

nearly an hour in Dirksen 116 and patiently walked me through the science and the potential for stem cell research. Concepts that are familiar to many of us now—ideas such as pluripotency and somatic cell transfer—were entirely new. Scientists and the public would all have to learn how to engage with one another about the legal, technical, and ethical issues raised by stem cell research, and Dr. Landis was there to bridge that divide with me.

Finally, let me speak about her passion. Dr. Landis and I have worked together for many years on many topics, but none is closer to her heart than spinal muscular atrophy, or SMA. When she and I began collaborating to address SMA, there was very little to offer families who had a child afflicted by this debilitating disease. Between 2003 and 2012, the NINDS piloted the Spinal Muscular Atrophy Project to expedite therapeutics development. If you listen to Dr. Collins talk about the Advanced Medicine Partnership today, you hear echoes of Dr. Landis's work on SMA. The project was designed to accelerate the research process by creating a virtual pharmaceutical company to identify drugs that could be used as potential leads for clinical testing. This was groundbreaking work well before "translational research" was commonly discussed. And it worked not just for the compounds it discovered but also by getting companies interested in creating more and better treatments. As a consequence, today when we talk about the SMA treatments in development, we talk about treatments in the plural. This would not be happening if Story Landis had not focused her passion on SMA.

Dr. Landis's career has stimulated tremendous progress in the field of neuroscience and inspired legions of young scientists to follow in her path. She has been a true public servant. Indeed, I am always amazed at America's good fortune in attracting public servants of the world-class caliber of Dr. Landis. It has been my privilege to work with her and to learn from her over the years. Dr. Landis has many other admirers in the U.S. Senate. We honor Dr. Story Landis today for her invaluable leadership of NINDS and for her great service to the people of the United States.

TRIBUTE TO COMBINED JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE 435

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Combined Joint Interagency Task Force, CJIATF, 435. On October 1, 2014, CJIATF 435 will conclude a 5-year mission in Afghanistan to conduct U.S. law of armed conflict detainee operations while successfully training, advising, and assisting the Afghan National Army and Afghan justice sector to develop and improve the investigation, prosecution, and detention of insurgent and terror-related threats.

CJIATF 435's team included Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force servicemembers, Department of Defense civilians, contractors, and coalition members. The team developed a strong collaborative relationship with highly capable partners in the Afghan National Army Military Police Guard Command, the National Directorate of Security, the Attorney General's Office, and the Supreme Court. They also partnered with U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Justice.

On September 18, 2009, CJIATF 435 was established originally as Joint Task Force 435, JTF 435, to assume command, control, oversight and responsibility for all U.S. detainee operations in Afghanistan and coordinate with other partners to promote the rule of law and use of biometrics in Afghanistan. Through its subordinate command, the Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan, CJIATF 435 partnered with the Office of the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan for Rule of Law and Law Enforcement. With the addition of combined and interagency partners, JTF 435 officially became CJIATF 435 on September 1, 2010.

CJIATF 435 justice advisors from the Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan and the Joint Legal Center, trained, advised, and assisted Afghan prosecutors, judges, and investigators, which enabled the justice system to try over 7,000 cases with a 75 percent conviction rate, resulting in more than 3,000 insurgents held accountable for their crimes. The Joint Legal Center also responded to over 12,000 requests for information from Afghan courts. The National Directorate of Security Agents provided information for investigations to assist in convictions.

CJIATF 435 instituted the first of its kind Afghan Training Team program that provided opportunities for expert Afghan criminal investigators, forensic experts, and prosecutors to share their professional expertise with provincial investigators and prosecutors. The program trained more than 400 students in a multitude of Evidence Based Operations procedures.

The CJIATF 435 Intelligence Directorate, the Theater Intelligence Group, conducted more than 30,000 interviews and produced thousands of reports in support of Afghan investigation, prosecution, and detention operations. Outstanding intelligence collection consisting of over 30,000 interrogations generating more than 5,500 intelligence information reports, resulting in over 2,000 source directed requirements, made legal victories possible and contributed valuable information to the war fighting effort. The Theater Intelligence Group expertly partnered with Afghan law enforcement investigators to train and assist them in conducting interviews and investigations of complex terror organizations.

CJIATF 435 managed the theater biometrics database which enrolled thousands of individuals associated with the insurgency into the database and

prevented them from entering coalition bases. The biometrics enabled watchlist was critical to force protection and led to the capture, targeting, and tactical questioning of hundreds of possible threats. These biometric enrollments also linked many insurgents to a host of crimes against the coalition and the Afghan people.

During the transition of detention operations to Afghan custody and control, CJIATF 435 ensured the Afghan Military Police Guard Command provided secure and humane care, custody, and control of over 3,500 detainees. CJIATF 435 provided hands-on training, mentorship, and oversight to facilitate the complete transfer of detainee operations to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, GIRoA. Their tireless efforts set the conditions of GIRoA's largest detention facility to conduct independent operations in full compliance with international standards of humane care and detainee treatment.

As CJIATF 435 approached the end of mission, it established a rule of law development team to continue mentoring the Afghan prosecutors, judges, investigators and military police in the investigation, prosecution, and detention of national security threats. Through the tireless efforts of the men and women of CJIATF 435, the Afghans are well poised to effectively operate the National Security Justice Center at Parwan which will protect the Afghan people and coalition forces while strengthening the rule of law in Afghanistan.

Commending the combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 on a job well-done for supporting the Government of Afghanistan as it built self-sustaining detention capacity and rule of law institutions compliant with Afghan and international law, I ask that the Senate join me in acknowledging the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of CJIATF 435 for promoting the values of democracy.

INDIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, next week, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to the United States for the first time since his historic election victory. The U.S. and India are natural partners with shared values and common interests, yet we are far from realizing the full potential of our relationship to the mutual benefit of both of our countries. On behalf of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and thousands of Indian-American constituents across New Jersey, I welcome the Prime Minister to the United States and am confident that his visit will re-invigorate and refocus our partnership so that concrete progress can be made in a host of sectors.

India's new government has won a historic mandate to deliver change and reform, and we should be ready to support India's efforts to meet challenges—through concrete measures to

bolster trade and investment, strengthen defense cooperation, and deepen our security partnership.

The U.S. and India are engaged in a comprehensive set of diplomatic dialogue and working groups—currently there are dozens such groups covering a wide range of issues in the areas of economics, security, climate change, and education. This is a relationship that does not suffer from a lack of dialogue. It has, however, unfortunately suffered from a lack of results, especially since the civilian nuclear framework was agreed to in 2005. With a strong push from the Prime Minister, President Obama and the U.S. Congress, the time is right for these dialogues to translate into action.

There is broad support in the U.S. for a more robust economic and trade relationship with India. Investment should be at the top of this agenda. I welcome India's move to raise foreign investment ceilings in several sectors of the Indian economy, including defense, railways, e-commerce and insurance. These are important steps that have helped to ease some of the concerns American companies have had about barriers to entering the Indian market. However more must be done and I hope that the U.S. and India will work together to address these remaining barriers.

Vice President BIDEN laid out an ambitious trade target last summer in India, calling for a five-fold increase from \$100 billion to \$500 billion a year in annual bilateral trade. Prime Minister Modi and President Obama should reconvene the Trade Policy Forum this year, which will provide a platform to identify steps to improve our economic and trade relationship. The Prime Minister's visit will also present an opportunity to reengage on World Trade Organization negotiations, where India's concerns are the last remaining barrier to the important Trade Facilitation Agreement. I also hope we can smooth the way forward for continued discussions to complete a Bilateral Investment Treaty.

U.S. companies seek to invest in India, but need transparent governance, a fair regulatory environment, and strong legal mechanisms to protect those investments. If the Indian government can deliver on its plans for greater openness for capital flows and stronger intellectual property rights, I am confident our companies are ready to invest. We want to work together with India to help foster the best conditions for this kind of economic growth and partnership.

I welcome recent reports that India plans to develop a new comprehensive intellectual property rights, IPR, policy. We need to see real reforms on this key issue, which significantly impacts the ability of U.S. companies to do business in an important market. In particular, the life sciences industry faces continuing challenges on IPR protections. I appreciate that this is a complex issue. Policymakers in both

the United States and India want to ensure access to medications for those who need them, especially for low-income and other vulnerable populations. International life sciences companies in my State and from other nations are concerned that India's lack of protection of IPR will threaten innovation and affect access for those very people. I look forward to the renewed dialogue with the Indian government on this issue.

India has a central role in contributing to prosperity in South Asia, a central foreign policy interest of the U.S. As the U.S. seeks to bolster Afghanistan's economic links in the region, within the framework of the New Silk Road initiative, we look to India to play a critical role in promoting trade with Afghanistan and the other countries of Central Asia. Regional economic connectivity should also extend to India's trade relationship with Pakistan. I urge both India and Pakistan to continue to work toward strengthening their bilateral relationship. Improved trade relations between India and Pakistan have the potential to unlock opportunities for over 1.5 billion people. The U.S. stands ready and willing to support efforts that enhance the cross-border trade relationship.

India is a strong partner in U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the region, and we have a shared national interest to confront terrorism, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and maintain regional stability. In Afghanistan, India has been a key provider of development assistance and supporter of the Afghan National Security Forces. As the international community draws down forces in Afghanistan, the U.S. and India should be prepared to increase counterterrorism and intelligence cooperation and coordination, and both sides should commit to a robust set of military exercises. Last year India significantly increased its purchases of American arms and now conducts more exercises and personnel exchanges with the U.S. than any other country—I welcome and encourage expanding this important collaboration.

Defense cooperation remains the most promising area of U.S.-India cooperation, and I am pleased that Secretary Hagel's recent visit to India further deepened our defense ties. We should expand initiatives to strengthen our defense cooperation, including military exercises, as well as co-production and co-development of defense products. The Defense Technology and Trade Initiative should continue to advance efforts to reform India's defense procurement and management systems, and encourage both sides to explore the possibility of a revamped and expanded formal framework for a bilateral defense agreement.

I believe we should be expanding educational ties in all sectors—the best and the brightest from both sides should be exchanging ideas and building on the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit that exists in both coun-

tries. I encourage the U.S.-India Education Dialogue to continue to explore areas of collaboration, including student and faculty exchange, research cooperation, and implementation of technology-enabled education strategies, such as e-learning, and cooperation between community colleges.

Rutgers University has formed strong relationships with Indian educational and research institutions, and has increased the profile of India with businesses, communities, and nonprofit organizations in New Jersey. Rutgers was one of five recipients of the 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, which unifies many of the university's efforts with Indian institutions through faculty exchanges, and research and innovation collaboration in the priority areas of food security, climate change, sustainable health and public health. I strongly support these collaborations, and encourage the expansion of efforts to strengthen exchanges in technical and vocational education.

India has a long and rich history of religious, ethnic, and linguistic pluralism with a vibrant civil society. We should also continue to work together to ensure greater respect for human rights, and encourage a legal framework that protects the civil rights and liberties of the most vulnerable Indian populations, particularly women and children.

India is critical to international efforts to address climate change. There are huge opportunities for India to act on climate change while boosting development at the same time, and I urge the Indian government to continue to explore ways to make clean power more accessible and more affordable. We should also expand our partnership with India on energy, which would help them reduce dependence on unstable energy suppliers. Finally, we must continue to work toward cutting emissions from hydrofluorocarbons and coal—both of which contribute to climate change. I applaud Secretary Kerry and Minister Swaraj's efforts to establish a new joint working group on climate change, and am hopeful that we can continue to explore ways to expand R&D collaboration to bolster renewable energy sources, such as solar energy, to meet India's growing energy demands, while ensuring there are environmental protections.

Our agenda is extensive and the potential to accomplish our mutually beneficial goals is limitless. There is so much room for growth. With sustained attention and leadership, as well as active engagement by the Indian-American diaspora, I am confident in our ability to achieve results and work toward a more prosperous and secure future. I am proud to welcome Prime Minister Modi to the United States and I wish him a successful visit.

COMMEMORATING HANFORD B's SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator CANTWELL to commemorate the Hanford B Reactor in our home State of Washington as we approach the 70th anniversary of the world's first full-scale self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. An essential part of the Manhattan Project, on September 26, 1944, the B Reactor was successfully energized to convert uranium into plutonium, an event known as going critical. The entire facility was built in only 13 months, and only a handful of the 50,000 workers at the site knew what was being assembled. The speed and precision of the construction of the facility remain an engineering marvel today. It was not until later that the majority of these workers learned they had played a key role in the history of nuclear materials production in the United States and helped the U.S. win World War II and the Cold War.

The B Reactor went on to operate for more than 20 years until 1968, making its mark on the 20th century. After ceasing operations, the B Reactor was to be encased in concrete like all the other reactors as part of the Hanford Reservation cleanup efforts. Given the B Reactor's historic role, I worked for many years with Senator CANTWELL and the entire Washington delegation to ensure this piece of our nation's history is preserved for generations to come. After years of hard work, I was pleased when the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the B Reactor as a national historic landmark in 2008, and the B Reactor now receives more than 10,000 visitors a year from around the Nation and the world to see and experience this important part of world history. Today, the B Reactor remains a symbol for the Hanford Reservation, the entire Tri-Cities community, Washington State, and our Nation as a whole.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I join my colleague Senator MURRAY in commemorating this important day in American history. Seventy years ago, when the B Reactor went critical, it forever changed history and thrust society into the Atomic Age. On September 26, 1944 the Manhattan Project overcame a major obstacle when the B Reactor—the first full-scale nuclear reactor—proved that it was possible to develop plutonium in large quantities, and the world was forever transformed. Our constituents in Washington State are reminded of that change daily, as the workers at the Hanford Reservation continue their efforts to clean up the legacy of the B Reactor and the eight other reactors built and operated at Hanford. The history of this fateful day and the entire Manhattan Project must be remembered so that our Nation has the opportunity to reflect on and learn from the important lessons this facility has to offer.

Our collective work to designate the B Reactor as a national historic land-

mark is a great start, but the Manhattan Project story cannot be told at the B Reactor alone. This is why I am working with Senator MURRAY and our colleagues in Tennessee and New Mexico to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act would commemorate the historic achievements made by the workers at the Hanford Reservation and at other Manhattan Project sites across the country. The men and women who worked on the B Reactor played an unforgettable role in our Nation's history, and it is important that we remember their lasting impact.

Mrs. MURRAY. I commend Senator CANTWELL for her work on the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act and will continue to push this legislation forward with our colleagues in Congress. The 70th anniversary of the world's first full-scale nuclear reactor going critical is a fitting tribute and reminder that this landmark moment in history should be preserved for future generations through the creation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES MEZA, JR.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and honor Dr. James Meza, Jr., who has devoted much of his life to ensuring that all of Louisiana's students receive an excellent education. He currently serves as Superintendent of the Jefferson Parish Public School System and while he will soon retire from this role, he will be leaving behind an indelible mark of impressive leadership and results. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the State of Louisiana, I applaud Dr. Meza as a champion of high quality education and for his devotion to Louisiana's public education system.

Dr. Meza's experience in education spans more than 40 years and crosses teaching and leadership positions both at the K-12 and higher education levels. As a champion of education reform, Dr. Meza developed many of the pioneering ideas in Louisiana that led to revolutionary reform movements across the Nation. In the devastating aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav, Dr. Meza was instrumental in one of the most transformational endeavors of modern public education helping to establish the Recovery School District in New Orleans, LA, which is now 100 percent public charter schools and has experienced extraordinary progress in closing the achievement gap.

Dr. Meza served most recently as the Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Public School System, Louisiana's largest and most diverse school district, serving 46,000 students. Since becoming the head of Jefferson Parish Public School System in 2011, Dr. Meza has led a reform agenda that has transformed the school system from one in a downward spiral for achievement to

one of Louisiana's most improved school systems. In 2 years, Jefferson Parish Public School System has improved its State performance rating from a letter grade "D" to "B." In that same period, the number of "A" and "B" schools has increased dramatically, from 13 to 32. Jefferson Parish is home to 4 schools that are ranked in the top 10 in Louisiana.

Prior to becoming Superintendent of Jefferson Parish Public School System, Dr. Meza served as Professor and Dean at the University of New Orleans, UNO, for more than 21 years where he published more than 40 journal articles to study education reform, specifically focused on serving children of low-income families in Louisiana and nationwide. Dr. Meza is recognized nationally for redefining the role of colleges of education and their work with low performing schools. As Dean, he launched the UNO Charter School Network of four charter schools, as well as Louisiana's first Type 5—turnaround—charter school. His efforts were recognized by New Orleans City Business, which presented him with the "Innovator of the Year" award. He received the honor and title of Professor and Dean Emeritus from the LSU system, recognizing his years of scholarship at UNO.

Dr. Meza has served as the Executive Director of the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, BESE, and the Interim State Superintendent of Education for Louisiana. During this time, he was a pioneer in school accountability, launching Louisiana's educational quality and trust fund, 8G, and restructuring the Department of Education as Louisiana transformed the State Superintendent's position from an elected position to one appointed by BESE. Dr. Meza also has served as a faculty member at Nicholls State University, principal of Cabrini High School, and teacher at E.D. White and Isidore Newman High School.

Dr. Meza has received numerous awards and deserved recognitions for his transformational work in the education sphere. He is the recipient of The Weiss Award by the New Orleans Council for Community and Justice, which honors members of the Greater New Orleans community for civic and humanitarian contributions. He has also been recognized as a "Super Hero" by the national organization Stand for Children for his work in improving quality educational opportunities for children of poverty.

Dr. Meza currently serves on the Board of Directors of Holy Cross School and was a member of the Louisiana Serve Commission and the Southern University System Board of Supervisors. He is also a founding board member of Ben Franklin High School and Edward Hynes charter schools. Dr. Meza served 32 years in the Louisiana Army National Guard and retired at the rank of Colonel.

I am proud that Louisiana's students and teachers have had the strong leadership and guidance of Dr. Meza over