects and changes to society our laws have made. He is a tribute to his profession, and our Nation is a better place to live for all Americans as a direct result of his efforts.

I and my staff have greatly appreciated Joe's counsel. Whenever called upon, Joe would answer, be it during regular business hours, late into the night, or early the next morning, always helpful, and always forthright. I appreciate the dedication demonstrated by public servant Joe Richardson. Thank you Joe, you will be missed.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, as the chairwoman of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, I know we will sorely miss the expertise and dedication of Joe Richardson as we work this year to write the next farm bill. Since 1971, Joe has shared his expertise on a wide range of issues with Members of the House and Senate. He has an incredible understanding of social policy programs, and knows their history inside and out. He seems to know everything about everything. His expertise has been absolutely invaluable to my staff over the years.

In his four decades of service, Joe has played a key role in writing seven farm bills in 1977, 1981, 1985, 1990, 1996, 2002, and 2008. His understanding of Federal nutrition programs, which represent a

significant majority of the farm bill, has helped the committee address the issues of hunger in America and has helped keep millions of Americans out of poverty.

While Joe is leaving us to spend time closer to his family in California, his work will continue to guide and inform us as we begin work on the 2012 farm bill. He is a wonderful example of a great public servant, and I wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, there is an old saying that "where there is a will there is a way." That was very true of the many pieces of legislation I worked on as chairman and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. The Senate Agriculture Committee has proven time and again that Congress can work together when it wants to get a job done.

But I have to share with you that we had a secret weapon, at least when it came to the farm bill nutrition titles and the child nutrition bills. I know that we would have had a much tougher time getting that job done successfully without the assistance and technical expertise of Joe Richardson of the Congressional Research Service. Since 1971 Joe has played an important part of nutrition policy discussions and has played a key role behind the scenes working on countless pieces of legislation over these past four decades, including seven farm bills. As a member of the Agriculture Committee during most of those 40 years, including turns as chairman and ranking member of the Agriculture Committee, I have been fortunate to benefit innumerable times from Joe's institutional memory and impressive encyclopedic knowledge of our Nation's critical nutrition programs.

Very few Americans have ever heard about the Congressional Research Service, but for the men and women who served in the U.S. Senate and for all of our staff, we know the important role that this branch of the Library of Congress plays. The Congressional Service is a legislative branch agency within the Library of Congress and works exclusively and directly for Members of Congress, their committees and staff on a confidential, nonpartisan basis. The Congressional Research Service, Congress, and the American people have been well served by Joe Richardson and his impressive public career.

For the last four decades Joe Richardson has gone above and beyond to serve the Senate and House of Representatives with his objective and always helpful information and often 24 hours a day if needed. I know that Members of both sides of the aisle have the highest regard for his work, attention to detail, and dedication.

With the retirement of Joe Richardson, we are losing an important perspective and historical knowledge that I fear that no other single person will be able to fill. To say that he will be missed is a true understatement. While

I wish Joe all the best in retirement, I certainly hope that he will make sure his replacement at the Congressional Research Service and the Senate Agriculture Committee still know how to get ahold of him during development of the next farm bill.

#### WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2011

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today, people from across the country and around the world celebrate World Press Freedom Day—a time to commemorate and honor the principles of freedom of expression. World Press Freedom Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 and provides an important opportunity for us all to remember the journalists and other members of the news media—of all nationalities—who have sacrificed their personal safety, and in some cases their lives, to ensure the free flow of information to the public.

The Nation's Founders prized and protected a free and vibrant press. Its prominence is found in the first amendment of the Constitution. Since the founding of this great Nation, American journalists have courageously documented volatile turning points in our history and the world's history. Elijah Lovejoy, the first of too many American journalists who have paid the ultimate price in service to press freedom, remains a stalwart figure in media history, even today.

The International Federation of Journalists reports that at least 94 journalists and other members of the media have been killed in the line of duty during 2010. Countless others have been detained or arrested simply for performing their professional duties.

In recent months, we have witnessed the troubling case of American and foreign journalists being detained, assaulted, and even killed in their efforts to tell the world about the democratic uprisings in the Middle East. Last month, Oscar-nominated war-film director and photojournalist Tim Hetherington and photojournalist Chris Hondros were both killed while reporting on a battle between Libyan Government forces and rebels in the city of Misrata. In February, CBS war correspondent Lara Logan was brutally attacked and sexually assaulted while reporting on the historic uprising in Egypt. The recent news that Osama bin Laden has been killed—a price paid for his crimes against the American people and the world—has focused even more attention on the unrest in the Middle East. The efforts of journalists and members of the media in that region now have even greater significance.

Preserving press freedoms and freedom of expression remains one of my highest legislative priorities as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. That is why I have once again joined with Republican Senator JOHN CORNYN to introduce the Faster FOIA Act. This bill would create a bipartisan Commission

to help ensure that the Freedom of Information Act one of the most important tools by which the press can obtain critical information about what our government is doing is not hindered by excessive delays.

A few days ago, President Obama observed that “in the last months, we’ve seen journalists threatened, arrested, beaten, attacked, and in some cases even killed simply for doing their best to bring us the story, to give people a voice, and to hold leaders accountable. And through it all, we’ve seen daring men and women risk their lives for the simple idea that no one should be silenced, and everyone deserves to know the truth.”

As we celebrate World Press Freedom Day, we are reminded that an open and accountable society comes with not only the right of its citizens to know the truth but the duty to empower themselves with that knowledge. All of us—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—have an interest in preserving press freedoms and protecting the public’s right to know. Enacting the Faster FOIA Act will help to accomplish this goal. For this reason, I strongly encourage all Members to join me in celebrating World Press Freedom Day and in supporting this very important bipartisan bill.

#### THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I recently joined Senator DURBIN and Senator GRAHAM at an important Senate Judiciary Committee hearing focused on the civil rights of American Muslims. This bipartisan hearing was a positive statement from the committee that its members believe strongly that all Americans enjoy the rights and freedoms provided by our Constitution and our civil rights laws.

Today, I wanted to highlight a recent column written by the U.S. attorney in Cleveland, OH, Steven Dettelbach, which addressed the same subject. As one of our leading Federal prosecutors, Mr. Dettelbach is known for protecting the people of northern Ohio by enforcing our Federal laws. But he is also known for his wise counsel which is no doubt why the Attorney General selected him to serve on his advisory committee.

At the Attorney General’s direction, several U.S. attorneys have been trying to better understand the needs of American Muslims. This is a laudable initiative, given that there have been attacks targeting the American Muslim community in the past few years.

To make matters worse, some leaders have sought to sow fear and divisiveness against American Muslims. Fanning the flames of hate against those with different faith traditions runs contrary to our American values because this Nation was founded in large part on the importance of religious freedom.

In his April 29 piece, Mr. Dettelbach wrote, “Our enemies seek not only to

kill our citizens and destroy our cities, they also want to attack the most fundamental American principle of all—our free, open and diverse society. We cannot and will not let them succeed.”

I could not agree more.

All Americans deserve civil rights protections and the freedoms provided in the Constitution. This does not end with the vital protections afforded by the first amendment. It continues to ensure due process and equal protection. It is bolstered by important civil rights laws that we have passed to protect the practice of religion without discrimination.

Religious freedom has long been a bipartisan issue in the Senate, but more importantly it has been a consistent American value. American Muslims, like all Americans, must be protected by the rule of law that upholds these constitutional and statutory protections.

I agree with Mr. Dettelbach when he noted that, “[w]e find ourselves facing foreign-based terrorists, including al-Qaida, seeking to radicalize people here in the United States in new ways. Using sleek ad campaigns on the Internet, these terrorists try to recruit Americans to attack their neighbors. We must counter these efforts, but must do it wisely and without sacrificing our ideals.”

As the President said when he announced the news that the world’s No. 1 terrorist was dead, Osama bin Laden was not a Muslim leader. He had killed scores of Muslims. I hope that in the coming days, we will not see misguided passions lead to more attacks on American Muslims. In order to live up to our American values we must protect all Americans from attack. I thank the President and the Attorney General for their unwavering leadership on civil rights issues.

I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Dettelbach’s short article be printed in the RECORD. I hope all Senators will read it.

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

[From the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Apr. 29, 2011]

#### OHIO’S MUSLIM, ARAB NEIGHBORS (By Steven M. Dettelbach)

Those of us in law enforcement know all too well that terrorists continue to target the United States. We have seen the dangerous consequences take hold in places like Fort Hood, Texas, and Times Square in New York, and even reach here in Ohio, where our office and the FBI prosecuted a homegrown terror cell plotting to kill Americans abroad. Preventing these kinds of attacks is our top priority.

Our enemies seek not only to kill our citizens and destroy our cities, they also want to attack the most fundamental American principle of all—our free, open and diverse society. We cannot and will not let them succeed.

We find ourselves facing foreign-based terrorists, including al-Qaida, seeking to radicalize people here in the United States in new ways. Using sleek ad campaigns on the Internet, these terrorists try to recruit

Americans to attack their neighbors. We must counter these efforts, but must do it wisely and without sacrificing our ideals.

Some, however, have wrongly resorted to portraying American Arab or Muslim communities, or the Islamic faith itself, as a threat to our country. While we must repel attempts by foreign terrorists to radicalize Americans, vilifying Islam or all Arab-Americans will not make our nation safer. Indeed, suggesting these Americans are less loyal than their countrymen is not only inaccurate and irresponsible, it also adds an air of legitimacy to violent extremism of another kind: directed not by American Muslims and Arabs, but at them.

In the past year, a passenger stabbed a New York cabbie after learning he was Muslim, and an arsonist in Tennessee burned a mosque, among other examples. Such acts are not only illegal, they are also profoundly at odds with one of our nation’s bedrock values: “E pluribus unum,” or “Out of many, one.”

Stigmatizing Muslim communities not only contradicts our nation’s commitment to religious freedom, it also makes it easier for al-Qaida to radicalize Americans. Since the day a band of religious refugees stumbled off their ship near Cape Cod in what eventually would become the commonwealth of Massachusetts, practitioners of every faith have come and worshiped freely in this country.

Acts of violence and hostility against American Muslims risk obscuring these truths and feeding the enemy’s false narrative that America is at war with Islam.

We must recognize that American Muslim and Arab communities are a vital part of the solution to the problem of radicalization. Terrorists do not radicalize entire communities; they recruit individuals. American Muslims and Arabs who recognized threats have worked with law enforcement when they suspect a problem. For this we owe them gratitude, not sideways glances.

In an effort to improve communication, collaboration and trust with Muslims and Arab-Americans, I have been part of a group of U.S. attorneys across the country having a series of conversations to better understand the needs of these American communities. The people of these communities should understand that the Department of Justice is here to protect them.

I have met with hundreds of American Muslims in Northern Ohio over the past few months. Not surprisingly, they want for their children what everyone wants—a good education, freedom from bullying and the opportunity for their children to grow and become productive citizens.

I heard troubling stories from parents whose children’s trust in this country was shaken by various indignities suffered in our community, which they perceived to have stemmed from their religion or ethnicity. This is wrong. It is not the Ohio I know and love, and none of us should stand silently by and tolerate such intolerance.

I heard from doctors, architects and workers who have a deep love for their nation. I spoke with their American-born children who, just like the youth in our Irish, Italian and Eastern European communities, are working on their resumes, fiddling far too much with their Blackberrys and who think of themselves as American more than anything else—because that is who they are.

Law enforcement alone cannot eradicate the root causes of terrorism and hate crimes. Each of us must do all we can to forge lasting relationships with our Muslim and Arab neighbors. We need to affirm loudly that they, too, are Ohioans, our neighbors in a wonderfully diverse state that thrives on its many faiths, languages and ethnicities.