

friend David Vite on his retirement from the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, IRMA. He spent 35 years with the Illinois retailers, helping businesses across the State of Illinois engage with government and better serve their communities.

David has a long history of service. After serving in the Army, he went to college in Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse. This must be where he developed his affinity for the Green Bay Packers. In all of the time David spent in Illinois, he never adopted our very own Chicago Bears. He remains to this day a loyal Packers fan.

Early in his career, David became the Executive Director of the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and oversaw community developments in Woodstock, IL. By 1978, David had joined the Illinois Retail Merchants Association as a field representative. Within 3 years, the Association had promoted him to Vice President of Government Affairs and not long after that, David Vite took over as President.

As President, David was determined to help resolve the challenges facing Illinois retailers and at the same time to create opportunities for them. He provided training for his members to help them promote sales. He created a school-to-work training program to help cultivate the next generation of retail leaders. He led an effort to publish a manual to help merchants become more environmentally friendly. And throughout his tenure, he was the voice for business as Illinois policymakers addressed dilemmas in unemployment insurance, worker's compensation, and sales taxes.

I can't thank David enough for the support he helped build across Illinois for the Marketplace Fairness Act. I am proud to say that in May, the Senate passed this bill by a vote of 69-27, helping to level the playing field for retailers in Illinois and across the country. With David's help, we were able to communicate with retailers in every corner of Illinois to better understand the need and urgency for tax fairness legislation.

I would like to thank David for his leadership and many contributions over his decades of work with communities and business. Illinois retail has been lucky to have had such a strong, good-willed advocate. I wish him the very best in his retirement.

CLEAN CRUISE SHIP ACT OF 2013

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, I introduced the Clean Cruise Ship Act to limit the dumping of wastewater by cruise ships.

Cruise ships generate millions of gallons of wastewater every day, and currently these ships can dump their waste directly into the oceans with minimal oversight.

The Clean Cruise Ship Act would require these ships to obtain permits through EPA's National Pollutant Dis-

charge Elimination System to be able to discharge sewage, graywater, and bilge water.

It also would require cruise ships to upgrade their wastewater treatment systems to meet the standards of today's best available technology. This technology significantly reduces the pollutants that ships discharge and is already being used successfully on some cruise ships.

The problem is real. The number of cruise ship passengers has been growing nearly twice as fast as any other mode of travel.

In the U.S. alone, cruise lines carried over 10 million passengers in 2011, with some ships carrying 8,000 passengers or more.

These ships produce massive amounts of waste: one ship can produce over 200,000 gallons, or 10 backyard swimming pools, of sewage each week; a million gallons of graywater from kitchens, laundry, and showers; and over 25,000 gallons of oily bilge water that collects in ship bottoms.

I have nothing against cruise vacations. They can be a wonderful way to visit many beautiful places.

In fact, it is because these ships sail often into these beautiful, sensitive environments that we need to be particularly careful of the pollution they release into those waters.

Here is the unpleasant reality. Within 3 miles of shore, vessels can discharge wastewater from toilets and showers into the ocean provided that a "marine sanitation device" is installed.

However, a 2008 report released by the Environmental Protection Agency concluded that these systems simply do not work.

The devices allow ships to discharge waste that consistently exceeds national effluent standards for fecal coliform and other pathogens and pollutants.

In fact, fecal coliform levels in effluent are typically 20 to 200 times greater than in untreated domestic wastewater.

While cruise ships must obtain permits to discharge graywater within 3 miles of the coast, graywater should not go directly into the sea.

Graywater from sinks, tubs, and kitchens contain large amounts of pathogens and pollutants.

Fecal coliform concentrations, for example, are 10 to 1,000 times greater than those in untreated domestic wastewater.

These pollutants sicken our marine ecosystems, wash up onto our beaches, and contaminate food and shellfish that end up on our dinner plates.

Even worse, beyond 3 miles from shore there are no restrictions on sewage or graywater discharge. Cruise ships can actually dump raw sewage directly into U.S. waters.

The Clean Cruise Ship Act seeks to address these practices.

No discharges would be allowed within 12 miles of shore.

Beyond 12 miles from shore, discharges of sewage, graywater, and bilge water would be allowed, provided that they meet national effluent limits consistent with the best available technology. That technology works and is commercially available now.

Under this legislation, the release of raw, untreated sewage would be banned. No dumping of sewage sludge and incinerator ash would be allowed in U.S. waters.

All cruise ships calling on U.S. ports would have to dispose of hazardous waste in accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

The bill would establish inspection and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance.

The protection of U.S. waters is vital to our nation's health and economy. The oceans support the life of nearly 50 percent of all species on Earth.

Some cruise ship companies already are trying to improve their environmental footprint. They also want to preserve the environment—it is the natural beauty of the sea that attracts their passengers.

But the efforts between cruise ship companies are not uniform. A federal standard would apply one set of requirements to all companies.

It is time to bring the cruise ship industry into the 21st century. It is time to update the laws that protect our oceans and urge adoption of the best available wastewater treatment technology at sea.

Working together, we can support the industry while protecting the natural treasures that are our oceans. The approach taken in the Clean Cruise Ship Act will move us toward that goal.

I encourage my colleagues here in the Senate to work with me to pass legislation that will put a stop to the dumping of hazardous pollutants along our coasts. Together we can clean up this major source of pollution that is harming our waters.

REMEMBERING DR. JOHN M. SMITH JR.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an honored Kentuckian who, sadly, has been lost to us after a long and fruitful life. The man I speak of is Dr. John M. Smith Jr. of Beattyville, KY. Born in Hazard, KY, in 1922, he passed away on June 15 of this year. He was 91 years old.

Dr. Smith was revered in his community as a man of medicine. In the 1940s, he was one of the first recipients of the Rural Kentucky Medical Scholarship Fund, and graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1949. He has worked in Morehead, Lexington, Woodford County, and most of all in Beattyville, where he served as a general practitioner for 38 years until the age of 90. Generations of Beattyville-area Kentuckians knew and loved Dr. Smith as their primary-care doctor.

Dr. Smith also proudly served his country in both World War II and the Korean War. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in both the Atlantic and Pacific campaigns of World War II. He then volunteered to serve as a medical officer at the Louisville, KY, recruiting station during the Korean War.

Dr. Smith received many accolades and recognitions from his community, and will be missed by a great many beloved family members and friends, including his wife of 54 years, Patty. Elaine and I send our thoughts and prayers to the Smith family for their loss. And I know my colleagues in this U.S. Senate join me in recognizing the long and accomplished life of service led by Dr. John M. Smith Jr.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the obituary for Dr. Smith that appeared in the Lexington Herald-Leader be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the obituary was ordered to appear as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, June 18, 2013]

JOHN SMITH: OBITUARY

BEATTYVILLE.—Dr. John M. Smith, Jr., 91, of Beattyville, KY, the son of John M. and Treva Smith, was born April 9th, 1922, in Hazard, KY, and passed away June 15th, 2013. He was a practicing physician for 61 years. He was one of the first graduates from Caney Creek College, now known as Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, KY. After graduating from the University of Kentucky, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served as a first lieutenant aboard the U.S.S. *Weeden*, serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific campaigns of World War II.

Upon his honorable discharge, he was selected as one of the first recipients of the Rural Kentucky Medical Scholarship Fund, and entered and graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1949. Following his medical internship, he extended his service to our country by volunteering for the Korean War, serving as a medical officer at the Louisville, KY, recruiting station. At the time of his discharge on July 6th, 1951, he opened his first medical practice 10 days later in Beattyville, KY. In 1962, he left Beattyville temporarily to practice in the field of radiology working at Morehead Hospital, Woodford County Hospital, and the Lexington Clinic. In June 1974, he returned to Beattyville as a general practitioner—his true love and passion—faithfully serving the patients he loved for the next 38 years until the age of 90.

He was a member of the Masonic Proctor Lodge 213 and the Lee County Shrine Club, VFW Post 11296, and the Kentucky Medical Association. He served as the Medical Director of the Lee County Constant Care and Geri Young House and a member of the Lee County Board of Health. Dr. Smith is survived by his wife, Patty, of 54 years; sons John S. (Vivian) of Beattyville, KY, Robert of Versailles, KY, William (Kim) of Arlington, VA, Sparkman, Daniel (Jo, Martha), Giletta, and John A., all of Lexington, KY; one brother, Luther (Rosemary), Beattyville, KY; two sisters, Janet (Glenn) Moore, Scottsburg, IN, and Joan Tilford, Falls of Rough, KY; 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be Wednesday, June 19th from 6 to 8 p.m. and Thursday, June 20th from 10 to 11 a.m. at Saint Thomas Episcopal

Church in Beattyville. Funeral services will be Thursday, June 20th at 11 a.m. also at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church with The Reverend Bryant Kibler officiating. Burial will follow at the Lexington Cemetery, Lexington, KY.

SYRIA

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, as we prepare to head out for the August recess, I have returned to the floor today to speak, once again, about the horrific and worsening situation in Syria—a conflict that, we learned this week, has now claimed 100,000 lives.

I would like to take a few minutes to read from a remarkable statement that was delivered on Monday by Mr. Paulo Pinheiro, the chair of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria. The excerpts I wish to read are long, but they are shocking, and worth quoting in full.

Here is the assessment Mr. Pinheiro gave to the U.N., and I quote:

Syria is in free-fall. Relentless shelling has killed thousands of civilians and displaced the populations of entire towns. An untold number of men and women have disappeared while passing through the ubiquitous checkpoints. Those freed from detention are living with the physical and mental scars of torture. Hospitals have been bombarded, leaving the sick and wounded to languish without care. With the destruction of thousands of schools, a generation of children now struggle to obtain an education. The country has become a battlefield. Its civilians are repeatedly victims of acts of terror.

Mr. Pinheiro concludes with this powerful plea for action:

That civilians should come under such sustained unlawful attacks should shock your conscience and spur you to action. But it has not. As the conflict drags on, you—and the world—have become accustomed to levels of violence that were previously unthinkable . . .

It is time for the international community to act decisively. There are no easy choices. To evade choice, however, is to countenance the continuation of this war and its many violations . . . The world must hear the cry of the people—stop the violence, put an end to this carnage, halt the destruction of the great country of Syria!

Again, this is not my assessment; it is that of a senior United Nations leader. And I applaud Mr. Pinheiro for his moral leadership on behalf of the Syrian people. At the same time, I say with the utmost respect that I disagree with Mr. Pinheiro's counsel for what is required to achieve the goal we share, which is to create conditions that favor a negotiated end to the conflict in Syria. I continue to believe that, while there is not a purely military solution to the conflict in Syria, I find it difficult to avoid the conclusion that military intervention by the United States and our allies must be a critical part of the solution we seek. Indeed it is unrealistic to think we can arrive at a diplomatic solution otherwise.

Let's be absolutely clear about the realities in Syria today and where this conflict is headed. Assad is never going to negotiate himself out of power or

seek to end the conflict diplomatically so long as he believes he is winning on the battlefield, and right now, he clearly has the advantage on the ground. This is thanks, in critical part, to his air power, which not only allows Assad to pound opposition military positions and civilian populations—including with chemical weapons, which nearly everyone believes he has used and will use again—but also to move his troops and supplies around the battlefield in ways that he cannot do on the ground.

Assad's growing military advantage is also thanks to the influx of thousands of Hezbollah fighters who are leading offensives in key parts of the country, Iranian special forces who are training and advising Assad's troops and private militias, Shia militants from Iraq and Lebanon, as well as a steady and decisive flow of weapons and other assistance from Iran and Russia, which is being brought into Syria with impunity, including through overflights of Iraq.

The consequences of this onslaught for Syria are bad enough. The strategically vital city of Homs is expected to fall imminently, which would be a major victory for Assad that would strengthen his position immeasurably. The consequences for the region, however, are arguably worse. Syria's main export today is its civilian population, which is flooding into Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, by the hundreds of thousands. Indeed, 15 percent of Jordan's population is now Syrian refugees, and the fourth largest city in the country is now a Syria refugee camp.

At the same time, Syria's primary import today seems to be foreign extremists from all across the region and indeed the world. It is well known from estimates in published reports that as many as several thousand people from all across the Middle East have moved into Syria to fight with Al Qaeda and other extremist groups. But, in addition, the New York Times reported this week that Western counterterrorism and intelligence officials now believe that hundreds of Muslims from Western countries have joined the fight in Syria, including 140 French, 75 Spaniards, 60 Germans, a few dozen Canadians and Australians, as well as fighters from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands. As many as a dozen Americans are believed to be among them. It is difficult to conclude that Al Qaeda does not enjoy safe haven in Syria today, and no one should believe that it won't be used eventually to launch attacks against us.

Make no mistake, this is where we are headed. Syria is becoming a failed state in the heart of the Middle East and a safe haven for Al Qaeda and its allies. It is becoming a regional and sectarian conflict that threatens the national security interests of the United States. And it is becoming the decisive battleground on which Iran and its allies are defying the United