

that Leo Thorsness was shot down. He was captured and spent 6 years in the “Hanoi Hilton”—6 years in the darkness. It was there that he met his cellmate, our colleague and future Senator, JOHN McCAIN.

Imagining 6 days in such a terrible place is more than most people can handle, never mind 6 years. But Leo Thorsness endured; he saw the mission through. When he returned in 1973, it was to an astonished and grateful nation, but the man himself was unfazed. He called his wife after being released and said: “I would have called sooner, but I’ve been all tied up.”

He later went on to serve in the Washington State Senate and run for other offices. But his legacy is not one of the titles he won; it is the example he set.

He was quite a man, Leo Thorsness. And though we have lost him, we will keep his memory for a good long time to come.

Leo Thorsness, rest in peace.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

NOMINATION OF MARK GREEN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations, I welcome the nomination of Ambassador and former Member of Congress Mark Green to be the next Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Ambassador Green brings a wealth of experience to this important position. He has been president of the International Republican Institute since 2014. In 2013, he was president and chief executive officer of the Initiative for Global Development, and before that, he served as senior director at the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, a network of 400 businesses, nongovernmental organizations, policy experts, and others supporting the role of development in U.S. foreign policy. He served as the U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania from 2007 to 2009. While there, he led a mission of more than 350 Americans and Tanzanians and was ultimately responsible

for some of the largest U.S. overseas development programs. Prior to his serving as U.S. Ambassador, Mark Green served four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Wisconsin’s 8th District.

Ambassador Green also served on the board of directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, after being appointed to that position by President Obama. He is currently on the Human Freedom Advisory Council for the George W. Bush Institute and cochairs the Consensus for Development Reform, a coalition of policy and business leaders devising new principles for making development policy more effective and growth-oriented. He is a board member of WorldTeach and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Since 1989, as either chairman or ranking member of the subcommittee that provides the funding for USAID’s operations and programs, I know the critical role that it plays in promoting and protecting U.S. interests around the world. Its field missions are its greatest strength, and countless lives have been saved, conflicts avoided, and government institutions strengthened, thanks to the global health, social and economic development, and democracy programs administered by USAID. These programs are not charity. They are essential and complementary to the roles played by our diplomats and soldiers.

President Trump has talked about “America First.” We all want this country to be the best it can be, but slogans are not a substitute for effective policies. Creating jobs at home is not, by itself, a foreign policy. The United States cannot remain a leader in the global economy, where the gravest security problems we face can only be solved by working with other countries, if we reduce our engagement with the world. The vacuum we leave will quickly be filled by our competitors, and it will be difficult if not impossible to recover lost ground.

At a time when OMB is proposing to slash USAID’s budget and downgrade its overseas presence, the nomination of Ambassador Green is a positive signal. If confirmed, I look forward to working with him and subcommittee Chairman GRAHAM, as well as with our House appropriations subcommittee counterparts Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY, to ensure that USAID has the resources it needs to continue and expand its presence and impact around the world.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for today’s vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert Lighthizer to be U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador. I would have voted yea.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request at the present time relat-

ing to the nomination of Courtney Elwood of Virginia to be the general counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I will object because the CIA has still not responded to my letters from April 14, 2014; and April 5, 2017, requesting declassification of two congressional notifications, CNs, about whistleblower communications. In 2014, the inspector general of the Intelligence Community issued two CNs about whistleblower communications. The first, sent on March 28, 2014, had the unclassified subject line “Whistleblower Communications.” The second, sent on March 31, 2014, had the unclassified subject line “Whistleblower Communications—Clarification.” Both documents were classified Secret/NOFORN. I requested that the CNs be declassified as soon as possible. More than 3 years have passed since my initial request, and I still have not received declassified versions of the documents or an explanation of why the documents have not been declassified.

The information contained in the two CNs raises serious policy implications, as well as potential Constitutional separation-of-powers issues. The CNs do not appear to contain any information about sources or methods, and there is a strong public interest in their content. As a matter of respect, for a co-equal branch of government, my declassification request should have been processed in a timely manner. Moreover, under the executive branch’s own regulations, there are time limits that apply to processing declassification requests and classification challenges that the CIA has failed to meet.

In addition, I have requested copies of the CIA’s PPD-19 procedures and policies which allow CIA whistleblowers to seek relief from reprisal, but the CIA has refused, stating that the documents are classified and for CIA’s internal use only. PPD-19 was largely codified by the Intelligence Authorization Act, and so the CIA is also required by law to implement such a policy. It is now at issue in a Federal lawsuit challenging the CIA’s failure to adhere to its own procedures under the Administrative Procedures Act.

My objection is not intended to question the credentials of Ms. Elwood in any way. However, the CIA must recognize that it has an ongoing obligation to respond to Congressional inquiries in a timely and reasonable manner.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the invaluable work of nurses. With 3 million nurses nationwide, these men and women make up the largest providers of healthcare in the country. I am proud to acknowledge the talents and successes of these caregivers as we recognize National Nurses Week.

These dedicated health professionals provide quality care to patients every

single day. Their dedication and passion to caregiving is constantly on display, often during critical and stressful situations. The work they do helps save lives and gives reassurance to patients facing questions about their health. While on the front lines of healthcare delivery they are also frequently the first line of communication when health problems arise. These healthcare heroes wear many hats.

Providing nurses with the resources they need to deliver quality care needs to be a priority. Last week, members of the Emergency Nurses Association from Arkansas shared with me one legislative fix to improve patient care. Amending the Controlled Substance Act to allow paramedics and other emergency medical services professionals to continue to administer controlled substances like pain narcotics when allowed by State law would improve emergency outcomes, particularly in rural areas where a medical facility may be miles away. That is why I cosponsored legislation to amend the Controlled Substance Act.

Nurses are taking on more responsibilities in our evolving healthcare system in order to meet the needs of our aging population. They are being asked to do more with less and still provide the quality patient care they are known for.

If you are like me and have been cared for by a nurse, you understand the important work they do. I am grateful for the care they provide and proudly support nurses as a cosponsor of the Senate resolution recognizing National Nurses Week.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LISTER-KNOWLTON VFW POST 9389

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States traces its roots to 1899, when veterans returning home after the Spanish-American War joined together to support each other and to advance the ideals of our Nation. Nearly a half century later, on May 11, 1947, veterans returning to my hometown after World War II joined together for the same noble causes. Today I wish to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Lister-Knowlton VFW Post 9389 in Caribou, ME.

The name of Post 9389 signifies a fundamental purpose of the VFW: to honor those who gave their lives for freedom. Private Evan Lister and CPL Edward Knowlton were both born in Caribou, both served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and both made the ultimate sacrifice when they were each just 23 years old. Neither will ever be forgotten. Nor will we ever forget those who returned home but who have since passed into history. It is sobering to note that today there is just one living charter member of the Caribou post, WWII veteran David O. Michaud, and we honor him for his service.

In 2003, the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery was dedicated in Caribou.

This final resting place for our heroes was the result of many years of hard work and determined advocacy by committed citizens, with our VFW post leading the way. My father, Donald Collins, a decorated World War II veteran, was among those who made that enduring tribute possible.

A defining quality of America's veterans is that they continue to serve long after their service in uniform ends. Members of the Caribou VFW and the auxiliary are part of a vast network that assists the patriots serving today, fellow veterans, and their families. They generously support a wide range of community projects, charitable endeavors, and youth programs. One of the most important contributions made by the VFW is its focus on educating our young people on American values. Each year, more than 175,000 high school and middle school students nationwide join in the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions. That wonderful level of participation is always matched by the quality of the submissions. Last year, at the State VFW convention, I was delighted to congratulate the two Maine winners, including Corrine Corbin of Caribou, sponsored by our hometown VFW.

I am proud to be a life member of the Caribou VFW Post auxiliary, which was also chartered in 1947. Working side by side, the VFW and auxiliary honor America and the men and women who defend us. It is a pleasure to congratulate the Lister-Knowlton VFW Post 9389 on this landmark anniversary.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Caribou VFW on their 70th anniversary. The Caribou VFW, known as the Lister-Knowlton VFW Post 9389, was founded on May 11, 1947, by veterans returning home from World War II. The post was named after two brave Caribou natives, Private Evan Lister and CPL Edward Knowlton, who served their country during World War II and made the ultimate sacrifice when they were only 23 years old. Their dedication and service to our country will never be forgotten.

I also want to recognize the ladies auxiliary, who will celebrate their 70th anniversary on June 19. The ladies auxiliary was formed by women who were mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of veterans who served in our Armed Forces and whose service made them eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In addition, the auxiliary includes female veterans who served abroad in times of war.

While I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the veterans for their service, I want to make special note of David O. Michaud. David is a World War II veteran and the sole surviving charter member of the Lister-Knowlton VFW Post 9389. I would also like to honor Josephine Bell, an original charter member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary in Caribou who is still with us today.

These 70th anniversaries, of both the Lister-Knowlton VFW post and the ladies auxiliary, provide occasion to celebrate the storied tradition of service, both past and present, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars represent. Each of us is forever indebted to those members of the VFW who served in the protection of the United States and to their families for the care and support they have provided. We are also grateful to the VFW for their continued service, supporting those veterans who have returned, advocating on their behalf at all levels of government, and organizing a variety of community building projects.

In closing, I am glad to join with the members of the VFW and the ladies auxiliary in Caribou in honoring this 70th year of working on behalf of veterans, the State of Maine, and our great Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK DEBATE TEAM

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Rutgers University-Newark senior debate team of Nicole Nave and Devane Murphy as they celebrate back-to-back national championships with their victories at the National Debate Tournament, NDT, and the Cross Examination Debate Association National Tournament this year.

Last year, I stood on this floor to recognize Rutgers University-Newark's victory at the National Debate Tournament at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. This year, I am extremely proud to be here once again congratulating Rutgers-Newark on another collegiate National Debate Tournament championship. This is truly an impressive and historic accomplishment. It is only the second time in collegiate debate history that the same team has won both national championships in a single year.

In addition to the national championship, Nicole Nave and Devane Murphy were also honored individually at the National Debate Tournament this year. Devane was named the NDT's top speaker, and Nicole received the NDT second place speaker award. At this year's Cross Examination Debate Association National tournament, Nicole earned a record-shattering five perfect scores out of eight. Nicole and Devane, the two best collegiate debaters in America, use their life experiences to shape their uniquely Rutgers-Newark debate style, one which has led the Rutgers University-Newark team to remain ranked as the No. 1 team in the Nation.

The Rutgers University-Newark debate team, founded in 2008, is sponsored by the school of public affairs and administration and the office of the chancellor, Newark. Under the leadership of