

most influential and powerful individuals, to end impunity at any level. It has established a Stolen Assets Recovery Task Force for this purpose. The United States is prepared to assist these efforts and those of civil society to combat corruption.

These are very encouraging steps for which we should commend President Sirisena. They should have been carried out by the previous government, but instead former President Rajapaksa and his brothers Basil and Gotabhaya, and their close associates, sought to dismantle the institutions of democracy, subvert the rule of law, and enrich themselves. Rather than support reconciliation, they encouraged corruption and exacerbated ethnic, religious, and political divisions.

Of course, these are only first steps, and there have been others that raise questions about the government's intentions. For example, MG Jagath Dias, who was appointed the new Army Chief of Staff, commanded a regiment that took part in the final battles of the war that were marked by widespread abuses including summary executions of prisoners and in which countless civilians died, reportedly from government artillery shelling. If the Sri Lankan government is serious about addressing the crimes of the past it will need to take up allegations against senior officers like General Dias. Failing to address the role of senior military commanders, in particular those who still serve, would seriously weaken the government's credibility.

Most immediately, the government's challenge is to hold parliamentary elections as soon as possible. Once a new Parliament is in place the processes of reconciliation, reconstruction, reform, and accountability can proceed apace.

After the elections, President Sirisena's government will need to work closely with the United Nations on plans to address the legacy of past abuses. The U.N. Human Rights Council is expected to take up this issue in its September session in Geneva. Thus, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights needs to release its report before then, as called for by the U.N. Human Rights Council, with recommendations for Sri Lanka and the international community on how best to achieve accountability in Sri Lanka. The government should wait until the U.N. report is issued before finalizing its own plans.

Secretary of State Kerry's visit to Sri Lanka just 4 months after President Sirisena's election was not only symbolic of the revival of relations between our countries, but also illustrative of the Sri Lankan Government's efforts to realign its foreign relations more broadly. Over the last 6 years, the Obama administration has demonstrated leadership within the international community in addressing a range of issues in Sri Lanka. The administration's policy should follow the same trajectory and continue to play a leadership role.

Likewise, the U.S. Congress has long sought to support democracy, development, human rights, and the rule of law in Sri Lanka. A close friend of mine, the late James W. Spain, one of our most able diplomats, served as our Ambassador in Colombo from 1985 to 1988. He was a devoted friend of Sri Lanka. I look forward to doing what I can to assist the Secretary and the Sirisena government, on behalf of all the people of Sri Lanka, in the months ahead.

IRAQ WAR'S IMPACT ON CURRENT NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we have the benefit of looking through the lens of history to learn from past mistakes in the hopes of making more informed decisions for the future. No example is more relevant today than the unintended effects of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and their bearing on the threats of today. I opposed that war from the beginning, and we have paid, and continue to pay, a tremendous price—in American lives, in the unfathomable expense of taxpayer dollars, and in the escalation of strife in that region, and beyond.

There is no doubt that the terrorists of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, ISIL, have emerged from Al Qaeda in Iraq, seizing upon instability, weak institutions, ethnic fractions, and general hostility toward Western forces that resulted from the post-9/11 Iraq invasion. Our personnel, allies, and interests abroad face significant threats from this terrorist group, which have arisen out of the ill-conceived invasion of Iraq.

We can be proud of the bravery, dedication, and sacrifice of our soldiers and their families. They are not at fault for the complex situation in which we now find ourselves. They served our Nation dutifully, and for that we are grateful. Rather, it serves as a reminder that policymakers cannot act recklessly—especially when taking military action. As we continue to address the very real threat that is ISIL, it is astounding to me how far in the past the hard lessons we learned now appear to be to some commentators and policymakers.

I ask unanimous consent that a perceptive and well-written analysis on this subject, written by the distinguished journalist and former foreign correspondent Barrie Dunsmore, that was published in the Rutland Herald and the Montpelier (Barre) Times Argus on May 24, 2015, be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Rutland Herald and the Montpelier (Barre) Times Argus; May 24, 2015]

SHORT MEMORIES

(By Barrie Dunsmore)

"I am running because I think the world is falling apart," Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said this past week. Senator

Graham is not alone among the many aspiring Republican presidential candidates. Not only do they want us to believe the world is falling apart. They also want us to believe it's not their fault.

As Robert Costa wrote in the Washington Post, "One by one, nearly a dozen GOP hopefuls took the stage (in Des Moines, Iowa) for a Lincoln dinner, each different in style and stature but all joining a rising Republican chorus that lays blame for the Islamic State terrorist group squarely at the feet of President Barack Obama." Senator Lindsey Graham said to cheers, "If you fought in Iraq, it worked. It's not your fault it's going to hell. It's Obama's fault."

The Islamic State is but one of the Middle East's problems of recent years. The hopes for a more democratic region engendered by the Arab Spring, have been dashed. Egypt is now more of a military dictatorship than it was under President Hosni Mubarak. Without dictator Muammar Gaddafi, Libya is now awash with weapons, without a functioning government and ruled by tribes. Syria is still in the throes of a three year unresolved civil war, with an estimated 150,000, dead. As Iran and Saudi Arabia violently vie for dominance in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, indisputably the Middle East is more unstable than it was seven years ago.

Yet just as the world economy was in a deep depression after the market crash of '08, when Obama took office so too was the Middle East in turmoil—mostly because of the 2003 American invasion of Iraq.

As they seek to shift the blame of Iraq, which just last year conservative pundit George Will wrote was "the worst foreign policy decision in U.S. history," Republicans are asking us to forget the past. I don't doubt that some already have. In the era of Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, seven years may seem like an eternity. But not everyone will forget.

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush found this out on a recent campaign stop, when Ivy Ziedrich, a Nevada college student confronted him with the charge, "Your brother created ISIS." Bush's response was, "ISIS didn't exist when my brother was president."

It is accurate that the name Islamic State was not in use during the George W. Bush presidency. But the movement that later became ISIS was a direct result of the American invasion. That group called itself "al Qaida in Iraq." It was led by the fanatic Abu Musab al-Zarkawi, and was responsible for hundreds of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings—yes beheadings—in a reign of terror which made Zarqawi the most wanted man in Iraq. His goal was to rid Iraq of foreign forces, and to provoke sectarian conflict between Iraq's Shiite majority and his own Sunni Muslim sect.

Zarqawi was killed in an American bombing raid in 2006. But nine years ago, the Washington Post reported, "Analysts warned that his death may not stem the tide of the insurgency and violence. . . . Zarqawi set up numerous semi-autonomous terrorist cells across Iraq, many of which could continue after his death."

Indeed they did. And joined by numerous bitter Sunni officers from Saddam Hussein's army, al-Qaida in Iraq eventually morphed into the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Its current leader is an Iraqi named Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who claims to be the caliph (supreme leader) of the new Islamic State.

But ISIS is by no means the only bi-product of the American invasion of Iraq. When Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his Sunni dominated regime were overthrown by American military might, there were no happier people than the Shiite mullahs of Iran. Saddam had initiated the bloody eight

year Iran-Iraq war. Without Saddam on its border to worry about, Iran was now free to encourage the Iraqi Shiite majority to assume power over their Sunni and Kurdish minorities. Thus a Shiite led Iraq became a major ally of Iran in its power struggle with Sunni Saudi Arabia. And that Sunni-Shiite battle for regional domination is at the root of most of the current sectarian violence in the Middle East.

(This reminds me of the credibly sourced story that surfaced years ago. Evidently after meeting with the president on the eve of the Iraq invasion, one of the Iraqi exiles who strongly encouraged American intervention was nevertheless shocked that Mr. Bush did not seem to understand the difference between Sunnis and Shiites.)

But let's set aside all this troublesome history. What is it that Republicans want to do—in the future—to resolve the problem of the Islamic State?

Most of them apparently feel that in 2016, American voters will want their president to get really tough with ISIS. So far, the rhetoric has been overblown and viable alternatives seem in short supply.

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FLA), when speaking to the Freedom Forum of South Carolina, used a line from the movie "Taken", in explaining what he would do with the terrorists. "We will look for you. We will find you. And we will kill you."

Former Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania said at a recent meeting in Iowa. "They want to bring back the 7th century of jihad. So here's my suggestion: We load up our bombers, and we bomb them back to the 7th century."

Senator Graham and most of the other candidates, seem once again to be under the sway of the same neo-conservative, tough-guy thinking that gave us the Iraq War. Presidential wannabes might want to take a closer look at that war—eight years of fighting, at one point with 162,000 U.S. troops on the ground and substantial air and naval support nearby. The cost was at least \$2 trillion, nearly 4500 Americans killed and hundreds of thousands seriously wounded. Yet with all that military might and its enormous costs, the United States did not prevail.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 6 OF BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, as the Boy Scout Law tells us, "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent." These values are always worth remembering. Even 8 out of 12 is an achievement. We all know people who don't get to six on their best day.

For 50 years, boys and young men have built these important traits under the direction of Boy Scout Troop 6 from Barrington, RI, part of the Narragansett Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The programs and traditions of Troop 6 help Scouts build moral fiber, engender responsible citizenship, and develop maturity and physical fitness.

Over the years, the troop has organized or participated in countless activities that have helped the community at large. Scouts from Troop 6 Bar-

rington carry out a community service project every month, including working with the Barrington Land Conservation Trust to clear hiking trails, contributing food and labor to food drives across New England, and assisting numerous nonprofit organizations throughout Rhode Island.

More than 100 Scouts from Troop 6 have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement in Scouting. They have distinguished themselves as community leaders, service volunteers, and mentors for their peers.

As Boy Scouts of America president Dr. Robert M. Gates put it last month in his address to the Boys Scouts National Annual Business Meeting, "Every day, in every community in America, scouting is changing the lives of boys and young men teaching them skills and leadership, helping them build character and integrity." Thanks to its many dedicated leaders, parents, and volunteers, Troop 6 has provided boys in Barrington with valuable tools and lifelong leadership skills for a half century.

I congratulate all the Scouts of Boy Scout Troop 6 and their families on this special anniversary, and I am grateful for their outstanding commitment to their community, to the State of Rhode Island, and to our country.

Mr. President, I ask that a list of Eagle Scouts, Scoutmasters, and committee chairmen of Troop 6 be printed in the RECORD.

The list follows:

EAGLE SCOUTS FROM TROOP 6, BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND (1973–2015)

James Pazera, Frederick Kennemar, Norman Mahoney, Kenneth Pazera, Kurt Sorenson, Richard Farynyk, Steven M. Eklund, David Strickland, Brian T. Culhane, Paul H. Ryden, Gerritt D. DeWitt, Gregory J. Amter, Timothy L. Culhane, Jeff D. Sanders, Jeffrey J. DiSandro, Sean M. Davis, Erich G. Stephens, Julio Friedman, John W. Rosevear, Jr., Anthony DeSpirto III.

Dennis J. Wajda, Robert W. Weaver, Kurt Frederick Stephens, David B. Ryden, Kenneth F. Wajda, Bryce T. Hall, Brian H. Darakyan, Arie Daniel Lowenstein, Timothy A. Jarocki, Bryan J. Tamburro, Patrick Dolan Mara, Nathaniel H. Wetherbee, Robert J. Wilbur, Matthew David Mueller, William R. Thompson, Robert Andrew Mueller, Brendan Scott Mara, Scott R. Goff, Jonathan Thomas Belmont, Matthew Anton Steger.

Dereck Glenn Dowler, Peter Anthony DeLuca, James Alberts Charnley, Daniel V. Fitzgerald, Thomas Joseph Jarocki, Paul R. Gladney, Jr., Gregory F. Zavota, Thomas Joseph Peck, Jonathan Flynn Horton, Jonathan Matthew Webb, James Flynn Horton, Donald Lloyd Curtin, Adam Crawley, Sean M. Hackett, Alexander Robert Pease, Michael Anastasia, Alexander G. Raufi, Matthew John Lensing, Robert James Peck, Colin Black.

Patrick James Brickley, Jared Alexander Luther, Shane Barclay VanDeusen, Matthew Paul Maloney, Bradley Russell Holtz, Christopher C. Hoy, Andrew Thies, Joseph M. Codega, Brett Comer, Jonathon Scagos, Benjamin Glatter, Patrick Ryan McAree, Gregory Andrew Wright, Michael Jeffrey Oberg, Steven George Mercer, Ryan Joseph Hurley, Michael Bryan Brooks, Michael Brian Brickley, Christopher W. Halladay, Patrick W. Halladay.

Andrew Hart Dennis, Robert Christopher Preite, Justin Richard Cooper, Perry Tyler Schiff, Peter Southworth Burns, Christopher M. Scagos, Ethan A. Selinger, Christopher Dodd Antonelli, Matthew Evan Gamache, Zachary Lucky N. Luther, Benjamin Mathanie Orrall, Edward Page Codega, Ethan Philip Greene, Edward W. Mercer, Sean Patrick McMahon, Michael Alan DuPont, Gregory James Niguidula, Zachary D. Mumbauer, Matthew J. Brown, Ian G. Millspaugh.

Joshua C. Eller, Matthew K. Greene, Dylan A. Vanasse, Marshall M. Heitke, Nicholas K. Sayegh, Andrew R. Anderson, Brandon Purcell, Scott N. Johnson, Alexander Greenberg, Robert B. Sasse, Gregory J. Shea, Jonathan W. Cavanagh, Michael Peck, Eric Goodale, Harry J. Lico, William A. Stockhecker.

SCOUTMASTERS OF TROOP 6, BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND (1965–2015)

William Maney, Rober Litchfield, James Perreault, Thomas Culhane, Karl Stephens, Edward Fitzgerald, Joseph Jarocki, James Halfyard, Cris Brooks, Richard Halladay, Gary DuPont, Dan Mumbauer, Greg Shea.

COMMITTEE CHARMEN OF TROOP 6, BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND (1965–2015)

Roy Ross, Edward Peck, Axel Sorensen, Alan DeWitt, Robert Litchfield, Walter Quertier, Donald Anderson, Joseph Jarocki, Rick Scagos, James Halfyard, Marc Millspaugh, Mike Morrissette.●

REMEMBERING LAWRENCE GOULD

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I stand before you today in solemn remembrance of Lawrence Gould, a founding member of Camp Sunshine, which is a truly remarkable and transformative sanctuary for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. The camp has brought respite, support, hope, and joy to thousands of families for over three decades and will continue to do so for years to come. The State of Maine has lost a man of true integrity; Larry was 84.

Larry was an exceptionally intelligent and hard-working man who found countless successes in life. Equipped with a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the age of 24, he went on to become president, chairman, and CEO of M/A-Com, Inc., a Fortune 500 company. After establishing himself as a prominent and distinguished businessman, Larry developed Point Sebago Resort, in Casco, ME—considered the first resort campground in the country.

Upon stepping down as chair of M/A-Com, Inc. in 1983, Larry and his wife Anna sought to share their successes with others and turned their dedication and devotion to charitable endeavors. A year later, Point Sebago Resort opened its doors to 43 children and their families, and the program was met with resounding enthusiasm from its pilot participants. Thus Camp Sunshine was created.

Over the years, more and more medical centers began referring their patients to Camp Sunshine. The camp's extraordinary emotional and medical support played a momentous role in the well-being of the children who spent their summers on the shores of Lake Sebago. As the camp became