

lands to be swapped out of the monument boundary. While this legislation helped the schools, much of the local population still lost their jobs because of the President's declaration.

The only silver lining in this debacle was language written into the President's proclamation that protected livestock grazing on the monument. While the President blocked significant mineral development and other economic activity in the 1.9 million-acre area, he at least understood that blocking traditional grazing in the area was untenable. Sadly, since the 1996 monument designation, nearly 28 percent of the Federal livestock grazing animal unit-months, AUMs, have been suspended, according to the Utah Cattlemen's Association.

According to the 2015 Economic Report to the Governor prepared by the Utah Economic Council, "[o]f Utah's 45 million acres of rangeland, 33 million acres are owned and managed by the federal government, while only 8 million acres are privately owned." With that in mind, most ranching operations in Utah must combine private grazing, feed importation, and access to the renewable grasses and forage through Federal grazing leases in order to be economically viable. Unfortunately, since the late 1940s, the Utah Farm Bureau found that the BLM and the Forest Service have drastically cut or suspended Utah's total livestock grazing AUMs from 5.4 million AUMs in 1949 to just over 2 million in 2012.

With grazing on Federal land already in peril, grazing on the monument is at even greater risk. Currently, the BLM is considering an amendment to the Management Plan that would eliminate grazing on the monument altogether. If the BLM eliminates grazing on the monument, there would be significant negative economic impacts to the area. Consider the economic benefits grazing already brings to these rural counties in Utah. The Utah Farm Bureau reports that "around 11,500 feeder cattle sold out of Kane and Garfield County ranches brought in more than \$16 million dollars and generated in excess of \$25-\$30 million based on a conservative economic multiplier. With about one-half of the calf crop coming from grazing allotments within the monument, of that total, about \$8 million in direct feeder cattle sales and between \$12—\$15 million in economic activity is tied directly back to cattle grazing on the monument."

Those ranching dollars create jobs in Utah's rural counties. The money also contributes to local tax revenue and supports vital public services. Eliminating grazing on the monument would have disastrous implications for the local economy.

The poor stewardship of the land presents another risk even beyond its effects on grazing and the local economy. The rangeland on the monument is being mismanaged. Even if the BLM decides to change course overnight and restore grazing to the historic levels

that existed before the designation of the monument, the land in its current state would not be able to sustain it. Over the last 20 years, we have witnessed a worrisome decline in rangeland health. With this decline, livestock carrying capacity has also decreased.

To protect rangeland health, I joined Senator MIKE LEE and Congressman CHRIS STEWART to introduce the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Grazing Protection Act. This bill would direct the BLM to create and implement a management program within the areas of the monument to improve rangeland conditions for wildlife and livestock carrying capacity. It would also restore livestock grazing to the historic levels that existed before the designation. There are many things BLM can and should be doing to restore rangeland health. Improving the range would not only benefit ranchers and affected communities but also bring significant ecological and environmental benefits to the entire area. This legislation will direct the BLM in that effort.

This is a commonsense bill that will restore Utah's rangeland to health. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

USA PATRIOT ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on a critical national security issue: the importance of renewing the authority for essential anti-terrorism tools which is set to expire by the time Congress returns to Washington after Memorial Day.

Every single Member of this body remembers where he or she was on September 11, 2001. I was here in the Senate. I remember evacuating the Capitol and the office building. I remember standing on the lawn outside, wondering if a plane was headed toward this very building.

That terrible day gave us a taste of what terrorists want to visit upon our country. We realized that these fanatics would stop at nothing to kill innocent men, women, and children and to bring our country to its knees.

Knowing the threat this country faced, we resolved not to let bureaucratic red tape hinder the ability of our law enforcement and intelligence communities to keep us safe. As the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, I joined with colleagues of both parties as well as the Bush administration to craft the USA PATRIOT Act, which passed the Senate 98 to 1. The PATRIOT Act and its subsequent reauthorizations have proven critical to our ability to investigate terrorist threats and prevent another mass-casualty attack on the homeland.

Let me make one matter perfectly clear: we continue to face a very serious terrorist threat. The evil that struck us on September 11 has metastasized and continues to present a clear and present danger to the national se-

curity of the United States. As the American people's elected representatives, it is our primary duty to keep this country safe. Accordingly, we must continue to provide the necessary tools to the law enforcement and intelligence communities that have helped keep this Nation safe for the past 14 years.

Unfortunately, some of these tools have become quite controversial, despite the repeated showing of strong bipartisan support for them. The collection of telephone metadata under section 215 has drawn particular criticisms and worrisome calls for "reform." I find this development enormously concerning.

Consider what President Obama himself had to say about our need for such a capability:

The program grew out of a desire to address a gap identified after 9/11. One of the 9/11 hijackers, Khalid al-Mihdhar, made a phone call from San Diego to a known al-Qaeda safe house in Yemen. NSA saw that call, but it could not see that the call was coming from an individual already in the United States. The telephone metadata program under Section 215 was designed to map the communications of terrorists so we could see who they may be in contact with as quickly as possible.

The President was absolutely right. The collection of telephone metadata in bulk facilitates our mapping of terrorist networks and our ability to disrupt terrorist plots. Contrary to the wild fantasies that critics frequently spout, this collection does not meaningfully intrude on our privacy. It does not involve the NSA listening in on anyone's calls. It is simply a very important means of finding a proverbial needle in a haystack. We should reauthorize this authority without delay.

A number of my colleagues have taken a different approach, taking up the cause of the so-called USA FREEDOM Act to "reform" our counterterrorism efforts. I find the name of this bill ironic, in the sense that their legislation aims to restore a freedom that was never under threat while sacrificing critical tools that secure our freedom.

For instance, under this legislation, metadata would no longer be collected by the government but instead retained by private communications corporations. While this idea may seem initially appealing, I have strong reservations about such an approach. Their proposal contains no requirement for these companies to maintain this data for any length of time. Without such a requirement, the effectiveness of a search would obviously be compromised.

This is hardly my only concern. Consider also the provision of the so-called FREEDOM Act that would create a body of outside experts to advise the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court on the government's warrant applications. Such an unprecedented move would cause serious constitutional concerns and could undermine the adversarial system which at the core of the judicial branch.

For these and many other reasons, I cannot support the so-called FREEDOM Act. While I would prefer to pass a long-term extension of our current authorities, I will support a short-term extension to facilitate the search for a long-term solution. I urge my colleagues in both Houses to support this effort.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. BULLOCK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to an honored Kentuckian, Mr. Charles E. Bullock. Mr. Bullock is a veteran of World War II who enlisted in the Army after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. But Mr. Bullock was a student at the old Hazel Green High School at the time. He missed his senior year because he was stationed in Europe fighting the Nazis. Mr. Bullock had gone from studying history to making it.

More than 70 years after putting on his country's uniform, Mr. Bullock received his high school diploma at long last from the Laurel County Board of Education at a meeting of that organization. This proud veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star received a warm, heartfelt round of applause from the assembled audience twice—once upon receiving his diploma, and again as he left the room.

I want to congratulate Mr. Bullock, 88, on receiving his diploma, and I thank him for his service to our Nation in uniform. This country owes him a debt that can never be truly repaid, for his valiant fight against the Axis Powers during World War II. It is appropriate as we approach Memorial Day that every American reflect on the freedoms we cherish and that Mr. Bullock fought to defend. I know my colleagues join me when I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Charles E. Bullock in praise of his service.

An article detailing Mr. Bullock's receipt of his high school diploma appeared in the area newspaper the Sentinel-Echo. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

WORLD WAR II VETERAN RECEIVES HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA—BULLOCK JOINED ARMY IN WAKE OF PEARL HARBOR ATTACK

(By R. Scott Belzer)

Charles E. Bullock, 88, didn't know he would not finish his senior year of high school at Hazel Green in 1942. He also didn't know he would have to wait more than 70 years to receive his high school diploma.

Bullock—a World War II veteran—was honored on Monday at the bi-weekly meeting of the Laurel County Board of Education with an official Laurel County high school diploma, 73 years after enlistment and deployment cut his high school career short.

"After the attack on December 7, 1941, many young men enlisted in the armed services to soldier on behalf of their country," said Dr. Doug Bennett, superintendent of

Laurel County Schools. "Some of the young men were high school students aged 17 or 18 who left their high school studies before graduation in order to enlist. We're pleased to have one of those young men with us this evening."

Bennett went on to laud Bullock's choice to leave Hazel Green High School to fight in World War II, stating that Bullock chose to be a part of history rather than study it.

"He was called to fight and protect the freedoms we enjoy today," Bennett said. "No longer was he reading about history but became part of making history on the front lines."

Bennett said that Bullock represented the best and highest ideals of Laurel County and was glad to be a part of his formal recognition.

"I appreciate what you men have done," Bullock said. "They took me out my senior year of Hazel Green High School because I wasn't in my second semester. They took six of us out of the high school and put us in the army. Three months later we were fighting in Belgium, France and Germany."

Bullock said he stayed in the army until the war was over in 1945. He was awarded a Bronze Star, a medal awarded for acts of heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service within a combat zone. The medal, unfortunately, was another thing he had to wait for.

"I never got it when I came out," said Bullock. "The dischargers said 'You can wait and get your medals, it'll only take 15 days,' and I said, 'I'm going home.' About 70 years later I got so mad about some things going on and went before Congressman Hal Rogers and he said he'd help me and he did."

School board member Joe Schenkenfelder quoted Ronald Reagan in 1983 to end the presentation.

"I've been thinking about this all day and I finally found a quote—so often we don't know why we recognize our veterans or why we send men and women out to fight for our country," said Schenkenfelder. "I thought this was very fitting: 'Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed down for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.'"

RECOGNIZING THE ADVOCATE-MESSENGER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, one of my home State's great newspapers, the Advocate-Messenger, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and I want to congratulate the staff and publishers of this venerable institution that is published out of Danville, Ky.

The newspaper that would become the Advocate-Messenger was first published on June 24, 1865, as The Kentucky Advocate. Created by James L. Marrs, it was guided to considerable success by a trio of editors: G.W. Doneghy, W. Vernon Richardson, and W.O. McIntyre. The paper became a daily in 1911 and a member of the Associated Press in 1914.

In the meantime, a local merchant named Hubert McGoodwin founded the Danville Messenger in 1910 as a competitor of the Kentucky Advocate. This paper was purchased in 1918 by J. Curtis Alcock, an experienced editor and

publisher, and he guided The Danville Messenger to considerable success in the ensuing decades while also serving as secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Press Association from 1911 to 1942.

In 1940, the two newspapers merged to become the Advocate-Messenger and published Monday through Friday under that name. The Kentucky Advocate became a Saturday afternoon paper for a decade before switching to a Sunday-only paper in 1950, continuing to this day.

Many able hands have steered the ship of the Advocate-Messenger over the years. Enos Swain, formerly the director of Centre College's public relations, became the Advocate-Messenger's editor in 1944 and served the longest tenure of any editor, 34 years. In 1977 current owner Schurz Communications bought the paper, and Mary Schurz became the editor and publisher in 1978 upon Enos Swain's retirement.

From 2006 to 2014, Scott Schurz, Jr., served as editor and publisher, and in July 2014, Larry Hensley was named president and publisher, posts he continues to fill today. John Nelson is the executive editor.

Under the supervision of Mr. Hensley, the Advocate-Messenger enjoys a healthy circulation throughout southcentral Kentucky, with distribution primarily in Boyle, Lincoln, Casey, Mercer, and Garrard counties. Danville benefits from being recognized by Time magazine as one of 10 successful Main Street communities in the country and is the home of Centre College, one of the top liberal arts colleges in the region. I can attest to my colleagues that Danville is a wonderful place, and I believe the Advocate-Messenger truly has its finger on the pulse of the region.

A strong and vigorous free press being vital to the freedoms of our country, I wish to recognize the Advocate-Messenger as a newspaper that takes its dedication to journalism and to serving the people of its community seriously. One hundred and fifty years in publication is quite an accomplishment that few newspapers can claim, and I know my colleagues join me when I say congratulations to the Advocate-Messenger on the occasion of its sesquicentennial and best wishes for many more years of publication to come. And congratulations to the newspaper's president and publisher, Larry Hensley, and its executive editor, John Nelson.

FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week I was pleased to be joined by my Republican colleague from Louisiana, Senator BILL CASSIDY, to introduce the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act.

I appreciate Senator CASSIDY's leadership on this issue and his willingness to work across the aisle. We were joined across the Capitol by Representatives MICHAEL BURGESS and ELLIJAH