

All of these projects have already been studied and authorized by the Congress. However, the funding for constructing the projects has lagged, causing a delay in addressing the needs of rural and tribal communities to have potable water delivered for their use.

In 1902, the Reclamation Fund was established by Congress, intended to be used as a funding source to construct water projects in the West. It is funded through a variety of receipts, including Federal mineral leasing receipts. However, the use of monies from the Reclamation Fund has been subject to appropriation, and therefore, large balances have remained in the Fund. The average annual surplus in the Reclamation Fund from FY 2005 through FY 2011 was \$960 million. While these monies were intended to be used for water project construction, they have not always been appropriated when needed.

The bill that is being introduced today would direct that every year \$80 million that would otherwise be deposited in the Reclamation Fund be made available without further appropriation for the construction of the authorized rural water projects—projects that Congress has already determined are in the public interest and should be built.

I would like my colleagues to note that according to Bureau of Reclamation analysis, an increase in funding for the construction of rural water projects to \$80 million per year would reduce the total Federal appropriations needed to complete the projects by more than \$1 billion, due to project costs and inflation. Therefore, this bill will have a positive fiscal impact. The bill also includes language that states that amounts may not be transferred for rural water projects pursuant to the legislation if to do so would raise the deficit.

The legislation provides that the Secretary may not expend amounts under the bill until the Secretary develops programmatic goals that would: enable completion of rural water projects as quickly as possible; reflect the goals and priorities identified in the laws authorizing the rural water projects; and reflect the goals of the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006. The bill does not direct that a particular project receive funding, but rather provides that the Secretary develop funding prioritization criteria to serve as a formula for distributing funds consistent with considerations set forth in the bill.

This bill is important to our citizens in rural and tribal communities in the West. Adequate water supplies are fundamental to our way of life, and far too many Americans still live without safe drinking water. Congress has already determined that the rural water projects it has authorized are needed to provide water supplies to our rural and tribal communities and are in the best interests of public.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important

legislation, so that the promise of these important water projects can become an on-the-ground reality.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the International Bridge at Sault Ste. Marie stands as an enduring, visible reminder of the connection Michigan has with our neighbor to the north. This nearly 2-mile expanse, quite literally, brings communities in Michigan and Canada closer together, forging a mutually beneficial partnership in the process. To commemorate the construction of the bridge, a new, patriotic lighting scheme will be introduced on the American side of the bridge this week.

Thousands of vehicles cross this bridge each day. In fact, in 2007 alone, nearly 2 million cars traversed this roadway. This bridge is a pathway for commerce and trade; it is a convenient way for families separated by a short distance, but still a Nation apart to visit; and it supports recreation and tourism, which are central to the economies of many of Michigan's communities. Designed by Dr. Carl Gronquist, this sprawling structure has buoyed a number of industries important to Michigan, including steel, paper and forestry.

Before the International Bridge opened to traffic on October 31, 1962, Michiganders crossed the St. Mary's River either by car ferry or by railway. The need for a more efficient means to connect Sault Ste. Marie, MI and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario was evident. In response, in 1940, Congress approved an international crossing in Sault Ste. Marie, and in 1955, the Canadian Parliament established the St. Mary's Bridge Company to facilitate and oversee an international crossing. The \$16 million construction project that ensued lasted nearly 2 years and gave way to the structure we enjoy today.

Connecting Sault Ste. Marie with a city of 75,000 in Ontario that also serves as an important international trade crossing in Northwestern Ontario has been very beneficial. The theme of this celebration—Celebrating 50 years of International Friendship—speaks powerfully to this point. I also would like to recognize the work of the Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority and the International Bridge Administration for their tremendous work and dedication. The work that is done each day to ensure an efficient and steady flow of traffic across this bridge has positively impacted the lives of Michiganders and countless businesses for the last half century. As we look toward the future, it is important to preserve and maintain the International Bridge for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO GUNNERY SERGEANT THOMAS J. BOYD, USMC

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this Sunday, Marine Corps GySgt Thomas

Boyd, who is currently serving as a legislative fellow in my office, will receive his promotion to master gunnery sergeant at his home in Uniontown, PA, surrounded by his wife Reagan and his family. I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Tom's accomplishments and selfless service to our Nation.

Tom enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1996, following in the footsteps of his father, older brother, and great uncle. He immediately took on the very demanding occupational specialty of signals intelligence, which involves the collection and analysis of enemy communications. It is a unique and critically important specialty that accepts only the highest quality and most trustworthy marines, which tells you a lot about Tom's character.

From 2005 to 2009 Tom was stationed at Fort Meade and served at the National Security Agency. His skills were put to the test in three combat deployments, two to Iraq and one to Afghanistan, during which he supported numerous counterterrorism operations that helped make those countries and our own more secure. The Department of Defense recognized his contributions with the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, one of the highest awards the Department can bestow upon a servicemember.

Last year the Marine Corps selected Tom for its Congressional Fellowship Program, which, as my colleagues know, is highly selective. Tom is one of only two enlisted Marines selected to serve on Capitol Hill this year. While working in a Senate office is considerably less action-packed than the jobs he has had in the recent past, Tom has tackled all the tasks we have assigned to him with the overwhelming enthusiasm and tenacity we expect from our marines.

I know some of our constituents who have met Tom are sometimes surprised to come to my office and find themselves across the table from "Big Country," as Tom is affectionately known among his peers. Then they realize that not only is Tom as dedicated to serving them as any member of any Senator's staff but also that it can be a big advantage to have a man who was clearly born to be a leatherneck on their side.

To my colleagues, should you see Tom walking the halls of the Senate, I ask that you take a moment to congratulate him on his promotion and thank him and his family for their sacrifices on behalf of our country. In his personality, professionalism, and selflessness, Tom Boyd reflects the best traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps.

REMEMBERING VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM D. HOUSER, USN

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor a great naval officer and a true friend. Yesterday, VADM William "Bill" Douglas Houser, USN, Retired, was buried with full military

honors at Arlington National Cemetery. His was a life spent in service to our great country and its Navy and sailors.

An Atlanta native, Admiral Houser entered the Naval Academy in 1938 at the age of 16, as part of the class of 1942. He was commissioned early with his class in 1941, after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. During World War II, he served for 3 years as a deck officer aboard the USS Nashville, which saw combat in the battle for Guadalcanal, raids on the Marcus and Wake Islands, and operations around Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. In 1945, Admiral Houser entered flight training and was designated a naval aviator the following year. He saw combat in Korea as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 44 and during the Vietnam War as commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Constellation. Other commands-at-sea included Fighter Squadron 124, the USS Mauna Loa, and Carrier Division TWO as a flag officer.

Ashore, Admiral Houser served on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1960 to 1962 and again from 1967 to 1968 as Director, Strategic Plans Division. He was the Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense from 1962 through 1963; a member of the staff of the National Security Council in 1965; and Director of Aviation Plans and Requirements for the U.S. Navy from 1968 through 1970. He was promoted to Vice Admiral in 1972 and served his last tour of duty from 1972 to 1976 as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare, where he was responsible for all Naval aviation matters. Admiral Houser said that his most satisfying accomplishment as Deputy Chief was saving the F-14 fighter from cancellation.

Admiral Houser received numerous medals and decorations while on Active Duty. They include the Distinguished Service Medal, two awards; the Legion of Merit, four awards; the Bronze Star with Combat V; and the Air Medal, two awards. In retirement, he was also honored to receive the prestigious U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award in 2003.

After retirement from the Navy, Admiral Houser went on to a successful career in the telecommunications industry, working for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Communications Satellite Corporation, and Com21, among others. But he always remained dedicated to the Navy he so loved. He served as a trustee of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation for 30 years. He served on the International Midway Memorial Foundation and helped establish the annual Navy Midway Dinner. He spearheaded the creation of a Midway Memorial in the yard of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Beyond all his accomplishments, Bill was a great friend. When I returned home from prison in Vietnam, he was instrumental in helping me return to flying status. I remain forever indebted to him for his support and assistance.

Bill passed away on February 5, 2012, and is survived by his wife Jan; his 3 daughters, Cindy, Gayle, and Francie; his 2 stepdaughters, Karla and Louise; 11 grandchildren; and 1 great-granddaughter. President John F. Kennedy once said, "Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, 'I served in the United States Navy.'" By that standard, VADM William D. Houser, USN, Retired, lived a life of immeasurable worth. God bless and Godspeed, old friend.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND FRED LUTER, JR.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rev. Fred Luther, Jr., of New Orleans, LA on being elected to be president of the Southern Baptist Convention and acknowledging Reverend Luther's unique role as the first African-American leader of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rev. Fred Luther, Jr. preached his first church sermon in 1983 at the Law Street Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA. He then became pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in 1986. Under the leadership of Reverend Luther, the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church community grew from 65 members in 1986 to over 7,000 members in 2005. Thanks to Reverend Luther, the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church grew to be the largest Southern Baptist Church in the State of Louisiana.

In 2005, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church was extensively damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Along with the church, Reverend Luther also lost his home to flooding. Displaced members of the church totaled approximately 2,000 people. Reverend Luther, in cooperation with Rev. David Crosby, found a temporary home for Franklin Avenue Baptist Church during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As well as setting up a temporary church, Reverend Luther continued to minister to his congregation, even holding services in Baton Rouge, LA, and Houston, TX. After tremendous hard work and determination, Reverend Luther reopened the door to Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in April of 2008.

In 2011, Reverend Luther became the first African-American to be elected as first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Southern Baptist Convention is a cooperative of over 45,000 churches they diligently seek to bring about greater racial and ethnic representation at every level of Southern Baptist institutional life.

Reverend Luther was then nominated by Rev. David Crosby to become president of the Southern Baptist Convention. On June 19, 2012, Reverend Luther was elected to be the first African-American president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is with a special measure of commendation and heartfelt congratula-

tions on becoming the first African-American president of the Southern Baptist Convention and for his commitment to ministering to his congregation that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Reverend Luther's family in honoring and celebrating the life of this most extraordinary person.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Jewish Family Services, a philanthropic treasure in Connecticut. This year marks a momentous 100th anniversary of community service.

Founded June 1912, Jewish Family Services was built to assist European immigrants coming to this country to seek the American dream and escape persecution. These new residents of Connecticut confronted the challenges of their new lives with hope and determination.

Jewish Family Services has touched all generations, giving unconditionally to all those in need. Following the value of Tikkun Olam—"healing the world"—their mission is truly boundless. Their courageous staff of experienced social workers has helped facilitate new lives for many citizens, empowering their first steps towards change.

Jewish Family Services has recently focused on programs to support new careers and combat long-term unemployment. Through the Jewish Employment Transition Services, JFS has helped ease the desperation of joblessness. These programs complement many others including a food pantry, mental health services, care for the aging, children, and Holocaust survivors, counseling for life transitions such as divorce, and financial tutoring.

To celebrate its 100th anniversary while preparing for the next decades, Jewish Family Services has created three new funds—one dedicated to our children, the Changing Children's Lives Fund, another for those confronting emergency situations or personal crisis, the First Responders Fund, and a third, aptly named the Future Fund.

By giving help and getting help, Jewish Family Services has formed a family for the Greater Hartford area. It embraces community assistance as a given and disperses inspiration and hope. Its one hundred years are a prelude to future accomplishment and contribution.●

FOREST RIVER, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that will soon celebrate its 125th anniversary. On July 13, 2012, the residents of Forest River will recognize the community's history and founding.

Named after the river that flows through the area, Forest River was established in 1878 as a stop for both the