

I thank my staff for their help in a long day, and I thank the American people for considering the arguments and for helping us to hopefully push this toward the reform where we all respect the Fourth Amendment and the Bill of Rights once again.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I relinquish the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

END OF AERIAL DRUG FUMIGATION IN COLOMBIA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly about a recent decision of the Government of Colombia to end the aerial fumigation of coca.

Since the beginning of Plan Colombia 15 years ago, the United States, at huge cost, has financed a fleet of aircraft, fuel, herbicide, and pilots to spray coca fields in Colombia. When this first began we were told that in 5 years the spraying, along with billions of dollars in U.S. military and other aid, would cut by half the flow of cocaine coming to the United States.

Fifteen years later, that goal remains elusive. While the cultivation of coca has been reduced, aerial fumigation was never the solution to this problem. It is prohibitively expensive and unsustainable by the Government of Colombia. It also defies common sense. One Colombian official told me the cost of aerial fumigation is approximately \$7,000 per hectare, while the cost to purchase the coca produced in one hectare is \$400. In other words, for one-fifteenth the cost of aerial fumigation you could buy the coca and burn it.

The process also ignores the reality of rural Colombia where most coca farmers are impoverished and have no comparable means of earning income. Absent viable economic alternatives they resort to the dangerous business of growing coca, often at the behest of the FARC rebels or other armed groups.

The active ingredient in the herbicide used in the fumigation is glyphosate, a common weed killer. It is used by farmers and gardeners in the United States and other countries, including Colombia.

But controversy has plagued the aerial fumigation since its inception. It is

no surprise that Monsanto, which manufactures the chemical, insists that glyphosate poses no threat to humans. But some Colombian farmers, whose homes are often located next to their fields, have claimed that they or their children suffered skin rashes, difficulty breathing, and other health problems after their property was sprayed. Others have complained that the herbicide has drifted into and destroyed licit food crops.

Scientists have studied glyphosate for many years and have differed about its safety. Some studies have concluded it is harmless. The Environmental Protection Agency says it has “low acute toxicity.” Others have linked it to birth deformities in amphibians. Most recently, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, IARC, an affiliate of the World Health Organization, reported that glyphosate is “probably carcinogenic to humans,” and that there is “limited evidence” that it can cause non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and lung cancer.

I have been concerned for years about aerial fumigation in Colombia. While I am no scientist, I have wondered how the people of my State would react to the repeated aerial spraying of a chemical herbicide in areas where they live, grow food, and raise animals. I have also noted the conflicting views in the scientific literature, and we are all aware of instances when manufacturers insisted that a product was safe only to discover years later—too late for some who were exposed—that it was not. And, of course, there have been times when companies knew of the risk and chose to either ignore it or cover it up, motivated by profit over the welfare of the public.

It is for these reasons that I have included a provision in the annual Department of State and foreign operations appropriations bill that requires the Secretary of State to certify that “the herbicides do not pose unreasonable risks or adverse effects to humans, including pregnant women and children, or the environment, including endemic species.” Each year, the Secretary has made the certification.

The IARC study changes things. Although glyphosate remains controversial and Monsanto points out that the IARC study is not based on new field research, President Santos has responded in the only responsible way unless further research definitively contradicts it. It would simply be unconscionable for the Government of Colombia to ignore a study by the World Health Organization that a chemical sprayed over inhabited areas is potentially carcinogenic.

I commend President Santos for this decision. I am sure it was not an easy one, as it will inevitably be blamed for increases in coca cultivation. But anyone who thinks that spraying chemicals from the air is a solution to the illegal drug trade is deluding themselves. It is enormously expensive and not something U.S. taxpayers can or

should pay for indefinitely. It has already gone on for a decade and a half. And it does nothing to counter the economic incentive of coca farmers to support their families.

The Department of State reacted with the following statement:

Any decision about the future of aerial eradication in Colombia is a sovereign decision of the Colombian government, and we will respect that. The United States began eradication at the government's request and our collaboration has always been based on Colombia's willingness to deploy this useful tool. Given the recent suspension, we intend to redouble our efforts to use other tools such as enhanced manual eradication; interdiction (both land and maritime); and improved methods to investigate, dismantle, and prosecute criminal organizations, including through anti-money laundering programs. We will also continue our longer-term capacity building programs, especially those related to rule of law institutions, and continue to help Colombia increase its governmental presence in the countryside as we recognize those to be the real keys to permanent change.

That was the right response. President Santos has staked his legacy on negotiations to end the armed conflict in Colombia. After five decades of war that have uprooted millions of people and destroyed the lives of countless others, a peace agreement would finally make it possible to address the lawlessness, injustice, and poverty that are at the root of the conflict. The United States should support him.

TRIBUTE TO POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL SCHIRLING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is with great appreciation and a touch of sadness that I note the pending retirement of Michael Schirling, who has served as police chief of the city of Burlington, VT, with great distinction for the last 7 years.

His youthful appearance belies the fact that Chief Schirling has been with the department for more than 25 years, first serving as an auxiliary officer while still attending the University of Vermont.

Chief Schirling has held many titles over those years: patrol officer, detective, investigator, director, commander, deputy chief, and finally chief. In other words, this Burlington native rose through the ranks. And throughout this impressive career, Chief Schirling has always sought a better way to do the job.

Earlier in his career, he co-founded the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which recognized the potential for abuse as the Internet came of age. The task force has been critical to the investigation and prosecution of high-technology crimes that target those who are most vulnerable.

After he took reins of the department, Chief Schirling grew concerned that officers were spending too much time on paperwork and data entry, taking precious time away from policing. In response he designed his own dispatch and records management software system. The Valcour system—

named after an island with historical significance on Lake Champlain—was launched in 2011. Not only has it proven more efficient, it has resulted in enormous cost savings for his department and others throughout Vermont that have since adopted it.

But perhaps most important, Chief Schirling has been a leader in understanding the importance of community policing. He stepped up foot patrols around the neighborhoods, stressing the importance of public engagement. He hosted community outreach events, including barbeques and monthly coffee sessions. He developed data-driven policing efforts to track the hot spots for crime. He implemented a street outreach program in coordination with the local mental health agency. The list goes on, but it is fair to say that the work of Chief Schirling will leave its mark on our State's largest city for many years to come. Chief Schirling recognized the value of 21st century policing long before we heard the term. For these reasons, I have often called on Chief Schirling to share his experience and ideas in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. His guidance on issues of critical importance, including his support for the Bullet-proof Vest Partnership Program, has been invaluable over these years.

Chief Schirling and the Burlington Police Department recently marked the 150th anniversary of the department, and I was grateful to be a part of that celebration. As he prepares for retirement, I have no doubt there is another chapter for Chief Schirling still to be written. I will eagerly await his next move.

LGBT VETERANS MONUMENT AT LINCOLN NATIONAL CEMETERY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this Memorial Day weekend, as our country remembers and honors those who have served America, a national cemetery in Elwood, IL, will make a distinguished mark on our Nation's history. Lincoln National Cemetery will become home to the Nation's first monument honoring fallen Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, LGBT, veterans.

A recognition of our fallen LGBT service members is long overdue. This monument serves as a testament to those members of our military who have shown devotion to their country in the eyes of discrimination. It is in their memory that we move toward a more just and equal future.

The monument comes nearly 4 years after the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. With repeal, our country took a step to move past the prejudices of the past and toward a day when all Americans can serve the country with honesty and pride. This monument recognizes that service with a fitting dedication that reads:

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people have served honorably and admirably in America's Armed Forces. In their memory and appreciation of their selfless service and sacrifice this monument was dedicated.

This monument serves as a reminder to all of us that it is our job to envision and create a more just and equal nation where there are no prerequisites to serve your country. All of our servicemembers join the military to serve America and make the world a better place. We must honor that service by making sure we continue to uphold those values of equality and justice at home that they have fought for abroad.

COMMEMORATING NORTH CAROLINA'S VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, this Memorial Day weekend is the 56th anniversary of Charlotte Motor Speedway's annual tribute that brings together more than 110,000 guests to celebrate our military patriots and reflect on their service and sacrifice. This event has remained one of the largest military recognition initiatives on Memorial Day weekend for more than five decades, honoring members of our armed services, veterans, Medal of Honor recipients, and remembering our fallen. This year's celebration continues their longstanding tribute by showcasing military aircraft in a patriotic flyover, infantry and artillery exhibits, ground demonstrations of our Nation's military strength, and a 21-gun salute to our fallen.

Our servicemembers courageously stand between America and those who would do us harm, volunteering to make the ultimate sacrifice to preserve freedom. I commend all of those in the racing community for their continued support and annual tribute to our men and women in uniform.

RECOGNIZING HOMEFront HEROES

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, May is recognized as National Military Appreciation Month. In addition to a time when we honor the men and women who wear our Nation's uniform, we must also remember our military families who make tremendous sacrifices.

These husbands and wives support our troops at home, during training missions and deployments. Military spouses are essential to the wellbeing of our service members and the strength of our national defense. We honor them with a special day honoring their role—National Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

Arkansas is home to thousands of military personnel. Their spouses are the homefront heroes who serve our country out of uniform. I asked Arkansans to share the roles their spouses play in their military career. I want to highlight some of the ways Arkansas National Guard spouses support their partners' call to service.

MSG Tracy Onassis Hayes and her husband, Cedric, have been married just over 1 year. Master Sergeant Hayes says her husband had no idea

what he was getting into when he married a soldier. He has had to deal with the early mornings, late nights, and long weeks of her being away from home all while taking care of their 15-year-old son Ke'cy and making certain he gets to school, practice and all his other events while Master Sergeant Hayes travels out-of-State for training. He also makes sure the family pets are well cared for all while maintaining a traveling choir of over 30 children. Master Sergeant Hayes shared with me:

He makes it look easy. My husband's support of the past year has made serving a whole lot less stressful. I am very thankful for his love and support. He is my hero. Thank you Cedric for your commitment.

Naomi Howard is familiar with military life as the daughter of CW4 Arthur Troy. The military also paved the way for her love connection to her husband SFC James Howard. The couple met after James attended the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR, briefing given by Naomi upon his return from deployment to Egypt. The couple spent the first 14 months of their marriage apart while James was deployed with the HHC 39th IBCT to Iraq.

In 2004, the couple settled into a routine life in Cabot, AR, with James serving on Active Guard/Reserve duty, and Naomi working as a civilian at the National Guard Bureau Professional Education Center. In 2007, James deployed to Iraq again and was away from home for more than 1 year. James told me:

During this time Naomi did an amazing job raising four young children on her own. Since then, Naomi has continued working at the National Guard Bureau's Professional Education Center and supporting me in my continued military service. Being in the military requires long hours and time away from home, yet my wife has continued to support me, more than I could have ever imagined.

Not only is she a strong support for her husband and children, but she is doing this all while working and attending college as a full-time student. She was named to the Central Baptist College President's List for Fall 2014 for maintaining a 4.0 GPA. "She juggles more than I could ever imagine and she excels at doing so," James said.

Wanda Thomen has been married for 28 years to Deputy Commander CPT Rex Thomen of the 61st CST/WMD and is a mother of two children, Myranda and Phelan. Wanda served as an active duty airman and was honorably discharged in March 1998. Her prior service experience helps her to understand both sides, as a servicemember and as a spouse. She previously served as president of the Auxiliary of the National Guard Association of Arkansas whose motto is "The Other Half." She also worked as the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Family Readiness Support assistant. She has been supportive during deployments, injuries, illness, and everyday activities as her husband continues his military career and