

risk to their safety every day. National Peace Officers Memorial Day provides the people of the United States, in their communities, in their state capitals, and in the Nation's Capital, with the opportunity to honor and reflect on the extraordinary service and sacrifice given year after year by the women and men who serve in police forces, as peace officers and in all branches of law enforcement.

This week we honor those who lost their lives in the line of duty, and their families. In 2010, 153 law enforcement officers died while serving in the line of duty. Their bravery and sacrifice should not be forgotten. Since the first recorded police death in 1792, there have been more than 19,000 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

Late last week, the Senate passed a resolution I introduced to recognize those officers who lost their lives last year. I thank Senator GRASSLEY for joining me in sponsoring that resolution. I am glad the Senate came together unanimously to show its strong support and appreciation of America's law enforcement officers.

Keeping our communities safe is vitally important work and will always be dangerous, but we must work to keep those who protect us as safe as possible. The officers who lost their lives in 2010 are a stark reminder that we must not let up in our support of those who work day in and day out in the service of all of us and our communities.

I was proud to champion bipartisan legislation first passed more than a decade ago which has authorized Federal funding to assist in the purchase of lifesaving bulletproof vests for law enforcement officers. I have worked hard to ensure that legislation is funded each year. From 1999 through 2009, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program has helped provide more than 800,000 vests. Just last year, the program paid for 95 new vests across Vermont. These vests have saved the lives of police officers across America.

In these tough economic times, when towns and cities have had to tighten their belts and make tough decisions about their budgets, these grants are even more important to protect law enforcement officers. Congress must continue to support this initiative to increase the safety of those in the line of duty.

Congress must also continue to support Federal assistance to state and local law enforcement. Consistent support for key Federal support initiatives like the COPS program, the Byrne/JAG program, and rural law enforcement grants are an important reason why crime rates have continued to decline even as the economy struggled and State budgets tightened. We were able to secure funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and renewed commitments in the appropriations process, which allowed police departments throughout the country to

hire and maintain officers, buy needed equipment, and provide training.

In the current budget environment, everyone has had to make sacrifices. Even the President, who has been a strong supporter of law enforcement, has called for modest cuts in Federal assistance to State and local law enforcement. What we cannot afford are the draconian cuts in law enforcement assistance that others are proposing. We owe it to our law enforcement professionals and to our communities to continue our much-needed support.

HIRING HEROES ACT OF 2011

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, President George Washington once said "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

President Washington's words are a serious reminder of our obligation to all of the brave men and women serving our country overseas. We have a solemn obligation to our veterans when they return home. And the unemployment numbers among veterans make it clear that we have a long way to go.

The unemployment rate among veterans who have served in the military since September 2001 far exceeds that of their nonveteran peers. The unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans hit 13.1 percent in April. This is roughly 3 percentage points higher than the previous year. The unemployment rate among Montana veterans has more than doubled since 2005. This is a serious problem. We should be greeting our veterans with quality health care and our eternal gratitude, not an unemployment check.

Yesterday, I was proud to stand with my friends and colleagues, Senator PATTY MURRAY and Senator JON TESTER, as we introduced the Hiring Heroes Act of 2011. The bill will take a number of important steps to help our brave veterans find work when they come home from war.

If a soldier serves as a truck driver or a medic in the military, there shouldn't be excessive red tape to become a truck driver or serve in a hospital as a civilian. That is why this bill requires the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Labor to study how skills learned in the military can be more effectively translated to meet the qualifications required for civilian jobs back home. The legislation would also initiate a new program aimed at eliminating the barriers between military training and civilian licensure or credentialing.

The Hiring Heroes Act would require the Department of Labor to reach out to and assist recently discharged veterans receiving disability payments. The bill would also extend the VA's authority to provide rehabilitation and

job training for severely wounded troops. Without this extension, only veterans separated from the military could take advantage of these critical employment services. Helping veterans requires close cooperation between the VA and veterans service organizations. That is why the legislation would authorize \$4.5 million in grants for non-profit organizations that help veterans find work.

The Hiring Heroes Act of 2011 complements the legislation that Senators TESTER, GRASSLEY, Senator BURR and I introduced earlier this year: the Veteran Employment Transition Act of 2011. This legislation will reward employers that hire veterans who have recently completed their service in the military with up to a \$2,400 tax credit under the work opportunity tax credit. I am proud that 17 of my colleagues in the Senate—Republicans and Democrats—have cosponsored this legislation. The House companion has 54 cosponsors.

The bill also cuts the redtape that generally exists under the work opportunity tax credit. Rather than having to go through the tax credit's current certification process, qualified servicemen and women who have been recently discharged will only need show their discharge documentation that was provided by the Department of Defense. This includes those men and women who were activated by their states as members of the National Guard.

Enacting this legislation would just be the first step. The tax credit will not work unless veterans and small businesses across the country know about it. That is why I am working with the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other Veteran Service Organizations to help get the word out about this tax credit once we pass the legislation.

Briefly, I thank my Defenders of Freedom Fellows, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans and Montana-Natives Charlie Cromwell and Troy Carter. As legislative fellows in my office, Charlie and Troy worked hard to draft and advance this bill. I created the Defenders of Freedom Fellowship so that Montana veterans could work on legislation that helps their fellow veterans. They would be proud of this legislation.

I encourage all interested Montana veterans to contact my office for more information. It will take this kind of teamwork to provide the support our veterans need when they come home from war. It is an honor to introduce this legislation and I look forward to its quick passage this legislative session.

SBIR/STTR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I wish to express my disappointment with this body's failure to move forward with the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer reauthorization.

The SBIR and STTR programs, as they are known, are key components in our Nation's commitment to being a global leader in research and development. If we allow these programs to expire, as they are scheduled to do at the end of this month, we will forfeit one of the best tools we have to support innovation.

Big companies do not hold a monopoly on big ideas. Small businesses, however, often lack the resources necessary to get a good idea off the ground. The SBIR and STTR programs have a long track record in helping small businesses leverage Federal support into innovative new technologies. Products developed with assistance from these programs can be found inside everything from the B-2 bomber to the electric toothbrush.

I am proud to say that some of these innovations were made in my home State of Rhode Island. Since the SBIR and STTR programs were created, Rhode Island companies have received 277 awards and almost \$100 million in Federal support.

One of those companies is EpiVax, a biotech firm located in Providence. EpiVax focuses its work in the field of immunology and has received several SBIR awards over the years. Its most recent grant supports research on the development of a type I diabetes treatment. Other projects have included a hemophilia therapy and an improved Tuberculosis vaccine.

SEA Corp. is another Rhode Island company that has benefited from both SBIR and STTR grants. Located in Middletown, SEA Corp. is a veteran-owned engineering firm. In 2000, they received an SBA award to develop launch systems for the Navy. They have taken the same kind of inflator that is used in automobile airbags and reconfigured it to shoot objects as large as a 750-pound torpedo. SEA Corp. is now adapting that technology to launch unmanned aerial vehicles from ships and submarines.

I am proud of these innovative Rhode Island projects and the contributions they have made to our country. For Rhode Islanders, though, their most significant impact has been in the jobs they have helped create. EpiVax has grown to 22 employees at their facility in Rhode Island, and SEA Corp. employs 330. At a time when my State continues to suffer from 11 percent unemployment, we cannot overlook the importance of these jobs and the role played by the SBIR and STTR in supporting them.

In Rhode Island, we have put special emphasis on promoting the "knowledge district" concept. Leaders like Brendan McNally, the director of the Rhode Island Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, have worked to bring together early-stage ventures and to foster an environment of collaboration and innovation. A handful of RI-CIE businesses have received SBIR awards and many others have expressed interest in taking advantage of the grants

to help their companies grow. If we fail to reauthorize these programs, great companies like EpiVax and SEA Corp. and so many others in Rhode Island and across the country may no longer have the resources to devote to developing the next generation of cutting-edge technologies and to create high-quality jobs in those fields.

It is clear that America must renew its commitment to being the world's leader in research and innovation. It is more than just a matter of national pride—it is an important part of creating jobs and securing our country's long-term economic well-being. The reauthorization bill would strengthen the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs and help preserve America's position as a leader in innovation.

I was discouraged that so many of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle voted to block the reauthorization of these vital programs. Simply put, this should not be a partisan issue. Given the importance of these programs to small businesses across the country, I hope that my Republican colleagues will come back to the table so that we can work together to pass a bipartisan reauthorization bill.

ISRAEL'S 63RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, the first months of 2011 have been marked in the Middle East by profound change as citizens have demanded greater representation and increased accountability from their governments. As many of those protesting for change were beaten and killed in the streets, a sense of uncertainty about the future of the region and the commitment of some of our allies to American values was palpable. Yet, during this time of revolution, there has been no doubt about the certainty and strength of our Nation's alliance and friendship with Israel.

Since the United States recognized Israel 11 minutes after its founding on May 14, 1948, the two countries have worked side by side to advance democracy and peace.

In a region where dictators and family rule are the norm, Israel has stood out as a beacon for democracy—a country with an independent judicial system and strong rule of law where citizens are free to worship and speak as they wish.

For those wanting better governance and more rights in the Middle East, they just have to look next door to Israel for an example of how things could be.

In advance of Yom Ha'atzmaut—Israel's Independence Day—I wish to congratulate the citizens of Israel for building a strong and vibrant country despite the myriad challenges, wars and attacks they have faced. I look forward to working in the Senate to strengthen this strategically important relationship.

REMEMBERING PRIMO CARNABUCI

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, sometime after nightfall on November 1, 1950, under the cover of a dark sky, there was a firefight north of the town of Unsan, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Unsan lies in the eastern North Pyongan province, on the western half of the peninsula. It sits peripheral to the Kuryong River, which cuts a steep valley through the land as it channels out into the Korea Bay. Unsan also lies north of the 38th parallel and was enemy territory for the U.S. 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, which had taken up position there just days before.

The regiment was part of a northward advance toward the Sino-Korean border, in aggressive pursuit of a weakened, retreating North Korean enemy. But as it advanced, it encountered a ferocious counteroffensive lead by Chinese forces, absorbing tragic casualties at the hands of damaging defeat. As the regiment retreated south back across the Kuryong, it was forced to leave behind many brothers in arms. Almost 600 Americans fell that day, many of whom were declared missing in action, MIA, never to be found.

Among the regiment was Primo Carnabuci of Essex, CT. Primo came from a family of patriots; his two brothers, Dominic and Louis, also served our country in uniform. Anecdotes about Primo from the battlefield paint the picture of a tenaciously courageous fighter. In one such story, outlined in a military document awarding him a Distinguished Service Cross for heroism, as reported by the Middletown Press, Primo was temporarily sidelined from battle after killing three enemy soldiers and taking grenade shrapnel to the face. As he was being attended to by a medic, Primo, according to the document, "thrust away the aid man, picked up his rifle, and with utter disregard for his own safety, advanced into the fire of the enemy machine gun with blood streaming down his face."

His brother Dominic was not surprised to hear that story. And it is safe to say that, as his regiment encountered those Chinese forces on that November night in 1950, Primo did not shy away from danger, but rather took the fight to the enemy, even as it overwhelmed his regiment. He ultimately perished in that battle and was declared MIA, leaving his family back home in Connecticut heartbroken and unsure about where he was, and whether he was alive or dead.

Suppressed in history's pages between the Second World War and the Vietnam war, the Korean war is often referred to as the "Unknown War," or as the "Forgotten War." While Primo Carnabuci's whereabouts were unknown to his family, he was certainly not forgotten. Every night since then, his brother Dominic has prayed that his brother would be found, and returned safely and soundly.

Miraculously, that prayer was answered, in part, just a few months ago,