

worked together with Senators UDALL, VITTER, and INHOFE to restore the ability of States to protect their citizens while EPA is assessing chemicals by substantially shrinking the interim period of time where preemption occurs and by creating a straightforward waiver process.

Mr. BOOKER. The provision requires EPA to allow States to regulate hazardous chemicals while EPA assesses a chemical for safety if the proposed state regulation meets three basic criteria: A, consistent with the dormant commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution, compliance with the proposed regulation will not unduly burden interstate commerce in the manufacture, processing, distribution in commerce, or use of a chemical substance; B, compliance with the proposed regulation would not cause a violation of any applicable Federal law, rule, or order; and C, the State or political subdivision of a State has a concern about the chemical substance or use of the chemical substance based in peer-reviewed science.

Given the importance of this provision and the role EPA will play in reviewing waiver applications, we asked EPA for its interpretation. EPA agrees that States will be exempted from preemption by meeting three criteria. The following are the relevant excerpts from EPA's response:

Based on the bill reported on June 18, 2015, S. Rep. 114-67, the following is a summary of how EPA understands the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, FRL21, would operate with respect to the preemption of state law.

Required waivers under section 18(f)(2). These would be State requests for an exemption from preemption under section 18(b). EPA must grant this kind of waiver request if the State law for which waiver is sought would not unduly burden interstate commerce; the State law for which waiver is sought would not cause a violation of Federal law; and the State has a concern about the chemical substance or use of the chemical substance based in peer-reviewed science.

Mr. MERKLEY. Each of these standards has a constitutional foundation. The first reflects the restraints of the dormant commerce clause. The second reflects the Constitution's supremacy clause. The third corresponds to the scientific factual predicate required to meet scrutiny under the due process clause, as not "arbitrary and capricious."

Restoring the ability for States to protect their citizens while EPA assesses the safety of chemicals was one of the primary goals of our work to improve this bill and that has been accomplished under section 18(f)(2) of S. 697, as reported by the Environment and Public Works Committee. We believe this does, within the limits imposed by the Constitution.

HONORING CORPORAL ANDREW A. AIMESBURY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to honor the service and sacrifice of Army CPL Andrew Aimesbury, who died last week from wounds sustained during squad live-fire training at Fort Stewart, GA. He was a proud son of New Hampshire, and I join with other Granite Staters in extending my deep condolences to his father, Carl Aimesbury, of Somersworth; his mother, Karen Kelsey, of Dover; and his sister, Abigail Aimesbury, also of Dover.

Corporal Aimesbury served courageously in Afghanistan and was highly respected as a warrior and team leader with an elite Ranger unit. His battalion commander praised his "caring nature" and called him "an exceptional Ranger leader and an extraordinary man."

It is deeply moving to read a post on Facebook by his father, Carl Aimesbury. Mr. Aimesbury wrote: "Wednesday December 9th the world lost the best son, brother, cousin, grandson, person that I was so privileged to call my son. He was an Army Ranger and so proud to serve his country. My heart is broken but I am so thankful for the time I had with him. I love you Andrew." As we honor Andrew, let us remember that it is not only our warriors who serve and sacrifice but also their family members and loved ones.

Corporal Aimesbury represented the very best in our Nation. After graduation from Dover High School in Dover, NH, he enlisted in the Army and trained as an infantryman at Fort Benning, GA. He went on to complete the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program as well as the highly demanding Army Ranger Course and was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Soldiers typically flinch from the term "hero." But make no mistake, Andrew Aimesbury answered the call of duty, served our Nation in time of war, and was prepared to—and did—make the ultimate sacrifice. If that is not heroism, I don't know what is.

There is an inscription at Arlington National Cemetery that pretty much says it all: "Not for fame or reward, nor lured by ambition or goaded by necessity, but in simple obedience to duty."

I join with people in New Hampshire and across the United States in honoring the "simple obedience to duty" of this brave fallen soldier, CPL Andrew Aimesbury.

TRIBUTE TO CHERYL S. CROMWELL

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Ms. Cheryl S. Cromwell who will retire on January 3, 2016, after over 42 years of service to our Nation and the United States Air Force as a civilian airman.

Ms. Cromwell began her civil service career in 1973 as a clerk in the Office of Programs and Resources for the U.S. Department of the Air Force. In 1974, Ms. Cromwell moved to the Air Force legislative liaison office under the Secretary of the Air Force where she would serve for the rest of her distinguished career. She worked in the Air Force Senate liaison office in the Russell Senate Office Building, but spent the majority of her time in the Air Force congressional inquiry office in the Pentagon.

During her many years in the congressional inquiry division, Ms. Cromwell provided responses to over 50,000 inquiries on behalf of constituents and formed a strong working relationship with many on congressional staffs. It is not surprising that staff frequently requested that Cheryl personally work their most important and difficult cases.

It is my honor to join many of Ms. Cromwell's co-workers, family, and friends in congratulating her on her well-deserved retirement after over 42 years of dedicated Federal service.

TRIBUTE TO AIKO LANE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like my colleagues to join me in thanking Aiko Lane, a Brookings fellow from the Department of Defense, for her service to the Senate and to wish her well as she returns to the Pentagon.

Before Aiko joined my office she was a policy adviser in the office of the Secretary of Defense focusing on countering weapons of mass destruction. She has also served as the Japan country director where she represented the Department of Defense on issues related to the U.S.-Japan alliance, including coordinating the U.S. response to Japan's 2011 devastating Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami.

Prior to her work on Japan, Aiko was the Afghanistan country director where she was responsible for engaging with international partners and allies on military support for the U.S. and NATO-led efforts in Afghanistan.

Aiko, who received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern and a master's degree from Columbia, has been an important member of my foreign policy team over the last year, focusing much of her time and energy on my work as ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific and International Cybersecurity Policy. Aiko's expertise in matters pertaining to East Asia and the Pacific and her solid advice and thoughtful analysis of all regional matters have been critical to me. Moreover, Aiko's hard work enabled the subcommittee to hold five hearings this year on matters ranging from democratic transitions in Southeast Asia to the North Korean nuclear threat.

There is no question that the United States is fortunate to have people like Aiko representing Americans both at

home and abroad. We here in the Senate will miss Aiko's extensive knowledge and extraordinary work ethic as she returns to the Department of Defense. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Aiko's husband, Haru, and their children, Callea and Kent, for sharing her with us this past year. The Senate schedule isn't always the most "family friendly" but Aiko has been able to juggle the competing demands masterfully. I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Aiko Lane for her outstanding service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAVY CHAPLAIN CORPS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 240 years ago, the Navy Chaplain Corps was established. Chaplains serve our Nation by serving the members of our military—providing prayer, comfort, support, healing and restoration.

Chaplains go into the darkest places on earth to serve those who risk their lives for our Nation. They have seen the worst, but still provide hope for something greater. Over the course of their ministry, 16 Navy chaplains have given the ultimate sacrifice. Additionally, two chaplains have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their devoted service.

After over a decade of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, chaplains today continue to bring support and hope to those affected by war. Protecting and advancing the religious liberty of both chaplains and servicemembers is essential to preserve our honored heritage.

On the 240th anniversary of the Navy Chaplain Corps, we recognize their dedication and devotion, their service to a cause greater than themselves, and their selfless sacrifice for our nation. We also recognize the importance of protecting their right and the right of every servicemember to practice their religious beliefs.

On this day, we recognize all Navy chaplains who have answered the call to serve where it matters, when it matters, with what matters since 1775.

TRIBUTE TO BOB FORD

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Bob Ford, who is retiring from Senate service. Bob is a valued, longtime member of my staff and dear friend.

In September of 2002, Bob joined my staff as the State director for business, economic, and rural development. Bob, originally from the Sunny Slope area of Canyon County, brought to the position a profound knowledge of rural and economic development shaped by his service as the State manager of rural development for the Idaho Department of Commerce, where he worked for 17 years in various capacities.

To say that Bob assisted me in a number of issue areas is an understatement. He has worked on far too many efforts to count. In addition to his

work on rural and economic development issues, he has worked on initiatives related to housing, labor, trade, veterans, energy, banking, budget, taxes, immigration, water resources, transportation, and much more.

Highlights of his contributions as a member of my staff include his successful work to stop the transfer of the terminal approach control radar, known as TRACON, from the Boise airport. Bob spent countless hours working with affected parties to build an overwhelming justification for retaining TRACON at the Boise airport. He also worked heavily on trying to restore a key Amtrak corridor between the Midwest, the Intermountain States, and the Pacific Northwest.

As a fellow veteran, Bob has utilized his shared understanding of serving our Nation to connect with Idaho's veterans community and help improve veterans' access to quality services. He has attentively and efficiently administered the presenting of the Spirit of Freedom Award, which is an annual award to veterans and volunteers to recognize their great contributions to our armed services and veterans.

Bob is pragmatic and witty. He brings his calm, commonsense approach to any task, and I will miss his logical counsel and good humor. Bob is so widely admired that there has been no shortage of Idahoans who have shared fond memories of times they have worked with Bob over the years and the achievements he has made for the people of our great State.

Bob, you have done "not bad for a kid who grew up on a farm in Sunny Slope on the banks of the Snake River." I hope that retirement will provide much-deserved time fishing, and that I will still get to benefit from your wise assistance from time to time. Thank you for your outstanding, committed service. Congratulations on your retirement. I wish you all the best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL COURNEYA

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Virgil Courneya on being selected as National President of the Fleet Reserve Association, FRA. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his achievement in being selected to lead an organization that does so much for our Nation's military community.

Mr. Courneya enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1972 and served his country for nearly a quarter century. Throughout his military career, he received numerous assignments across the country, where he served in California, Nevada, North Carolina, Hawaii, and Pennsylvania. He also served overseas in Japan and Bolivia. Before retiring in 1996, he achieved the rank of master gunnery sergeant. Mr. Courneya's service is invaluable to our country, and I am grateful for the sacrifices he made for our freedoms.

The FRA is a congressionally chartered military and veterans service organization that serves active members and veterans of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. In his new role, Mr. Courneya will work to strengthen the organization and increase national recognition of the work being done by the FRA on behalf of our Nation's heroes. He will also serve as an advocate for the issues important to sea service members and their families.

Mr. Courneya has been a member of the FRA since 1982 and is currently a member of the FRA Branch 274 in Reno. Throughout his service to this organization, he has held numerous important roles on the local, regional, and national levels, including serving as both the association's west coast regional president from 2004 to 2006 and national vice president from 2012 to 2013.

I am grateful for Mr. Courneya's many contributions to sea service members and veterans throughout our Nation and State. His actions represent only the greatest of Nevada's values and place him among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. I would also like to recognize his wife, Helen, who was selected as the national president of the auxiliary. Our State is fortunate to have role models such as Mr. and Mrs. Courneya serving Nevada's brave.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize Congress has a responsibility not only to honor the brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for veterans in our State and across the country. I am grateful to have Nevadans like Mr. Courneya working towards a common goal: fighting to ensure the needs of our military community are met.

Mr. Courneya has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the U.S. Marine Corps. I extend my greatest gratitude for his service to defending our freedom and his work on behalf of the FRA. I am humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Courneya on being selected as national president of this important organization.●

CONGRATULATING PAT SKORKOWSKY

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Clark County School District Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky on being named National Superintendent of the Year by Jobs for America's Graduates, JAG. This award is truly prestigious and attained by only the most influential educators across the country.

JAG is a nonprofit organization that is focused on improving the educational outcome of America's youth