

family farmers. Senator KOHL has served as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture. In that capacity, he has been instrumental in ensuring that the partnership between the Federal Government and rural communities contributes to economic development throughout rural America. He has enhanced the conservation of our natural resources and ensured the United States remains at the forefront in agricultural research and innovation. In addition, Senator KOHL has been a stalwart supporter of food assistance programs for those who are the least fortunate among us.

On a personal note, Senator KOHL recommended my wife Lucy for a position with Major League Baseball. It has been my wife's dream job, so I am personally indebted to him for that.

Senator KOHL's commitment to the people of Wisconsin has been unwavering. The Senate will miss his honesty and hard work. I thank Senator KOHL for his service in the Senate and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Wisconsin should be proud of Senator KOHL, he remained true to his 1988 Senate campaign slogan, serving as "Nobody's Senator But Yours."

JIM WEBB

Mr. CONRAD. Finally, Mr. President, I am proud today to honor my colleague from Virginia, JIM WEBB. In just 6 years in the Senate, he has proven himself to be an agile and independent thinker on both military matters and issues of economic fairness, as well as a tireless advocate for veterans. His candid and moderate voice in the Senate will be sorely missed.

JIM WEBB has spent an impressive career working in public service and on behalf of our veterans and active troops overseas. The importance of discipline and service to country was instilled in him as a young boy, as he moved with his father, a career Air Force officer, to various Air Force Bases across the country. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Senator WEBB served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs under President Reagan, as well as the U.S. Secretary of the Navy, before coming to the Senate in 2007.

Senator WEBB demonstrated his unwavering commitment to our troops and veterans on his very first day in the Senate when he introduced the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill of Rights. He won passage for this important piece of legislation, the most comprehensive G.I. bill since World War II, in only his second year as a Senator—a remarkable feat. Since its passage, more than 1 million post-9/11 veterans have applied to use their G.I. bill benefits. The G.I. bill has been instrumental in providing a great opportunity and a demonstration of gratitude for our troops as they separate from service.

I personally had the privilege of working closely with Senator WEBB on a bill that aims to preserve the valor of our decorated military heroes. I was proud to join him in introducing the Military Service Integrity Act, which

creates criminal penalties for individuals who lie about receiving military medals for personal gain. On behalf of the nearly 60,000 veterans in North Dakota and all of our active troops, it was an honor to work with him on this legislation in ensuring that the integrity of our Nation's military awards are not belittled by those attempting to seek a profit.

But apart from his dedication to our military heroes, I also respect Senator WEBB for his commitment to fiscal responsibility. Together with Senator MCCASKILL, he formed the US Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan to analyze the efficacy and expenditures of Federal contractors abroad. When the findings of the Commission were published, he subsequently introduced comprehensive reform legislation to address the failures and mismanagement of overseas contractors. As chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, I deeply respect his initiative and commitment to eliminating any waste, fraud, or abuse in our national security operations.

It is a deep loss for the Senate to be losing such a candid and independent voice. Senator WEBB has set an extraordinary example of discipline, initiative, and candor in his work on behalf of working-class Americans and military families. I thank Senator WEBB for his career of service in the Senate and the armed services and wish him all the best.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES "JIM" JONES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize and honor one of Nevada's great sons and my friend, Jim Jones, on the important milestone of his 80th birthday. I appreciate the longtime friendship Jim and his son, Jimmy, have afforded me. Jimmy worked for me and has remained a good friend ever since.

Jim Jones hails from one of Las Vegas' railroad families. In 1921, after Jim's father proudly served our Nation in World War I, he pioneered West in a boxcar and not much else. Jim's father arrived in Las Vegas, walked into a railroad shop and stayed for 21 years. It

was on South Third Street that Jim remembers his early childhood, as he watched the trains go by in his small railroad town of Las Vegas.

Jim has spent a lifetime working hard and giving back to his patients and community. His commitment to service began at the age of 12 as a Boy Scout in Troop 63. Jim grew interested in dentistry while a student at Las Vegas High School. But he knew he was unable to afford college, so he joined his father to work the railroad at 15. Jim tirelessly worked nights, weekends and summers; after graduating from Las Vegas High School, he attended East Los Angeles Junior College. During his second semester of college, he served in a Naval Reserve Unit when he was called into active duty during the Korean War. Although he could have applied to be exempted, he chose to serve as a dental technician and proudly worked on a Marine base in San Diego fixing recruits' teeth before they would head overseas. He later attended BYU's pre-dental/medicine program and graduated with honors from dental school in Seattle.

He returned to Las Vegas to work for the Nevada State Department of Health's Dental Division, which led him all across Indian country in Nevada. He traveled with a fold up chair in a station wagon across the most rural parts of Nevada providing dental care and services to Native American children in Schurz, Gabbs, Tonopah, Overton and Mesquite. The time he spent in Native American communities across Nevada taught him much about our State, and its first people, and because of this formed longtime friendships.

In 1961, Jim opened his private dental practice, thus beginning a long career of providing dental care to many in Southern Nevada. He retired from his full-time practice in 2002, though he still works weekly caring for patients including Landra and me. He's lived a life of service as a longtime member of service organizations like Kiwanis Club and Rotary. He served in the leadership of Rotary as director, vice president, and president. He is passionate about Las Vegas, and he has remained involved in these service organizations, as well as in local commissions.

Mr. President, I share only but a glance at Jim's life as we reflect upon his many contributions on the momentous occasion of his 80th birthday. My friend, Jim, embodies the story of Nevada, that the son of a working class man can build a good life for his family and still have legacy of that small railroad town, Las Vegas.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a week ago, I came to the Senate floor and said it was time for the Senate and the

House to come together to pass the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. I expressed hope because I thought there was a basis for compromise on a provision that had been a sticking point for House Republicans. I am dismayed that we have not seen progress toward that compromise despite my outreach and the urgency of the situations for thousands of victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Senator CRAPO and I included in our bill a key provision to allow tribal courts limited jurisdiction to consider domestic violence offenses committed against Indian women on tribal lands by non-Indians. The epidemic of violence against Native women is appalling, with a recent study finding that almost three in five Native women have been assaulted by their spouses or intimate partners. This provision would help end an untenable situation where non-Indians assaulting their spouses or intimate partners on tribal land are essentially immune from prosecution.

This is a commonsense proposal with important limitations and guarantees of rights, but I know that House Republicans have continued to object to it. That is why I was heartened when two conservative House Republicans with leadership positions introduced a bill providing a compromise on the tribal jurisdiction provision.

Representative ISSA of California and Representative COLE of Oklahoma introduced the Violence Against Indian Women Act, H.R. 6625. Their cosponsors include Republicans from North Carolina, Minnesota, and Idaho. They all have tribes within their States and are concerned about the violence our Senate bill is trying to combat. Their bill includes a provision that allows defendants to remove a case to Federal court if any defendant's rights are violated. This modification should ensure that only those tribes that are following the requirements of the law and providing full rights can exercise jurisdiction and that defendants can raise challenges at the beginning of a case.

Last week, I called on House Republican leadership to abandon their "just say no" approach to any grant of tribal jurisdiction and give serious consideration to the Republican compromise proposal introduced last week. I have heard that Republican leaders are meeting today to finally discuss the issue. It is my hope that they will show real leadership by supporting crucial protections for tribal women, rather than offering empty proposals that do not change existing law and will not move us forward or help us to address this crisis.

I have reached out to House leaders throughout the year and very recently to find a path forward on VAWA, and I know others have conducted similar outreach. While I am very disappointed that I have yet to see meaningful movement despite the opportunity for reasonable, bipartisan compromise to enact this needed legislation, I do be-

lieve House leaders still have an opportunity to do the right thing and pass VAWA, but that window is closing.

Passing the Leahy-Crapo VAWA bill will make a difference. It will lead to a greater focus on the too often neglected problem of sexual assault and rape. It will lead to important new programs to identify high risk cases and prevent domestic violence homicides. It will lead to better protections for students on campuses across the country and better housing protections for victims of domestic and sexual violence. These improvements are most meaningful if they apply to all victims. I am willing to explore compromise language to make progress, but we should not leave out the most vulnerable victims.

As partisan objections continue to hold up this bill, we continue to read each week about new and horrific cases of domestic violence and rape. It is heartbreaking that women continue to suffer as our efforts to compromise and pass this crucial legislation hit roadblock after roadblock. I hope that our last ditch effort will finally break this frustrating impasse.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the end of this Congress quickly approaches, I urge the Senate—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—to come together and pass our bipartisan Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

More than a century after the Emancipation Proclamation and despite the fact that slavery is now illegal everywhere in the world, modern-day slavery, or human trafficking, still occurs throughout the world—including in the United States of America. The Polaris Project estimates that there are more than 27 million victims of human trafficking worldwide today. To put that in perspective, that is more people than the population of Texas.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act is a bipartisan bill that was carefully crafted with the input of victims and service providers to reflect critical improvements to existing law. I have worked hard to try to address concerns expressed by Republican Senators and to ensure bipartisan support for this legislation, which Congress has reauthorized three times before. The result is that our current bill, which was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee more than a year ago, now has 54 cosponsors—including 14 Republicans.

This bipartisan legislation seeks to stop human trafficking at its roots by supporting international and domestic efforts to fight against the causes and punish the perpetrators of trafficking. It also provides critical resources to help support victims as they rebuild their lives. We have included new accountability measures to ensure that Federal funds are used for their in-

tended purposes, and we have streamlined programs to focus scarce resources on the approaches that have been the most successful.

Earlier this week, several Senators spoke on the floor of the Senate in commemoration of Human Rights Day. I was pleased to see that Senator RUBIO, with whom I have worked on this issue, mentioned the need to pass our anti-trafficking bill by the end of the year. We agree that it is imperative for the Senate to act now so that we can take steps toward ending human trafficking and providing the survivors with the support they desperately need in order to get back on their feet.

I have checked with my caucus to see if we can move this bill today. I can report that every Democratic Senator has agreed to pass this legislation now by unanimous consent. I hope my friends on the other side of the aisle will join us to pass the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act without further delay.

This is the type of bipartisan bill about an urgent human rights issue that should pass by unanimous consent. I hope we can work together TODAY to make that happen.

The United States remains a beacon of hope for so many who face human rights abuses. We know that young women and girls—often just 11, 12, or 13 years old—are being bought and sold. We know that workers are being held and forced into labor against their will. No one should further delay action while these injustices continue. I am calling on Congress to do the right thing and enact the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act before the end of this year. Millions of people around the world are counting on us and they cannot wait.

NEWEST UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last Friday, December 7, 2012, the new United States Courthouse in Cedar Rapids, IA was dedicated. This facility was built to replace the previous courthouse, built in 1932, that was closed due to the extensive flood damage that occurred in June 2008.

The new courthouse has five courtrooms and associated facilities for the United States Courts operations and also houses a number of Federal Government agencies. Groundbreaking took place in April 2009. The new courthouse opened to the public on November 5. It is my understanding the courthouse was completed within budget and on time.

At the dedication ceremony last week, the keynote address was delivered by the Honorable David R. Hansen, Senior United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. I ask unanimous consent that his remarks be printed in the RECORD.

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