

were out of Burma for years—not by choice, I would add—and during this time many became naturalized citizens in another country out of necessity. These men and women are also ineligible to be President.

Deciding who will be the next Burmese President is obviously up to the people of Burma through their elected representatives and not up to the international community. But, at a minimum, I believe that otherwise qualified candidates should be permitted to stand for office.

More important than the provision's unfairness for certain Presidential candidates is that this provision restricts the ability of the people of Burma, through their representatives, to have a choice in who can hold their highest office. This is profoundly undemocratic, and it is profoundly undemocratic at a time when Burma's commitment to democracy is actually open to question.

It is notable that one apparent roadblock to amending the Presidential eligibility requirement is the fact that the military holds *de facto* veto power over constitutional amendments. Under the constitution, the military controls a block of 25 percent of the parliamentary seats and in excess of a 75-percent vote is required for a constitutional amendment to go forward. The military controls 25 percent of the Parliament; they need over 75 percent of the Parliament to change the constitution. It becomes clear what this is about.

I understand the Burmese parliamentary committee is in the process of finalizing plans for the implementation of constitutional reform, but I am concerned that eligibility changes will apparently not—not—include amending the narrow restrictions of the constitution that limit who can run for President. To me, it will be a missed opportunity if this provision is not revisited before the 2015 parliamentary elections.

Modifying this provision is one way the Burmese Government can display to the world, in an immediate and clearly recognizable way, that it remains fully committed to reform. Permitting a broad array of candidates to run for President is an unmistakable symbol to the world—even to those who do not follow Burma closely—that Burmese reformers actually mean business; otherwise, such a restriction will quite simply cast a pall over the legitimacy of the election in the eyes of the international community and certainly to Members of the U.S. Senate.

While Congress did not renew the BFDA's import ban last year and there is little appetite to renew the measure this year, several U.S. sanctions toward Burma remain on the books. They include restrictions on the importation of jade and rubies into the United States and sanctions on individuals who continue to hinder reform efforts. It is hard to see how those provisions get lifted without there being progress

on the constitutional eligibility issue and the closely related issue of the legitimacy of the 2015 elections.

As the 2015 elections approach, I urge the country's leadership—its President, Parliament and military—to remain resolute in confronting the considerable obstacles to a more representative government that Burma faces. That is the only way the existing sanctions are going to get removed—the only way.

I wanted to highlight the eligibility issue as an example of an important step Burma could take to continue its reformist momentum. Such a step is of course necessary but not sufficient. As I noted, undergirding many of Burma's problems is the need to enhance civilian control over the military. This concern manifests itself in many ways, including the need to clarify that the commander in chief serves under the President and the importance of removing the military's *de facto* veto authority over constitutional amendments.

One tool the United States could use to help reform Burma's armed forces is through military-to-military contacts. I believe that exposure to the most professional military in the world—our own—will help Burma develop a force that is responsive to civilian control and to professional standards. Security assistance and professional military education are not simply rewards to partnering countries, as some view such programs. They are tools with which we advance our foreign policy objectives. Helping the Burmese military to reform is in our interest but it cannot be done through mere exhortation; it needs to be done through training and regular contact with the highest professional military standards. Only then, I believe, will the Burmese military see that being under civilian control is not—not—inimical to its interests.

This realization by the Burmese military, coupled with a successful 2015 election that is open to all otherwise qualified Presidential aspirants, will greatly enhance the cause for reform and peaceful reconciliation in Burma.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam 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.

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY HOLBROOK

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jeremy Holbrook a Marine from my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Jeremy hails from Magoffin County, and graduated from Magoffin County High School in 2004. The attacks of September 11, 2001, had a profound impact on Jeremy, and inspired him to enlist in the Marine Corps after graduating at the age of 18.

After completing basic training, combat training, and tank school, Jeremy was deployed to Ramadi as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Despite being wounded on this first tour, for which he received the Purple Heart, he remained determined to serve his country. Jeremy returned to Iraq for a second tour, this time in Fallujah and, as in his previous tour, participated in counter-insurgency missions.

Both Jeremy's uncle and grandfather served in the U.S. Army, and for Jeremy it just made sense to continue that legacy of service. As he puts it—“pretty much whenever I saw our Nation needed people to defend our Nation, I felt I needed to take the call, and that's what I did.”

Jeremy's honorable service to this country is deserving of the praise of this body. Therefore, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring Jeremy Holbrook.

The Salyersville Independent recently published an article detailing Holbrook's two tours in Iraq. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Salyersville Independent, July 3, 2014]

HOLBROOK INSPIRED BY 9/11 TO JOIN MARINES
(By Heather Oney)

The attacks of 9/11 inspired Jeremy Holbrook to join the Marines, which took him on two tours of Iraq.

At 18 years old in 2004, Holbrook enlisted with the Marines, making his family sad, but proud, he said. Since his grandfather and uncle had both been in the Army, he said it just seemed like the right thing to do.

“Pretty much, whenever I saw our nation needed people to defend our nation, I felt I needed to take the call and that's what I did,” Holbrook said.

The Magoffin County High School grad went to boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in South Carolina in July 2004, graduating from there in October 2004. He had his combat training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, then tank school in Fort Knox, Kentucky, assigned to the M1A1 Abrams Tank Crew. He trained for Operation Iraqi Freedom at Twentynine Palms, California.

Holbrook did two combat tours in Iraq, the first time in Ramadi, Iraq, running counter-insurgency missions, and the second time to Fallujah, Iraq, where he continued counter-insurgency missions and route clearing.

Based in an old Iraqi Army barracks, Holbrook said the living conditions were dingy and rundown, with no running water or toilets. With temperatures climbing upward of 150 degrees during the day and 110 degrees at

night, he said they would actually get cold at night.

In a normal day he said they would go into a city and look for insurgents. If found, they would try to eliminate them, all while trying to protect and liberate the Iraqi people, Holbrook said.

"We slept when we could, ate when we could, and there wasn't much time for a bath," Holbrook remembers.

Even though he was wounded in his first tour, receiving the Purple Heart, he still went back for the second tour, deployed for seven months each time. In addition to the Purple Heart, he also received the National Defense Medal, Iraqi Freedom Medal, Combat Action Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Global War on Terrorism Medal.

Holbrook said the hardest thing he had to deal with when he returned to the States was coping with the loss of a friend, who was killed during their first tour together.

Holbrook is married to Britani Holbrook, and has three kids, Gavin, Austin and Bentley.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MORTIMER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Mortimer. Mortimer hails from Magoffin County, KY, and served his country honorably over the course of his career with the Kentucky National Guard.

After graduating from Castle Heights Military Academy in Tennessee, Mortimer enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves. Only 22 at the time, it would be 30 years before he retired from the military.

In 1960, 2 years after enlisting, he was transferred to the Kentucky National Guard. His experiences in the Guard ran the gamut from clearing out swamps in southern Georgia to riot control on the University of Kentucky campus during the Vietnam war to responding to natural disasters. It is this diverse range of service to our country that epitomizes the National Guard motto—"Always Ready, Always There."

Mortimer retired from the Guard in 1988 with the rank of command sergeant major. In addition to his military service, he also took the time to substitute teach in Lexington high schools and obtain his masters from Georgetown College.

His service to this country is worthy of our praise here in the Senate—so, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Jim Mortimer.

The Salyersville Independent recently published an article detailing Mortimer's military career. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Salyersville Independent, July 3, 2014]

MORTIMER RETIRES FROM THE GUARD

(By Heather Oney)

Geared up early for a career in the military, Magoffin native Jim Mortimer left Magoffin when he was 14 years old and attended Castle Heights Military Academy, in

Lebanon, Tennessee. When he was 22 years old and with the draft imminent, Mortimer joined the U.S. Army Reserves in Sistersville, West Virginia, in 1958.

In 1960 he was transferred to the Kentucky National Guard and was called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis in 1962.

Mortimer's unit replaced another unit that had been deployed to Germany, taking their place at Fort Stewart, Georgia, in charge of repairing vehicles and armament, as well as various National Guard functions, he said, such as riots and natural disasters.

While he was never sent overseas, he said the year he spent in southern Georgia preparing to be deployed was his strongest memory of his service.

For a year Mortimer said they lived in Quonset huts and were tasked with clearing out swamps with saws and rakes, cutting trees and brush along the way.

Also while he was at Fort Stewart, Mortimer said they had a tornado and all the men got in their vehicles armored much like tanks, while he and two other sergeants laid in the ditch.

"It was maybe a mile away," Mortimer laughed. "Just lots of wind."

With an extremely flat terrain, he said lightning was a problem there, with two of their soldiers hit. He remembers one was near a radio and the lightning hit the antenna, knocking him out of his boots.

During Desert Storm, Mortimer was sent to Frankfort, working as a liaison aiding the dependents of the men at war.

During his 30 years of service, he worked at Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Campbell, Kentucky-Tennessee border; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Mortimer was involved in rifle marksmanship on the Kentucky State Rifle Team, winning several awards. He had a scout troop sponsored by the National Guard, as well.

In North Little Rock, Arkansas, he attended National Guard matches, where Guards from all over sent teams to compete.

During active duty, Mortimer taught second lieutenants in Officer Candidate School (OCS), as well as many other courses, such as marksmanship and all weapons.

In 1965 he was called to deal with Vietnam War riots on the University of Kentucky's campus, where students had burned down the ROTC building.

Mortimer obtained the rank of command sergeant major in 1980, retiring from his employment with the Kentucky National Guard and as a part-time soldier in 1988.

While in the Guard, Mortimer went to school, receiving a degree in 1980. He began substitute teaching in Lexington high schools while still in the service.

In 1973 he returned to Magoffin and started substitute teaching in 1977 at the middle school and high school, where he eventually retired from in 2000. In the meantime, he received his masters from Georgetown College in 1982.

Mortimer is presently a member of the Salyersville Kiwanis and works part-time with the Magoffin County Sheriff's Office. He has a daughter and two sons, as well as six grandchildren. His wife of 53 years, June, passed away in 2011. In 2013, he married Gail King Mortimer and the two sons still live in Magoffin.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETHTOWN COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Elizabethtown Community

and Technical College, ECTC, a comprehensive community and technical college that has been serving the central Kentucky region since 1964. ECTC provides education and training to all types of Kentuckians to prepare them to succeed in a constantly changing world.

ECTC is a member of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. It provides accessible and affordable education and training through academic and technical associate degrees; diploma and certificate programs in occupational fields; pre-baccalaureate education; adult, continuing and developmental education; customized training for business and industry; and distance learning.

ECTC has its roots in the founding of the Elizabethtown Community College, which first opened its doors in 1964 to 355 students from 11 counties. Meanwhile, Elizabethtown Technical College was founded in 1965 through a bond issue by the Elizabethtown Independent School Board. ECTC was formed by the consolidation of the two schools in 2004, following historic legislation in 1997 that established the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

For five decades, ECTC has enriched the lives of citizens by providing access to quality, affordable academic, technical and community education programs, and by partnering with communities to enhance the economic vitality of the region. A comprehensive college with regional reach, ECTC now offers certificates, diplomas and associate degrees through 34 academic and technical programs on the Elizabethtown, Springfield, Leitchfield and Fort Knox campuses, and at extended campus sites throughout its 12-county service area.

Enrollment has grown steadily from 355 students in 1964 to 7,000 today, and thousands of alumni have distinguished themselves through service to their professions and communities.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the college will celebrate 50 years of educational excellence and service to Kentuckians. I want to be among the many who congratulate ECTC for 50 years of outstanding service in education to the central Kentucky region. I want to commend the school for 50 years of educating Kentuckians, and thank its president/CEO, Dr. Thelma J. White, for her extraordinary leadership of the institution.

REMEMBERING GERALDINE FERRARO

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Geraldine Ferraro's nomination as the Democratic candidate for Vice President of the United States.

On the night of July 19, 1984, Gerry gave her acceptance speech as the first woman to be nominated for U.S. Vice President by a majority party. I was there, experiencing the thrill, excitement, and turbo energy as 10,000 people