

This week there has been an important development on that front. On Tuesday, the European Court on Human Rights found that the sterilization without informed consent of a Romani woman had violated article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the prohibition on inhuman or degrading treatment, and article 8, the right to family life.

This is an incredibly important victory for a woman who was wrongfully sterilized at the time of the birth of her second child and who has since struggled for 11 years to vindicate this claim. I commend her for her bravery and tenaciousness in the face of numerous obstacles. At the same time, I am aware that the damages awarded by the court can never fully compensate for what was taken from her.

I regret that it has taken so long to achieve this single victory. Thus far, the Slovak Government has refused to acknowledge this past practice of targeting Romani women for sterilization. In the last decade, in the face of growing documentation of this abuse and increasing calls for the Slovak Government to acknowledge this grave human rights violation, Slovak authorities have, in turns, made threats against victims, denied the past abuse, and some voices even continue to call for making sterilization freely available to "socially excluded communities"—a term that is almost synonymously used to describe Roma.

There are other countries where sterilization without consent also occurred in the last century, including Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and 33 States in the United States. But Slovakia has been singularly resistant to acknowledging that these abuses not only happened, but are indefensible by modern standards.

While I welcome this week's decision by the European court, it does not put an end to this issue. There are two other sterilization cases pending in Slovakia's domestic courts, and five other cases pending against Slovakia before the European court. I urge the Slovak Government not to force victims through the painful process of litigating each case—a process that has immeasurable costs for all sides—and to establish a less burdensome process for victims to have their claims recognized. It is long overdue for Slovak authorities to acknowledge that Romani women were targeted for sterilization without informed consent.

U.S. MARINE CORPS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of the U.S. Marine Corps as it celebrates 236 years of sacrifice and service to this great Nation. In the spirit of a true marine, ooo-rah and happy birthday. This week, it is fitting that our great and deliberate body, the Senate, passed a bill to honor and revere the Montford Point marines, the first African Americans to serve in our Corps. Last night, the Sen-

ate passed legislation to award the Montford Point marines the Congressional Gold Medal. I can think of no better way to honor these gentleman, most of whom are now in their nineties, for being a part of our Nation's history during a difficult time, both abroad and at home.

In 1942, the U.S. Marine Corps opened its doors for African Americans to play a role in combat. Unfortunately, these men were not trained where marines before them had done so. Instead, from 1942 to 1949, the Corps trained Black marines at Montford Point Camp in North Carolina.

Like true marines, even with segregated training, these men fought shoulder to shoulder next to every marine in World War II. Their actions were significant during our campaign in the Pacific. Their service to the Corps is now a significant thread in its history. The Marine Corps extols the virtues of courage, intelligence, integrity, and leadership. I am proud that the spirit of the Corps resonated in every one of these marines, even in a time of great inequality. In theater, a marine is a marine. We are brothers, regardless of color or creed. The duty every marine pledges to mission and man is equal. It is what makes our Corps the great fighting force that continues today.

I applaud our Commandant, General Amos. Without his commitment to this initiative honoring the Montford Point marines, we may not have passed the bill so easily. I am very proud of my Corps, humbled by all the men and women who continue to join our Armed Forces, and to the Senate for finally recognizing these incredible veterans in the appropriate way.

I am as proud of the Marine Corps today as ever. The Corps has dutifully accomplished exactly what the President and this Nation have asked of them over the past decade. Marines have turned the tide in Iraq and continue to wage ahead in Afghanistan. Marines continue to steer the course of how to succeed in land campaigns and remain always faithful, both to mission and fellow marine.

Today, we celebrate the Marine Corps. Tomorrow, we celebrate all our warfighters, those men and women in uniform who have committed their time, and put their lives in harm's way, for the defense of the United States. Thank you to all those who have served. God bless all those currently deployed around the world. Semper Par.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL RAYMOND CARPENTER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to MG Raymond Carpenter, the acting director of the Army National Guard, for his ongoing, selfless dedication and service to our country.

After enlisting in the South Dakota National Guard in 1967, Major General

Carpenter joined the Navy and deployed to South Vietnam. After returning to the Guard as a Vietnam veteran, General Carpenter became a commissioned officer in 1974 and has since commanded at all levels. His efforts have transformed the Army National Guard from a strategic reserve into an operational reserve force, and the Army National Guard is now at its highest level of readiness in its 375 year history.

In our most recent conflicts, and through these tough economic times, General Carpenter has been credited for driving cost efficiencies that have saved millions of taxpayer dollars. General Carpenter led the Army National Guard through the drawdown in Iraq and oversaw a critical component of the U.S. strategy in Afghanistan, the implementation and expansion of the Guard's Agribusiness Development Teams.

General Carpenter's service to our Nation has come with considerable personal sacrifice from himself and his family. Rather than fill the role of the adjutant general of the South Dakota Guard and return home to live with his family, General Carpenter answered the call of duty, accepted the job of the director of the Army National Guard at the National Guard Bureau, and uncomplainingly shouldered a three star workload for his two star pay. General Carpenter put his and his family's life on hold for over 2 years and lived at the mercy of the nomination process, never knowing when he might be replaced by a full director of the Army Guard. I call on my colleagues in the Senate to join me in honoring MG Raymond Carpenter, and I hope his successor will be confirmed in the near future.

I know that the entire Senate joins me in expressing my appreciation for General Carpenter's service to our grateful Nation.

REMEMBERING DOROTHY RODHAM

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise in memory of Dorothy Howell Rodham, a truly extraordinary woman who died last week at the age of 92.

Many Americans knew Dorothy Rodham through her daughter, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who credits her mother with giving her the strength, self-confidence, perseverance, and faith she needed to thrive in politics and diplomacy.

Millions of Americans had the opportunity to get to know Dorothy on the campaign trail for her son-in-law, William Jefferson Clinton, and her daughter Hillary. They saw a bright, sincere, and highly intelligent woman who was so proud of her family and would do anything for them.

Some of us had known that Dorothy weathered a difficult childhood, but it was only with her passing that many Americans learned just how harrowing it was. Abandoned by her parents at age 8, she took her 3-year-old sister on

a cross-country train trip to live with their unwelcoming grandparents in California. By her early teens, she had to leave their home and begin working as a nanny.

Dorothy worked as a secretary in Chicago before marrying Hugh Rodham and raising their three children: Hillary, Hugh, and Tony. Throughout her life, Mrs. Rodham worked hard to ensure that her children and grandchildren had the opportunities she had been denied.

Dorothy and I shared a great joy—our grandson Zachary. I saw first-hand what a wonderful influence she was for Zach, always there for him in every way. She was that way for all her grandchildren, including her first remarkable grandchild—Chelsea.

When Hillary Rodham Clinton was asked who inspired her to succeed in public life, she credited the women's movement and Dorothy Rodham, "who never got a chance to go to college, who had a very difficult childhood, but who gave me a belief that I could do whatever I set my mind to."

Dorothy Rodham was an extraordinary woman—strong, compassionate and loving. She will be sorely missed by her loved ones, by her friends, and by the American people.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL LARRY GENE BAILEY II

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of one of Illinois' most heroic sons, LCpl Larry Gene Bailey II of Zion. Lance Corporal Bailey joined the Marines in October 2007, and like his father, a Vietnam Veteran, he too wanted to serve his country. His parents and his country are very proud of his service and sacrifice.

On June 23, 2011 in Helmand province, Lance Corporal Bailey ran to a rooftop to provide cover for his unit under heavy fire. An improvised explosive device took both of his legs and one of his arms. This young man's will to live and recover are an inspiration to us all.

With the support of his parents Mary and Larry, he has made great strides in his recovery. This Veterans Day, our nation owes a great debt of gratitude to families like the Baileys, whose service to our nation continues to preserve our American way of life.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a poem penned in honor of Lance Corporal Bailey by Albert Caswell.

MAKE MY FATHER PROUD

IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO LANCE CORPORAL LARRY GENE BAILEY II. LIMA CO. 34 BATTALION 7TH MARINES DIVISION THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

A son is born . . .
Out of a love so very warm . . .
His dad, an American hero . . . who for our
Nation so wore the uniform . . .
As day after day, a love built up . . . that
which time could not so take away, or
so harm!
Until, like father like son . . . He too, would
serve his country tis of thee one!
As a United States Marine, all in those most
magnificent shades of green!

For in his heart, he so wanted to be . . . just
like his Dad . . . his father he!
His Dad, in the Navy, so served in Vietnam
aboard a submarine . . .
But, his fine son Larry . . . Hooo . . . rah!
Became a United States Marine!
And they have better uniforms Dad, all in
his most heroic shades of green!
And oh what a striking figure he'd so
cast . . .
As this quiet hero, stood tall . . . and so did
all that they so asked!
As into the face of hell, as Lance Corporal
Bailey II . . . so stood fast!
So strong, with combat ribbons on his chest!
As he so wanted, to make his Father proud!
When, on that fateful day . . .
As a IED, almost took his fine life away . . .
As this mountain of a man, so lost his arm
and both of his legs . . .
So close to death, as when this quiet hero's
courage would so crest!
As his new battle began on that day, but To
Be The Best!
As this quiet hero, so courageously so wiped
all of those tears away!
And his Father with tears in his eyes, and
mother too upon their knees for his son
so prayed!
As this hero from Zion, his Father's son . . .
got up that day!
And ran all with his heart of courage full,
and so made his way!
A way of hope and courage, to so show us all!
what faith in hearts can so nourish!
For he is his Father's son, and Mother's
child . . .
as over the years so much from them he had
so learned!
But, now the tides have changed . . . as now
its his Father, who so calls out his
name!
As he so wants to be, just like his son . . .
you see!
As now, he is the one who so makes his Fa-
ther proud . . .
and like his son wants to be!
As to our nation, and our hearts . . . his
Strength In Honor so speaks!
As one of The Illini's, most courageous of all
sons!
This American Hero, his Father's Son!
For some people are put on this earth, to so
Teach us all in their great worth!
To so make us all so very proud!
To show us all, where faith and honor so
lives now!
And how a Father's and Mother's love, can so
raise a splendid child so how!
That's right Marine, you make us all so
proud!
As we watch you and your fine heart and
soul, so rebuild so now . . .
As to one and all, your most magnificent
heart speaks so loud!
Because, Marine's don't cry or pout!
Because, Marines they get things done . . .
as they move up and out!
And if ever I have a son Larry,
I wish he could make me half as proud, as
you've made your parents my son!
Because this Marine from Zion, even makes
his fellow Marines cheer Hoo rah . . .
so now!
So keep you heard up my son,
Because your Father is so Proud of you for
all that you've done!
And so too is our Lord, who'll one day up in
Heaven with you he will run!
Moments, upon this earth . . . are all we
have! To make a difference with it all!
To change the world! To go off with hearts of
courage full, as so unfurled!
As it's you Larry, who so makes us all so
proud . . .
Above us all, Lance Corporal Bailey . . . you
stand so tall!

TRIBUTE TO GERARD AND LILO LEEDS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friends Gerry and Lilo Leeds for their passionate commitment to improving the Nation's education system and helping all students reach their maximum potential.

Gerard and Lilo Leeds arrived in the United States after fleeing Germany in 1939 with virtually no money. But armed with their education, they eventually became successful entrepreneurs. In time, they built and then sold a sizable media corporation and have devoted their lives to ensuring that all students have access to an excellent education.

Initially, the Leeds founded the non-partisan Institute for Student Achievement an organization that works in low-income middle and high schools to improve student achievement for at-risk youth. They were major supporters of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, a coalition of concerned parents and education advocates working to reform New York State's school finance system. The Leeds also established the nonpartisan Caroline and Sigmund Schott Foundation an organization that works on early childhood education and care, gender equity, and education financing issues.

However, Gerry and Lilo Leeds did not stop there. After seeing the Institute for Student Achievement boost graduation rates in low-performing schools up as high as 90 percent, they founded the nonpartisan Alliance for Excellent Education in 2001 to singularly focus on advancing public policy to decrease dropout rates and prepare all students to succeed at the postsecondary level. The Alliance for Excellent Education has advocated on behalf of secondary school youth now for over 10 years thanks to the leadership and support of the Leeds family.

Mr. and Mrs. Leeds have worked to improve the education of students from every background, location, and age. Lilo Leeds has made education for students in less affluent communities, universal early education, and the advancement of women the focus of her work. She is also the co-founder of the Great Neck/Manhasset Community Child Care partnership. Gerry Leeds is the co-founder of the National Academy for Excellent Teacher, NAFET at Teachers College, Columbia University. Together, they are recipients of humanitarian awards from the Urban League, NAACP, New York State United Teachers Association, and the American Jewish Committee. They were listed by Newsday in the top 100 people who have shaped the century, an amazing feat especially considering the obstacles they both had to overcome.

This couple has provided countless opportunities for children to succeed. I believe they have been so committed to this cause in part because they see themselves in children who have to overcome tremendous obstacles to thrive. Fundamentally, the Leeds feel a