

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

the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city of Melba, Idaho. Starting August 17, 2012, the citizens of Melba will gather throughout the weekend to commemorate this special time in their southwestern Idaho community.

Melba was founded by Clayton C. Todd, naming the yet-to-be town after his 4-year-old daughter. Stopping in Idaho on his way to Alaska to mine for gold, Mr. Todd heard about a State land sale. He purchased 160 acres of land and laid out the town site. He had done his homework and saw that this land with a siding on the railroad and expanding farms throughout the area would cut five miles off the route to the nearest town of Nampa and the mainline railroad.

Melba became a small boom town in the middle of an agricultural area. Shortly after World War I, the area became famous for its sweet corn seed. Area farmers expanded their seed operations to grow carrot, onion and alfalfa seed, along with the corn. The rich, fertile soil, abundant water and the hot summer days with cool nights earned Melba the moniker "The Seed Heart of America."

Like many small communities in our great country, they have seen times of struggle. In 1949, Melba was hit hard by an epidemic of infantile paralysis, also known as polio. The residents not only supported one another, in 1950 they held the first Polio Auction, raising \$2,000 for medical research on the disease. Now called the Melba Community Auction, area residents continue the tradition of helping one another as they raise funds for nonprofit organizations that provide services to those in and around Melba.

The spirit of small town America is alive and well in Melba. They believe in helping their neighbors as well as strangers. Their schools are a source of pride and strongly supported by the community. And as to their Fourth of July celebration? Let me put it this way—no one can question their patriotism and love of America! Theirs is a grand celebration of our Nation's birthday.

So, Madam President, I am very proud to recognize this landmark anniversary and congratulate the community of Melba for this centennial. Melba has much to celebrate as well as to look forward to in its next century.●

TRIBUTE TO REX E. KIRKSEY

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I, on behalf of my colleague Senator BINGAMAN and myself, wish to recognize Rex E. Kirksey on the occasion of his retirement, following a distinguished career serving the agricultural community in our home State of New Mexico and elsewhere.

Mr. Kirksey has dedicated 32 years of his life working for New Mexico State University to improve agricultural outreach and to facilitate vital research. As the Superintendent of the NMSU Agricultural Science Center in

Tucumcari, NM, Mr. Kirksey oversaw research programs focusing on developing forage and grazing systems for irrigated lands in New Mexico and the western United States.

In 2003, he took on additional responsibilities as superintendent of the Agricultural Science Center in Clovis, NM. Under his leadership, that institution emerged as the State's leading off-campus center with nationally and internationally recognized programs in agronomy, dairy management, peanut breeding, and crop stress physiology.

During his tenure at New Mexico State University, Mr. Kirksey authored many professional publications, including peer reviewed journal articles, proceedings papers, research reports and bulletins, progress reports and published abstracts, and an extensive range of business reports and correspondence. He has also given numerous presentations to industry and peer groups.

In addition to his work domestically, Mr. Kirksey has been involved with the Afghanistan Water, Agriculture, and Technology Transfer, AWATT, project—a partnership with USAID and New Mexico State University. This project aims to improve the community and farm-level management of the supply and demand of irrigation water resources for increased agricultural productivity and food security in Afghanistan. He also has worked with the Botswana Sustainable Agriculture Initiative, an international consortium with a goal to develop an integrated, sustainable agricultural system. The Botswana Initiative will assist both small and large farms to employ conservation agriculture practices to increase fresh water availability, grow more nutritious food, build agricultural infrastructure, create more agricultural jobs, and stimulate enterprise creation in rural areas.

Mr. Kirksey's leadership and expertise has made a difference in the lives of so many people in our Nation, as well as other parts of the world. Senator BINGAMAN and I thank Mr. Kirksey for his commitment and dedication to the people of New Mexico and to our agricultural communities. We would also like to thank his wife Cyndie and their three children for always supporting Rex in his endeavors. Thanks to his work and the work of our land grant institutions, farmers and ranchers across the country have access to the resources they need to help ensure our country's future competitiveness in an increasingly global economy.

We wish Mr. Kirksey continued success, and a most happy retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4078. An act to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6082. An act to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 4078. An act to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent.

S. 3457. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7004. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for Distribution of Byproduct Material" ((RIN3150-AH91) (NRC-2008-0338)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7005. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2012-08: Developing Inservice Testing and Inservice Inspection Programs Under 10 CFR Part 52" (RIS 2012-08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7006. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; South Carolina 110(a)(1) and (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9705-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7007. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee: Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review; Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})" (FRL No. 9704-7) received in