

These stories are incredibly common, and I am grateful to all of our colleagues for their assistance in reauthorizing this program, not just through the NDAA bill that is before us but the short-term extension we were able to get during the government shutdown by unanimous consent in both the Senate and the House. It shows just how much we appreciate, in America, the service these men and women from Iraq and Afghanistan have given to us.

The bill before us also includes provisions from the Next Generation Cooperative Threat Reduction Act, which I introduced earlier this year. The Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Act is the most successful non-proliferation program in our country's history. The language in the underlying bill would expand the scope of Nunn-Lugar to reflect the current security environment.

Specifically, the bill requires the President to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the rapidly growing threat of proliferation across the Middle East and North Africa. The spread of nuclear weapons is one of the gravest threats we face, both in the United States and across our international community. We need to make sure our efforts to combat those challenges are coordinated and reflect where the current security challenges exist.

I am also pleased we were able to increase funding in this bill for the Department of Defense inspectors general by \$35 million. This is important because investment in our Nation's inspectors general continues to be one of the most cost-effective ways the government can work, particularly when it concerns the Department of Defense. In 2012, DOD inspectors general saved taxpayers more than \$3.6 billion, and IG efforts have been credited with a nearly \$11 return on investment for every \$1 spent. As the Presiding Officer knows, given our ongoing fiscal challenges, it is now more important than ever before we ensure every dollar is spent effectively.

Finally, I want to address the issue of military sexual assault that is tackled in this National Defense Authorization Act. It makes significant progress toward addressing the crisis of sexual assault in our Nation's military.

I commend all of the members of the Armed Services Committee who worked to tirelessly address this issue, but I want to particularly call out Senators MCCASKILL and GILLIBRAND, who have led the charge and worked to help ensure we include provisions in this act that can address this scourge on our military. Because of their leadership, we are going to pass a bill that will take historic steps toward addressing this problem.

As the Presiding Officer knows, we may have had different ideas about the best way to address the problem, but we are united in our commitment to victims of sexual assault and we will keep fighting for them.

I certainly look forward to supporting the Gillibrand amendment, the Military Justice Improvement Act, along with the Presiding Officer, because it addresses chain-of-command issues that I believe can cause victims of sexual assault in the military to refrain from reporting an incident because they fear either that nothing will be done or that there will be retaliation from their commanders. Regardless of the outcome of that legislation, it is important to reflect on the provisions that are already included in this bill because the bill before us today includes nearly 30 provisions that address sexual assault, prevention, investigation, and prosecution procedures at the Department of Defense. Almost all of these provisions were agreed to unanimously in the Armed Services Committee. Strong bipartisan support for commonsense sexual assault prevention reforms such as those included in this bill sends a powerful message to all of the members of our military, including tens of thousands of victims, many of whom have been suffering quietly for decades, that what happened to them is unacceptable and it will no longer be tolerated.

One of the critical challenges we face in the military is changing the culture surrounding sexual assault. I was pleased to work with our colleagues to include provisions in the bill to help create an environment where victims can feel safe to come forward and report these crimes.

In any organization, the best way to attract the most qualified personnel is to tie an issue to career advancement. Sexual assault prevention and response is no different. That is why Senator FISCHER and I included language that elevates the role of sexual assault prevention response officers to ensure we have the highest caliber candidates assigned to those positions.

Also, in recent months I have held roundtable discussions with New Hampshire law enforcement and with members of our University of New Hampshire community who have worked on sexual assault prevention and with members of the New Hampshire National Guard to discuss their best practices, the way in which they are working together in New Hampshire to address domestic violence and sexual assault. As a result of some of those discussions, we have included in the bill a reform that would require the Defense Department to incorporate civilian sexual assault investigation and prosecution best practices into their military procedures.

I wish to close this afternoon by thanking Chairman LEVIN and Ranking Member INHOFE for their leadership on this bipartisan bill. We still have a lot of work to do here in the Senate, but obviously the foundation has been laid by the work of the committee and by their leadership.

I also thank my staff for their incredibly hard work and dedication, as well as the staff of all of the Armed Services

Committee, because without their contributions we would not have made as much progress as we have. From the readiness subcommittee, I thank Jay Maroney, John Quirk, and Mike Noblet on the majority side; Lucian Niemeyer, Bill Castle, and Bruce Hock from the minority; and from my personal staff Chad Kreikemeier, Josh Lucas, Joel Colony, and Patrick Day.

Finally, I want to say a special thank-you to CDR Tasya Lacey. Tasya is a graduate of the Naval Academy, and she served in my office over the past year as a fellow on loan from the Department of the Navy. Her thoughtfulness and insight have been invaluable on a wide range of issues, especially during our efforts to address sexual assault. She is headed back to the Navy soon, but I wanted her to know that it truly has been a pleasure having her on my staff, and I wish her good luck in her next assignment.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I hope we can come together in the next couple of days and get this bill done.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

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

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

MS. COLLINS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS and Ms. KLOBUCHAR pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 303 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MS. KLOBUCHAR. I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

NATIONAL PLAN TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER'S

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleagues Senator COLLINS from Maine and Senator KLOBUCHAR from Minnesota for bringing the issue of Alzheimer's before the Senate for consideration with this resolution.

I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 303.

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

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, I might also add yesterday I submitted a resolution on the same subject and was happy to have Senator COLLINS as a cosponsor, along with several other colleagues who have joined us. They include Senators MIKULSKI, TIM JOHNSON, MENENDEZ, WICKER, MORAN, and MARKEY.

The goal—I will not go through all of the important statistics that have been related during this floor presentation by my colleagues—but our goal is to make sure the national plan which is

being developed to address Alzheimer's is carried out. We want to reinforce the initial steps to a greater investment in finding answers, and I think everyone is on that same track.

We believe that supporting the goals and implementation of the National Alzheimer's Project Act and the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease is the right course to follow.

Achieving these goals means Federal funding must be there to implement it. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution and reinforce our national commitment to turning around the seeming inevitability of this terrible disease.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure investments are made in Alzheimer's research.

Let me just say parenthetically, if you think we can sequester funds for the National Institutes of Health and honestly deal with the challenge of Alzheimer's, you are wrong. You cannot cut funding at the National Institutes of Health in the name of sequestration, cutting grants that could find breakthrough cures for many diseases. You cannot cut those funds and discourage researchers from even participating in future research and expect to solve the medical challenges that face us, including Alzheimer's.

I am urging my colleagues to look at this not as just a matter of resolutions, which are important, but also funding which is critical so we can find the solutions to these problems in a manner that is reasonable and quickly done.

ILLINOIS STORMS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, before I give a statement on another topic, I would like to note that we continue to focus on the damage that was caused last Sunday by deadly tornadoes and storms in Illinois, estimated to have exceeded \$1 billion in cost.

We have seen some scenes from that wreckage in places such as Washington, IL—the hardest hit in our State. They experienced an EF4 tornado, with wind speeds close to 200 miles an hour.

I can recall one news report where a man went home and could not find his SUV—an indication of the ferocity and the intensity of the winds that wiped a swath of devastation through this great town in central Illinois.

Power lines are still down, and there are gas leaks. There is still danger there. But the first responders were there. The obvious helpers, the Red Cross and Salvation Army, are on the scene. Federal, State, and local agencies are pitching in.

Equally important—I spoke to the mayor—the people are pitching in. Those who survived are helping those who have had the most damage: finding them a place to sleep, making sure they have enough to eat, trying to put their lives back together and go through the salvage and recover the important items to their families.

The EF4 that tore through Washington was one of two that touched down in my State that day. The other one struck New Minden, which is down near the metro East St. Louis area, and caused unbelievable damage.

All told, 84 tornadoes were reported throughout the Midwest on Sunday.

We know more about the people whose lives were lost in this terrible event. Three died in Massac County, in deep southern Illinois: Kathy George, who was 58 years old, a devoted wife and mother; Robert Harmon, an avid motorcyclist; Scholitta Burrus, who was excited to visit her son for Thanksgiving. In Washington County, a brother and sister—Joseph and Frances Hoy—died in a tornado. They lived together on a farm near New Minden.

Joseph Hoy was president of the Midwest Bird and Animal Breeders Association. In Tazewell County, Steve Neubauer, of Washington—he was a mechanic and often helped his neighbors repair their tractors and lawnmowers.

My thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends. It is bad enough to lose your home, but someone you love is irreplaceable. I want them to know we are thinking of them at this moment.

There is a lot to do. We have to pitch in and help the communities that have been so heavily hit. I said before and I will say again that there are certain occurrences that come through these disasters that are inspiring. I know a year from now we will go back to these neighborhoods and marvel at the progress that has been made as people rebuild their homes and their lives and their playgrounds and their churches and their schools. They do not quit; they do not give up.

Secondly, we will have a litany of examples of people who reached out and helped others in a selfless, caring, compassionate way. As I said, it is not unique to Illinois; it is not unique to the Midwest; it may not even be unique to America. But each time we go through one of those tests, it warms our hearts to know that people do respond so well to help one another.

We are going to continue to keep in touch with the Governor and local officials and provide the Federal assistance on a bipartisan basis that will help these communities and families get their lives back together.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. DURBIN. The Presiding Officer knows better than most what it means for someone to enter our military, to raise their hand and take an oath in service to the United States. It is the giving of their time and their lives. Equally important, they are risking their lives. They know they can be called upon in that capacity to defend this country. They can be injured. They can lose their lives in the defense of this Nation, and many have. But

they still do it on a voluntary and selfless basis. We realize that for most of them they have viewed their threats as the enemies who are going to attack the United States or their units. But we have come to learn that there are other enemies within the military who are equally troublesome and worrisome.

It is one thing to have a son or a daughter—someone you love very much—take an oath to serve in the military and run the risk of a dangerous encounter with an enemy. But it is absolutely unacceptable to think that these men and women in the military would run the risk of a dangerous attack by someone else in the military.

Speaking to the issue of sexual assault, it is one which is topical because we have finally, finally started to come to grips with the reality of what it means. Our responsibility is to ensure that the men and women of the military have everything they need. Sexual assault threatens it. It erodes the basic trust, respect, and professionalism that our troops uphold and rely on to perform their duties. In a more fundamental sense, it also cuts to the heart of the basic questions of safety, dignity, and justice as Americans.

However we measure it, the current system has failed our servicemembers. The evidence is overwhelming. It has been estimated that 26,000 incidents of sexual assault occurred in the military in a recent year. Only 3,400 reports were made from victims. The Institute of Medicine estimates that 21.5 percent of Active-Duty women and literally thousands of Active-Duty men have been sexually assaulted. We also know that 60 percent of the victims who do report these sexual assaults say they are retaliated against for doing so—60 percent. Overwhelming majorities of victims say they often do not report an incident because they do not think it will make any difference. It is a sweeping and comprehensive indictment of the current system.

I have a responsibility as chairman of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee to work more closely with members of the military and their leaders than ever before. I have come to know them, to like them, to respect them. When they tell me, as they all have to a person, that they are doing everything conceivable to deal with this problem, I believe them, but I also believe there are elements within the culture of some parts of our military which are almost intractable and which have to be dealt with in a new and more definitive way.

Let me share one example. It came to light recently. I attended a Freedom Salute Ceremony for an Illinois National Guard unit that recently returned from Theater Gateway operations in Kuwait. They had been gone a year. It was a small unit, fewer than 20. They came home, and their families were with him. They were out at Camp Lincoln in Springfield, IL. This unit was in charge of transportation, making sure that 100,000 servicemembers