

I spent Veterans Day working alongside employees at the Miami VA Healthcare System and saw first-hand the number of veterans turning to VA for health care. As part of my duties there, I assisted the nursing staff on a patient floor and enrolled veterans for health care in the admissions area. This workday gave me an opportunity to see the numerous challenges facing VA. I stand in awe of both the VA staff and the heroic men and women they serve.

As we honor our veterans this week, we must not follow the administration's lead of making empty promises. We must fight to ensure quality health care for all of veterans, just as they have fought to ensure our quality of life. We must pay this nation's servicemembers, past and present, the highest tribute we can and finally give them what they have so bravely earned.

INTELLIGENCE FAILURES

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an article entitled "The Stovepipe" by Seymour Hersh that appeared in a recent edition of *The New Yorker* magazine.

The article outlines a series of disturbing intelligence failures within the Bush administration leading up to the war in Iraq. From ignoring career intelligence analysts to relying on unreliable raw data, the article makes the case that senior members of the Bush administration often ignored information that did not fit their preconceived view of the situation in Iraq and pushed the intelligence community to come up with information that would support their position, regardless of its accuracy. In particular, the article outlines the practice of "stovepiping" information in which intelligence was passed up through the administration without subjecting it to a thorough review by intelligence professionals.

The bad intelligence that resulted from this process was then used to convince our Nation of the need to engage in a near-unilateral, pre-emptive war in Iraq to protect the American people from what was described as an imminent threat from Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

As a result of this go it alone approach in Iraq, the Bush administration has alienated much of the world, told U.S. taxpayers that they are financially responsible for rebuilding Iraq, and ordered more than a hundred thousand U.S. troops to stay in Iraq for the foreseeable future—yet no evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been found.

Mr. President, there is no doubt that at one time Iraq possessed chemical weapons. We know that Saddam Hussein used these weapons during the Iran-Iraq war and on his own people. There is also no doubt that at one point Saddam Hussein pursued a nuclear weapons program. However, the Iraq Survey Group—the group charged with finding Iraqi weapons of mass de-

struction—has yet to turn up any proof of the huge WMD stockpiles and nuclear weapons program of which the Bush administration repeatedly told us they had evidence.

It is clear that the world and the Iraqi people are better off without Saddam Hussein. He was a brutal dictator who terrorized his own people and destabilized the entire Middle East. I am extremely proud of the men and women of our Armed Forces for their actions during the war and the ongoing efforts to stabilize the country. Now that we are there, we cannot "cut and run" and we must provide our troops with the resources they need to complete their mission and to return home as soon as possible.

However, I am deeply concerned that we sent our sons and daughters to war based largely on what turns out to be faulty intelligence. The ends of the war do not justify the means by which the Bush administration convinced the American people that this war was necessary. That is why I believe we need to have an independent investigation into the acquisition and use of intelligence leading up to the decision to go to war in Iraq, not as a political attack, but as a way to make sure that future decisions about whether or not our country goes to war based on the best possible intelligence.

Mr. President, I encourage all of my colleagues to read this important Hersh article from *The New Yorker* of October 21, 2003.

21ST CENTURY NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to thank my colleagues for their support of S. 189, the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act.

Especially I want to thank my colleague from Oregon, Senator RON WYDEN, for his leadership. I have enjoyed working with Senator WYDEN on nanotechnology for the past several years on this important issue for America's future. I would also like to thank the other cosponsors on this legislation: Commerce Committee Chairman and Commodore JOHN McCAIN, the senior Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, and Senators LIEBERMAN, MIKULSKI, HOLLINGS, LANDRIEU, CLINTON, LEVIN, and BAYH.

I have made America's competitiveness in nanotechnology a priority, and working with Senator WYDEN and the chairman of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Senator McCAIN, we held the first hearings in Congress on this emerging science, a field that promises to forever change the way we approach scientific and engineering challenges. Nanotechnology is a "bottom-up" approach much like building a sculpture atom by atom and molecule by molecule instead of cutting it from a larger rock. Nanotechnology on the dimensional scale is one nanometer; that is, one-bil-

lionth of a meter or 100,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair.

Far-reaching outcomes for the 21st century are envisioned in both scientific knowledge and technological advancement for nanotechnology. The potential for nanotechnology and the exciting work taking place in nanoscience are by all accounts revolutionary, and as the technology matures it will undoubtedly have a tremendous impact on our daily lives.

S. 189 is a truly historic piece of legislation, because, for the first time, it creates a comprehensive national plan to advance and develop the field of nanoscience, nanoengineering, and nanotechnology. This field of science is quickly transforming almost every aspect of our modern world and is already significantly improving our quality of life. Nanotechnology is also showing promise of new applications that we can only imagine at this time. Let me highlight several important examples, such as the use of iron nanoparticles in the cleanup of Superfund sites; nanometer-size minerals in the efficient production of gasoline from crude oil; nanoscale designer molecules to create bone structure for bone repair; nanolasers for super-precision surgery; and gold nanoshells with attached antibodies introduced to targeted cancer tumor sites to destroy tumor growth while leaving healthy tissue unharmed.

As a Senator, my top priority is to advocate and support policies that create jobs, investment, and improvement of America's ability to compete in the global marketplace.

I earnestly believe there is a link between research and development and job creation, which ultimately leads to prosperity for all Americans. Therefore, I believe one of our most important goals should be to create the conditions precedent to positioning researchers and innovators to compete, contribute, and succeed both domestically and internationally. From materials to electronic devices, computers, biotechnology, healthcare systems, pharmaceuticals, environmental improvement, agriculture, efficient energy conversion and storage, space exploration, economical transportation, and national defense, nanotechnology will be the foundation of many of the revolutionary advances and discoveries in the decades to come and will soon occupy a major portion of the technology economy. The annual global impact of products where nanotechnology will play a key role has been estimated to exceed \$1 trillion a year by 2015, requiring about 2 million nanotechnology workers.

To remain competitive in this global market we must commit ourselves to ensuring that the United States keeps its edge in this field. This Nation has been the leader of virtually every important and transformative technology since the Industrial Revolution, and this legislation assures that the United