

people to leave, there were many people who said: Why are you doing that? Can't we just talk it out? That bill produced incredible results not only on the individuals who were able to leave the Soviet Union, but it spoke to America's leadership.

I honestly believe it helped establish the principles where the United States used trade to open and eliminate the apartheid government of South Africa. We were the leaders on that. We have been very strong on protecting human rights and saying: We will use every tool at our disposal to protect people's basic rights. We did that in South Africa and we did that in the Soviet Union and we are doing it again today. That is where America's leadership shines. That is where America's leadership will be followed by other countries. We are already seeing other European capitals pass similar legislation as the Magnitsky bill to make this clear. We are ending a chapter with Jackson-Vanik and we should be very proud of what America stood for, what we stand for today, and our leadership in the lives of real people and how it has helped keep people safer.

Now we are starting a new chapter and that new chapter is not just Russia. That new chapter is global. We are putting the international community on notice that we will not tolerate individuals who violate basic human rights, and we will use every tool at our disposal, including trade, including the right to come to America, including the right to use our banking system, including putting as much pressure as we possibly can on countries to take action against those who violate rights.

We respect the rights of individual countries. We want to work with those countries, but America will not give up its values and on promoting these values internationally. That is what this legislation is.

I understand the disappointment that we don't have everything in this bill we would like. I am certainly disappointed. I fought hard. I spoke to so many Members in both the House and the Senate about trying to make this bill even better. I am proud of how far we were able to get, and I can tell my colleagues this: The activists who are risking their lives today in countries around the world to protect the rights of citizens, to question the actions of their government, to dare to say we should have competitive elections, we should respect the religious freedoms of individuals, we should be able to speak out, these people are putting their lives at risk. They are looking at what the Senate is doing today, and they are looking at us and saying: Pass this bill. Pass this bill because it gives us hope. It lets our countries know America will stand for us, that America's leadership will be there to keep us safe.

I know we have had a spirited discussion this evening. We will have a chance tomorrow to vote on this bill. I

do believe we will have the opportunity to show America's leadership will be continuing to advance human rights. This legislation will make a difference not just in the trade relationships between Russia and the United States—it will help that—but it will help advance international respect for human rights. I am proud to be part of that effort.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DARREN LINDE
SPECIALIST TYLER ORGAARD

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words that deserve our attention. On Monday, an attack on U.S. troops in Afghanistan claimed the lives of SFC Darren Linde and SPC Tyler Orgaard of the North Dakota National Guard.

Sergeant Linde was a graduate of Sidney High School in Montana. He earned many honors throughout his career, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation, and Army Good Conduct medals. He was a hero and a family man who put service to others above all.

May all of us honor the sacrifice and service of Sergeant Linde and Specialist Orgaard by looking for ways we can circle around our troops and their families. There are no words to express how thankful we are for the ongoing commitment and dedication they show every day.

Please join my wife Melodee and me in praying for the servicemembers and families devastated by this attack.

REMEMBERING WARREN B. RUDMAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to join my colleagues in extending condolences to the family of Senator Warren Rudman, and add my voice to those saluting a distinguished, effective and principled member of this body.

It has been hard in the last few months, for those of us who knew and served with him, not to think of Warren Rudman. More than 2 decades ago, our circumstances were strikingly similar to the situation in which we

find ourselves today. Rising Federal budget deficits were the cause of alarm. Almost everyone agreed that we needed to bring them down. The difficulty was how. Meeting the widely differing priorities among members of Congress—and the American people we represented—seemed impossible.

Senator Rudman, along with Senator Ernest Hollings and Senator Phil Gramm, crafted a solution. It is fair to say no one liked it very much. None of us here at the time, including me, voted for it with great enthusiasm. That was its genius. By establishing a mechanism for automatic, across-the-board spending cuts that would take place in the absence of a more tailored program of deficit reduction, they sought to force all of us to make the difficult choices required to reduce the deficit.

The arrangement Senators Rudman, Gramm and Hollings concocted was disagreeable to everybody, and so we looked for ways to avoid it. I voted for the 1985 agreement in part because I believed it would help force elected officials to get serious about the fact that revenue was an important part of the deficit-reduction formula. It was true then, it was true now, and Warren Rudman helped clarify that important fact. We borrowed from Warren Rudman's playbook with the sequestration provisions which are now the subject of so much debate and concern here. I dislike the blind, Draconian cuts of sequestration today as much as I disliked them in the 1980s. Now, as then, I am hopeful that members of good will can reach across the aisle to reach compromise solutions—solutions that we may dislike in part, in order to avoid even worse outcomes. If we do so, it will be because of the Sword of Damocles called sequestration that hangs over our heads. I know that is what Senator Rudman would hope for, and be working hard for, if he were still serving here.

We should reflect on Senator Rudman's career today for another reason. When he decided not to stand for reelection in 1992, he did so, in the words of the New York Times, because "the Federal Government was not functioning" and that it was impossible to get anything done in a Senate rife with posturing and partisanship."

Maybe the lesson is that the present always looks more partisan and polarized than the past. I hope all of us can reflect on Senator Rudman's efforts to achieve practical solutions to difficult problems, his willingness to compromise, and his integrity, and keep those qualities in mind as we struggle with the many and complex problems we face today.

Barbara and I were terribly saddened to learn of Warren Rudman's passing. Our thoughts are with his family and the many close friends who mourn him.

COMMEMORATING THE 84TH
BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY
KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, on behalf of myself as ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Senator JAMES INHOFE, the ranking member of the East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, I rise today to commemorate the 85th birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej who has reigned for 66 years as King of Thailand.

Over 50 years ago, the King, also known as Rama IX, a long-time and proven friend of the United States, addressed a Joint Session of Congress. He and the people of Thailand have partnered with the people of the United States in war and in peace. As noted in the recent Thailand-U.S. Joint Vision Statement preceding President Obama's recent trip to Thailand, "... the Thai-U.S. defense alliance has promoted regional stability by fostering cooperation in areas that enables both nations to address shared security concerns effectively".

The King has been internationally recognized for his consistent dedication to promote the well-being of the Thai people. Among the awards received is the U.N. Development Program First Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award. Over the last 60 years the King has initiated thousands of development projects throughout Thailand addressing a wide range of challenges including public health and education, agricultural development and reforestation.

Mr. President, in the Congress extensive time and effort are dedicated to the consideration of major challenges to the United States, domestically and overseas. Endless debate carries on to determine how to deal with leaders in those countries who do not share democratic values, and in fact are opposed to the United States actively engaging in global free trade and the promotion of our national security.

Consequently, it is a pleasure and an honor on behalf of Senator INHOFE and myself to highlight the life of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has been steadfast in his friendship to the American people. He is the longest-reigning monarch in the history of Thailand and currently the world's longest-reigning monarch as well.

Mr. President I was pleased to recently visit Thailand and meet with government officials regarding Thailand's participation in the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction, CTR, Program. Thailand is actively working to counter biological threats. Among other areas, the U.S. will also continue to work to help Thailand control infectious disease that could become the source of a pandemic or the target of terrorists seeking to create a biological weapon.

In conclusion, I am grateful for the overall relationship between our two countries, and look forward to developments in the future which will bring us closer together.

• Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, December 5 marks the 85th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to His Majesty and to the people of Thailand as they commemorate his 66-year reign of Thailand.

The United States and Thailand have had an extensive, close relationship for nearly 200 years, beginning with the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 1833. This treaty—the first U.S. treaty in Asia—cemented the friendship between the American and Thai people. King Bhumibol has nurtured this relationship in line with our shared values of democracy and rule law. He has been a vital supporter of a free and open society in Thailand and a stabilizing force in the government's transitions of political power. As the world's longest serving monarch, he has placed his commitment to the Thai people above all.

I have visited Thailand many times over a span of more than 30 years. As chairman of the East Asia and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, I was fortunate to continue this close relationship, visiting Thailand numerous times to meet Thai leaders, and reaffirm my support for a strong alliance with the United States. I would like to thank King Bhumibol and the Thai government for the courtesies extended to me over the past 6 years of my service in the U.S. Senate. Going forward, I am confident that the U.S.-Thai alliance will continue to be a critical partnership in guaranteeing stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. President, I am so pleased to join the people of Thailand in celebrating the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and extend my best wishes to His Majesty for his good health. •

GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator WICKER for bringing attention to the need for the Department of Defense, and all Federal agencies, to include American-made wood products in green building standards and rating systems.

I would also like to express my continued support for Federal Government measures designed to spur the design and construction of high-performance green buildings.

However, I am concerned that discouraging certain wood building products and materials from use in Federal buildings because they do not comply with the LEED standard but are otherwise acceptable for U.S. building projects, may undermine the Federal Government's energy efficiency goals.

Wood products are among the most "green" of all building materials.

With the green building market estimated to reach as high as \$140 billion by 2013, securing a strong place for wood is essential to the wood products industry's future growth.

Wood is an ideal green building material because it is renewable, stores carbon that reduces greenhouse gases, and is energy efficient.

There are several green building rating systems being used by Federal agencies and the private marketplace now, and the competition among these systems has resulted in improvements in all of the green building standards. Some of these rating systems recognize the benefits of American-made wood products in their scoring system.

It is important that the Department of Defense, General Services Administration and other Federal agencies ensure that multiple green building standards be considered for the design and construction of Federal buildings.

I believe the best approach is to permit the marketplace to decide which rating system is best suited for each project and Congress should encourage all of the rating systems to compete for government contracts.

REMEMBERING NORMA HOLMGREN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity today to pay tribute to a wonderful woman, devoted mother and grandmother, loyal friend, exceptional employee, and patriotic American Norma Holmgren. Norma was my Northern Utah Area Director for 26 years and was devoted to our state and nation.

Sadly, Norma passed away this past weekend, as a result of a tragic accident as she was taking her daily walk. Norma kept herself very active and physically fit and you could often find Norma walking the streets of her neighborhood enjoying her surroundings and neighbors.

Norma retired from public service almost 10 years ago, however her retirement did not stop her from participating in her community and continuing her interest in republican politics. In fact, my staff contacted her last week to seek her advice on a constituent's request. She was always available and happy to share her knowledge. She spent many years working for the ideas and philosophy of the Republican Party, and assumed numerous leadership positions to further the cause. Norma loved politics and even after leaving the government and political arena, she still loved a good political conversation and was keenly interested in what was happening in our state and nation.

Norma was a ferocious reader, and it was not unusual for Norma to visit her local Costco and buy up to 20 books at a time. She loved to learn and continue her education on so many issues, and would spend hours curled up with a good book.

She also loved antiques and was widely known for her collections that she beautifully displayed throughout her home. She would often invite friends to come and see her latest find or beautiful item and she was very proud of her life-long interest of antiques.