

Bunch was a member of the Kentucky National Guard for 23 years, where he notably led the Mountain Warriors in Iraq as a first sergeant.

Although he valiantly represented his Nation and State abroad, Representative Bunch also did much of his work from within the community. He was a math and science teacher at Whitley County High School for 17 years, and in 2010, with the support of the citizens of the 82nd District, was elected State Representative. However, after an injury in 2011, Bunch resigned from his post to receive medical treatment. His wife Regina ran for the position and succeeded her husband as the 82nd District's representative.

The loss of Representative Bunch to the members of the Whitley County community is immeasurable, and Dewayne's death has saddened Kentuckians across the State. Members of the State House Republican Caucus said he was committed to serving the public and ran for elected office in order to more fully serve the people of the Corbin community. The Governor of the State of Kentucky, Steve Beshear, acknowledged the loss of Representative Bunch by ordering flags lowered to half-staff.

Hundreds of people came to pay their respects at Representative Bunch's funeral on July 15, held at Highland Park Cemetery in Williamsburg. Military graveside honors were conducted by the Kentucky National Guard. At the funeral, Representative Bunch was posthumously awarded the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal to commemorate his work on behalf of his community and the State of Kentucky. I am privileged today to recognize Representative Bunch and his legacy of service to the Commonwealth.

Madam President, at this time I ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join me in honoring the life of Representative Dewayne Bunch of Corbin, KY. The Croley Funeral Home has published an obituary that highlighted his achievements and pays tribute to those Representative Bunch leaves behind. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Croley Funeral Home, July 12, 2012]

DEWAYNE EVERETT BUNCH

Dewayne Everett Bunch of Old Corbin Pike, Williamsburg, Kentucky, departed this life on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at the Oak Tree Hospital in Corbin, Kentucky. He was 50 years, 4 months, and 20 days of age. He was born on February 22, 1962, in Whitley County, Kentucky, to Charles Everett Bunch and the late Gloria Eunice (Rains) Bunch. He was a member of Highland Park Baptist Church. Dewayne was a veteran of the United States Army and retired from the Kentucky National Guard after 24 years of service. He was a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives (82nd District) and a school-teacher at the Whitley County Schools for over 17 years.

He is survived by wife Regina Petrey Bunch of Williamsburg, Kentucky; three

daughters, Stephanie Fox (Brad) of Lexington, Kentucky, Kristen Bowlin (Tommy), and Brittany Morgan (Jeremiah) all of Williamsburg, Kentucky; two grandchildren, Miah Morgan and Thomas Blake Bowlin; his father, Charles Everett Bunch of Williamsburg, Kentucky; a sister, Shanda Weddle (Bruce) of Williamsburg, Kentucky; brothers, Tim Bunch (Lisa) and Jim Bunch, all of Williamsburg, Kentucky; his father and mother-in-law, Herbert and Teresa Petrey of Williamsburg, Kentucky; several nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn his passing.

Visitation will be from 12:00 noon until the funeral hour on Sunday, July 15, 2012, at Croley Funeral Home.

The Funeral Service will be at 4:00 P.M. Sunday, July 15, 2012, at the Croley Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Doyle Lester and Rev. Gerald Mullins officiating. A Masonic Service will be conducted at 4:00 P.M. by the Williamsburg Masonic Lodge #490 F&AM. He will be laid to rest in the Croley Addition of Highland Park Cemetery in Williamsburg. Military Graveside Honors will be conducted by the Kentucky National Guard. Dan Ballou, Gary Taylor, Terry Huddleston, Bear Lancaster, J.R. Peace, James York, Danny Ford, Bobby Freeman, Tom Cline, and Alex Patrick will serve as pallbearers. Honorary Pallbearers will be the Citizens of the 82nd District.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Dewayne Bunch Scholarship Fund at Forcht Bank of Williamsburg and Corbin.

RECENT EVENTS IN EL SALVADOR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I want to speak very briefly about recent events in El Salvador which is in the midst of a constitutional and political crisis involving the composition and power of the Supreme Court.

Essentially what happened is that in June the Supreme Court ruled that the National Assembly had abused its power by naming justices to the court on two separate occasions, and ordered a new judicial selection process with which the National Assembly then refused to comply. A majority of the deputies took the extraordinary step of appealing the Supreme Court's decision to the Central American Court of Justice, and a final ruling is expected in a matter of days.

Last week, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN, who is probably more knowledgeable about El Salvador than anyone else in Congress, and I commented on the situation. We said:

We are encouraged by the commitment by President Funes and representatives of El Salvador's political parties to resolve this crisis expeditiously. We agree with the Department of State that this is a matter to be resolved by Salvadorans through dialogue, and we reaffirm our support for U.S. assistance for El Salvador which addresses a range of mutual interests, from improving law enforcement to combating poverty.

Over the past 30 years, El Salvador has faced many challenges, from civil war, to corruption, to cyclones. This constitutional political crisis is the latest test of whether the country's governmental institutions can emerge stronger, the rule of law strengthened, and its people more united.

Since then, there has been further progress towards a resolution of this crisis. As a former prosecutor, Chair-

man of the Judiciary Committee and Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations that funds international aid programs, I can think of few things as important to any society as an independent judiciary. Like free and fair elections, it is a cornerstone of democratic government. Sometimes I agree with the decisions of our Supreme Court and sometimes I disagree. But we comply with its decisions because we know the alternative is chaos and the erosion of the checks and balances that protect our 226 year old democracy.

I suspect the people of El Salvador feel similarly, and I am hopeful that however their representatives resolve this matter the independence of the Salvadoran judiciary will be preserved and strengthened.

LIFTING OF OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, on June 27, I provided notice of my intent to object to proceeding to the nominations of Mark J. Mazur, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Matthew S. Rutherford, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. My support for the final confirmation of these nominees depended on receiving information from both the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service regarding their implementation of the tax whistleblower program. Since I have received the responses, I no longer object to proceeding to these nominations.

The IRS is making progress in paying whistleblower awards under the old statute over 90 awards paid from October 1, 2011, until now. However, I want to make clear that the responses do not alleviate my concerns about these agencies' implementation of changes to the tax whistleblower statute I authored almost 6 years ago. Regulations to implement the new reward program have yet to be issued and only a handful of awards are expected to be paid out before the end of this year.

I began asking questions about the program's implementation in 2010. I wrote again in 2011 and then again on April 30 of this year. Unfortunately, I did not get complete answers until I objected to proceeding to the nominations of Mr. Mazur and Mr. Rutherford.

If I hadn't objected to proceeding to these nominations, Congress would not have received the most recent annual report on the whistleblower program that is mandated by law. It was provided to Congress on June 13, 2012, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2011. That is almost 9 months from the end of the year for which it contains data.

If I hadn't objected to proceeding to these nominations, the IRS likely would not have acknowledged that there is, in fact, a problem with timely processing whistleblower claims. IRS Deputy Commissioner Miller's June 20, 2012, directive to IRS executives and

senior managers is a good first step toward correcting this problem.

However, more needs to be done. IRS still has not committed to prioritizing claims raised by whistleblowers. In addition, the important protections afforded to taxpayers, including the right to appeal IRS decisions, delay IRS from actually collecting the taxes for years and, as the law is currently written, the taxes must be collected first before a whistleblower can be paid any money.

From my long history of oversight of the IRS, I know that it is essential that taxpayers be protected from sometimes overzealous IRS employees. Yet there must be a way to ensure that the process and procedures that exist to protect taxpayers don't deter whistleblowers from coming forward. The Treasury Department and the IRS have agreed to participate in a roundtable discussion that I hope will help identify solutions.

It is unfortunate that objecting to these nominees, both of whom were approved by the Finance Committee by unanimous, bipartisan votes, was the only way I could get information about the whistleblower program. At least there is now more information than ever before about the IRS whistleblower program.

BULGARIA TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise to express my outrage at the recent attack on a tour bus in Burgas, Bulgaria, that killed five Israeli citizens and the Bulgarian driver and injured scores of passengers. This heinous act was obviously the handiwork of terrorists who prey on innocent civilians in order to shock and horrify the world and try to rally some to a twisted, violent ideology. The terrorists must be stopped.

I am equally outraged by the fact that the Burgas attack appears to be the latest in a series of attacks on Israeli citizens. There have been several since the beginning of this year alone, two aimed at Israeli diplomats in India and Georgia in February, as well as a foiled plot against tourists in Cyprus the week before the tragedy in Burgas. The attacks targeting Israeli Embassy personnel in India and Georgia fell on the 18th anniversary of a suicide bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires which killed 85 people. Argentine authorities blamed that attack on Hezbollah operatives.

All of these attacks have the hallmarks of Iranian involvement or plots by their surrogates. The day after the attacks in India and Georgia, Iranian nationals involved in a bomb-making plot in Thailand were arrested after they accidentally detonated their homemade explosives, severely injuring one of the perpetrators. Thai officials reported that the improvised explosives found in Bangkok were the same as those used in India and Georgia.

I understand that the investigation of the Burgas attack is ongoing and the United States and other countries are working closely with Bulgarian officials. White House counterterrorism chief John Brennan has visited Bulgaria, and, while he did not implicate Iran or Hezbollah in public statements he made while there, he pointed out that both Tehran and its Lebanese surrogate have been implicated in attacks on civilians in the past.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that Israel has "fully substantiated intelligence" that the Burgas attack was carried out by Hezbollah. I have not seen that information, but I think that based solely on press reports of results thus far in the investigations of these attacks, one can reasonably conclude that Iran and Hezbollah have been involved—further evidence of Iran's longstanding use of political violence and sponsorship of terrorism to achieve its goals.

According to a recent edition of the Jewish Press, the Director of Israel's Mossad and the Chief of its Shin Bet have said that Iran and Hezbollah have tried to commit terrorist attacks against Israeli diplomats, businessmen and tourists in over 20 countries during the past 2 years.

We must stand with the people and the Government of Israel. We must lead the international community in redoubling efforts to assist Israel, and all countries on whose soil these heinous acts are committed, in tracking down the terrorists and bringing them to justice and continue to work to prevent such attacks in the future.

I am confident that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle support our government's work with Israel and the international community to counter Iran's insidious network of terror.

REMEMBERING NEIL McMURRY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, Wyoming has experienced an incredible loss. I rise today to remember one of Wyoming's most beloved citizens, Neil McMurry. On Thursday, July 19, 2012, Neil passed away at the age of 88. During his remarkable life, Neil made a profound and lasting contribution to the Casper community and the great State of Wyoming.

Neil was a successful entrepreneur, a committed citizen, and a good friend. Throughout his life, Neil always demonstrated an enduring commitment to his family, Wyoming, and our Nation. He loved his family. He loved his home State of Wyoming. He loved his country.

Ann Chambers Noble, a Wyoming author, recently wrote Neil's biography, "Hurry McMurry: W.N. 'Neil' McMurry, Wyoming Entrepreneur." The title appropriately describes this extraordinary man. He grew up during the Great Depression, and saw firsthand the impact it had on his community. In 1941, Neil joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. He flew over 29 missions in

Europe as a turret gunner on a B-17 aircraft during World War II.

Following his brave service to our Nation, Neil returned to Wyoming to raise a family and start a very successful business career. Neil was a man with determination, integrity, and a strong work ethic. He recognized the vast opportunities and great potential Wyoming has to offer. In 1949, he saw opportunity in constructing roads and highways across Wyoming. Along with his business partner, Vern Rissler, the Rissler-McMurry Company became one of the largest highway construction companies in Wyoming. The company built much of Wyoming's transportation routes.

While many people would have retired after running a successful contracting firm for over three decades, Neil was on the lookout for new opportunities. Neil and his business partners, John Martin and Mick McMurry, had a hunch that significant natural gas was in the Jonah Field in southwest Wyoming. In 1991, the McMurry Oil Company purchased wells and mineral leases in the Jonah area. His vision and willingness to take a risk turned into a natural gas play of historic proportions.

Neil McMurry will be remembered for his successful business endeavors that created thousands of jobs for the people in Wyoming. His efforts and entrepreneurial spirit significantly impacted Wyoming's economy.

While his business abilities will continue to be admired, it will be his selfless devotion to others and his willingness to give back to his community that will forever keep his memory in the hearts of the people of Wyoming. His charitable donations made a difference in the lives of people in his community.

Even though he lived a long life, Neil left us too soon. His remarkable contributions to the youth of Wyoming will be honored on August 7 by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming. While this would have been just one of many honors, it was very special to Neil. Through the generosity of the McMurry Foundation, Neil and his family have given unprecedented levels of support to Wyoming organizations particularly organizations supporting our youth.

My wife Bobbi and I will truly miss him. We are blessed that Neil was our friend and grateful for the moments we spent together. During this time of such great loss, we find solace in knowing that the legacy of Neil McMurry will live on.

Bobbi and I extend our deepest sympathy to the McMurry family. We wish his family all of our best and send our prayers to each of them.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MELBA, IDAHO

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate and acknowledge