

These hearings should take place as soon as possible, and examine all detention facilities run by the U.S. military, including those in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. The abuse of Iraqi prisoners was covered for months until it was reported by the news media. Congress has no time to spare to find out what went wrong and what is still wrong, and take action to prevent further abuse of prisoners in our charge.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPC DENNIS MORGAN

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, SPC Dennis Morgan was a dedicated soldier who fought bravely for his country. He was a member of the South Dakota National Guard and worked to protect others by finding and disarming explosive devices along the roads.

Morgan was mobilized December 7, 2003 and deployed to the Middle East in February. He was in the last vehicle of a convoy, protecting an armored personnel carrier when a roadside bomb exploded. Morgan is the first casualty involving the South Dakota National Guard, which has nearly 1,200 members in the Middle East. His wife described him as a "wonderful man, a hero, very loving and always happy."

I would like to express my deepest sympathy for the Morgan family. SPC Dennis Morgan will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers will be with his family and friends. He leaves behind his wife and his mother. Dennis's sacrifice will forever remind this Nation of the danger that comes with the duty to protect our Nation's interests and the freedoms of others around the world. As a Nation we are grateful to Dennis Morgan and other soldiers like him who make the ultimate sacrifice so that others can live in freedom.

HISTORIC EXPANSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, on May 1, 2004, in a truly historic move, the European Union welcomed 10 new member states. On this momentous occasion, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to the people of the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. These countries have made great achievements, and America benefits from our close ties to these nations.

EU expansion represents yet another victory for freedom in Central and Eastern Europe, together with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the Soviet Union's last gasp in 1991, and the two NATO expansions. Europe is divided no longer, and the United States enjoys an unprecedented relationship with the 10 new EU members.

I hope that our excellent relations with these countries will continue, and that we will continue to pursue our

common goals of freedom, democracy, and prosperity throughout the world.

FAILURE TO SOLVE H-2B VISA CRISIS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I regret the need to once again call attention to the fact that the Senate continues to neglect our obligation to respond to a crisis, caused by Federal policy, that is disrupting the operations of small and large businesses throughout the United States.

Two months ago the Department of Homeland Security announced that for the first time ever the annual cap for H-2B visas had been met. These visas are used by a wide range of industries throughout the Nation to fill temporary labor needs. In my home State of Vermont, they are used primarily by the tourist industry.

Across the country, businesses in a wide range of industries had developed plans that relied on the foreign employees who had always before been available to them. For years, these employers had applied in the spring for the employees they needed for the summer, filling positions for which they were unable to find American workers. The cap had never been reached, and they had no reason to believe this year would be different. I know that the March announcement came as a shock to many employers in my State, and dozens of them contacted my office to see what could be done. This setback fell equally hard on employers in other States.

In response to these requests, I joined with a substantial bipartisan coalition in introducing S. 2252, the Save Summer Act of 2004. Senator KENNEDY is the lead sponsor of the bill, which has 18 cosponsors, including eight Republicans. Our bill would add 40,000 visas for the current fiscal year, providing relief to those summer-oriented businesses that had never even had the opportunity to apply for visas.

The following day, Senator HATCH introduced S. 2258, the Summer Operations and Services Relief and Reform Act. I do not believe that this bill, co-sponsored exclusively by Republicans, is as effective a bill as S. 2252, but I would support it if it came before the Senate. Despite its sponsorship by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and by the chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee, S. 2258 has now been held hostage in the Republican cloakroom for 5 weeks.

Obtaining these visas takes weeks, if not months, because the Departments of Labor and Homeland Security must both sign off on them. I and others have repeatedly warned that we needed to pass legislation by May 1 if we were going to provide meaningful relief. That date has come and gone, and now it is too late to help many, if not all, of the businesses that had relied upon the availability of H-2B visas. It is beyond disappointing that at the Republican leadership in this body ignored

my pleas and the pleas of so many Senators. And it is inexcusable that the Republican leadership ignored the pleas of business owners across the country asking for this emergency relief.

And so it is that a tiny minority of the Republican caucus has managed to frustrate the will of a substantial bipartisan coalition of Senators who have sought to raise the H-2B cap, thereby needlessly harming businesses throughout the Nation. Meanwhile, the Republican leadership has failed to make solving this problem a priority. Perhaps if the majority leader chose to devote floor time to issues that had substantial bipartisan support, instead of using the floor to set up symbolic votes whose results are known well in advance, we would not be in this position.

These businesses contribute much to the economies of our States. They deserve better treatment than they have received at the hands of the Republican leadership of the Senate.

WORLD ASTHMA DAY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, May 4 is World Asthma Day. Today people from across the globe will raise awareness of asthma and its impact on the lives of those millions of people who suffer from it. It should also be the day we in government recall our duty to safeguard the health of all Americans.

Asthma is a lifetime disease. It is triggered by a variety of factors, including allergens, cigarette smoke, viral infections, foods, weather changes, and air pollution. Air passages become inflamed, making it difficult for sufferers to breathe, and sometimes resulting in critical emergency situations. It is dangerous, and it is costly. Our country spends around \$3.2 billion every year just to treat asthmatic children.

That is why I am particularly concerned that asthma is on the rise, and that polluting industries and cars are making matters worse. Seventeen million Americans suffer from asthma. It is the most common chronic health problem among our Nation's children, causing missed school days, restricted activity, and costly medical bills. According to the American Lung Association, 9,000 children and 42,000 adults in Washington, DC alone have asthma.

Scientific research has increasingly linked air pollution from power plants and tailpipe exhaust to asthma. For example, researchers at the University of Southern California recently discovered that children living in high-ozone areas and participating in outdoor sports were three times more likely to develop asthma than less active kids in less polluted areas. The scientists explain that children who exercise outdoors take in more of the dirty air than other kids, leaving them more susceptible to airway damage.

A new report by the Harvard Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School expands

upon such research by linking global warming gases to increased incidence of allergies and asthma in the inner city. The report states that rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, due mainly to fossil fuel combustion, not only trap more heat, but they promote greater pollen and mold growth and associated asthma.

On World Asthma Day, the air may not be clear, but the message is: We must immediately and dramatically reduce smog- and ozone-forming pollution and global warming gases in order to protect public health. The President's Clear Skies initiative won't do the job, neither will the EPA's new administrative rules that just postpone real pollution reduction for a decade or more.

I urge the administration and the Congress to put aside partisan differences and polluters' special interests to protect the precious lives of those we represent. To live is to breathe. Until all Americans can breathe freely, our work is not yet done.

MOTORSPORTS FACILITIES FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1524, the Motorsports Facilities Fairness Act.

S. 1524 would clarify the tax treatment of motorsports facilities, codifying the 7-year depreciation classification that track owners have used, in good faith, for many years. This classification went without question in numerous audits and reviews until very recently. Now the IRS wants to implement a new interpretation of the law that would result in a retroactive tax increase for motorsports facility owners.

This new interpretation would penalize the owners of motorsports entertainment facilities who have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in these properties in order to meet the demands of sanctioning bodies and racing fans. Technological changes and enhanced safety requirements can render even recent track repair and reconstruction obsolete. Tracks must also compete to host premier racing events, in part by drawing as many fans as possible. This is why facilities must constantly renovate, rebuild, upgrade and expand.

Darlington Raceway in South Carolina typifies this reinvestment ethic. The track that is "too touch to tame," is undergoing substantial upgrades. Earlier this year, Darlington installed "SAFER" (Steel And Foam Energy Reduction) barriers. The track is currently installing lighting for night racing, which will be completed before the next running of the NASCAR Southern 500 in November.

S. 1524 would not only cover large facilities such as Darlington. The legislation would also clarify the tax law for hundreds of tracks around the country,

including approximately 30 other facilities in South Carolina alone.

The government should not punish these track owners for making capital investments in their facilities. These investments provide substantial economic benefits for the communities where these facilities are located.

Congress should promptly enact S. 1524 to provide certainty and clarity to the Tax Code and to encourage motorsports facility owners to continue to make economically beneficial investments.

CELEBRATING GOVERNMENT WORKERS NATIONWIDE

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the hundreds of thousands of civilian and military employees who have chosen to dedicate their lives to public service. This week, from May 3 through May 9, we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week. Organized by the Public Employees Roundtable since 1985, this week allows us to honor those who have chosen to serve their country and to educate the public about the broad variety of services government provides.

President Kennedy once said: "Let the public service be a proud and lively career. And let every man and woman who works in any area of our Nation's government, in any branch, at any level, be able to say with pride and honor in future years: 'I served the United States Government in that hour of our Nation's need.'" Our Nation is most certainly in a time of need. Great uncertainty exists about the state of world relations, the direction our Nation is headed, and the economic welfare of our society. Unfortunately, the pride and honor associated with public service has been diminished by a lack of respect. Rather than commending the important work Federal civilian employees do side-by-side with our military employees, society too often seeks to belittle their contributions; choosing instead to characterize the civil service as a large, inflexible bureaucracy.

At the Federal level, we are experiencing a disturbing trend. The ranks of bright, active, and well-trained Federal employees are slowly diminishing. Of our 1.8 million Federal civil servants, 50 percent will be eligible to retire over the next five years. At the same time, a national poll by the Partnership for Public Service found that only one in four college-educated Americans expressed significant interest in working for the Federal Government. A recent survey by the Council for Excellence in Government said that young people, while eager to find a job that will allow them to help people, are less likely to choose government jobs than work in the non-profit sector.

In my view, however, if our young people understood the expertise, the sacrifice, and the dedication required to serve the public, they would be less inclined to belittle this calling and

more inclined to answer it. Young people should know, for instance, that civilian employees from agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Capitol Police and the FBI worked side by side with the Coast Guard and the Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force from Indian Head, MD to respond to the discovery of ricin in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Without the civilian Federal researchers at the Human Genome Project, we would know much less about the make-up of the human body and, more importantly, be much further away from providing cures to genetic disorders such as cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia. Their work—a complete description of the draft of the DNA sequence of the human genome—was completed faster than originally planned.

Without the hard work done by the civilian employees at the National Security Agency, we would likely be without a few things that today we consider basic necessities, such as computers and cassette tapes. Further, the development of more advanced theories and technologies such as quantum mathematics, nanotechnology, biometrics, and semiconductors—which are quickly changing our world's technological landscape—would have been hindered or never started but for the efforts of NSA's dedicated and innovative employees.

The employees at the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Building and Fire Research Laboratory are about as inconspicuous a group of researchers as exist. But without them there would be no standard coupling for fire hoses or hydrants. If you do not know why that's important, consider the devastating fire that destroyed 2,500 buildings in an 80-block area in the heart of Baltimore in 1904. Responders came from fire departments in D.C., New York, and Philadelphia to help put out the blaze. But each department's hoses had different threads, so they could not be linked to Baltimore's hydrants, making them almost useless. After the fire, the Building and Fire Research Laboratory's predecessor, the National Bureau of Standards, worked with the National Fire Prevention Association to develop national standards and codes for fire equipment, which departments still use today.

Finally, thanks to scientists at the National Cancer Institute, NCI, and the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, women's chances of detecting ovarian cancer earlier and possibly recovering have increased. Working together, NCI and FDA discovered that patterns of proteins found in patients' serum may reflect the presence of ovarian cancer, even at early stages. Currently, more than 80 percent of ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed at a late clinical stage and have a 20 percent or less chance of survival. This research may increase those chances.