

not be rewarding Iran for its disgraceful human rights abuses and that we should not be granting Iran access to the funding it desires to further its nuclear weapons program and terrorist proxies while this exploitation continues.

So I call on every Senator to join us in standing up for human rights. Let's pass Senator RISCH's legislation later this afternoon.

I mentioned earlier that committees are beginning to get back to work in the new Senate. We have seen a lot of bipartisan committee action in recent weeks. One standout achievement was the Finance Committee's overwhelming passage of bipartisan trade legislation, 20 to 6. It is incredibly important for American workers that we pass this bill. Without it, foreign countries will continue to be able to discriminate against American products and American produce, while we have some of the lowest duties in the world.

We need strong and fair trade legislation that expands Congress's oversight over the administration and sets clear rules and standards for its trade negotiators. That is the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act in a nutshell.

Yet some talk about preventing the Senate from even debating the bill. I would tell you, I think this would be a big mistake. The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act reported by the Finance Committee is already a strong bill, and we will have an amendment process on the floor that will allow Members the opportunity to advance their priorities. Voting to proceed to a bill is a vote that says this is worthy of debate—worthy of debate. Well, certainly this bill is indeed worthy of debate, supported by the President of the United States.

So I commend Senator HATCH, Senator WYDEN, and their colleagues on the Finance Committee for getting us this far. My hope is that we can continue this debate tomorrow.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

MOVING LEGISLATION AND REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I must comment on some of the statements that my friend the Republican leader has made.

We have been able to accomplish a few things during this work period, and the reason we have been able to do so is that we, the minority, have cooperated.

For 4 years, my Republican colleagues in the minority objected to everything we tried to do—everything. I don't mean most everything; I mean everything. That was a plan they had. I have mentioned before and I will

mention again that they decided they would make sure that Obama was not reelected. That failed. And, No. 2, they were going to oppose everything he tried to do, and they have done that overwhelmingly. So it was really hard for 4 years to get things done.

Now, my friend the majority leader can talk all he wants about how much we have gotten done. Look at what we have been able to accomplish. The majority of the measures we have done could have been done before, if Republicans had not objected to them and stopped us from moving to those matters.

So we are going to continue to do everything we can to move measures, in conjunction with my Republican friends, but we shouldn't be hearing a lot of speeches here about how great things are now, because every time that happens I am going to come and tell everybody what has happened for 4 years.

Government is all about priorities. What do we, as Senators, value the most? With only a few days before the Memorial Day recess, I am disturbed and distressed by the Republicans' priorities. For example, the majority leader knows that the Federal highway program expires this month—not next month, this month. He knows that the highway trust fund runs out of money a few weeks later. Why then are Republicans making no serious effort to pass a long-term reauthorization of the Federal highway program?

I can easily answer this question. They do not know how to pay for America's next jobs bill. So with no as the answer, they again do nothing. Another short-term extension—this is one of many—one of many. I think the last I remember, the last my staff brought me up to date—I think it has been 12 or 15 times that it has been extended for short periods of time. This is not good. This is such bad news for every State—every State—because the directors of the departments of transportation can't do anything long term. The only way to have a good program for construction is to be able to look ahead.

As the Senator from Vermont said the other day, Vermont's season to be able to do construction work is very short, and they can't do long-term planning when the money is only going to be available for a few months.

So this is really unfortunate and really too bad. I say again, this could be America's next jobs bill. So it is really too bad.

We also have the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, known as FISA. It expires on June 1. It must be extended and reformed. Last week, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the bulk collection program, as currently constructed, is not authorized under current law—meaning the law is illegal. It would be irresponsible for this Congress to merely reauthorize and not reform. How can we reauthorize something that is illegal? We can't. We shouldn't. Why would anyone agree

to reauthorize a program which our circuit courts deem to be illegal?

My friend the majority leader keeps talking about extending the program for 5½ years. Extending an illegal program for 5½ years? That is not sensible. What should happen is that we should move forward and do something that is needed here; that is, do it all over again.

The House of Representatives is sending us on Wednesday a new FISA bill, one that has been vetted by those people concerned about the rights of our citizens. They have determined that what the House has done is good. They have passed it out of committee 25 to 2. Senator LEAHY has a bill over here that is almost identical to that bill. So I can't understand why we just don't wait until the House sends us that bill and we turn around immediately and give it to the President as passed by the House of Representatives. The President will sign it. He realizes the program has to be changed. We cannot reauthorize a program that is illegal.

So I hope we can move forward on what the House has done. To his credit, Senator LEAHY is not saying: We have to have my bill. He is saying: If we don't do my bill—Senator LEAHY's bill—pass the House bill. That would be good.

This is the only bipartisan, bicameral solution we have today that will end the illegal bulk collection program in its current form and reform and reauthorize key provisions of FISA. Otherwise, I am not the only one, Mr. President. I was told walking over here that the junior Senator from Kentucky is not going to let the extension of FISA take place.

So why don't we just go ahead and get it done now; that is, when the House sends us their bill, say we are going to pass that and send it to the White House for signature.

I hope the majority leader will reassess his priorities and instead choose to protect Americans' civil liberties.

What is the business of the day, Mr. President?

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS
AND NORTH DAKOTA'S SOLDIERS
WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise today to continue our efforts to honor the 198 North Dakotans who gave their lives while serving in the Vietnam war.

Together with Bismarck High School's 11th graders and their teachers, my office is reaching out to the families and friends of these fallen heroes to learn about their lives. I am humbled to learn the tidbits shared with us about each young man, and I wish I could dedicate a whole speech to each unique life.

Today, I also want to highlight the service and contributions to North Dakota and our country by my good friend Rick Maixner of Bismarck. Rick served as a Navy pilot during the Vietnam war, earning many distinguished medals for his aerial service. He then served the State of North Dakota as a State senator and member of the State house of representatives. In his forties, Rick earned his law degree. Throughout his career, he has always been a true public servant. I wish Rick a very happy 70th birthday.

Now I will share about the lives of some of the North Dakotans who did not come home from the Vietnam war.

JAMES FREIDT

James Freidt was from Grand Forks and was born May 5, 1947. He served in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. James was 20 years old when he died on October 11, 1967.

James's father served our country during World War II and received a Purple Heart for his service.

James was one of 10 children and was one of three children in his family to die tragically.

His family and friends called him Jimmy and remember him as a very protective brother who was always smiling. The siblings have fond memories of playing games like kick the can together.

Shortly before beginning his tour of duty, James was able to attend one of his sisters' weddings. The family is grateful for that good memory of James. He was killed just over 1 month after arriving in Vietnam.

ROBERT "BOBBY" SCHMITZ

Robert "Bobby" Schmitz was from Martin and was born February 25, 1944. He served in the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Bobby was 25 years old when he died on September 16, 1969.

He was the oldest of six children. His father, Eugene, and a brother, Denny, also served our country in the Army. Growing up, Bobby helped his family with farming and their dairy cows. He and his brother, Denny, were both on the wrestling team. Bobby graduated from NDSU with a degree in business administration before serving in Vietnam. He was engaged to be married and was looking forward to starting his life with his fiancee after he completed his service.

LOREN "DOUG" HAGEN

Loren "Doug" Hagen was born in Fargo on February 25, 1946. He served as a Green Beret in the Army Special Forces. On August 7, 1971, Doug died. He was 25 years old.

Doug was the eldest of three sons. He was an Eagle Scout and an honor student. After graduating from NDSU with a degree in engineering, Doug enlisted in the Army. His goal was to find his best friend from high school, who had gone missing in action 2 years prior.

Doug was killed 2 weeks into his second tour of duty, which was 1 week prior to his being promoted to captain.

Doug was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism for his actions trying to rescue his fellow soldiers on the day he died. His Medal of Honor was presented to his father by President Gerald Ford at the White House in 1974.

Last month, the American Legion Post 308 was created in West Fargo and was named the Loren "Doug" Hagen Post in his honor.

I am grateful to Jordan Haluzak, Jasmine Nice, Brady Bieber, and Alex Love of Bismarck High School for sharing with us about Doug and his family. Jordan is related to Doug and is learning more about his family tree through this project.

MICHAEL HIMMERICK

Michael Himmerick was from Valley City and was born November 28, 1947. He served as a Navy medic for a group of 100 marines. Michael died on April 6, 1967. He was 19 years old.

Michael was one of four boys, and two of his brothers also served in the Navy. His family called him Mickey, and the marines he served with called him Doc. His brother Jim says Michael was one heck of a ballplayer. He was scouted by four Major League Baseball teams when he was a sophomore in high school, but he threw his arm out the summer after his junior year.

Jim remembers Michael's plans to put his intelligence and military experience to good use to become a doctor after completing his service.

LARRY SIKORSKI

Larry Sikorski was from Fairmount and was born April 1, 1947. He served in the Marine Corps' Hotel Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines. Larry died on February 25, 1969. He was 21 years old.

He had two sisters, Yvonne and Arlene. He had four brothers, Chet, Richard, Daniel, and Orrin—all of whom served our country in the U.S. military.

Larry's nephew Dale was just 1 year younger than Larry. He cherishes his memories of building a raft together, just like Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. They spent 3 days together building it, but, unfortunately, once sent into the river, the raft did not float.

Dale remembers Larry as being outgoing and very intelligent. Larry earned straight A's while studying predentistry at the University of North Dakota before enlisting in the Marines.

Before going to Vietnam, when Dale dropped Larry off at the airport, Larry told Dale he would never see him again.

RICHARD "JIMMY" GAFFNEY, JR.

Richard "Jimmy" Gaffney, Jr., was from Fargo. He was born October 23, 1948. He served in the Marine Corps' Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. Jimmy died on July 13, 1968. He was 19 years old.

Jimmy enlisted in the Marine Corps shortly after he graduated from Fargo Central High School in 1966. During his first 13-month tour of duty in Vietnam, he was promoted to the rank of corporal.

In letters he mailed to his family, Jimmy wrote that he had made a lot of good friends in his fellow soldiers. When his first tour came to an end, Jimmy signed up for a second tour. Shortly after starting his second tour of duty, he was killed by a land mine.

RICHARD VOLK

Richard Volk was from Minot. He was born March 20, 1949. He served in the Marine Corps' Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines. Richard died on March 19, 1969, the day before his 20th birthday.

Richard was one of 11 children. Three of the four sons in his family served our country in the military. At one point, Richard and his older brother, Stephen, were both serving in Vietnam at the same time.

Richard was a hard worker, working on the Soo Line Railroad and at his brother-in-law's restaurant, the Pantry Cafe. His brother Virgil remembers that Richard loved hunting and fishing. Virgil said Richard was the best looking in the family, and he knew it.

ROGER SVIR

Roger Svir was from Park River and was born December 1, 1950. He served in the Army's 1099th Transportation Company, called the River Rats. Roger died on September 26, 1971. He was 20 years old.

He was the oldest of four children. His father and seven uncles served our country in World War II and Korea.

During high school, Roger worked for a potato farmer and shared his earnings with his mother Virginia. His mother cherishes her memories of Roger and his cousin playing together along the river and of Roger fixing his car.

He had plans to buy a piece of land with his father and start their own farm. After Roger died, his father thought he was too old to start farming alone, and he gave up on the dream.

Roger was proud to hold the same position as an Army River Rat ship fitter that his father held during World War II.

WILLIS WEBER

Willis Weber was from Valley City and was born July 1, 1937. He served in the Army's 1st Infantry Division. His regiment was called the Blue Spaders of the Big Red One. Willis was 28 years old when he died on November 11, 1965.