

BROWNBACK, Senator BIDEN, and Senator LEAHY who have worked with me for years to negotiate the bill's final language. As a result of these negotiations, the grant programs in the bill are focused and streamlined, and provide for the kind of accountability we need to ensure that the programs operated under the bill meet their goal of achieving real reductions in recidivism rates. I am pleased that the bill has the support of over 200 organizations from both ends of the ideological spectrum and is supported by the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor.

I thank my colleagues for their support of this important legislation. The Second Chance Act takes an important step toward closing the revolving doors of our prisons and keeping our neighborhoods and communities safe.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO POPE AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise before you today to express my sincere appreciation for the men and women of a C-130 Hercules crew out of Pope Air Force Base, NC.

MAJ Paul Pepe, 1LT Robert Davidson, 1LT Robert Gillis, Staff Sergeant Adam Monroy, Captain Kaly Godfrey, SSgt Kyle Anderson, SSgt Charles Jones, and CPT Jessica Kehren were responsible for transporting me and three of my congressional colleagues from Baghdad, Iraq, to Amman, Jordan, the night of August 30, 2007.

Approximately 5 minutes into the flight, I looked out of my window and noticed flashes of light coming from the ground—our aircraft was taking on surface-to-air rocket fire. The C-130 Hercules crew immediately began taking evasive maneuvers to successfully defeat the three rockets fired at the aircraft.

Throughout the incident, our crew remained calm and professional. I could not have been prouder of the way they worked together to safely avoid a very dangerous situation. Our warfighters face threats in Iraq and Afghanistan every day. While I know this type of danger was not new to them, the incident enhanced my already deep appreciation for the danger they face on a daily basis.

For their actions, the crew was recently awarded the Air Mobility Command's 2007 Field of Aeronautics and Astronautics Aviator Valor Award. The award is given for a conspicuous act of courage or valor performed during aerial flight during either combat or non-combat. Without question, the C-130 Hercules crew is most deserving of this high honor.

The training and extensive preparation that our crew undoubtedly went through at Pope Air Force Base has paid dividends. These men and women performed a stellar job without showing even the slightest bit of apprehension. I know my colleagues on the flight would agree; our military is for-

tunate to have this crew serving our nation in such a fine manner.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. April 4, 2008, marks the 40th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an iconic leader of the American civil rights movement. In death, the legacy of Dr. King continues and so does his call for tolerance, justice, and equality.

April 1968 was a tragic time for the King family and for our Nation. Our cities erupted as people were overcome by rage and horror at his assassination. We all suffered in the knowledge that someone who had been an inspiration to millions had been taken from us by an assassin's bullet.

It has been 40 years since his murder, but his legacy remains with us as we continue to pursue his vision of equality, fairness, and justice. Today, we are a nation of 300 million people; a nation in which one out of three Americans is a member of a minority group. His vision is just as important and inspirational today as it was 40 years ago.

We must never forget that our diversity is one of our greatest strengths and one of our most important challenges. We must find a way to work and live together and to respect each other. Dr. King's legacy of social justice charted the path for us. As he once said: "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

We have not always succeeded in achieving that goal. Dr. King's work remains unfinished as we witness a resurgence of hate crimes and injustice and inequality still exist. We must always remain vigilant against those who preach hate and intolerance and believe that it is acceptable to deny others the rights that are guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution and bill of rights.

Dr. King stood up to violence, bigotry, and intolerance in our country to ensure that all of us can live free of prejudice and hatred. Today, on the 40th anniversary of his death, it is important that we remember his sacrifice and pledge to continue his fight for greater opportunities for all.

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, March is National Eye Donor Month. In fact, it's the 25th anniversary of that proud tradition.

Each March since 1983, the eye donor community has gathered to celebrate the gift of sight, to honor past donors and their families, and to raise awareness about eye donation.

I want to thank those who have given this amazing gift and to encourage more Americans to become eye donors.

Eye donation is an incredible thing. Precious corneas harvested from donated eyes can restore vision that's been lost to disease or injury or infection. Most of us take our vision for granted.

We read our books, watch our children grow, and find our loved ones in a crowded room—and don't give it a second thought. But what if you lost that ability, that gift of sight—or never had it at all. An estimated 11.4 million people have severe visual problems that are not correctable by glasses.

Eighty million people suffer from potentially blinding eye disease; 1.1 million people are legally blind. But there is hope. Through the miracle of transplantation, it is possible to restore sight.

Each year, 44,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants are performed.

Eye banks like the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank change people's lives. Shirley Jacobs knows this first hand. Shirley was living with Fuchs dystrophy, a genetic degenerative corneal disease. The disease robbed her of clear vision. It limited her independence and her ability to do her job. Then she received a corneal transplant at the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank. Her first words after the surgery were, "This is a miracle! I can see you, I can see you!"

That is amazing. But so many more people are waiting.

In Ohio alone, 1,600 people each year could have their sight restored through corneal transplants. But there aren't enough organs available. We need to get the word out and reach people who would donate if given the choice. We must raise public awareness of the need for eye donors and the ways to sign up.

I encourage my colleagues to work with their local eye banks and the Eye Bank Association of America to promote the precious gift of eye donation. I also encourage Americans to consider designating themselves as organ donors on their driver's licenses. It is the best way to make your end-of-life wishes known and to give the gift of sight. I urge my colleagues and fellow citizens to consider becoming an eye donor. Thousands of people around the country are waiting for it.

PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, America is a great and good Nation that has been a beacon to the world on human rights. Nothing should be simpler than for a President of the United States to stand up and say, clearly, that this country does not engage in cruel and abusive interrogation practices such as waterboarding; that those practices are abhorrent and illegal. It saddens me greatly—but does not surprise me—that this President has, once again, refused to make that simple statement. By vetoing the intelligence authorization bill because of a provision that would reemphasize that waterboarding

and other forms of torture are illegal, he has added to the shameful legacy of this administration.

Let me be clear. This provision should not have been necessary. Waterboarding and other forms of torture are already clearly illegal. Waterboarding has been recognized as torture for the last 500 years. President Teddy Roosevelt prosecuted American soldiers for waterboarding more than 100 years ago. We prosecuted Japanese soldiers for waterboarding Americans during World War II.

I supported this provision, despite the fact that there is no question that waterboarding is already illegal, because this administration has chosen to flout the rule of law. They have admitted they have engaged in waterboarding, otherwise known as water torture, and they refuse to say they will not do it again. The positions they have taken publicly on this subject are so destructive to the core values of this Nation and our standing in the world that both Houses of this Congress have chosen to emphasize, again, that our Government is not permitted to use these shameful techniques. His veto, while another in a series of self-interested acts, does nothing to make waterboarding any less illegal and abhorrent.

Waterboarding is torture. It always has been torture. William Safire in a recent article in *The New York Times Magazine* traced the derivation of the term "waterboarding." It was a chilling history, but most disturbing was this recitation of how it was performed on our own servicemembers:

[I]n 1953, a U.S. fighter pilot told United Press that North Korean captors gave him the 'water treatment' in which 'they would bend my head back, put a towel over my face and pour water over the towel. I could not breathe. . . . When I would pass out, they would shake me and begin again.'

The greatest tragedy of the President's veto is that he has made it harder to protect Americans and our own servicemembers from this form of torture. This administration has so twisted America's role, law, and values that our own State Department and high-ranking officials in our Department of Defense, and even our Attorney General, are not permitted to say that the waterboarding of an American is illegal. Only our enemies can take comfort in the President's veto. It sacrifices America's high moral ground and the force of international standards and says that high-ranking American officials agree with them that waterboarding is a legal and a useful interrogation "technique." It sends the signal that they are as free to use the "technique" as the Bush administration was, if they determine it to be in their best interest. That is how low we have sunk.

I confirmed in questioning the Director of the FBI just last week that in its counterterrorism efforts, the FBI continues to follow proscriptions against coercive interrogations. Our top mili-

tary lawyers and our generals and admirals also understand this issue. They have said consistently that waterboarding is torture and is illegal. They have told us again and again at hearings and in letters that intelligence gathered through cruel techniques like waterboarding is not reliable and that our use and endorsement of these techniques puts our brave men and women serving in the Armed Forces at risk. That is why they have so explicitly prohibited such techniques in their own Army Field Manual, and it is an example that the rest of the Government and the rest of the country should follow.

Yet it is a provision that would have required compliance with the Army Field Manual that caused the President to veto this bill. He said it would "harm our national security." He could not be more wrong.

When the Senate was considering the nomination of the current Attorney General, I read in *The Washington Post* and heard from some Members of this body that we could ignore the nominee's refusal to recognize that waterboarding is illegal because he had assured us that he would enforce a new law against waterboarding if Congress were to pass one. I said then that we needed no such law because waterboarding was already illegal. I said then that such an assurance was hollow and dangerous because this President would surely veto any such prohibition. Now he has.

This is about core American values, the things that make our country great. America does not torture. It should always stand against torture. This veto is another sad moment for America. America is better than this.

TRIBUTE TO GLEN GOODALL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the advantages of growing up in Montpelier, VT, is that I still see friends of mine and my family when I am back home. Glen and Esther Goodall were dear friends of my parents, Howard and Alba Leahy, and it is always nice to catch up with them, especially at the farmers' market in Montpelier in the summer.

Recently, Glen Goodall wrote a superb article for the *Times Argus* newspaper, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD. In the article, he tells what happened when the USS *President Coolidge* struck anti-submarine mines and sank. Glen is one of those unsung heroes of World War II, and it is an honor to know him.

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

FROM THE BIG SWIM TO MAIN STREET
VETERAN RECOUNTS FIGHTS IN PACIFIC
THEATER

Sixty-six years ago, at the age of 23, I was headed for Camp Blanding in Florida with the Vermont National Guard 172nd Infantry regiment of the 43rd Division. Our division was inducted into federal service on Feb. 24,

1941. After 18 months of training at Camp Blanding in Florida and Camp Shelby in Mississippi, plus maneuvers in Louisiana and North Carolina, we received orders to Fort Ord, Calif., where we were to embark shortly for the Pacific Theater.

The 172nd Combat team set sail on the U.S.S. *President Coolidge*. As we arrived at Espiritu Santo, an island of the New Hebrides group, on Oct. 26, 1942, the *Coolidge* accidentally struck and detonated friendly anti-submarine mines and sank. About 95 percent of the men on ship swam the 800 to 1,000 yards to shore through heavy oil, as lifeboats milled about to take others to shore. Brigadier Gen. Rose, the island commander, simply stated: "Without discipline of a superior kind, the feat of abandoning a rapidly sinking ship by some 4,000 men in less than an hour could never have been accomplished. Coolness which forestalled panic, trust in their leader, considering the safety of others, agility in scrambling down nets and ropes, all revealed the quality of their training and what soldiers call 'what it takes'."

After five months on Espiritu Santo, our supply ship from the states arrived to re-equip the regiment with all the supplies we lost when the *Coolidge* went down. We left then for Guadalcanal for a mopping-up operation and jungle training to help us for our drive toward the homeland of Japan. Those orders arrived in May 1943 to invade the New Georgia group of islands. We landed on Rendova Island, from there to Munda, fighting along the Munda Trail to Arundel along the Diamond Narrows.

On Aug. 2, 1943, Brigadier Gen. Leonard F. Wing of Rutland became the commanding general of the 43rd Division. Because of his red hair, he became known as "Red Wing" and his division known as the famous Red Wing Victory Division.

We landed in Luzon on the Philippine Islands on Jan. 9, 1945. The battle lasted 175 days. During that time we lost 965 men, 2,988 wounded and 11 missing. In the rest area in Luzon we trained to invade the homeland of Japan, and while we were training the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 7, 1945, and the Japanese surrendered. We left for Japan as occupational troops and saw the horrific devastation of the atomic bombs as well as the earlier fire bombing of Tokyo and Yokohama.

Two weeks later, we were relieved and headed back to the states, arriving on Oct. 6, 1945 where three years earlier we had embarked for combat on Oct. 6, 1941. Peace at last had cost us 1,561 killed, 6,049 wounded, a total of 7,610. A lot of soldiers were returning to 3-year-old children they had never seen.

I left for duty with the 172nd Infantry Regiment on Feb. 14, 1941 as a supply sergeant and ended my military career as a warrant officer on Jan. 6, 1946. I returned to Vermont and my wife on Oct. 6, 1945. I was in fairly good health but continued to have malaria for a few years.

Major Gen. Wing was the only National Guard commander to stay with the same division from the beginning to the end of the war. The 43rd Infantry (Winged Victory) Division was the only division privileged to participate in the South Pacific, Southwest Pacific and the Philippines Campaign and continue on to the Japanese homeland.

As I reflect back on my World War II memories it was always meaningful to me to be a member of the Vermont 172nd Infantry Regiment of the 43rd Division. I was born in Vermont and it has been my home for 89½ years. Some of the other Montpelier National Guard friends were Harry Seivwright, Olisse Melada, Tom Guare, Francis Carey and Ernest Gibson, who later became governor of Vermont. Some of these friends,