

that we are not duplicating other programs. That is important. We don't want to be duplicative. We want to be sure that what we are doing is not being done elsewhere.

We walk in and we do something, frankly, that people need now: We create jobs and we leverage. That word "leverage" has become the first thing out of my mouth when I talk about things I support now. That is why we support the highway bill that we hope is going to come here in a bipartisan way. We leverage dollars. Anytime you can leverage dollars—you put \$1 down for something good, and people come to the table from local government, the nonprofit sector, the profit sector, State, all the different agencies, all the different parties come together and say: This is a great idea. If we all kick in just a little, we are going to do something big. That is the idea behind the EDA.

I visited projects in my own State, shopping malls and other things that were done in these very fine communities where it is tough to get capital, where the banks just turn their backs, where perhaps the venture capitalists are saying: This isn't our cup of tea. That is why this is a successful program.

Again, I hope we will have debate today on the Tester-Corker amendment. It is a very controversial one. It is not happy because it is one of these things where, if you do one thing, 50 percent of the people think you are right, and if you do the other, 50 percent think you are wrong, although Senator DURBIN says the polls show that people support these lower fees in this case. But I respect the fact that the amendment was offered on this bill. It is an amendment that is directly related to our economy. But I hope we vote tomorrow, as early as possible, and I hope we do not have a lot of amendments dragging us down because, guess what, people are looking at us and they are thinking: Why aren't they doing more to create jobs? This will send a signal that we are making EDA a priority.

This is not a big spending measure. This is an authorization, and the number at which we are authorizing has been frozen so we are not adding to it. But we are sending a signal to the appropriators and to the Commerce Department that we think this is a good and important program.

Madam President, I thank you very much. I have said my piece for the moment. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following morning business on Wednesday, June 8, the

Senate resume consideration of S. 782, the EDA Revitalization Act, with the time until 2 p.m. equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the Tester amendment No. 392 regarding swipe fees; that at 2 p.m. the Durbin amendment No. 393 be withdrawn and the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Tester amendment No. 392, with no amendments, motions, or points of order in order prior to the vote other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; the Tester amendment be subject to a 60-vote threshold; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to express my appreciation to Senators DURBIN and TESTER for their warm relationship and to every Senator here on this most difficult issue, for allowing us to get this done tomorrow expeditiously. It is something that had to be done and it is the right thing to do and we will move forward upon completing this to try to do other things on this very important piece of legislation.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

##### NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of National Hunger Awareness Day. On this day, we focus on the more than 50 million people in the United States without enough to eat and reassert our commitment to assist those in need.

Millions of families live each day not knowing if they will have enough to eat. Rather than thinking about what the next meal will be, these parents worry if there will be a next meal. Rather than concentrate on homework, these children are trying not to think about their hunger pangs. In a nation as resourceful and agriculturally abundant as ours, this is inexcusable. If children—or adults—are hungry in America, that is a problem for all of us.

The level of hunger in our Nation is at the highest level since the government began tracking food insecurity in 1995. The number of Americans experiencing hunger increased from 35.5 million in 2006 to 50 million in 2011. In Illinois, over 11 percent of households are food insecure. These are working families who just aren't able to make ends meet and are forced to skip meals to make sure food will last through the week.

At a time when millions of middle class Americans are struggling to keep up with higher gas prices and grocery bills, more families are looking to Federal programs for assistance. Throughout the country, Federal hunger assistance programs have responded to this growing need by providing essential support to hungry families. Over the

past 2 years, Illinois food banks have seen a 50-percent increase in requests for food assistance.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, applications for food stamps are on the rise at the same time recipients are making more frequent use of food pantries to fill gaps in their grocery needs. Over 44 million people nationwide rely on the Federal food stamp program. Currently, 1,802,252 people in Illinois receive food stamps, an increase of 14 percent from last year and the highest level ever in Illinois. But for the millions of people who don't have assistance, everything is different.

We know hunger is a reality in our communities. We see long lines at our food pantries. We have heard from seniors forced to choose between groceries and medication. And children are in our schools who have not had a decent meal since the previous day's school lunch. We see families showing up a day earlier than normal at the food pantry because the monthly pay is not stretching as far it once did. Parents are giving up their own meal to make sure their child has something to eat at night.

Last week, I visited a Summer Food Service Program at the Boys & Girls Club in Decatur, IL. This summer program provides 2 free meals a day to up to 150 children. For the over 500,000 Illinois children in food insecure households, the summertime means months without the free and reduced breakfasts and lunches available in school. Thanks to the Summer Food Service Program, food banks, and food pantries, families who are having a difficult time keeping up in our tough economy are able to put meals on the table. One woman with three kids in the Summer Food Service Program in Decatur said the meals provided in the program help her save money so she can afford to put gas in her car to get to work.

In the Nation that prides itself as the land of plenty, we cannot hide the fact that we need to protect these vital antihunger programs and that we need to do better at making sure everybody has at least enough to eat. As Congress works to rein in our Nation's debt, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure we make responsible decisions that protect vital antihunger programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

If there is one hungry person in our Nation, hunger will be a problem for all of us. I hope we will continue to work together to fulfill our duty to end hunger in our Nation and the world.

#### TAIWAN AIR DEFENSES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on February 23, 2011, the RAND Corporation released a report funded by and prepared for the U.S. Air Force entitled, "Shaking the Heavens and Splitting the Earth." This report provides a

comprehensive review of the capabilities of the Chinese Air Force, and it is alarming. In less than a decade, China has transformed its air force from an antiquated service based on 1950s-era Soviet technology into a modern, highly capable 21st century air force. RAND predicts that, by approximately 2015, the weapon systems and platforms China is acquiring “would make a Chinese air defense campaign, if conducted according to the principles described in Chinese military publications, highly challenging for U.S. air forces.”

Without question, China’s military expansion poses a clear and present danger to our longstanding ally, Taiwan—a threat that also has very serious implications for the United States. In its report, RAND predicts that, should the United States have to intervene in a conflict between Taiwan and China, the United States “should expect attacks on its forces and facilities in the western Pacific, including those in Japan. . . . Chinese military writings, moreover, emphasize the advantages of preemptive and surprise attacks, so it is possible that Chinese attacks on U.S. forces in the western Pacific would precede a use of force against Taiwan.” RAND further states that, in the event of a military conflict off of Taiwan, “even if the United States intervened on a large scale,” the “capabilities of Taiwan’s armed forces would also be critical to the outcome. . . . Defending Taiwan against air attack is feasible if Taiwan makes systematic, sustained, and carefully chosen investments.”

These military investments by Taiwan are critical, due to the continuing deterioration of its air force. A January 21, 2010, Defense Intelligence Agency, DIA, report on the current condition of Taiwan’s Air Force quantified its eroding air capability in stark terms: “Although Taiwan has nearly 400 combat aircraft in service, far fewer of these are operationally capable. Taiwan’s F-5 fighters have reached the end of their operational service life, and while the indigenously produced F-CK-1 A/B Indigenous Defense Fighter, IDF, is a large component of Taiwan’s active fighter force, it lacks the capability for sustained sorties. Taiwan’s Mirage 2000-5 aircraft are technologically advanced, but they require frequent, expensive maintenance that adversely affects their operational readiness rate.”

Last August, the Department of Defense, DOD, released its 2010 Annual Report to Congress on the Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China. It states: “Cross-Strait economic and political ties continued to make important progress in 2009. Despite these positive trends, China’s military buildup opposite the island [Taiwan] continues unabated. The PLA is developing the capability to deter Taiwan independence or influence Taiwan to settle the dispute on Beijing’s terms while simultaneously attempting to deter, delay, or deny any possible U.S. support for

the island in case of conflict. The balance of cross-Strait military forces continues to shift in China’s favor.” This report recounts that China has a total of approximately 2,300 operational combat aircraft, including 330 fighters and 160 bombers stationed within range of Taiwan.

These disturbing reports are just the latest warnings that highlight both China’s military expansion and Taiwan’s increasing need for new defensive weapons. Some have openly questioned whether selling arms to Taiwan is worth the political cost to the U.S.-China bilateral relationship. Surely, we would all prefer to have Taiwanese pilots flying Taiwanese fighter jets as the island’s first line of defense, instead of American military pilots. Taiwan understands this, and it wants to remain the primary guarantor of its own freedom and democracy. A strong and robust defensive capability built on an air force capable of holding its own with China will promote a Beijing-Taipei détente that can build on the work President Ma has done to ease tensions and promote better economic ties with China. It remains to be seen how far the Obama administration’s support extends to Taiwan and whether this administration will try to strategically counter the military rise of China.

China should never be allowed to dictate U.S. policy, either directly or indirectly. That includes our decision to sell defensive weapons to an important democratic ally. Yet there is evidence that this administration is already bowing to Chinese pressure. According to a February 7, 2010, report by Defense News, China’s extensive holdings of U.S. Government securities are already directly influencing U.S. national security policy. This article reports that, according to an unnamed Pentagon official, Obama administration officials softened a draft of a key national security document in order to avoid “harsh words” that “might upset Chinese officials at a time when the United States and China are economically intertwined.” The article indicates that Pentagon officials “deleted several passages and softened others about China’s military buildup.” This critical document, the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, QDR, is intended to provide an assessment of long-term threats and challenges for the Nation and to guide military programs, plans, and budgets in the coming decades.

Although the QDR was watered down by administration officials, other reports effectively highlight the disparity between China’s diplomatic rhetoric and its true intentions, as demonstrated by its rapid and robust military modernization effort. According to the DOD’s 2010 report on China, “The pace and scope of China’s military modernization have increased over the past decade,” increasing “China’s options for using military force to gain diplomatic advantage or resolve disputes in its favor.” The DOD’s report

highlights to China’s military modernization has been focused on “improving its capacity for force projection and anti-access/area-denial.” These modernization efforts are heavily focused on offensive capabilities, including the development of an antiship ballistic missile with a range in excess of 1,500 km that is “intended to provide the PLA the capability to attack ships, including aircraft carriers, in the western Pacific Ocean,” as well as an active aircraft carrier research and development program. Moreover, PLA Air Force, PLAAF, Commander General Xu Giliang has emphasized the transformation of the PLAAF “from a homeland defense focus to one that ‘integrates air and space,’ and that possesses both ‘offensive and defensive’ capabilities.”

It is because of China’s military rise and the troubling shift in the cross-Strait balance in China’s favor that Taiwan recognizes its need to modernize its air force. As a result, Taiwan has made repeated requests to purchase new F-16 C/D aircraft from the United States since 2006. Taiwan desperately needs these F-16s—a “carefully chosen investment”—which are comparable to China’s own domestically-developed J-10 fighter aircraft.

Yet despite a compelling argument, Taiwanese President Ma’s requests to the United States to purchase these aircraft continue to be snubbed. In an interview with the Washington Post, President Ma said, “Our objective in improving cross-strait relations is to seek peace and prosperity. However, the Republic of China (Taiwan) is a sovereign state; we must have our national defense. While we negotiate with the mainland, we hope to carry out such talks with sufficient self defense capabilities and not negotiate out of fear. This is an extremely important principle. Therefore, we must purchase the necessary defensive weapons from overseas that cannot be manufactured here in Taiwan to replace outdated ones. This is essential for our national survival and development.”

Moreover, the United States has a statutory obligation under the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 to provide Taiwan the defense articles and services necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain sufficient self-defense capabilities, in furtherance of maintaining peace and stability in the western Pacific region. Our obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act recognize that the key to maintaining peace and stability in Asia in the face of China’s dramatic military expansion is ensuring a militarily strong and confident Taiwan.

To that end, in early 2010, President Obama notified Congress of a \$6.4 billion military sale to Taiwan. This was a welcome step, but it remains the only visible step the Obama administration has taken to provide Taiwan the defensive arms it needs, in accordance with our statutory obligations. While the administration dithers on Taiwan’s request for F-16s, evidence continues to

mount that what Taiwan desperately needs to restore the cross-strait balance and regain the ability to defend its own airspace is new fighter aircraft to bolster an air force that is borderline obsolete.

It is my understanding that the administration may favor selling Taiwan upgrade kits for its existing fleet of F-16 A/Bs, instead of selling Taiwan brand new fighters. Such a tradeoff will not enhance the security of Taiwan. What Taiwan's air force needs is new F-16s and the ability to deploy them in sufficient numbers to strengthen its defensive posture. Simply upgrading airframes that are more than 20 years old is not a solution—it is nothing more than a public relations Band-Aid. Efforts to upgrade Taiwan's air fleet have to be coupled with the sale of new aircraft that can serve for two decades or more into the future.

Another important consideration is the shrinking time window for this purchase. The continuing production of new F-16s is dependent on foreign sales. It is my understanding that, if no new overseas orders are secured this year, the thousands of U.S. suppliers who help build the F-16 will begin shuttering that capability. Once this happens, it will be very difficult and expensive to restart the supply chain. Washington has a longstanding habit of putting off difficult decisions, but the decision on whether to sell new F-16s to Taiwan is literally now or never.

As the DIA report made clear, the majority of Taiwan's 400 fighter aircraft need to be retired or upgraded. Within the next 5 years, Taiwan will have to mothball or scrap more than 100 combat aircraft—one-quarter of its current force. Without the ability to augment its air force with new F-16 aircraft, as well as updates to its existing fleet, Taiwan will lose all ability to project a defensive umbrella over the island. The repercussions of a rising and potentially aggressive China, able to dominate the airspace over Taiwan, demands the attention of our military planners, government officials, and Members of Congress because it opens the door for China to use force against Taiwan. To that end, I was proud to recently join with 43 of my Senate colleagues in sending a letter to President Obama urging him to act swiftly to provide Taiwan with the F-16s that are critical to preserving Taiwan's self-defense capabilities.

It is time to recommit ourselves to strengthening the ties that bind the U.S. and Taiwan together—from arms sales to free-trade agreements. Doing so will promote peace and stability in the region, while also protecting U.S. and Taiwanese security interests. I urge President Obama and his administration to move quickly and work with Taiwan to notify the sale of these fighter jets to Congress.

#### NEVER TO FORGET

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week Senator COCHRAN, Senator GRASSLEY,

Senator SHELBY, and I travelled to Flanders Field, the American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium. We visited the cemetery on the eve of Memorial Day to take part in a ceremony honoring Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

The U.S. Ambassador to Belgium, Howard W. Gutman, shared an extraordinary poem he had written at the commemoration. "Never to Forget" is a tribute to those who gave their lives for our country and also a reminder that we must heed the lessons of our past to create a better future for our children.

I would like to share Ambassador Gutman's poem with my colleagues. I ask unanimous consent that a copy be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### NEVER TO FORGET MEMORIAL DAY 2011

We commemorate Memorial Day never to forget.

Never to forget who they were.  
Men and women of many titles.  
To some they were sergeant or colonel or general;  
To others they were mom or dad,  
Uncle or aunt . . .  
Son or daughter.  
To us, they are all heroes.  
We honor them all.  
And we honor their parents who lost children.

We honor their children who lost parents.  
As a head of one of our American Battlefield cemeteries once told me:  
For those buried in his cemetery  
They remain each day on active duty. . .  
And on each day that we fail to remember them . . . that we fail to honor them . . . they have served a day without a mission.

Every soldier is entitled to his mission.  
Here at Ardennes American Cemetery/Henrichappelle—we—Belgians and Americans, parents and children—we are that mission.

We commemorate Memorial Day never to forget.

Never to forget what they did.  
Every one of them understood when they joined that the road would be rough.

They knew that this was not about television commercials boasting pressed uniforms and glistening shoes or steeds clashing on chessboards.

They knew this was not about training exercises amidst sunny days in North Carolina,

They knew instead that this was about life and death.

They knew that for every moment of thrill, there could be months of fear.

But they knew that the rest of us needed them. They knew our fellow world citizens had been victims of murder or terror.

Perhaps they knew in 1915 that the poppies and the hearts of Belgians had been trampled on the way to 9 million deaths in WWI.

Or perhaps they knew in 1944 that Max Gutman was hiding in the woods in Poland after every other Jew in his small town of Biyala Rafka had been slaughtered. Maybe they knew that his dream one day to come to America, to raise a future U.S. Ambassador to Belgium, had nearly been extinguished along

with the future for so many Poles and Catholics and Jews.

Maybe they knew in 2001 that our citizens had been the victims of terror and remained under threat.

Whenever they served, wherever they served, they knew we needed someone to help, to respond, to free, to save, to protect. And they said, "I will."

We commemorate Memorial Day never to forget the face of evil.

We welcome all into the brotherhood of man. We will meet you far more than half way. We and our allies will send our diplomats, help feed your poor, and treat you with respect. But threaten none, harm even fewer,

We commemorate Memorial Day never to forget.

Never to forget what they died for.

Can you hear them each and every one of the 5323 buried here and the tens of thousands buried elsewhere . . .

Can you hear them?

If not, it is because you are listening with your ears.

But on Memorial Day, we listen not with our ears, but instead with our hearts.

And with our hearts we can hear them loudly and clearly.

They tell us that they lived in a country that believed in freedom and understood right from wrong.

And they tell us that they believed in service, in duty, in the mission of creating a better world.

They tell us never to forget, but certainly to move forward and build bridges where pools of hatred previously existed.

They fought and they died to move us a step closer towards the brotherhood of man. We must never use their memory as an excuse not to get there.

Thus while we can never forget, while we will never forget, we will forgive those who have followed. Where we faced each other to the death, we will walk together to rebuild a better life.

And that may be the most enduring lesson—lessons for Belgium, for Europe, for the Middle East, or for all places where tensions rooted in the mistakes or ill deeds of the past threaten the progress of the future.

The lessons are that we need not carry the blame nor clear the name of our parents and grandparents looking back.

Rather that we build a better name for our children and our grandchildren going forward. That we must use the lessons of the past to carve a better future.

We are so used to the expression "Forgive but don't forget." And of course Memorial Day proclaims that we shall never forget.

But in making sure we don't forget, sometimes we don't truly forgive.

We commemorate Memorial Day never to forget precisely so that we can forgive.

—Ambassador Howard Gutman

#### TRIBUTE TO RICK COCHRAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my fellow Members of the U.S. Senate have heard me say this before, but today I have reason to say it again: Vermonters are some of the most innovative and hardworking people in this country. The U.S. Small Business Administration recently highlighted one of these great individuals when it named Rick Cochran of the Mobile Medical International Corporation in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, as the 2011