

LCpl Harry Lew, 21, of Santa Clara, CA, died April 3 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Lew was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, HI.

HN Benjamin D. Rast, 23, of Niles, MI, died April 6 while conducting a dismounted patrol northeast of Patrol Base Alcatraz, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Hospitalman Rast was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division stationed at Naval Medical Center, Expeditionary Medical Force Detachment, San Diego, CA.

LCpl Joe M. Jackson, 22, of White Swan, WA, died April 24 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Jackson was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

CPL Preston J. Dennis, 23, of Redding, CA, died April 28 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. Corporal Dennis was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY.

SGT Ken K. Hermogino, 30, of Edwards Air Force Base, CA, died May 9 in Herat Province, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained in a noncombat-related vehicle accident. Sergeant Hermogino was assigned to the 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

LtCol Benjamin J. Palmer, 43, of Modesto, CA, died May 12 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lieutenant Colonel Palmer was assigned to Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Cherry Point, N.C.

SSG Kristofferson B. Lorenzo, 33, of Chula Vista, CA, died May 23, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sergeant Lorenzo was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI.

TSgt Kristoffer M. Solesbee, 32, of Citrus Heights, CA, died May 26 in the Shorabak district of Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. Technical Sergeant Solesbee was assigned to the 775th Civil Engineer Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, UT.

SGT Aaron J. Blasjo, 25, of Riverside, CA, died May 29, in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. Sergeant Blasjo was assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC.

Cpl Paul W. Zanowick II, 23, of Miamisburg, OH, died June 3 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Corporal Zanowick was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

LCpl Nicholas S. O'Brien, 21, of Stanley, NC, died June 9 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal O'Brien was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Jason D. Hill, 20, of Poway, CA, died June 11 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Hill was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Sean M. N. O'Connor, 22, of Douglas, WY, died June 12 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal O'Connor was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Jared C. Verbeek, 22, of Visalia, CA, died June 21 from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Verbeek was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Cpl Gurpreet Singh, 21, of Antelope, CA, died June 22 from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Corporal Singh was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SSG Nigel D. Kelly, 26, Menifee, CA, died June 25, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire. Staff Sergeant Kelly was assigned to 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI.

SPC Kevin J. Hilaman, 28, of Albany, CA, died June 26, in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire. Specialist Hilaman was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI.

LCpl Mark R. Goyet, 22, of Sinton, TX, died June 28 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Goyet was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

LCpl John F. Farias, 20, of New Braunfels, TX, died June 28 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Farias was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

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Sgt Chad D. Frokjer, 27, of Maplewood, MN, died June 30 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Frokjer was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

I would also like to pay tribute to the six service members from California or based in California who have died while serving our country in Iraq since December 7, 2010. This brings to 891 the number of service members either from California or based in California who have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 20 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

SPC Jose A. Torre, Jr., 21, of Garden Grove, CA, died January 15 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with a rocket-propelled grenade. Specialist Torre was assigned to the Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS.

SGT Martin J. LaMar, 43, of Sacramento, CA, died January 15 in Mosul, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an Iraqi soldier from the unit with which he was training shot him with small arms fire. Sergeant LaMar was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX.

SrA Michael J. Hinkle II, 24, of Corona, CA, died March 16 due to a non-combat-related incident in Southwest Asia. Senior Airman Hinkle was assigned to the 28th Communications Squadron, Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD.

PFC Ramon Mora Jr., 19, of Ontario, CA, died May 22 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. Private First Class Mora was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS.

SPC Christopher B. Fishbeck, 24, of Victorville, CA, died June 6 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with indirect fire. Specialist Fishbeck was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS.

SSG Russell J. Proctor, 25, of Oroville, CA, died June 26, in Diyala Province, Iraq, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sergeant Proctor was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX.

DEMOCRACY AT RISK IN HUNGARY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week in Budapest there are two events of particular interest to Americans. First, Hungary has unveiled a statue of President Ronald Reagan in front of

the U.S. Embassy in honor of his contribution to the goal of ending communist repression and commemorating the 100th anniversary of his birth. Second, Hungary dedicated the Lantos Institute, named after Tom Lantos, our former colleague from the House of Representatives who worked tirelessly to promote democracy and human rights in the country of his birth. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Clinton have represented the United States at these respective events.

These gestures shine a light on Hungary's historic transformation as well as the close bonds between our two countries. Unfortunately, other developments in Hungary have cast a dark shadow over what should otherwise be happy occasions.

Last year, Hungary held elections in which a right-of-center party, FIDESZ, won a landslide, sweeping out eight years of socialist government rejected by many voters as scandal ridden and inept. With FIDESZ winning 52 percent of the vote, Hungary has the distinction of being the only country in Central Europe since the 1989 transformations where a single party has won an outright majority—not necessarily a bad thing, especially in a region where many governments are periodically hobbled by factionalism.

Those elections were also notable because more than 850,000 Hungarians—16 percent of the vote—cast their ballots for Jobbik, an anti-Semitic, anti-Roma, irredentist party. While Jobbik is an opposition party, it has clearly and negatively influenced public policy discourse.

Under Hungary's electoral system, FIDESZ's 52 percent of the vote has translated into a two-thirds majority of the seats in parliament. The government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban has used that supermajority to push through one controversial initiative after another.

One initiative that has generated particularly sharp criticism is Hungary's new media law. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media warned it could be used to silence critical media and public debate, it overly concentrates power in regulatory authorities, and it harms media freedom. In Ukraine, where democracy has put down only shallow roots, the Kyiv Post editorialized that "Hungary's media law should not come here."

Another area of concern stems from the government's fixation on ethnic Hungarian identity and lost empire in ways that can only be seen as unfriendly by other countries in the region. One of the government's first acts was to amend Hungary's citizenship law to facilitate the acquisition of Hungarian citizenship by ethnic Hungarians in other countries—primarily Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine. This expansion of citizenship was pushed through even though, in a 2001 statement submitted to the Council of Europe, the Hungarian Govern-

ment firmly renounced all aspirations for dual citizenship for ethnic Hungarians.

In a further escalation of provocative posturing, a few weeks ago Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament Laszlo Kovar said that military force to change the borders with Slovakia—a NATO ally—would have been justified and, in any case, he added, the ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia are "ours."

If one side of the nationalism coin is an excessive fixation on Hungarian ethnic identity beyond the borders, the other side is intolerance toward minorities at home. For example, one increasingly hears the argument, including from government officials, that while the Holocaust was a 20th-century tragedy for Jews, the worst tragedy for Hungarians was the 1920 Treaty of Trianon—the treaty that established the borders for the countries emerging from the defeated Austro-Hungarian Empire.

This comparison is offensive and disturbing. Ethnic Hungarians were never targeted for extermination or subjected to mass murder by Trianon. Moreover, this line of argument presents Hungarians and Jews as mutually exclusive. But more than 400,000 Jews were sent from Hungary to Auschwitz, and more than 10,000 Jews were shot along the banks of the Danube—were they not also Hungarian? How could this not be a tragedy for Hungary?

The government has also used its supermajority to adopt a completely new Constitution which has been reviewed by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission on Democracy through Law, a body of judicial experts.

The Venice Commission expressed particular concern with the requirement that numerous issues can now only be addressed through supermajority or so-called cardinal laws. In other words, "The more policy issues are transferred beyond the powers of simple majority, the less significance will future elections have and the more possibilities does a two-thirds majority have of cementing its political preferences and the country's legal order."

In short, the Commission concluded, "the principle of democracy itself is at risk."

This combines, by the way, with a court-packing scheme—the expansion of the size of the Constitutional Court from 11 to 15—and a reduction of the retirement age for ordinary judges from 70 to 62, which will reportedly mean 10 percent of all judges will be replaced.

To make exactly clear what he has intended with these reforms, Prime Minister Orban declared that he wants to tie the hands not only of the next government, but of the next 10 governments—that is, future Hungarian governments for the next 40 years.

It is no wonder then that in Freedom House's latest "Nations in Transit" survey, released this week, Hungary had declined in ratings for civil society, independent media, national

democratic governance, and judicial framework and independence.

Ironically, just as attention shifts to the tantalizing possibility of democratic reform in the Middle East, the red flags in Budapest keep multiplying: Transparency International has warned that transferring the power to appoint the Ombudsman from the parliament to the president means that he or she will not be independent of the executive. NGOs have warned that a new draft religion law may result in a number of religions losing their registration. Restrictions by Hungarian authorities on pro-Tibet demonstrations during last week's visit to Budapest of the Chinese Premier were seen as an unnecessary and heavyhanded limitation of a fundamental liberty. Plans to recall soldiers and police from retirement so that they may oversee Romani work battalions have predictably caused alarm.

In 1989, Hungary stood as an inspiration for democracy and human rights advocates around the globe. Today, I am deeply troubled by the trends there. I understand that it sometimes takes new governments time to find their bearings, and I hope that we will see some adjustments in Budapest. But in the meantime, I hope that other countries looking for transformative examples will steer clear of this Hungarian model.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING PETER FALK

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Peter Falk, the iconic actor who entertained generations of Americans throughout an illustrious 50-year acting career. Mr. Falk passed away on June 23, 2011, at his home in Beverly Hills, CA. He was 83 years old.

Peter Falk was born in New York City on September 16, 1927. Despite the loss of his right eye from a surgery to remove a malignant tumor at the age of 3, he became a standout 3-letter athlete, a debate team member and senior class president in high school. It was in high school that he developed a love for acting when he first appeared on stage in a musical.

After graduating from high school, Mr. Falk fulfilled a 1-year commitment as a cook in the Merchant Marines. In 1953, he earned a master's in public administration from Syracuse University and landed a job with the Connecticut State Budget Bureau in Hartford.

While in Hartford, he pursued his love for acting by joining the Mark Twain Maskers, a community theatre group, and learned under the tutelage of actress Eva Le Gallienne at White Barn Theatre. At the age of 28, he quit his job and moved to New York City to become a professional actor.

Mr. Falk first gained acclaim for his portrayal of a bartender in the 1956 Off-Broadway production of "The Iceman