

U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to honor the U.S. Marshals Service on the occasion of the 225th anniversary of its founding. Since its establishment in 1789, the Marshals Service has distinguished itself as not only the oldest, but one of the most effective law enforcement agencies in the United States. In recent years, the Marshals Service has demonstrated its versatility through Operation FALCON, a nationwide fugitive apprehension initiative. In this program, resources of Federal, State, city, and county law enforcement agencies are combined to locate and apprehend criminals wanted for crimes of violence. Since its inception in 2005, Operation FALCON has made 91,086 arrests and cleared 117,874 warrants and is the single most successful initiative aimed at apprehending violent fugitives in U.S. law enforcement history. Congratulations to the Marshals Service on 225 years of service to our Nation.

MCDONALD NOMINATION

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, my office continues to receive an inordinate number of complaints about persistent problems with the delivery of health care services and other benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs to those who have served in our Armed Forces. This is very troubling to me.

Evidence of serious and systemic mismanagement and negligence within the Department led to the resignation of a former Secretary of the Department and a call for a thorough assessment of how to better serve our veterans. We should take very seriously our responsibility to those who have served in our military. Robert McDonald, the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs, will face many challenges to improve the VA system. He will have the support of many of us in Congress as he assumes this important position.

I have recommended on several occasions continued, vigorous oversight by the Department of Veterans Affairs during the implementation of a corrective action plan at the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, MS. Reports from VA patients, their families and VA hospital officials in Mississippi have served to guide corrections and improvements at the facility.

I support measures to correct the VA's problems and improve the quality of, and access to, care for veterans. I am hopeful that the pending VA reform legislation and the confirmation of a new Secretary of Veterans Affairs will be reassuring steps toward enhancing the delivery of health care services to our veterans.

We can and should do better for those who have devoted themselves to serving our country. •

REMEMBERING ADMIRAL CHARLES R. LARSON

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to an exceptional leader, public servant, patriot, and friend. Earlier this week, ADM Charles Larson passed away after a 2-year battle against leukemia. This morning, we said goodbye to him as he was memorialized and laid to rest at the U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis. Although it is always hard to lose a friend, and it is certainly proper to mourn, I also want to celebrate his life and his tremendous accomplishments and contributions to the Navy, Naval Academy, and Nation.

Chuck and I were good friends, flight school roommates, and both members of the Class of 1958. An Eagle Scout, brigade commander and class president, he continued his meteoric trajectory, becoming the first naval officer selected as a White House Fellow and the second youngest officer to be promoted to the flag rank. On top of his operational commands, he also served as naval aide to President Richard Nixon. Chuck was bright, extremely talented, and never shied away from a challenge. For instance, after earning his pilot wings and doing a tour aboard the USS *Shangri-la*, he decided to go to nuclear power school to become a submariner and be at the tactical tip of the Cold War. Similarly, instead of pursuing a lucrative civilian job after finishing his tour as the commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command, he took on what he considered his most challenging but rewarding job of his career, returning to his alma mater for a second tour as the superintendent.

A man of unparalleled character and vision, Admiral Larson wanted to refocus the academy to be "an ethical beacon for the nation." He established the Character Development Division and implemented innovative ethical and character-enhancing programs and initiatives to both the curriculum and student life. His devotion to the academy and midshipmen went beyond his two tenures at the helm, serving as the chairman of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation for nearly a decade after his retirement.

Chuck was more than a renowned four-star admiral; he was a friend to many, husband to Sally, father to Sigrid, Erica, and Kirsten, and grandfather to seven beautiful children. I join many past and present members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Class of 1958, the Naval Academy family, and thousands of military personnel who have served under and alongside Chuck in extending our most sincere gratitude for his legacy of excellence and ethical leadership.

Fair winds and following seas, Admiral Larson. You will be missed, but not forgotten.

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to express my appreciation that the Sen-

ate has passed H.R. 4028, a bipartisan bill Representatives GRACE MENG and DOUG COLLINS introduced that amends the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom. Last month, Senator RISCH and I introduced a Senate companion bill, S. 2466, to H.R. 4028.

In 1998, Congress passed the International Religious Freedom Act to affirm America's commitment to religious freedom, enshrined both in the U.S. Constitution and in numerous international human rights instruments. The act acknowledges the pressure and persecution that many people around the world face because of their religious beliefs and requires the Department of State to issue an annual report on international religious freedom.

Freedom of religion requires respect for those practicing their faith alone as well as in community with others. It also requires protection for those who identify as members of a religious community, for the symbols of the community, for the houses of worship, and for other institutions of the community. The defacing or destruction of a cemetery based on an affiliation with a particular religious or spiritual group should not be tolerated by governments and must factor into our international religious freedom reporting. This bill, H.R. 4028, will ensure inclusion of these acts in the annual State Department reports and will better aid those of us working to monitor and combat anti-Semitism and other religious discrimination.

There is no question that we need to report on these crimes. In recent years, we have witnessed with growing concern a number of cases involving the desecration of Jewish cemeteries in the Netherlands, Hungary, Russia, Poland, France, Germany, Georgia, Moldova, and Argentina. This legislation is even more important and timely given the rise in anti-Semitism across Europe. In just the past few weeks, large-scale anti-Semitic protests have taken place in major cities across Europe. In this year's European Union elections, extremist parties espousing anti-Semitic platforms have made alarming progress. And in Hungary and Greece, extremist parliamentary parties associated with street militias have been successful in elections.

I have served on the Helsinki Commission for nearly 20 years. During my tenure, I have worked tirelessly to combat anti-Semitism and religious discrimination. Ensuring that religiously motivated cemetery desecration is reported is the first important step to combating this serious crime.

I thank Senator RISCH for his leadership on this issue. I also thank Senators MENENDEZ and CORKER for taking up H.R. 4028 and moving it quickly through the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee. Finally, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle supporting this bill and for helping to recognize the desecration of cemeteries as a violation of the right to religious freedom.

REMEMBERING JEFFREY B. WESTERFIELD

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Gary, IN police department officer Jeffrey B. Westerfield. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Officer Westerfield served with the Gary Police Department, GPD, for 19 years.

On Sunday, July 6, 2014, Officer Westerfield was found shot and unresponsive in his patrol car. Sadly, despite the best efforts of his fellow officers, EMTs, and medical personnel, Officer Westerfield, 47, succumbed to his wounds.

A native of Owensboro, KY, Officer Westerfield joined the U.S. Army at the age of 18. Jeffrey was stationed in Georgia for basic training, where he earned the nickname "Rambo" after sustaining a leg injury and surviving alone in the wilderness for 2 days during a training maneuver.

After being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, Jeffrey began his career in law enforcement. In August 1995, Jeffrey fulfilled his dream when he was sworn in as an officer with the Gary Police Department. Officer Westerfield served in various capacities during his career with the GPD, including with the patrol division, traffic division, K-9 handler, and as a field training officer.

Known for his quiet demeanor, Officer Westerfield was a man of few words and genuine in his actions. "He was very soft-spoken. He was like a huge teddy bear. [H]e was able to actually go to any situation, and calm the situation down immediately, just by his presence and his voice," said Gary deputy police chief Gary McKinley.

Officer Westerfield is survived and deeply missed by his fiancée Denise Cather, and his five children: Allie, Katie, Cheyenne, Rachel and Brady.

Officer Westerfield loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the citizens of Gary. He was a quintessential Hoosier and a true American hero. Let us always remember and treasure the memory of this stalwart, brave man and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of fellow Hoosiers, are with Jeff's family and friends.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT BENJAMIN PRANGE

Ms. FISCHER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and sacrifice of U.S. Army SSG Benjamin G. Prange,

who was killed in action on July 24 while serving in Kandahar Province in Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Prange "Ben" to his friends and family—was a soldier in the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO. He repeatedly answered the call to deploy, serving three tours in Afghanistan in 6 years.

Ben was born and raised in rural Nebraska south of Lincoln, near Hickman and Roca. He was no stranger to adversity early in life, overcoming the deaths of both of his parents before he turned 16. He was raised by his grandparents, Kent and Carolyn Prange, who live just west of Roca, NE.

Ben attended Norris High School, where he met his future wife Elizabeth. Ben is remembered as a "good, solid kid" by his high school superintendent Roy Baker. Liz and Ben married a year after his graduation. They would have celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary on July 26. He enlisted in the Army in January 2007 to fulfill a dream of becoming an infantryman. Liz is left to care for their two sons, Corbin and Dillon, who I hope will understand in time the tremendous debt of gratitude this Nation owes to their father for selfless sacrifice to protect all that we hold dear.

Ben served our country with distinction. He was a four time recipient of the Army Commendation Medal and a recipient of the Combat Infantryman Badge for service under direct enemy fire. He was also awarded an Army Achievement Medal, two Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, an Overseas Service Ribbon, and two NATO Medals, in addition to his Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three campaign stars for his tours of duty.

My thoughts and prayers remain with his family, friends, and his fellow soldiers who have lost a great father, soldier, and friend. His sacrifice will never be forgotten.

VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I wish to speak on S. 1799, the Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2013, which recently passed the House of Representatives and is awaiting the President's signature. In addition to the bill's support for Child Advocacy Centers, it contains an important provision that bears mentioning. S. 1799 makes Congress' intent clear that money from the Crime Victims Fund should only be used to assist victims of crime. Since the funds for the Crime Victims Fund are derived from fines collected from those convicted of Federal crimes rather than tax revenue, Congress directed the funds to only be used for crime victims. I offered the provision clarifying this intent as an amendment to the Justice For All Act, and it was accepted unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am pleased the sponsors of S. 1799 agreed to include it at my request.

Crime victims can face a confusing and sometimes overwhelming system, and so it is important for someone to explain their rights and address other victim-centered issues. Encumbering victim advocates with other non-victim-related tasks could delay or prevent the resources needed to meet victims' needs such as assisting victims with impact statements and collecting restitution information and associated receipts. It could also delay or prevent ongoing safety assessments for the victim. Victim specialists, also referred to as victim advocates, along with their supervisors, victim witness coordinators, should be improving services for the benefit of crime victims and not tasked with other duties, such as arranging travel for witnesses.

My amendment makes clear it is Congress' intent that the funds authorized for victims services are limited to those dedicated to victims services and their direct support staff. This will ensure that that none of the funds available is used for purposes that do not benefit crime victims.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING PATRICIA ZULKOSKY

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Patricia Zulkosky for her outstanding years of service to the State of Alaska and congratulate her on the occasion of her retirement from the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Born into and raised by a large Polish family in northern Minnesota, Patricia moved to Alaska in 1978, making her home in the western tundra community of Bethel. After quickly falling in love with the Yup'ik Eskimo and rural Alaska lifestyle, she took to subsistence fishing and gathering. Patricia built lifelong friendships in Alaska. After 6 years, she began her family by welcoming the arrival of her first and only daughter, Tiffany.

Patricia started working for the State of Alaska in 1985 as a clerk typist for Alaska Public Health Nursing, but it wasn't until Patricia was hired by the Department of Juvenile Justice in December 1988 that she would come to know her passion for working with troubled youth and the families of rural Alaska. Hired as a youth counselor, Patricia's work ethic, commitment, and enthusiasm would quickly help her move up in the ranks. Not letting life get in the way, Patricia pursued her bachelor's degree in social work while being a single mom of a young daughter and working several other jobs to make ends meet.

After graduating in 1996, she returned to Alaska fulltime where she would hold supervisory positions before becoming the Bethel Youth Facility superintendent. Under her leadership as superintendent, the Bethel Youth Facility has become an exemplary facility in Alaska for utilizing subsistence