

threatens to export millions more American jobs. Workers are losing health insurance and pension benefits at an alarming rate.

Those in the elected branches of our government have a responsibility to deal with these economic challenges—to develop innovative policies that will provide greater economic security for workers and their families—just as they did in earlier periods of economic difficulty. Those appointed to the Federal Courts—and particularly to the Supreme Court—must respect the role of the elected branches in addressing these urgent economic challenges. America cannot afford justices who would turn back the clock to the Lochner era, and impose an extreme, discredited 19th century ideology on our Nation's 21st century economy.

That the Supreme Court plays such a major role in our national life is not new. When Alexis de Toqueville described America in the early years of the 19th century, he noted that:

scarcely any political question arises in the United States that is not resolved, sooner or later, into a judicial question.

That fact has been true throughout our history. We are a nation of laws. That is why it is so important for the President to nominate Justices with mainstream views who respect the national values of our Constitution, not ideological extremists who seek to impose their personal philosophy on the American people.

I sincerely hope that President Bush will nominate a justice whose views are in the national mainstream on these important issues, not one who sees the role of the judiciary as the defender of entrenched economic interests. The American people will be watching us closely, and they expect us to live up to our oath of office to defend the Constitution and its great promise of equal protection of the laws for all our people.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST ADAM N. BREWER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I would like to honor one of America's fallen, a brave soldier from the State of Oklahoma. SPC Adam Brewer was serving in Iraq when he died defending his fellow soldiers and this Nation. His memory continues on in testimony to the selfless way he lived.

Specialist Brewer graduated from Bartlesville High School in 2000 and joined the Army shortly thereafter. He served for 2 years and was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, normally stationed Fort Hood, TX. Specialist Brewer was serving his second tour in Iraq and had taken part in the original invasion that began in March 2003. On February 25, 2005, his unit was deployed to an area near Taji, Iraq. An improvised explosive device exploded nearby, tragically killing him and two other soldiers.

At Specialist Brewer's funeral, the pastor put it well: "Not only did he de-

fend our country but he defended the values of freedom that we hold so dear . . . I know his passing has been hard. But for the rest of your life, whenever you see his picture or mention his name, you can be proud." We are indeed proud, as we are of those young men and women who have committed to defend our Nation and put their lives on the line every day.

But I think Specialist Brewer's mother Karen Brewer said it best, "He wanted to serve his country, and he served it all the way." He indeed gave all that he had, in life and in death, for his country. The legacy of such sacrifice challenges us on behalf of the Senate, this Nation, and the cause of freedom around the world, I honor a special Oklahoman and true soldier, SPC Adam Brewer.

SPECIALIST ROBERT T. HENDRICKSON

Mr. President, I wish to honor a true hero who, on February 1, 2005, gave his life while serving in Iraq. SPC Robert Hendrickson is an example of the selfless service that is essential to this country's freedom.

Although he was born in Biloxi, MS, Specialist Hendrickson listed Broken Bow, OK, as his hometown. He attended school in Del City and Edmond before moving with his mother to Broken Bow. His father, Dave Hendrickson, says his son planned to return to school when he returned from service and study to become a pediatric nurse.

After high school, Specialist Hendrickson enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was assigned to the 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, normally stationed in Fort Hood, TX. He was serving in Iraq with this unit when, just after the successful elections took place, his vehicle overturned. He was found unconscious and never recovered.

He died to help the Iraqi people achieve their freedom," Dave Hendrickson said. "He died for the Iraqi people and the war against terrorism so that his son might have a safer world to live in."

Specialist Hendrickson is survived by his parents, his sister, and a 6-year-old son, Dylan. "He loved Dylan more than anything," Dave said. "My son was a good boy. He was a good man. He was a good dad."

SPC Robert Hendrickson was indeed a good man. He put aside his own safety, volunteering to serve in the most dangerous of professions. He gave so much and his sacrifice will be remembered by friends, family, and all of us who are profoundly indebted to him.

STAFF SERGEANT JASON R. HENDRIX

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise to honor a brave soldier who gave his life to the defense of this Nation. SSG. Jason Hendrix chose to place himself in harms way and for this service he paid the highest price.

Staff Sergeant Hendrix joined the Army right out of high school and served for 11 years. He was a squad leader in the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

This unit is usually stationed in South Korea, but was deployed to assist in Operation Iraqi Freedom. When Staff Sergeant Hendrix found out that he was heading for one of the most dangerous areas in the world, he told his family, "You guys might not understand why we're over here, but we need to be over here, and I've got to do my job."

Those who knew Staff Sergeant Hendrix best describe him as a "professional soldier." They also speak of his compassion and care for the men in his unit. Last Christmas, Staff Sergeant Hendrix gave up his leave so that other men could go home and see their newborn children. He also bought, at his own expense, equipment for his men such as night-vision goggles, facemasks, flashlights, dozens of hand-cuffs and magazine couplers for their M-16s.

Staff Sergeant Hendrix fought in the rebel stronghold of Fallujah late last year and was serving in Ar Ramadi at the time of his death. On February 16, 2005, he was leading a 25-man squad when they came under a heavy artillery attack. Staff Sergeant Hendrix was hit and died from his wounds.

For this soldier from Claremore, Ok, there is no deeper honor than the memory he leaves behind. He gave of himself in life as well as in death, and stands out as an example to all of us. Today I honor a true hero, SSG. Jason Hendrix.

SPECIALIST JEFFREY S. HENTHORN

Mr. President, I wish to rise in honor of a son of Oklahoma and an American hero. SPC Jeffery Henthorn demonstrated the type of patriotism that protects our freedom and encourages freedom in other countries. For his dedication and sacrifice I am pleased to honor him on the Senate floor today.

Specialist Henthorn was from Choctaw, OK. After earning his high school degree, Specialist Henthorn enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the 24th Transportation Company, out of Fort Riley, KS.

Specialist Henthorn was serving in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He died on February 8, 2005, while stationed in Balad, Iraq, from noncombat related injuries. He was 25 years old and leaves behind family and friends who grieve along with our grateful Nation.

Specialist Henthorn was willing to place his life on the line and paid the fullest cost for the sake of freedom. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I wish to express my profound gratitude and deepest honor for the men and women who, like Specialist Henthorn, know the true meaning of service. They continue to give so much, and as freedom spreads throughout the Middle East region we know that their sacrifice has not been in vain.

I honor the life and memory of those who have given their lives in this noble cause. I am grieved, but very proud of this young man from Oklahoma, SPC Jeffery Henthorn.

ARMY SPECIALIST. LYLE W. RYMER II

Mr. President, I wish to honor one of this country's fallen warriors, a young man that comes from my home State of Oklahoma. Army SPC Lyle Rymer II was making way for freedom in Iraq when he paid the ultimate price.

Specialist Rymer was born in Roland, OK. After graduating from high school, he joined the National Guard to help his family. "That's what he decided to do," his grandmother Bobby Sue Drake said. "He liked it. He said, 'Somebody's got to defend this country. It might as well be me.' He was a great kid." According to his friends, he planned to make a career of the Army and was considering enrolling in Airborne school. Rymer also had a reputation for cheering up fellow soldiers.

Specialist Rymer was serving in Iraq with the 239th Engineer Company, an Arkansas-based National Guard unit. On January 28, 2005, he was guarding an area where engineers were setting up barriers in preparation for the elections. Without warning, he was shot by an enemy sniper and died from his wounds. Army Specialist Rymer is buried at Fort Smith National Cemetery, AR.

Many are left behind who are both proud and grieved at his sacrifice. Specialist Rymer is survived by his wife LaTisha, a 2-year-old son, Sean, and a 10-month-old daughter, Jasmine. He was able to see his newborn daughter during a November furlough.

The loss of Specialist Rymer is one that will continue to be felt as the years pass. He was one who gave more than was required, in life and in death. He sacrificed his own well-being and put himself in harm's way, showing courage that demands our recognition. I am honored to honor him, and hope that I somehow express gratefulness beyond these mere words.

SECURING A LIABILITY AGREEMENT ON PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I have come to the Senate floor today to make my colleagues aware of an important achievement by the Bush administration to secure an agreement with the Russian Government to ensure that a major nonproliferation program moves forward. This agreement will resolve the longstanding disagreement on liability associated with the construction of Mixed Oxide, MOX, Fuel Fabrication Facility in Russia.

This agreement will permit the U.S. and Russia to move forward with the construction of dual MOX fuel fabrication facilities to turn weapons-grade plutonium into civilian mixed-oxide fuel that can be burned in commercial nuclear reactors. Each side will dispose of 34 tons of excess plutonium.

Today the U.S.-Russian counterparts will agree to the terms of an agreement negotiated during the G8 summit in Scotland earlier this month. It was during this summit in which terrorists

attempted to disrupt the meeting by setting off simultaneous explosions in the London subway, killing over 40 innocent victims. This senseless violence underscores the importance of eliminating the possibility, however remote, that terrorists might secure and use plutonium or highly enriched uranium in their acts of terror against civilian or military targets.

As we see the world become more and more dangerous, it is critical that we make progress on reprocessing plutonium into MOX. Black marketers and terrorists would love to get their hands on this plutonium. President Bush has worked hard to engage President Putin on this issue, and as a result of that continuing dialogue there is now an agreement to implement a MOX program.

I am very pleased that this agreement has been made because it will give us a surefire way to dispose of weapons-grade material while at the same time providing economic benefits to both countries. I am hopeful the Russian Duma will take quick action.

This agreement breaks a 2-year diplomatic impasse that has stalled the construction of fuel fabrication facilities in the United States and Russia.

I would like to recognize the efforts of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Under Secretary of State John Bolton, Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman, and the entire Office of Nuclear Nonproliferation within the NNSA. Both the State Department, which negotiated the diplomatic solutions, and the Department of Energy, which has responsibility for managing the design, construction, and operation of the Nation's first plutonium reprocessing plant, have been exceptional. Both teams have worked hard to realize the ultimate goal of eliminating 34 tons of weapons-grade plutonium from each of the U.S. and Russian stockpiles.

Over the past year I have pressed the Department of Energy and the State Department to resolve the liability issue. Upon their confirmations, both Secretary Rice and Secretary Bodman have committed their full support, and they should be proud of their early success.

The effort to address the elimination of excess weapons-grade material has been under consideration for over a decade. President George Bush's term initiated the earliest efforts to identify excess weapons-grade material. Over the next decade, the Clinton administration worked with then-President Yeltsin to consider options for eliminating excess material.

In 1994, the National Academy of Sciences', NAS, report on the "Management and Disposition of Excess Weapons Plutonium" found that excess material constituted a "clear and present danger." That same year a joint DOE-DOD review found that 38.2 metric tons of plutonium and 174.3 metric tons of highly enriched uranium were surplus to U.S. defense needs. A programmatic environmental impact

statement was undertaken to evaluate options for disposal of this material.

In 1995, U.S. and Russian experts met at Los Alamos to provide recommendations on plutonium disposition. Since those early meetings the labs have contributed a considerable amount of time and effort to support this initiative. In fact, Los Alamos prepared the plutonium that is being used as the initial test fuel assembly currently being burned in the Catawba reactor owned by Duke Power.

In April 1996, at the Moscow Nuclear Safety and Security Summit, it was determined that irradiating plutonium as part of a mixed oxide fuel in commercial reactors and vitrification are appropriate strategies for disposal.

In June 1997, the Independent Holdren-Velikhov Commission issued a final report recommending a disposal pathway identified at the Moscow Summit. The report is a joint U.S. and Russian National Academy of Science review.

In July 1998, the U.S. and Russia signed a Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement that provides for a joint, small-scale test of disposition pathways. This agreement also provided a 5-year liability agreement between the United States and Russia for coverage of U.S. workers in Russia that expired in July 2003.

In September 1998, President Clinton and President Yeltsin entered into a bilateral plutonium disposition agreement.

In October 1998, I included \$200 million in "emergency" funding dedicated entirely to plutonium disposition to demonstrate to Russia the firm U.S. commitment to plutonium disposition. This funding persuaded Russia to enter into serious negotiations. Today, \$150 million of those funds remains available for use to initiate construction.

That same month, G8 members established the Multilateral Plutonium Disposition Group and committed to international financing of the Russian plutonium program. As of January 2005, total pledges from the U.S., U.K., Canada, Japan, Italy, and France total \$865 million. I am confident that with the liability issue resolved additional funding will be made available to support the Russian effort. The U.S. will fulfill its commitment to build the U.S. facility on its own.

In March 1999, the U.S. awarded the MOX facility contract to Duke Cogema Stone and Webster—DCS—to design the U.S. MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility. In August, DOE awarded a contract to design the Pit Disassemble and Conversion Facility.

In January 2000, DOE issued a Record of Decision on locating the pit conversion and fuel fabrication facility at Savannah River, SC.

In September 2000, the United States and Russia signed the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement, which calls for each country to dispose of 34 tons of weapons-grade plutonium