

It is not a liberal issue or a conservative issue. It is an issue of basic decency and human rights.

Finally, I thank the organizations that worked with me and my office to address this issue: Just Detention International, the ACLU, the National Immigrant Justice Center, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, Campaign for Youth Justice, and so many others.

I look forward to confronting what may be the most challenging part of this process ahead—ensuring that these standards protect the rights of all detainees, and that they are adopted and enforced expeditiously. I look forward to working with my colleagues to put an end to one of the more alarming criminal justice and human rights crises in our country today.

#### REMEMBERING EDDIE BLAZONCZYK, SR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on Monday morning, Eddie Blazonczyk, Sr., passed away in Palos Heights, IL. He was known in the greater Chicago area as the Polka King. Eddie was born in Chicago in 1941 to Polish immigrant parents—both musicians. It is no surprise, then, that Eddie started playing the accordion at the age of 12. Eddie's first love was rock and roll, but, influenced by his mother's fondness for the music of her homeland, he was soon playing polka music.

In 1962, Eddie Blazonczyk joined a local polka band called the Versatones, a union that would last for the rest of his life. His son, Eddie Blazonczyk, Jr., still plays with the band. Today, the Versatones are the most sought after polka band in the music industry. While they are popular in communities all over the country, Chicago has always been home to the band, and Chicago knows polka.

The Chicago metropolitan area is steeped with Polish customs and heritage. It has the largest Polish population outside of Poland, and the Polish language is the third most commonly spoken language in the greater Chicago area. In Illinois, the first Monday of March is Casimir Pulaski Day, a day when all State government buildings are closed in remembrance of "the father of the American cavalry." The International Polka Association moved to Chicago in 1968. We even have a Chicago style of polka music, distinguished by heavier clarinet and trumpet and, of course, the button-box accordion. Eddie Blazonczyk helped define Chicago style polka, even as he grew into his unofficial role as polka royalty.

In 1967, a congressional committee awarded 26-year-old Eddie Blazonczyk and the Versatones the title of "The Nation's #1 Polka Band." In 1970, Eddie was elected into the International Polka Association Polka Music Hall of Fame. The Versatones also have 16 Grammy nominations and a Grammy award in 1986 for their "Another Polka

Celebration" album. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton presented him with the National Endowment for the Arts 1998 National Heritage Fellowship for preserving Polish Heritage Music.

I extend my sympathies to Eddie's wife Christine—Tish, as many know her; his daughter Kathy; his sons Eddie and Tony; his grandchildren Cayle, Anya, and Anthony; and his many nieces and nephews. Eddie took a traditional sound and infused it with rock and roll, Cajun, zydeco, and country, creating something both familiar and entirely different. The Polish American community lost a music hero this week, but his legacy will live on at weddings, celebrations, and parties for generations to come.

#### RYAN CROCKER DEPARTURE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a statement released yesterday by Senators GRAHAM, LIEBERMAN, and myself on the decision of Ambassador Ryan Crocker to depart his post in Kabul, Afghanistan.

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

The recent announcement by Ambassador Ryan Crocker that he will be departing his post in Kabul is a great loss to the United States and Afghanistan, but we fully understand his decision. We are grateful beyond words to Ryan for his decision to come out of retirement at the President's request to serve our country one last time in one of the most challenging jobs in the world. When the history of the past decade is written, Ryan Crocker will rightly be recognized as one of the genuine American heroes of this era. We have never met a finer, more capable, or more dedicated diplomat than Ryan Crocker.

Ambassador Crocker arrived in Afghanistan at a critical moment in the relations between our two countries. Thanks to his efforts, we believe that the Afghan-U.S. relationship is now on a much better path. In the last year, Ambassador Crocker and General Allen, working with our Afghan and NATO partners, successfully negotiated a Strategic Partnership Agreement. If properly implemented, this Agreement could be the ultimate guarantee that Al-Qaeda and the Taliban will never again control Afghanistan. For this, and for so much else in his long and distinguished career, Ryan Crocker deserves the respect, gratitude, and admiration of all Americans. We will miss him greatly, and look forward to welcoming him back home to the United States.

#### REMEMBERING STEPHEN DAGGETT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death on April 17 of Stephen Daggett, a highly respected defense expert at the Congressional Research Service and an authority on the U.S. defense budget.

Mr. Daggett provided Congress with authoritative analysis on many aspects of defense spending in the overall context of defense policy and U.S. national security strategy. His briefs to Members of Congress and his written reports captured the complexity of issues

ranging from the Department of Defense's Quadrennial Defense Review to the budget priorities of the Armed Services.

Very few "defense experts" could do what he could do. Mr. Daggett was admired by his professional colleagues in CRS and earned many awards for his dedication and outstanding performance. His appraisals were sought-after by Members of Congress and their staffs, by others in the Department of Defense, and by industry. Mr. Daggett's particular interest in providing an unbiased, unvarnished assessment to diverse constituencies, especially outside Congress, was laudable.

In an era of wide political gulfs, he supplied irrefutable ground truths—which often became the basis for common understanding and problem solving. His accounts of the interrelated nature of defense policy, strategy, and budgets continue to be the standards of the discipline. Thought leaders on and off the Hill, in industry, associations and think tanks, on the right and the left, will feel his absence.

Mr. Daggett was a national asset who provided the Congress with invaluable expertise on defense issues for over 20 years and during three U.S. wars. He will be sorely missed by his professional colleagues and friends, by his wife, Diana, his sons Thomas and Sam, and by the many in Congress who depended on him.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES HANLON

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize Mr. James A. Hanlon, who is retiring this month after nearly 40 years of Federal service at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Jim has spent his long and distinguished career at EPA focusing on water quality issues and helping States and communities comply with Federal clean water requirements. He began his career at EPA as a staff engineer in September 1972, 1 month prior to the passage of the Clean Water Act, and has served in a number of senior positions within the Office of Water and Office of Research and Development.

Although he has many accomplishments, I want to particularly acknowledge Jim's role in managing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program, a program that has been so important to my home State of Rhode Island.

Jim was there at the program's inception, working for several years to design and lead the implementation of the program after it was first created by Congress in 1987. A decade ago, he was appointed Director of the Office of Wastewater Management, where he has continued to manage the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program and to oversee EPA's broader wastewater regulatory portfolio. Thanks in large part to his leadership, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program has successfully provided more than \$90 billion nationwide to date to fund critical

water infrastructure improvements through Federal grants and contributions from State matching funds and leveraging.

For the past several years, Jim has also served as an important resource to the Senate Committee on Appropriations on wastewater policy issues. I am particularly grateful for the assistance he provided to implement the critical \$4 billion investment in wastewater projects included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. With Jim's guidance, EPA and the States worked to get an unprecedented 1,870 clean water projects under contract within a year of the law's passage, including ten in my home State. His experience and guidance will be missed.

I congratulate Jim on a job well done. He leaves a proud and enduring legacy of public service.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL CHRISTOPHER C. COLVIN

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a friend of Alaska for his extraordinary 34 years of service to the U.S. Coast Guard and our Nation. In Alaska, we know him best for his service as the commander of the Coast Guard 17th District, but he has served valiantly across our Nation throughout his long and distinguished career. On June 1, he will retire as the deputy commander of the Coast Guard's Pacific Area Command in Alameda, CA.

Rear Admiral Colvin is a native of Erie, PA. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1976 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and entered Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in November 1978, earning his commission in March 1979. His 34-year Coast Guard career has included a variety of operational and staff assignments on both coasts. He served aboard eight Coast Guard cutters and commanded three. In 2003 he commanded Coast Guard Cutter DALLAS, WHEC 716, while attached to the USS *Truman*/USS *Roosevelt* battle force conducting combat operations during the first 6 months of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2004, Rear Admiral Colvin served as commander of Coast Guard forces off Haiti and as the maritime component commander to Joint Task Force Haiti, helping prevent a mass migration and preserving order in Port au Prince Harbor following the unexpected departure of former Haitian President Aristide. He is a 1999 graduate of the Naval War College in Newport, RI, earning a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies. His staff expertise is in cutter management, operations, strategy, and readiness. He has enforced U.S. sovereignty in the maritime arena by interdicting illegal drugs, detaining illegal migrants, seizing foreign fishing vessels, and saving lives.

Rear Admiral Colvin's first flag assignment was as the deputy director of operations for U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, CO. From there he was assigned as the commander of the 17th Coast Guard District in Juneau, AK, from 2009 to 2011, when he was responsible for Coast Guard operations throughout Alaska and the U.S. Arctic. He currently serves as the deputy commander of the Coast Guard's Pacific Area Command in Alameda, CA. His many notable accomplishments from his current assignment include coordinating USCGC HEALY's historic 2011 to 2012 icebreaking mission to mitigate a critical fuel shortage in the city of Nome, AK.

Rear Admiral Colvin married his wife Kristin in 1985, and they have two children. Their son Mark is a high school freshman and their daughter Meagan is a student at the University of Central Florida. Rear Admiral Colvin's parents are Dr. Charles and Evelyn Colvin of Erie, PA.

Mr. President, on behalf of the State of Alaska, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Rear Admiral Colvin's exceptional career. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his commitment to the Coast Guard and to our Nation. We wish him well in his retirement.●

#### COMMENDING MISSISSIPPI LEVEE BOARDS

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, a year ago my State of Mississippi suffered one of the worst disasters in our history when the Mississippi River and its tributaries were confronted with record flood levels that threatened the well-being of residents and property over much of our State. The 2011 flood put our people and flood control structures to the test. Federal, State, and local entities worked heroically to prevent this disaster from becoming an outright catastrophe. I would like to especially commend the Mississippi Levee Board and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board for their impressive leadership during the flood and for taking the necessary actions to protect our population and to limit flood damage.

The Mississippi Levee Board is responsible for operating and maintaining a roughly 212-mile levee system along the river, as well as 360 miles of interior drainage streams. The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board maintains 98 miles of mainline levees and 18 miles of backwater levees. Each board has worked efficiently and effectively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce the threat of high water and flood damage.

The great flood of 2011 reminded us of the importance of diligence, preparation, and cooperation to ensure that our levees remain strong and that the lives and property in our State are protected.●

#### EDGELEY, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a thriving community in North Dakota that will soon be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On June 15 through June 17 of this year, the residents of Edgeley will be celebrating their community's history and founding.

Replacing the pioneer settlement of Saint George, the city of Edgeley has had a rich history. Edgeley is named after the birthplace of Englishman Richard Sykes, who was a significant developer and true believer in the potential of Edgeley and the surrounding area. In 1881, Mr. Sykes traveled from England to explore increasing his land holdings in America. Not surprisingly, he settled on the rich soil and beautiful country of Wells, Stutsman, LaMoure, and Morton counties in North Dakota.

Edgeley is home to many bustling small businesses and farmers who grow wheat, corn, soybeans, sunflowers, barley, oats, potatoes, and all manner of small grains, in addition to raising cattle and other types of livestock. North Dakota's first wind farm was built 8 miles west of Edgeley, providing 1.5 megawatts of sustainable electricity to many residents of the State.

Sponsored by the Edgeley Lions Club, the city is celebrating its 125th anniversary this summer. Among the events planned are a pageant, kids games on Main Street, a 5k run-walk, a golf tournament, two parades, and a commemorative gun raffle. Residents are also eagerly awaiting the grand opening of the new swimming pool.

I ask the United States Senate to join me in congratulating Edgeley, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them a warm future.●

#### BALTA, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a vibrant community in North Dakota that will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary. From June 15 through June 17 of this year, the residents of Balta will commemorate their community's history and founding.

Originally named Egan when the town was founded in 1912, its rail station was an important spot on the Soo Line Railroad. However, when it was discovered that a rail station in South Dakota had already claimed the name of Egan, the small village changed its name to Balta when the post office opened on February 6, 1913. This new name was taken from a town in southern Russia, which is not surprising considering the heritage of the settlers, who were mostly Germans from Russia. Balta enjoys a reputation for some of the best duck and deer hunting in the State, and the community especially enjoys boating, swimming, and fishing at the Balta Dam Recreation Area.

The citizens of Balta are proud of their accomplishments and will celebrate the town's centennial with a