

sometimes it's just not that simple as seeking out resources."

#### CRISIS IN GAZA

MR. LEAHY. Madam President, the crisis in Gaza is extremely distressing, particularly to those who had hope for Secretary of State Kerry's years of shuttle diplomacy between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

After seeing several similar attempts fail in the past, we know that for such diplomacy to succeed over the long term it will require the participation not only of representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian parties to the conflict but also the active support of Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, and the other Arab states.

Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas are not able to reach an agreement to end the conflict themselves. Also, any agreement that lacks the support of Hamas or that cannot withstand the active opposition of Hamas will almost certainly fail.

According to the Government of Israel, at least 2,600 Hamas rockets and mortars have been fired indiscriminately toward Israel, forcing thousands of Israelis into basements and bomb shelters. Fortunately, most have landed harmlessly, and the U.S.-supplied Iron Dome missile defense system has intercepted many others.

The latest report of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs paints a chilling picture of death and destruction in Gaza.

Hamas has placed rocket launchers, ammunition, and tunnels in the midst of densely populated residential areas, even in mosques and U.N. facilities, and they are being targeted by Israeli bombs, missiles, and tank shells. Of course, civilians are literally trapped in the crossfire. As of today, at least 1,118 Palestinians have been killed, 6,233 injured, and 240,000 displaced from their homes, many of which have been damaged or destroyed. The overwhelming majority of the victims have been civilians.

It is clear that Hamas's leaders, who specialize in terrorist tactics, care far more about their fighters than the safety of Gaza's civilian population. Yet even safe havens, such as clearly marked United Nations schools and hospitals, have been hit by Israeli bombs or missiles, and at least one may have been hit by a Hamas rocket. Many people, including children, seeking shelter have been killed and injured as a result.

During this same period, 56 Israeli soldiers have been killed, 400 have been wounded, and 3 Israeli civilians have died.

I sympathize with the argument that Israel had little choice but to respond forcefully to Hamas's rocket attacks. It is hard to imagine any government faced with a similar threat to its citizens not responding.

I also support, as we all do, the Israeli Government's goal of eliminating Hamas's heavy weapons and destroying the dozens of tunnels that are used to smuggle them into Gaza and to enable Hamas fighters to sneak into Israel to kill Israelis.

But this is not the first time Israel has sought to achieve these goals only to fall short, at great human cost. Operation Cast Lead in 2008 resulted in 1,400 Palestinian deaths and the deaths of 3 Israeli civilians and 6 Israeli soldiers. Then in 2012 there was Operation Pillar of Defense. Each time, despite the destruction of Hamas's weapons, launchers, and command posts, Hamas remained in control of Gaza.

After each of these operations, Hamas rearmed and is as determined today as it was 2 years ago. It does not appear that either goal, even if justified and laudable, can be achieved for the long term—if at all—without inflicting unacceptable civilian casualties.

Israeli authorities stress that its army tries its best to avoid civilian casualties. They know the impact each innocent death has on world opinion and on the Palestinian people. Thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank, many of whom despise Hamas, have joined in demonstrations against Israel because of the loss of civilian lives in Gaza.

But what is often ignored in the impassioned debate over this issue, including by those who rightly point out that the Israeli military at times provides prior warning to civilians of an imminent attack, is that Gaza is not like anywhere else. Its residents cannot flee to safety in a neighboring country, as millions of Syrians have done. They cannot even escape by boat. Shelters in Gaza that should be safe are not safe. The people of Gaza are, for all practical purposes, defenseless, trapped, and unable to avoid the violence.

Hamas has insisted that it will not cease its attacks until Israel ends its export, import, and border restrictions on Gaza, which the people of Gaza, who lack safe water, sanitation, reliable electricity, and other basic necessities, say have made their daily lives nearly impossible. With each passing day, condemnation of the violence has intensified. Yet the death toll has continued to rise.

I commend Secretary Kerry for his efforts to broker a humanitarian ceasefire. There never has been a military solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and there is not one today. He deserves our strong support.

If the ceasefire announced today holds and if the United States continues to serve as the principle diplomatic intermediary, there needs to be some new thinking regarding our negotiating strategy. We cannot afford another dozen years with nothing to show for it, with the chasm between Israelis and Palestinians even deeper, with radical extremists further emboldened,

and yet another calamity like the one we are witnessing today.

It is difficult to see how that will be prevented if Hamas continues to reject Israel's right to exist and refuses to renounce terrorism, which is fundamental to any solution that brings lasting peace and security to both Israelis and Palestinians, nor is it likely to be prevented absent a decision by Israel to substantially ease its economic restrictions on Gaza. That may be the only way to eliminate Hamas's excuse for its rocket attacks, to bring desperately needed economic development to Gaza, and to create the necessary conditions for the disarming of Hamas.

With each passing day, the grave consequences for the people of Gaza and Israel, for stability in the region, and for the security of the United States have become more apparent. The White House should use every ounce of its influence to help bring this tragic chapter of history finally to an end.

#### CYPRUS

MR. REID. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of the 40th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in July 1974, which resulted in the division of Cyprus.

In 1974, a Turkish military invasion divided Cyprus into two de facto regions, forcing tens of thousands of Cypriots to flee their homes. Today, Turkish troops continue to occupy northern Cyprus and, after four decades, the country remains divided.

This month, the United States remembers those who were forced to flee their homes and lost their property, and we acknowledge the economic, political, and humanitarian impacts of this division. I stand to reaffirm our commitment and support for a comprehensive agreement to achieve reunification.

I am proud of the strong relationship between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus, and of our mutual commitment to democracy, counterterrorism, and economic development. I look forward to the day when this important partnership is made even stronger by a unified Cyprus.

I am encouraged by the February 2014 announcement that Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu would resume long-stalled reunification talks. I am hopeful that these meetings will lay the groundwork for peaceful negotiations that will result in a fair and lasting solution.

#### RECOGNIZING GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

MR. REID. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of the George Washington University Native American Political Leadership Program and the INSPIRE Pre-College Program.

The Native American Political Leadership Program, NAPLP, provides Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian college students the opportunity to spend a semester living, working, and studying in Washington, DC. The promising young leaders who participate in this invaluable program gain rich academic, professional, and life experiences in part through congressional internships on Capitol Hill, including the Senate. Through one-of-a-kind programs, such as NAPLP, Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students learn about American Government and the public policy process with an emphasis on Federal Indian policy, which is important to protecting tribal sovereignty.

This year, the George Washington University NAPLP hosted their first INSPIRE Pre-College summer session, which offered a similar educational opportunity to Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian junior and senior high school students. Exemplary high school students traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in the program's intensive 3-week curriculum that motivates Native teens to become more active in the political process and teaches Native youth about the Federal trust relationship between Indian tribes and the Federal Government. I am pleased that NAPLP organizers were able to offer the first-ever INSPIRE Pre-College program for Native high school students this summer.

Hailee Brown of the Navajo Nation; Robert Charles of the Native Village of Koyuk; Lisa Chavez of the Ak-Chin Indian Community; Delilah Coleman of the Navajo Nation; Lacayah Engebretson, Tlingit and Athabaskan; Ethan Dan, Yupik; Jessica Petty of the Smith River Rancheria of the Tolowa Indian Tribe; Devin Jensen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; Warren Mountain of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians; Kara Roanhorse of the Navajo Nation; Christie Wildcat of the Northern Arapaho Tribe were among the first high school students to participate in the INSPIRE Pre-College Summer Program.

During my time in Congress, I have worked hard to ensure that the Senate staff and workforce better reflect the diversity of our great Nation. I am proud that the Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative maintains a strong partnership with the NAPLP, and I hope that the experiences gained while participating in these important programs will continue to provide these outstanding students with profound knowledge, academic success, and a pathway to careers in government both on and off of Capitol Hill. I commend the hard work and dedication of the NAPLP and the INSPIRE Program organizers as well as the many young scholars. I look forward to welcoming more Native leaders to the INSPIRE Pre-College program and the NAPLP program in the future.

#### REMEMBERING DAVID GORDON HARMON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today I rise to report some sad news to my Senate colleagues. David Gordon Harmon—a Kentuckian and U.S. Air Force veteran—passed away last week at the age of 78.

David was born on April 28, 1936, to William Thomas and Sarah Boyd Harmon in Dunbar, KY. When he was only 17, he left school to serve his country in the Air Force. After completing basic training, David served on Active Duty for 4 years, which included 18 months in the Philippine Islands and service in the Korean war.

Following his service in the Air Force, David returned home to take over the family business, Harmon Construction, from his father, which he ran until he passed down the responsibility to his three sons in 1989.

Outside of his business, David was an active member of the Manchester Christian Church, served as commander of the DAV Chapter 137 in Manchester, and played a leading role in the construction of the Clay County Veterans Memorial. He is a Kentucky Colonel, and was named Clay County's Man of the Year in 2013.

David is survived by his three sons, as well as his daughter and his loving wife Elsie Collins Harmon whom he married in 1958.

David served his country with honor, and was a devoted member of his family, church, and community. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in paying tribute to the life of David Gordon Harmon.

Rominger Funeral Home recently published an obituary for Mr. Harmon. I ask unanimous consent that the obituary be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From romingerfuneralhome.com, July 25, 2014]

#### MR. DAVID GORDON HARMON

Mr. David Gordon Harmon, age 78, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at the Manchester Memorial Hospital. He was born on Tuesday, April 28, 1936, in Dunmor, Kentucky, to the union of William Thomas and Sarah Boyd Harmon. He was owner of Harmon Construction, a member of the Manchester Christian Church, a member of Oneida Masonic Lodge #736, a Veteran of the United States Air Force where he served in the Korean War, and was a member of the local DAV chapter for over 25 years where he served as commander for over 18 years. He was also selected as Clay County's Man of the Year in 2013.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife: Elsie Collins Harmon, whom he united with in marriage on Saturday, July 12, 1958. To this union four children were born: Alice Pearl Harmon, Tommy Lynn Harmon and his wife Lillie Mae, Michael Harmon and his wife Margie, and Lester Harmon and his wife Sandy. He is survived by his grandchildren: Joshua Lyndon Jones, Naketa Harmon, David G. Harmon II, Rachyl Lynn Harmon, and his great-grandchild Haley Alexis Jones. Also surviving are his sisters: Bessie Whitehead and Bonnie Kathryn Bowling.

He is preceded in death by his parents: William Thomas and Sarah Harmon, and these brothers and sisters: William T. Harmon II, John Green Harmon, James Harmon, Tommy Joe Harmon, Ernestine Murphy, and Cleo Howard.

Funeral Services for Mr. David Gordon Harmon will be conducted on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at 1 p.m. at the Rominger Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Brad Stevens and Judge Oscar Gayle House will be officiating. Burial will follow in the Manchester Memorial Gardens with full military honors.

Pallbearers will be: Terry Davidson, Jason Harris, Jimmy Jr. Smith, Rodney Wagers, Bill Ed White, Clayton Russell Howard, Lee Tyler Brown, and Justin Gay.

Visitation will be held on Friday evening starting at 6 p.m. at the Rominger Funeral Home Chapel. A Masonic service will begin at 8 p.m. on Friday evening.

#### TRIBUTE TO MIGUEL RIVAS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a proud member of the U.S. Marine Corps, Miguel Rivas. Rivas hails from Magoffin County, KY, and served his country with honor in two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Only 18 years old, and having just graduated from Magoffin County High School, Rivas joined the Marine Corps in 2004. He did so out of a sense of duty to the country as well as to obtain an education and employment.

In January of 2006, he was deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. During this tour he worked on administrative support duties in addition to holding long, 16-hour shifts on tower duty.

Rivas was deployed on a second tour in November of 2012, this time in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he was a part of the "drive team" that is responsible for transporting civilians, military employees and high-ranking officials between bases.

Rivas served his country honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan. For his service, he is well deserving of our praise here in the Senate.

Therefore, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring Miguel Rivas.

The Salyersville Independent recently published an article detailing Rivas' service in Iraq and Afghanistan. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Salyersville Independent, July 3, 2014]

#### RIVAS SERVES TWO TOURS TO THE MIDDLE EAST

(By Heather Oney)

Miguel A. Rivas, a graduate of Magoffin County High School, joined the United States Marine Corps in May 2004 at the age of 18, wanting to fight for America's freedom, as well as secure an education and employment. Rivas said he also joined because he wanted to travel, which the Marines have allowed him to do, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as all over the U.S.

On the same day he enlisted, Rivas left for recruit training in Parris Island, South Carolina, and in July went to a school of infantry