

Syrians that day. They were identified as an Israeli tank crew, and reported missing in Damascus. The Israeli tank, flying the Syrian and Palestinian flag, was greeted with cheers from bystanders.

Since that terrible day in 1982, the governments of Israel and the United States have been doing their utmost by working with the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations, and other international bodies to obtain any possible information about the fate of the missing soldiers. According to the Geneva Convention, Syria is responsible for the fates of the Israeli soldiers because the area in Lebanon where the soldiers disappeared was continually controlled by Syria. To this day, despite promises made by the government of Syria and by the Palestinians, very little information has been released about the condition of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz.

Today marks the anniversary of the day that these soldier were reported missing in action. Twenty-one pain-filled years have passed since their families have seen their sons, and still Syria has not revealed their whereabouts nor provided any information as to their condition.

One of these missing soldiers, Zachary Baumel, is an American citizen from my home of Brooklyn, NY. An ardent basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School in Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. But fate decreed otherwise and on June 11, 1982, he disappeared with Zvi Feldman and Yehudah Katz.

During the 106th Congress, I cosponsored and helped to pass Public Law 106-89, which specifies that the State Department must raise the plight of these missing soldiers in all relevant discussions and report findings to Congress regarding the development in the Middle East. We need to know that every avenue has been pursued in order to help bring about the speedy return of these young men. Therefore, I strongly feel that we must be sure to continue the full implementation of Public Law 106-89, so that information about these men can be brought to light.

Zachary's parents Yonah and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, and the American Coalition of Missing Israeli Soldiers, and the MIA Task Force of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. These

groups have been at the forefront of this pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their good work and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts. For two decades these families have been without their children. Answers are long overdue.

The agony of the families of these kidnapped Israeli soldiers is extreme. They have not heard a word regarding the fate of their sons. I believe that we must pledge to do our utmost to obtain information about these soldiers and to bring them home, for the sake of peace, decency and humanity.

#### THE COAL ACT

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, on June 10, Senator GRASSLEY, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, issued a statement concerning the Coal Act, included in the 1992 Energy bill, and very specifically the intolerable situation regarding reachback and superreachback coal companies.

The tax levied on these companies in that act is unfair. It never should have been enacted to begin with. It even applies to companies that are no longer in the coal mining business. The Coal Act created the combined benefit fund, CBF, in an attempt to solve many of the pension problems of retired coal miners. There were never any hearings. There was no serious debate on the Senate floor.

The combined benefit fund is approaching insolvency. There are accountants who today would say it is already insolvent. It has been saved from terminable illness only by annual appropriations in recent Appropriations bills. These appropriations do not permanently solve the problem.

I, for a number of years, have attempted to pass legislation to solve this issue. It is my hope that the House of Representatives would at last send to the Senate a bill rectifying this problem so we might also enact it and at least put an end to this inequity.

#### DEDICATION OF THE BATTLE CREEK FEDERAL CENTER

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, on Saturday, May 31, I had the honor of being present at the renaming of the Battle Creek, MI Federal Center for three American heroes, the late Senator Phil Hart, my husband Bob Dole, and my Senate colleague DAN INOUE.

This recognition would not have happened without the efforts of my friend and colleague, CARL LEVIN. At the dedication Senator LEVIN spoke eloquently and his message about honor, duty, country captured the attention and respect of all those present at this important event. I thank him again and ask unanimous consent that his remarks be included in the RECORD.

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

"What an overwhelming moment this is for all of us just to be with these heroes and

their families. For Barb and me it's a treasured moment to join with Bob Dole, Danny Inouye, and two sons of Phil Hart, Jim and Walter Hart; to be with my colleague Libby Dole. You know, I used to say that the U.S. Senate was the world's most exclusive club. They used to say that. But now, Barb, my wife, and Bob will testify to this, are members of the truly most exclusive club in the world which is the Senate's spouse club, because now that Libby Dole is in the Senate, Bob Dole knows what it's like to be a Senate spouse.

Thanks are due to so many people for making this day possible. We are very grateful to the General Services Administration for their prompt response to the idea; Administrator Perry, thank you. To the people of Battle Creek, first and foremost, for again accepting three American soldiers into your heart as you did tens of thousands of American soldiers many years ago. By renaming this building and accepting these three names, you have again said what this community truly is all about and what you, in Battle Creek, and what the workers in this federal center are all about. Thank you for taking them back into your hearts and embracing them by accepting these three names.

For thousands of young soldiers, this was the place they came home, the place where a grateful America cared for the injuries they received defending our nation. And today, by renaming this building we are paying tribute to three soldiers who became close friends during their convalesces at Percy Jones Army Hospital, and went on to serve together in the United States Senate. Renaming the federal center after these three heroes recognizes their unique achievements while honoring all those who received care here and who provided care here. As a new generation of valiant soldiers emerges from the conflict in the Persian Gulf, and we greeted many of them just a few weeks ago here in Battle Creek, it is more appropriate than ever we remember past heroes who were wounded in service to their country. By honoring these three men we will inspire a new generation to follow their example.

Phil Hart, a native son of Michigan, was wounded during the D-Day assault. He spent more than three months at the Army hospital here in Battle Creek. According to Bob Dole, Phil Hart would tirelessly spend from morning 'til night running errands for the rest of us. He was, in Bob Dole's words, and I know Danny Inouye shared this very deeply, 'he was without a doubt one of the finest men I ever knew'. Phil Hart became the conscious of the Senate, whose decency was legendary and whose integrity was so deep that he would without flinching take on an unpopular cause, or a powerful constituency, for the good of the nation.

Bob Dole arrived at Percy Jones in a plaster body cast. His recovery program overall took three years, which underscores his courage and his determination. When told by doctors his disability would be career dooming, he refused to accept their diagnosis and he fought successfully to prove them wrong. In his first speech in the Senate, in 1969, which was 25-years to the day after his serious wounds were received in Italy, leading his squad of the 10th Mountain Division in the Italian Alps, Bob Dole, in that first speech, called for the creation of a commission to seek ways to assist people with disabilities. Two decades later, the Americans With Disabilities Act crowned that effort and in Bob Dole's last speech in the United States Senate, he spoke of his meeting and his friendship, his lifelong friendship that was created here with Phil Hart and Danny Inouye.