

Just roughly 2 weeks earlier, Delaware had marked the second anniversary of the killing, in the line of duty, of another brave and decorated local police officer, Patrolman Chad Spicer of Georgetown. It was just too soon for this to have happened again. We all know there is risk—grave risk—in policing, but this could not have happened again. Delaware is a State of neighbors, and as a State we are still mourning Chad's death, and we could not possibly have lost another brave police officer. But we did. This Friday he will be laid to rest.

My State is grieving. In the days that have passed, I have grappled with two questions. I have asked myself over and over: How is it that people continue to do these terrible and dangerous things? How is it that senseless violence continues to claim the lives of the innocent?

As I spoke at the graduation ceremony this past Friday for the Delaware State Police and the Municipal Police Academy and looked at the young men and women who were right in front of me about to take their oath and put on their badge and take on, willingly, this most dangerous and honored profession, another question emerged to me: Why is it that we continue to have men and women who volunteer, who step forward, and who take on this most important and difficult task of preserving the peace, of protecting our communities? What more can we do to support them, to protect them, and to honor them?

These are the questions I challenge all of us to consider.

SGT Joe Szczerba was on the New Castle County police force for 18 years. He was greatly respected by his colleagues on the force and in the community he served. His wife Kathy; his brothers Ed, Gerald, and Stephen; his sisters Nancy and Karen and a host of nieces and nephews survive him.

Today, Heaven is a safer place because Joe Szczerba is on patrol. He was a good man and a great cop, and he died a hero. He died doing what he was called to do, and he died doing what he loved to do. For that, all of Delaware is grateful. We will treasure his memory and honor his sacrifice.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business.

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

IRAN

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, recently, international media and diplomatic attention has focused on the inspiring stories of citizens across the Middle East and North Africa demanding greater participation in their government.

While the regime changes in Libya, Egypt, and Tunisia have certainly opened the door for democratic progress in a region long dominated by authoritarian rulers, we cannot allow these hopeful aspirations to monopolize our focus or distract our attention from the fact that brutal and oppressive regimes remain.

Today, I want to highlight an especially dangerous and odious regime—that of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the mullahs in Tehran.

I am seriously concerned by Tehran's continued march toward a nuclear weapon. Earlier this month the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, published a report confirming the obvious—that Iran remains in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions to halt its nuclear program, and that it is not cooperating with the IAEA.

We also know that the Iranian regime continues to increase its support for terrorist groups operating in Iraq; reports also indicate that it is providing weapons and assistance to the Assad regime in Damascus in its brutal crackdown on the Syrian people.

Iranian authorities, apparently fearful of the popular unrest that swept longtime leaders in Egypt and Tunisia from power—and which is currently threatening Bashar al-Assad's dictatorship in Syria—have cracked down on dissent and increased the arrest and detention of activists and opposition figures in the past months—even arresting young people with squirt guns.

One dissident whose case I have been following is Bahareh Hedayat, a student and women's rights activist. Bahareh was arrested in December 2009 for participating in Iran's prodemocracy student movement and placed in solitary confinement in the notorious Evin prison. After nearly 2 months of interrogation, she was sentenced to 9½ years in prison for her activism. Her 9½ year sentence included 5 years for "activities against the state," 2 years for insulting Supreme Leader Khamenei, and 6 months for insulting Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Iranian authorities also reinstated a 2-year sentence she received in connection with a 2006 women's rights protest that had been suspended.

While in prison, Bahareh has endured Evin's harsh conditions, interrogation, and a lengthy solitary confinement, all while being denied contact with her husband and family. She has kept her spirit and has even protested her detention and treatment with hunger strikes. However, detention has taken a toll on her and her health has deteriorated. Earlier this year she devel-

oped gall stones, and while it was clear that the prison's facilities could not provide adequate treatment, she was only allowed to seek outside care this month. After receiving treatment, she was promptly returned to prison last week.

Bahareh Hedayat and dissidents like her—those who have been brutally punished for seeking basic human freedoms—has shown great courage in confronting the brutality and intolerance of the Iranian regime. She and thousands of others have sacrificed immeasurably to bring about reform in Iran, the United States must show similar courage and do all in its power to support their vision of a peaceful, free, and democratic Iran.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ARICK MICHAEL DOBSON
TARR

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of PFC Class Arick Michael Dobson Tarr, who died at the young age of 20 on July 30, 2011, at Fort Lewis, in Tacoma, WA, where he was stationed. Private First Class Tarr was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry at Fort Lewis and served his country with honor and distinction on a tour of duty in Afghanistan. He was preparing to leave in January to return to New Hampshire.

Americans across the country gathered recently to commemorate the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, and to reflect on how the tragic events of that day changed our Nation and all Americans on a personal level. Although Arick was only 10 years old at the time, his life was forever changed by 9/11. That day sparked within him a desire to join the Army and defend the freedoms we hold dear.

Arick defended the American people with courage and distinction, receiving many awards for his service, including the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Marksmanship Qualification Badge, and Overseas Service Bar.

Arick is remembered by family and friends as having a larger than life personality and a contagious smile. He understood the importance of family and was a role model for his two brothers and six cousins. Although Arick spent much of his life in South Portland, ME, he was very excited to return to New Hampshire after his service, to attend college and begin a new chapter of his life with his fiancée.

Our Nation can never adequately thank this young hero for his willingness to heed the call to defend the American people and our way of life. I hope that, even in these dark days, Arick's family can find comfort in knowing that all Americans share a

deep appreciation for his brave service and sacrifice.

Arick is survived by his fiance, Stefani Greco; his parents, Richard and Jennifer; and his two brothers, Tanner and Wyatt, all of Litchfield, NH. He also leaves behind a caring extended family. This young hero will be missed by all.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to please join me in honoring the bright life and brave service of PFC Arick Tarr.

INTENT TO OBJECT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Norm Eisen to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic at the Department of State for the following reasons.

I object to the proceeding to the nomination because of Mr. Eisen's role in the firing of the inspector general of the Corporation for National and Community Service, CNCS, and his lack of candor about that matter when questioned by congressional investigators. The details of Mr. Eisen's role in the firing and his misrepresentations about that matter are detailed in the Joint Minority Staff Report of the House Committee on Government Reform and the Senate Finance Committee, dated November 20, 2009. I would also ask unanimous consent that a letter of January 12, 2011, sent by myself and Congressman ISSA to Mr. Bauer, then counsel to the President, be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2011.

Hon. ROBERT F. BAUER,
Counsel to the President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BAUER: We write to express our objection to the President's use of a recess appointment to install Norman L. Eisen as U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. As you know, we objected to Mr. Eisen's nomination on the grounds that he attempted to constructively remove the Inspector General (IG) of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) without the prior notice required by law and that he misled Congressional investigators.

It is our concern that the President's decision to force through such a nominee without the advice and consent of the Senate signals a departure from his recent pledge to work cooperatively with Congress.

The President announced Mr. Eisen's nomination on June 28, 2010. On September 27, 2010, Senator Grassley provided public notice of his intention to object to the nomination. Senator Grassley referred to "Mr. Eisen's role in the firing of the Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service and his lack of candor about that matter when questioned by Congressional investigators."

During that investigation, a bicameral group of investigators learned Mr. Eisen personally delivered an ultimatum to former CNCS IG Gerald Walpin demanding that he resign or be terminated within one hour. At the time he delivered the ultimatum, no notice had been provided to Congress as is leg-

ally required by the Inspector General Reform Act (IG Act). As you know, the IG Act requires the President to communicate in writing the reasons for removal of an IG to Congress not later than 30 days prior to taking action.

During an interview on June 17, 2009, Mr. Eisen refused to answer at least 12 direct questions. He did, however, assert on that date that the CNCS Board of Directors unanimously supported the removal of IG Walpin. He also asserted that the White House conducted "an extensive review" in response to concerns raised by the Board about IG Walpin's fitness following a May 20, 2009 CNCS Board meeting. According to Mr. Eisen, his "extensive review" substantiated the Board's concerns and informed the decision to remove IG Walpin.

Our investigation found that, contrary to Mr. Eisen's assertions, the Board had not unanimously expressed a desire to have Mr. Walpin removed prior to the decision. Moreover, we could find no evidence that Mr. Eisen's "extensive review" consisted of anything more than simply asking the CNCS General Counsel to document the Chairman of the Board's concerns about Mr. Walpin. Mr. Eisen did not interview the CNCS Directors. He did not provide Mr. Walpin or anyone else in the Office of Inspector General an opportunity to be heard. He took action based on incomplete information provided only by individuals who had adversarial relationships with the IG.

Mr. Eisen has had several opportunities to address our concerns and has yet to do so. He failed to be forthcoming and responsive during his initial meeting with our staff on June 17, 2009. He again demonstrated a lack of candor in response to Questions for the Record following his nomination hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 22, 2010.

In the interest of allowing Mr. Eisen to address our concerns, we scheduled a meeting with our staff for December 16, 2010 at 11:30 A.M. At approximately 11:15 A.M., the White House postponed the meeting until 2:15 P.M. At approximately 2:00 P.M., the meeting was canceled by the White House Office of Legislative Affairs without further explanation. By calling off a face-to-face meeting in favor of a recess appointment, the White House sent the message that the President is not interested in hearing the concerns of Republican Members of Congress.

In short, Mr. Eisen took action on behalf of the President that ran afoul of the IG Act and subsequently misled Congressional investigators in lieu of conducting a fair, thorough, and responsible investigation. Senate confirmation, under the advice and consent clause, is one of the strongest checks on executive power. Recess appointments are meant to fill vacancies that arise during a long recess, not to bypass the confirmation process. We are troubled by the Administration's circumvention of that process, especially in this instance. The vacancy arose on January 20, 2009, and yet the President waited eighteen months before making an appointment. Given that there had already been considerable public controversy over Mr. Eisen's actions in this matter at the time of his appointment, issues with his confirmation should have been easily anticipated. For these reasons, we believe that a recess appointment of Mr. Eisen to serve as a United States Ambassador is particularly inappropriate.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with the White House toward our mutual goal of identifying and deploying qualified individuals of the highest integrity to serve American interests abroad.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,

Chairman, U.S. House
Committee on Over-
sight and Govern-
ment Reform.

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
United States Senator.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise to join my fellow Coloradans, my colleagues in the U.S. Congress, and others across the country to celebrate and acknowledge the many accomplishments and contributions of the Hispanic community in the United States and especially in Colorado. I have come to the floor on several occasions to highlight the long history of Latinos in Colorado. The community's presence in our State precedes its statehood and Hispanic heritage continues as a vibrant part of Colorado's cultural and social landscape every month of the year. Today, I would like to specifically highlight the contributions Colorado's Hispanic community have made and continue to make to Colorado's economy and to our current economic recovery.

More than 150 years ago, a gentleman by the name of Dario Gallegos established Colorado's longest running general store in San Luis, CO. The store has served Colorado's oldest town consistently for well over a century and today continues not just as an important fixture in the San Luis Valley, but also as a part of Colorado's cultural heritage. The efforts of entrepreneurs such as Mr. Gallegos and those who followed, serve as an example of the entrepreneurial spirit that drives Colorado's Hispanic community to provide valuable services to their communities that enhance all Coloradan's quality of life. Today, Hispanic-owned businesses of all sizes and type dot the Colorado landscape in every part of our state, whether rural or urban. I am proud of the success these businesses have been able to find in Colorado and equally proud that the Latino community continues to be a vibrant part of Colorado's cultural and social landscape.

Hispanic businesses are a driving force in both urban and rural economic growth. Minority-owned businesses in the United States have increased twice as fast as all other U.S. businesses, and in Colorado, the number of Hispanic-owned firms increased by 40 percent from 2002 to 2007. This increase in Hispanic-owned businesses in Colorado has continued since 2007 and has helped sustain our State economy as well as stimulate job growth across the entire State's population. Minority-owned businesses are especially important to Coloradans because they provide jobs to Coloradans as well as valuable services that meet the needs of Hispanic and non-Hispanic communities alike.

I was pleased that the Minority Business Development Agency and the U.S. Department of Commerce worked to establish the Denver Minority Business Center earlier this summer. This center shows the increased commitment to