

His presentations at the Prayer Breakfasts helped us to know him and his faith better. He demonstrated what he learned at church and, particularly, on his mission, and he was willing to share that with us to help our lives. But his life was a living example of his faith.

He also probably never realized the difference he made in people's lives with his involvement with the Franklin Planner alone. I know he never realized the difference he made daily as he worked with people on legislation, much of which he never got credit for, but he was effective in making sure it got done in a reasonable way.

He had a special talent for speaking and presenting. He could take numbers from the Joint Economic Committee, which he chaired, and make them understandable to his colleagues. That is an unmatched talent. People go to sleep with numbers. His experience in small business gave him the ability to make people understand how small businesses operate, how they get their employees, the difficulties of buying things in advance that they don't know they are going to sell, and how critical that is to the U.S. economy. He recognized and made a case like no other person for how important small business was as the engine of our economy.

Yes, Bob, you have been missed, and you are missed. Your family is in our prayers, and we grieve with them.

I yield the floor.

#### RESPONSE ACT OF 2015

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 155, S. 546.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 546) to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Heitkamp substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3889) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 546), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third read-

ing, was read the third time, and passed.

#### AMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ORGANIZATION ACT AND THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 1976

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4238, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4238) to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4238) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 451, S. Res. 436.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 436) supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

#### S. RES. 436

*Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day;*

*Whereas malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, despite being preventable and treatable;*

*Whereas fighting malaria is in the national interest of the United States, as reducing the risk of malaria protects members of the Armed Forces and other people of the United States serving overseas in malaria-endemic regions, and reducing malaria deaths helps to lower risks of instability in less developed countries;*

*Whereas the elimination of malaria remains a bipartisan priority of the United States Government;*

*Whereas, on December 14, 2006, President George W. Bush stated at the White House Malaria Summit, "So we are acting, and we're leading. And with partners across the world, we*

*are helping the people of Africa turn the tide against malaria. The goal of defeating malaria is a challenging goal, yet it can be done. It's not going to require a miracle, it just requires a smart, sustained, focused effort."*

*Whereas, on September 27, 2015, President Barack Obama stated at the United Nations General Assembly, "Billions of our fellow human beings are at risk of dying from diseases that we know how to prevent. Many children are just one mosquito bite away from death. And that is a moral outrage. It is a profound injustice. It is literally a matter of life and death, and now the world must act."*

*Whereas support for efforts to fight malaria is in the diplomatic and moral interest of the United States, as that support generates goodwill toward the United States and highlights the values of the people of the United States through the work of governmental, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations of the United States;*

*Whereas efforts to fight malaria are in the long-term economic interest of the United States because those efforts help developing countries—*

- (1) identify at-risk populations;*
- (2) provide a framework for critical emergency disease treatment;*
- (3) provide better health services;*
- (4) increase local governance needed to address substandard and counterfeit medicines that exacerbate malaria resistance;*
- (5) produce healthier and more productive workforces;*
- (6) advance economic development; and*
- (7) promote stronger trading partners;*

*Whereas, in 2015, malaria transmission occurred in 95 countries and territories;*

*Whereas an estimated 3,200,000,000 people are at risk for malaria, with 214,000,000 active cases, the vast majority of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for 90 percent of malaria deaths in the world;*

*Whereas young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by malaria;*

*Whereas malaria greatly affects the health of children, as children under the age of 5 account for an estimated 70 percent of malaria deaths each year;*

*Whereas malaria poses great risks to maternal and neonatal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights;*

*Whereas heightened national, regional, and international efforts to prevent and treat malaria during recent years have made significant progress and helped save hundreds of thousands of lives;*

*Whereas the World Malaria Report 2015 by the World Health Organization states that, in 2014, approximately 55 percent of people in sub-Saharan Africa slept under an insecticide-treated mosquito net, and household surveys indicated that 90 percent of people used an insecticide-treated mosquito net if such a net was available in the household;*

*Whereas, in 2014, approximately 116,000,000 people were protected by indoor residual spraying;*

*Whereas the World Malaria Report 2015 further states that, between 2000 and 2015—*

- (1) malaria mortality rates decreased by 60 percent around the world;*
- (2) in the African Region of the World Health Organization, malaria mortality rates decreased by 66 percent; and*
- (3) an estimated 6,200,000 malaria deaths were averted globally, primarily as a result of increased interventions;*

*Whereas the World Malaria Report 2015 further states that, out of 95 countries and territories with ongoing transmission of malaria in 2015—*

- (1) 10 countries are classified as being in the pre-elimination phase;*
- (2) 10 countries are classified as being in the elimination phase; and*

(3) 9 countries are classified as being in the prevention of malaria reintroduction phase of malaria control;

Whereas continued national, regional, and international investment in efforts to eliminate malaria, including prevention and treatment efforts, the development of a vaccine to immunize children from the malaria parasite, and advancements in insecticides, are critical in order to—

(1) continue to reduce malaria deaths;

(2) prevent backsliding in areas where progress has been made; and

(3) equip the United States and the global community with the tools necessary to fight malaria and other global health threats;

Whereas the United States Government has played a leading role in the recent progress made toward reducing the global burden of malaria, particularly through the President's Malaria Initiative (referred to in this preamble as the "PMI") and the contribution of the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

Whereas, in 2011, an independent, external evaluation, prepared by Boston University, examining 6 objectives of the PMI, found the PMI to be a successful, well-led program that has "earned and deserves the task of sustaining and expanding the United States Government's response to global malaria control efforts";

Whereas the PMI Strategy 2015-2020 articulates the malaria goal of the United States Government of working with countries and partners to further reduce malaria deaths and substantially decrease malaria morbidity, towards the long-term goal of elimination;

Whereas the United States Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to ending malaria deaths through the PMI, which is led by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private sector entities;

Whereas the PMI focuses on helping partner countries achieve major improvements in overall health outcomes through improved access to, and quality of, healthcare services in locations with limited resources; and

Whereas the PMI, recognizing the burden of malaria on many partner countries, has set a target by 2020 of reducing malaria mortality by 1/3 from 2015 levels in PMI-supported countries, achieving a greater than 80 percent reduction from original 2000 baseline levels set by the PMI, reducing malaria morbidity in PMI-supported countries by 40 percent from 2015 levels, and assisting not fewer than 5 PMI-supported countries to meet the criteria of the World Health Organization for national or sub-national pre-elimination; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day;

(2) recognizes the importance of reducing malaria prevalence and deaths to improve overall child and maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) commends the recent progress made toward reducing global malaria morbidity, mortality, and prevalence, particularly through the efforts of the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(4) welcomes ongoing public-private partnerships to research and develop more effective and affordable tools for malaria diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination;

(5) recognizes the goals, priorities, and authorities to combat malaria set forth in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918);

(6) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to combat malaria and to work with developing countries to create long-term strategies to increase ownership over malaria programs; and

(7) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and increase their support for and financial contributions to efforts to combat malaria worldwide.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 436) was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

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

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

#### THE PUBLIC TRUST

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I rise this evening to read into the RECORD a portion of the New York Times Magazine profile yesterday of Ben Rhodes, Deputy National Security Advisor to President Obama.

Before reading the article, though, titled "The Story-Teller and the President," I wish to explain briefly why I think this piece is so important for us to consider in this Chamber.

We live in a time of precipitous change, both in American Government and in communications more broadly. We don't admit it enough in this body, but the Congress in the last decade-plus is extraordinarily weak by historical standards. At the same time, the media is rapidly fragmenting. These two vacuums are being filled by the executive branch in ways that are badly damaging, both to the separation of powers and to the idea of a meaningfully engaged citizenry. There can be little doubt that our Founders would be troubled by what is occurring in our time.

Washington is in the process of replacing self-evident truths with self-serving spin, and this is dangerous, for no one is entitled to his or her own facts. I sit intentionally at the desk of Daniel Patrick Moynihan in this body precisely because he was committed to the idea of a shared set of facts before our debates began. Yet this story makes clear that the executive branch

feels empowered to proclaim its own narratives.

This is bigger than Republicans and Democrats. This is about the legislature's check on the Executive, and it is about all of our accountability in this city to the people. To my Democratic colleagues who supported the Iran deal, does it trouble you at all that the White House displays obvious contempt for you? For your voters and for my voters, will you stand for this kind of fundamentally dishonest spin from future Republican administrations—because I pledge to you that I will not from any administration of either party.

Some will say this is just one story of one staffer who wanted to brag and got carried away—someone who wanted to boast about if the whole world could be his canvas, but we should be clear that it is ultimately elected officials who bear responsibility for the ongoing evaporation of public trust in our time.

I want to underscore this point. These, my comments tonight, are not about whether you share the President's view that the Iranian nuclear deal was a prudent move or whether you share my view that it was a disaster. That is not the point at issue today. Obviously, foreign policy is critically important, but this story tonight is about whether we take truth seriously. It is about whether we care about the public trust.

There is a widespread view around here that our chief job is "to pass legislation." That is incorrect. Our main job, and indeed the oath we took, is to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution, which is about limited government and about the separation of powers.

Our job is to ensure that the Nation is well governed and that the public can believe that the public can have trust and confidence that the Nation is well governed. This necessarily means that oversight is at least as important as passing or repealing particular pieces of legislation. This horrific story should be a screaming siren to all of us of both parties.

Newsrooms are obviously still struggling to understand what vigorous and independent reporting will look like in the digital age, but it remains true that freedom that ordered liberty will remain dependent on an informed citizenry, and that requires a serious and a free press. Good journalism, serious journalism, that takes actual facts seriously and then grapples with those facts honestly, is an important and a high calling.

I plan to read about one-fourth of this New York Times piece into the RECORD, but please note that I will skip over many proper names for ease of audible understanding. Picking up then about 40 percent of the way into the profile, the story continues:

The job he [Ben Rhodes] was hired to do, [was] namely to help the President of the United States communicate with the public, [and this job] was changing in equally significant ways, thanks to the impact of digital technologies that people in Washington