

While several of our conclusions and recommendations fell to other agencies, Director Leiter moved quickly to implement the changes that we and others suggested. Since early 2010, the NCTC has vastly improved its methods for screening counterterrorism data and watchlisting individuals who pose a threat to our Nation.

In response to the finding that no agency in the government was ensuring that all terrorist leads were pursued, Mike implemented "Pursuit Groups" at NCTC, teams of highly skilled analysts who sift through massive amounts of data to identify disparate pieces of intelligence and find linkages that identify terrorists, their plans, and their networks before they reach the point of plot execution.

In addition to his service at the National Counterterrorism Center, Mr. Leiter helped establish the Office of the Director of National Intelligence as its deputy chief of staff, having previously served as the deputy general counsel and assistant director of the very well-regarded WMD Commission led by Senator Chuck Robb and Judge Laurence Silberman.

From 2002 to 2005, he was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, one of the most active jurisdictions for national security cases. He clerked for Justice Stephen Breyer and for Chief Judge Michael Boudin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Most people do not know that Mike was also a naval aviator, flying EA-6B Prowlers with action in operations in the former Yugoslavia and in Iraq.

In short, he has served the Nation in a wide variety of capacities over the past 20 years.

I thank Mike for his exemplary service in keeping this Nation safe and for his very positive relationship with the Intelligence Committee as we have carried out our oversight duties.

I expect that this will not be Mike's last service to the Nation, and I wish him all the best.

REMEMBERING SECOND LIEUTENANT ROBERT EMERSON

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor 2LT Robert S. Emerson who is coming home to Maine more than 60 years after he served his country during World War II. Lieutenant Emerson perished when the B-24 aircraft he was flying in crashed in the Philippines on April 3, 1945.

His body was recovered in 1947, and he was buried in Leyte, Philippines. In 1949, his remains were moved from his resting place in the Philippines to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, MO. In 2008, his remains were exhumed and transferred to the jurisdiction of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii, bringing him one step and thousands of miles closer to his home State of Maine. Thanks to the persistent efforts of the relatives of Lieutenant Emerson's family and the

other airmen that served with him on his B-24, the Department of Defense was able to guarantee the return home of this fallen service member.

Lieutenant Emerson's long and remarkable journey home is finally coming to an end. On Saturday, July 9, 2011, he will finally be brought to home, to rest alongside his mother and father in Norway, ME. After more than 66 years since he first left home, it is a privilege to welcome home, and honor, a fallen warrior who gave his life in World War II in defense of our Nation.

While no words of mine can console the grief that Lieutenant Emerson's family has felt for too long, I know Mainers and the American people are profoundly grateful for his service. Like so many throughout our history, Lieutenant Emerson left the comfort and safety of home to answer the call of duty to our country. He is now among that valiant legion that has journeyed through the darkest valley to a place of quiet waters and now able to rest at home.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this year marks the 75th anniversary of Catoctin Mountain Park, one of Maryland's most spectacular national parks. Located in northern Frederick County in western Maryland, Catoctin, MD, is a popular wilderness refuge just a few hours away from the bustling urban centers of Baltimore and Washington, DC. People of all walks of life visit Catoctin Mountain, whether it is working Maryland and Pennsylvania families taking a weekend camping trip to Misty Mount or U.S. Presidents taking a weekend retreat to Camp David to work or relax without the distractions of Washington. I am proud to celebrate the diamond anniversary of this wonderful natural treasure in my home State.

Catoctin Mountain Park is 5,810 acres of wilderness in the foothills of Maryland's Blue Ridge Mountains. The name Catoctin is what the Algonquians, the predominant Native American tribe of the Mid-Atlantic region prior to European settlement, called the region where Catoctin Mountain Park is located. The Algonquians were known to use rhyolite rocks found throughout the rocky terrain for spearheads and European settlers and Algonquians alike would fish for trout in mountain streams that also supplied water for early agricultural settlements in the valleys around the mountain.

The growth of the settler population in Maryland during colonialism and postrevolutionary America, gave rise to agriculture and industry in western Maryland. The growing industrial age changed the ecological and social condition of the wilderness of the eastern United States and western Maryland

was no exception. Logging activities for ship and structural building, iron ore extraction and the arrival of the Western Maryland Railroad drastically changed the culture and natural state of Catoctin.

The Great Depression of the 1930s slowed economic progress and thwarted industrial growth across the country. The extractive industries of the Mid-Atlantic suffered greatly. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal ushered in sweeping public works programs to help get Americans back to work building America's infrastructure and renewing the stewardship of our Nation's great resources. Catoctin Mountain Park is a testament to the success of the New Deal's Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In May of 1933 the Federal Emergency Relief Administration was appropriated \$300,000,000 to be spent on public works projects designed to provide work for struggling Americans. In 1934 a land planning committee established under the Federal Emergency Relief Act was examining how to put fallow land to better use. Conrad L. Wirth, Assistant Director to the Chief Branch of Planning of the National Park Service served on the land planning committee. Based on the findings in a 1928 report of the Joint Committee on Recreational Survey of Federal Lands, Wirth decided one of the answers to the report's "urgent need" to "provide quality outdoor recreation facilities at the lowest cost for the benefit of people of lower and middle incomes" on natural areas near urban areas was to establish a recreational area in western Maryland proximate to Baltimore and Washington.

By 1934, years of agricultural, logging and resource extraction activities had taken its toll on the economic value of the land comprising Catoctin. With \$25 million transferred to Public Works Administration the Department of the Interior was able to purchase the "sub-marginal" lands that now make up Catoctin Mountain Park. Catoctin was officially placed into the program in January of 1935 and within a year and a half, and hundreds of man hours of work, Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area was officially opened on August 8, 1936.

In the years immediately following Catoctin's official placement under the National Park Service's jurisdiction, The Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps provided work for hundreds of men looking to learn a trade, earn a wage and develop leadership skills. These programs are responsible for providing some of the base training these men needed before going off to fight in World War II. The programs themselves reforested the park and restored its natural beauty. The CCC planted thousands of Maples, Pine and Oak trees in the park. The CCC also helped restore mountain streams and create suitable habitat for native fish and wildlife to

return to the mountain. These hard-working men also built many park structures still in use today including the Blue Blazes Contact Station which is now the Catoctin Mountain Park Visitor Center, Camp Round Meadow and Camp Misty Mount.

The legacy of the hard work of these Depression-era CCC and PWA workers lives on today and will continue to be enjoyed for years to come.

President Roosevelt personally experienced the success of the CCC and WPA at Catoctin on many occasions. This is because one major component of the Works Progress Administration's at Catoctin was to build Hi-Catoctin camp for Federal Government agents, now known as Camp David.

FDR hosted Winston Churchill at Catoctin in May of 1943 and every President since FDR has made use of Camp David. Perhaps most famously is President Jimmy Carter who brought Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Camp David where he brokered the Camp David Peace Accords in September of 1978. But many Presidents and their families go to Camp David, for the same reason everyone else does, to simply enjoy the spectacular outdoor recreational opportunities the park has to offer.

More than 80,000 visitors a year come to Catoctin Mountain Park to experience the park's extensive trail system, scenic vistas, and terrific camping opportunities. When hiking around Chimney Rock or the old Whiskey Still or Sawmill it is not uncommon for visitors to see white tail deer, wild turkey, coyotes, dozens of species of songbirds or even the occasional black bear.

With further dwindling resources for the National Park Service it has become increasingly challenging for the NPS to manage the park resources. Invasive species like the emerald ash borer threaten the health of the park's forest and the sustainability of park habitat for the wildlife that make the park so popular. It is essential that Congress and the Federal Government recognize the importance of preserving these natural resources. That is why I have been a staunch champion for robustly funding the National Park Service because I believe the treasures the NPS work to protect for the public's enjoyment and enrichment is invaluable and it is the responsibility of the Federal government to do this work.

Despite tough fiscal times, the leadership at Catoctin Mountain Park is doing an outstanding job providing fun and educational activities for park visitors and have put together a wide range of special programs and activities to celebrate the park's 75 anniversary.

I congratulate Catoctin Mountain Park and the National Park Service for 75 wonderful years and encourage my colleagues to take a trip to experience this wonderful located in the backyard of your home away from home just outside of Washington.●

CONGRATULATING SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, with great honor, I congratulate the Aberdeen congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary who are in the process of celebrating their 125 years of service.

Founded on December 25, 1775 by Nano Nagle in Cork, Ireland, with the mission to educate poor children and minister to the sick, the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary retain a strong dedication to their founding principle of providing for people's unmet needs. Arriving in the Dakota Territory from Dublin, Ireland, in 1880, the Sisters of the Presentation endured the hardship of isolation and harsh weather to teach the children of the early settlers of South Dakota.

Teaching and healing remain the foundation of the work performed by the Presentation Sisters. Today the sisters have expanded their work into less traditional forms. From teaching the young to counseling individuals in spiritual growth, the services provided by the Sisters have grown steadily outside the classroom to provide deeper healing. Assisting in such healing has also led the Sisters to become involved in a wide range of activities—from walking alongside those with HIV to facilitating healing and counsel to individuals after traumatic life events. In addition, the Sisters continue to sponsor Presentation College and Avera Health, along with having sisters actively engaged in those ministries.

While recognizing the need to adapt to the changing needs of those they serve, the common thread that binds all the work the Sisters perform is their steadfast adherence to their apostolic tradition of joyfully going where the calls of need ring out most loudly. They are guided in this mission by the words of Bishop Walsh who advocated for the need to go where they are needed, but not necessarily wanted, and stay until they are wanted but no longer needed.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the Aberdeen Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 125 years of exemplary service. It is an honor for me to share with my colleagues the strong commitment the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin of Mary have demonstrated over these many years. I strongly commend their years of hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that their substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.●

STRANDBURG, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the community of Strandburg, SD, on reaching the 125th anniversary of its founding. Strandburg is a community that embodies the spirit of hospitality,

and an exceptional quality of life that is well known in South Dakota. The people of Strandburg celebrated this momentous occasion on the weekend of July 2-3.

The city of Strandburg was settled in 1886 and named after the town's first homesteader John Strandburg. John was the man that applied for a post office to be opened in Strandburg, and served as the first postmaster. With the help of the railroad, Strandburg soon prospered and grew like many South Dakota towns of the time.

Today, Strandburg has come a long way from its beginning days. The town is currently working on developing the old town gymnasium to a new community center as an effort to bring the community closer. The beautiful and historic Swedish Lutheran Church still stands today and is known as the Tabor Lutheran Church, and was, recognized on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Residents of Strandburg plan to commemorate the anniversary with many community events including a craft show, wagon train, and parade. On Sunday the community will come together in the historic Tabor Lutheran Church for a service to conclude the celebration.

South Dakota's small communities are the bedrock of our economy and vital to the future of our state. Towns like Strandburg and its citizens truly know what it means to be South Dakotan, and I am proud to honor Strandburg on this historic milestone.●

REMEMBERING CHARLOTTE BLOOMBERG

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, most New Yorkers knew Charlotte Bloomberg as Mayor Michael Bloomberg's spirited, independent mother whose example shined through in her son.

But for us in Massachusetts, Mrs. Bloomberg was a presence and a fixture in a city where neighborhood ties run deep—Medford. There she was known and loved as a schoolteacher, a community icon, and a beloved and caring friend.

Mrs. Bloomberg passed away at her home in Medford, in the same house that she turned into a home with her husband and children. In his farewell, Mayor Bloomberg remembered his mother for her "constant love." In Medford, Mrs. Bloomberg's generosity in sharing caring and compassion was well known. Charlotte Bloomberg showered attention on her neighbors and friends, and her modesty, her grace, and unflagging energy was infectious. She was a fixture at the Temple Shalom, which the Bloombergs founded and where she served as copresident well into her eighties. Neighbors remember that they could always count on Mrs. Bloomberg to be one of the first people to arrive for Friday services because she wanted the chance to say hello to everyone, especially the children.