

That funding had been authorized when the Columbia River National Scenic Area was established in 1986. In that scenic area, every community had restrictions on what additional buildings they could create, so they felt for sure the Federal Government would hold up its side of the deal and deliver that money for economic development in compensation. They did get some of that money in the 1990s but not the full amount. They were millions of dollars short. It came up at meeting after meeting after meeting: Where is that money the Federal Government promised us? It was an issue folks were not going to let go of.

Of course, I wanted to deliver that funding, but I had to have a key staff member work on it, and that key staff member was Dan—working on it for 5 years, finding strategies in which we could get additional pieces of funding delivered until every single dollar had made it through tricky local politics, bistate politics, to help the stakeholders who live throughout the Columbia Gorge. There was no silver-bullet moment; it was just year after year of planning and pushing and seizing key opportunities to fulfill promises to ordinary Oregonians. In the end, fulfill they did. Dan secured those millions of dollars in economic development for the Columbia Gorge.

He was just as tenacious about protecting local services, too, like when he kept open the West Linn Post Office. After 2 years of searching for a permanent site, one day in August, we heard that the U.S. Postal Service had decided to just close the doors on the post office in September, right before the November election. Just 6 weeks before the 2020 Presidential election, in a State where we vote by mail, in the midst of COVID, right before the holidays, the post office is going to close the doors on that post office. They had just given up on finding a new location. That post office serves a city of 26,000 people.

Dan went immediately to work, organizing our delegation, our local officials, working with the Postal Service to find a better solution, insisting that no way those doors could be closed, making sure that everyone felt the urgency, and ultimately secured the extension of that post office and kept it open. At the election, people could cast their ballots. People could receive their medications, and they could mail their gifts to their loved ones during the holidays.

But there is more to the story because the post office continued to insist on closing. Well, again, Dan helped organize. He helped carry the message that that was unacceptable, and eventually the U.S. Postal Service got the message, found a suitable location, and the people of West Linn, OR, were overjoyed. But it took tenacity, and that is what Dan brought to the ballot.

He is also tenacious, by the way, when he is trying to win a game of table tennis. I can neither confirm nor

deny that he ripped a pair of suit pants in a table tennis match with an unnamed U.S. Senator.

He has been tenacious as my labor adviser. Whether working with bakers, the building trades, nurses, teachers, timber workers, public employees, everyone knows that Dan is a partner they can trust. He has navigated countless labor issues to ensure the working families of Oregon get the pay and benefits they earned.

A few years ago, there was a difficult discussion about a major project in Oregon. It would have created a lot of construction jobs, but it also would have done a lot of damage to the climate. In that situation, with this benefit and this problem, Dan was a supreme professional, the supreme diplomat, ensuring that full and accurate information was brought to bear and that everyone's perspectives was carefully considered and weighed. In the end, of course, not everyone agreed with the ultimate outcome, but so many were impressed by the thorough and transparent process that Dan facilitated.

Dan is the kind of guy who brings a positive angle to every situation. One time, my team members, after driving 8 hours across Oregon—big State; I know that is hard to envision here on the east coast—they were driving 8 hours to host an event and discovered the local motel rooms were out of commission, so they would have to drive after the event an additional 3 hours to find accommodation. The team really was exhausted and just wanted to climb in bed and go to sleep, but they couldn't. But Dan said:

Hey, let's use this as an opportunity to see Oregon's only geyser.

The water table had come up, and the geyser was back in action. So they went in search of the geyser before hitting the road, and they found it, and they were thrilled to see it because few in Oregon ever have. It was an effective pivot for an exhausted and quite cranky crew. As one of them said afterward:

It was very, very cool. I'm so grateful that Dan made us slow down a bit. He always encourages us to enjoy the trip, enjoy the sights, and enjoy each other's company.

I know he has done that for me. I remember a day after many miles and many events when we had a little bit of time before our next stop. We went by his house in Hood River, sat on his porch—sat on his rocking chairs on his porch—hung out, laughed, relaxed, and played with his dog. It was just what we all needed, and Dan knew it.

I began these remarks quoting Dolores Huerta, who said that "every minute is a chance to change the world." She also said:

I think the importance of doing activist work is to engage people and give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow. Hope that change is possible, and that they can be part of that transformation.

Dan has engaged and given hope to so many ordinary people—hope for a bet-

ter Oregon, hope for a better community, hope for a better tomorrow. Most importantly, he has shown folks that, working together, change is possible and that they can be part of that transformation.

So many people I met have a great story about Dan and some way he has helped them or helped their town or just that they have enjoyed knowing him. He embodies the best spirit of Team Merkley. So it is with deep gratitude that Team Merkley and I thank Dan Mahr for his service to the people of Oregon, and we wish him all the best in his next chapter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

REMEMBERING DONNA LEE NELSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, throughout my years of public service, I have had the honor to meet citizens from all walks of life across my home State. As Iowa's senior U.S. Senator, today I pay tribute to a dynamic civic and business leader who passed away earlier this year.

Donna Lee Nelson was an indomitable pillar in her community who leaves behind a legacy of leadership, service, and entrepreneurial spirit for which the city of Waterloo and the Cedar Valley will benefit for generations to come. She also was the family matriarch, lovingly recalled as a "force of nature," and her long list of achievements and traveling adventures will be fondly remembered by her family and friends for years to come.

Donna and her husband Verner D. Nelson, Sr., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in January. That was a remarkable milestone and testimony to their faith-filled partnership. They were high school sweethearts who together launched a business enterprise that started with insurance and ventured into many others, including construction, trucking, and real estate.

Looking back at her 89 years of life, Donna certainly didn't let any grass grow beneath her feet. She traveled all over the world but never lost sight of home. The city of Waterloo benefited from what you might call her Midas Touch with her tireless, decades-long efforts to preserve the vitality, culture, heritage and history of downtown, including the Black's Building and the old YMCA.

Her selfless approach to leadership and ability to mobilize others carried

over from business and industry to philanthropy, as well. Donna was recognized by more than 20 achievement awards, including being named Citizen of the Year in 1985 and Eight over Eighty in 2015. Donna chaired and served on numerous boards, from the United Way to the American Heart Association and the Salvation Army.

Barbara and I extend our condolences to Donna's family and friends, particularly to her beloved husband Vern. We were blessed by her friendship and thank the Nelson family for their support over many years.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-63, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Iraq for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$300 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Iraq.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$ 0.
Other \$300 million.
Total \$300 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case IQ-B-AQJ was below the congressional notification threshold at \$28 million (\$0 in MDE) and included a Bell Contracted

Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) contract in support of the following types of Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH-58A/C Kiowa, and Huey II. The Government of Iraq has requested the case be amended to include additional option years on the current contract and to add contract support for Bell 505 aircraft as indicated below. This amendment will push the current case above the total case value notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None
Non-MDE: Bell Contracted Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) maintenance in support of the following Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH-58A/C Kiowa, Huey II and 505. Also included is U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (IQ-B-AQJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: IQ-B-UDZ, IQ-B-ADQ.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 2, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Iraq—Bell Helicopter Contracted Logistics Support (CLS)

The Government of Iraq has requested to buy additional services, as indicated below, that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at \$28 million, included a Bell Contracted Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) contract. This notification is for the combined CLS and FSR maintenance support for the following Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH-58A/C Kiowa, Huey II and 505. Also included is U.S. Government and Contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$300 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner.

The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Iraq's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the strength of its homeland defense. The Republic of Iraq will have no difficulty absorbing these services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Bell Helicopter Company, Fort Worth, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of four (4) additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Iraq for a duration of one (1) year to support CLS for Bell 505 aircraft. There are currently seven (7) U.S. Government or contractor representatives in Iraq that will stay an additional two (2) years to provide support for the contract option years for CLS and FSR service support for the three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH-58A/C and Huey II aircraft.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on roll-call vote No. 291, confirmation of Lt. Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney for appointment as Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps, and to be General.

HONORING THE SOLDIERS OF BRAVO COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 124TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise today to honor the soldiers of Bravo Company (Wolfpack), 3rd Battalion (Warrior), 124th Infantry Regiment Florida Army National Guard. This year marks the 20th anniversary since Bravo Company was deployed to the Middle East. The 137 soldiers were the first Florida Guardsmen deployed to war since World War II.

These brave soldiers conducted thousands of patrols, hundreds of checkpoints, performed raids, and participated in countless supporting operations. Most importantly, all soldiers returned home. These soldiers earned their Combat Infantryman Badge and their Presidential Unit Citation.

I want to welcome them to Pensacola, FL, 20 years after being downrange protecting our great Nation. As a Navy veteran and the son of a World War II veteran, I know firsthand the sacrifices made by our military members and their families. Thank you for your service; your courage and dedication to our country will never be forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BRANNON MONUMENT COMPANY

● Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Brannon Monument Company of Dubuque, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Brannon Monument Company was founded by Henry Kies in 1926 as Kies Monument in Dubuque, IA. In 1961, Vince and Mary Lou Brannon bought Kies Monument and shortly thereafter changed the name to Brannon Monument Company. In 1991, Vince and Mary Lou's son Michael Brannon started working at the company. Michael purchased the family business from his parents in 1993 with his wife Stasia and moved the company in 1996 to a larger location. Brannon Monument Company