

tried to be smart health care consumers. Their experience, however, illustrates the vulnerability of Americans who purchase insurance on the individual market, as well as the limits to which it is possible for Americans to be informed health care consumers.

The health care market does not function like other consumer markets. Ask your neighbor what a gallon of milk costs and they could tell you. Ask them how much it costs to have a baby and you would likely get a variety of answers, based entirely on their own experience with this important life event. The fact is the cost of having a baby depends. It depends on how much you pay for health insurance, what your insurance policy will cover and how much of that cost is your share. It depends on where you live, what complications may arise and whether the hospital nearby is equipped to handle an emergency.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will guarantee families access to affordable health insurance and coverage for essential benefits, including prenatal and maternity care. New health insurance exchanges in every State will provide a menu of quality, affordable health insurance plans for the self-employed and those who can't afford the coverage offered by their employer. Families who need assistance will be eligible for tax credits to make the plan of their choice affordable. Most importantly, families like Cory, Erin and Katarzyna's will have health insurance that covers life's essential needs. The birth of a child should not be a time to worry about what your health insurance will pay for or whether you can afford the treatment you need. Health care reform will give American families one less thing to worry about with the security of quality, affordable health care.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after any leader remarks on Saturday, December 12, the Senate then resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3288, and that at 9:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report, with the time until 9:30 a.m. equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; further, that if cloture is invoked, then postcloture time continue to run during any recess, adjournment, or period of morning business; that on Sunday, December 13, all postcloture time be considered expired at 2 p.m., and the Senate proceed to vote on the adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3288.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO CAROL BORNEMAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize an outstanding Kentuckian for her talented efforts to entertain and educate the public about the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. Ranger Carol Borneman is the recipient of the 2009 Freeman Tilden Award for the southeast region of the National Park Service. Ranger Carol, as she is commonly known from her television show, "Wild Outdoor Adventures with Ranger Carol," has been with the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park for over 15 years and serves as the park's supervisory interpreter.

The Cumberland Gap, through the Cumberland Mountains and near the Kentucky-Virginia border, was America's historical gateway to the West. Ranger Carol's stories bring to life the travel experiences of America's earliest western settlers in a way that is both educational and memorable.

There is no doubt that it is Ranger Carol's love for the park that keeps her stories entertaining. Mark Woods, Superintendent of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, stated that "she truly has a passion for the work that she does and it definitely comes through on the show. . . . You cannot watch the show without being captivated by Carol's knowledge, dedication, and sheer enthusiasm."

The Freeman Tilden Award is the most prestigious award given in the field of interpretation and education within the National Park Service. Borneman is not new to such an honor; in fact, this is the second time she has received it. It is with great pride that I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ranger Carol Borneman on receiving the Freeman Tilden Award, and for her outstanding efforts to keep important Kentucky history alive for future generations to enjoy.

REMEMBERING A. ROBERT DOLL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to reflect on the life of a dear friend, the late A. Robert Doll. Bob, as he was affectionately known, was a well-known lawyer, leader, and volunteer in his beloved Louisville community. His passing is a great loss, but his legacy lives on in the business and organizations he so dearly loved.

Mr. Doll was a founding member of the law firm Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald in Louisville. He joined the firm in the 1950s after receiving his law degree from the College of William and Mary. During his 50-plus years with Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald, Bob helped the firm grow from a mere 20 lawyers to a firm with multiple offices and 120 lawyers. When Bob was just 30 years old, he argued and won a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Doll showed his respect for his customers with the motto, "I believe that a successful law firm must emphasize and create the delivery of prompt and exceptional legal service to the client—we must remember that the client is king." One of the great successes of his career was helping to bring the Toyota plant to Scott County. He also served as the president of the Louisville Bar Foundation. In 1986, Mr. Doll was named Lawyer of the Year by the Louisville Bar Association.

Bob was also active in his community, as he served as president of the Greater Louisville YMCA board of directors and maintained a leading role in the Boy Scouts of America. Phillip Scott, the current firm chairman of Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald, stated that "Mr. Doll was not just a great lawyer, but a great man and great leader. He was a progressive leader who made Greenebaum the firm it is today. We deeply value the friendship, ideals and character he bestowed upon on us, and we'll miss him greatly."

As a leader in his community, Bob Doll was a man of integrity who made a real positive impact in the Commonwealth. His devotion for creating and maintaining a client-focused business shows he always cared about serving the community first. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him, and I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the wonderful life of Mr. A. Bob Doll.

EL SALVADOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to briefly discuss a subject that should interest all Senators concerning the country of El Salvador, which recently elected a new President and last month suffered extensive loss of life and devastating property damage as a result of torrential rains caused by Hurricane Ida.

First, I congratulate the people of El Salvador on the election, which was historic in that President Funes is the country's first President since the end of the civil war who is a member of the FMLN, which after the 1992 Peace Accords evolved from an armed insurgency into a political party. I am encouraged by what I have heard about President Funes' policies and wish him the best.

Second, the destruction caused by Hurricane Ida was extensive. Exceptionally heavy and constant rain fell on November 7 and 8, resulting in flooding and landslides that killed 192 people. Another 80 were reported missing, and more than 14,295 others were displaced from their homes. Thousands of homes, as well as roads, bridges, and other public buildings, were damaged or destroyed.

On November 10, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Robert Blau declared a disaster in response to the damage, and the U.S. Agency for International Development has so far allocated some \$280,851 in humanitarian aid. An assessment of the

total damage is underway, but it is expected to be in the hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars.

Congressman JIM MCGOVERN and I have urged the administration to provide additional aid. We remember how the U.S. Government all but forgot about El Salvador after the war ended, and this is a time to help the Salvadoran people recover from this tragedy.

Third, an issue that has deeply concerned me for many years is the problem of corruption and impunity in El Salvador. The police and the courts lack the training and resources they need, crimes are rarely solved and perpetrators are rarely punished. Violent crime and corruption have become endemic. El Salvador's democratic and economic development will continue to be impeded by a justice system that is incapable of enforcing the rule of law, and in which the Salvadoran people and foreign investors have little confidence.

One of the courageous Salvadorans who is trying to change this is Ms. Zaira Navas, inspector general of the National Police. She has a woefully inadequate budget and too few staff. But despite that, from everything I have heard she is doing an outstanding job for justice and the people of El Salvador.

I mention Ms. Navas because of the critical importance of the job she is doing, and because she has recently received death threats and I am concerned for her safety. I urge officials at the U.S. Embassy to discuss with President Funes what steps can be taken immediately to provide her the security she needs, and to increase the budget of her office.

El Salvador is a small country but one with which the U.S. has a long history. We both have newly elected presidents, and I am hopeful that we will see a renewed effort to work together to broaden our relations. Nothing, in my view, is more important than strengthening the rule of law and supporting people like Ms. Navas, but we should also expand our collaboration in health, education and exchanges, the environment, trade and investment, science and technology, the arts and culture.

CONGO

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last month, the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo presented its latest report to the U.N. Security Council. Over the years, the Group of Experts has conducted critical investigations into violations of the sanctions and the U.N. arms embargo toward Congo as well as human rights abuses and the linkages between natural resource exploitation and the financing of illegal armed groups. Yet, too often, the Group of Experts' reports and recommendations have not resulted in action by the Security Council and/or U.N. member states. I hope it will be different with this report, espe-

cially since it identifies a number of concrete steps through which U.N. member states can address the financial and support networks that fuel the violence in eastern Congo.

This new Group of Experts report particularly focuses on the FDLR, the armed group comprising many former Rwandan génocidaires that is at the heart of the instability in eastern Congo. It documents how this group continues to benefit from "residual but significant support" from top commanders of the Congolese military. It also documents how this group is supported by a far-reaching international Diaspora network. Based on records of satellite phones, the Group of Experts found that the FDLR commanders frequently communicate with people in twenty-five different countries in Europe, North America and Africa. The report also mentions credible reports and testimony that the FDLR is using Burundi "as a rear base" for regrouping and recruitment purposes.

To address these continued support networks, the Group of Experts recommends that U.N. member states direct their respective law enforcement and security agencies to conduct investigations and share relevant information on FDLR Diaspora members providing material support to the group. The Group also calls on member states to prosecute violations of the sanctions regime by their nationals or leaders of armed groups that are currently residing within their countries. The report cites three such leaders who have resided in France and Germany. With regard to the Congolese military, the Group recommends that the Security Council require member states to notify and get approval from the Sanctions Committee for all deliveries of military equipment and provision of training to Congo. This would help ensure that international assistance is not contributing to abusive behavior or going to units of the military believed to be colluding with armed groups.

Building on its previous reports, the Group of Experts report also shows how the FDLR and other armed groups continue to benefit from the exploitation of natural resources. According to this Group's investigations, the FDLR continues to get millions of dollars in direct financing from gold and cassiterite reserves in eastern Congo. The report illustrates how gold from eastern Congo is smuggled out to Uganda and Burundi, and then travels on to the United Arab Emirates and ultimately international markets. Similarly, the report documents how former rebels of the CNDP—who have ostensibly become part of the Congolese military—continue to control and exploit mineral-rich areas. In fact, two of the most lucrative mining sites are reportedly controlled by units of the Congolese military that are composed almost exclusively of former CNDP units. This is especially worrying in the context of the CNDP's integration into the Congolese military, which is still extremely fragile.

I have long called for action to address the armed exploitation of Congo's minerals, which fuels this conflict. I was pleased to join with Senators BROWNBACK and DURBIN earlier this year to introduce the Congo Conflict Minerals Act, S. 891, which would commit the United States to address this issue comprehensively. And I was glad that Secretary Clinton spoke about this issue during her visit to Congo in August. As the Group of Experts report makes clear, armed groups will continue to exploit the region's rich mineral base as long as it is profitable. The Group of Experts recommends that member states take necessary measures to clarify the due diligence obligations of companies under their respective jurisdictions that operate with these minerals. The Group also calls for the Congolese government to establish an independent monitoring team, with international support, to conduct spot checks of mines and mineral trading routes.

I am glad that there is increasing outrage about what is happening in eastern Congo. It is the single deadliest conflict since the Second World War and millions have been displaced from their homes, forced to live in squalid conditions. Countless women and girls and some men and boys in the Congo have endured rape and sexual violence. But our outrage means little unless it translates into concrete actions to fundamentally change the situation in Congo. We need to finally get serious about addressing the underlying issues that make this war profitable and allow it to persist. The Group of Experts has provided a clear picture of some of those issues as well as specific ways that U.N. member states can address them, including within our own national jurisdictions. I applaud the Group for its courageous work. I strongly hope that the Security Council will pursue the report's recommendations, and I urge the Obama administration to lead the way in this respect.

RECOGNIZING WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Wreaths Across America and Morrill and Karen Worcester, whose outstanding vision of a nationwide effort to extol America's fallen heroes is now in its 18th year!

Nothing could be more central to the Wreaths Across America organization—which counts among its many tremendous volunteers and partners, The Maine State Society of Washington, DC, the Civil Air Patrol, the Patriot Guard Riders, and members of The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars—than its noble mission to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, honor those who serve, and teach our children that today's freedoms have been won at a great price. And how fitting it is that