

life and the values that we all share. The call to a service greater than their own self interest has motivated them to risk their lives. All too often, we are unable to repay them for the sacrifices that they make.

Next month we will recognize Veterans Day. It will be marked by patriotic speeches and parades, a solemn recognition of those veterans who are still with us and those servicemembers who have been lost. And rightfully so. But we should not lose sight of the fact that every day there are still families grieving and remembering.

To Sergeant Pankey's wife and daughter in Morrison and his mother in Louisiana, and all of the families and friends left behind in the wake of a soldier's death, we can only offer our humble thanks on behalf of this Nation. We are forever in your debt and will always remember the extraordinary price you have paid on our behalf by offering up your sons and daughters. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

With that in mind, I want to end with a quote from the Bible upon which I sometimes reflect when I am thinking about our men and women in uniform. Matthew 5:9 reminds us: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Right now across the world, the members of our Armed Forces like Sergeant Pankey stand watch on our behalf. They are these very peacemakers, and their place will always be reserved in our hearts.

ARCTIC REFUGE PROVISIONS IN BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last month people from across the country converged on Washington to send a clear message to Congress in opposition to drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Sadly, yesterday's action by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee flies in the face of that grassroots movement. And on top of this, the committee failed to accept commonsense amendments that would have required that drilling in the Arctic follow the same rules as drilling in all other wildlife refuges, insisted that oil taken from the refuge stay in the hands of Americans, and guaranteed what Senators have been told all along—that 50 percent of the revenues from leases would go to the Federal Treasury, despite public suggestions by Members of the Alaska delegation that the State would sue to get 90 percent of all revenues.

There is no doubt that as a nation, we face tough questions about our energy policy. Sacrificing one of America's greatest natural treasures, however, to access a supply of oil that may not last more than a year, wouldn't be available for many years to come, and would decrease gas prices by only a penny at its highest production, is simply not the answer. A responsible, well-

thought-out national energy policy that moves us away from our dependence on a finite resource such as oil is the answer, and I regret that we don't have such a policy. To support our energy needs, care for our citizens, encourage a vibrant economy, and meet our stewardship responsibilities to future generations, we must take a variety of steps, including investing in American ingenuity, advancing our commitment to conservation, and increasing our use of renewable sources of fuel.

As we now move from the committee's reconciliation recommendation to floor debate of the larger budget reconciliation package, I will work to make sure that we do not discard the legacy of protecting the Arctic Refuge that dates back to President Eisenhower in 1960.

NATIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, October 16–22 is National Safe Schools Week. School violence, or even the threat of school violence, in too many of our schools instills fear in our students, and limits their ability to learn. It also can threaten and intimidate teachers and make instruction more difficult.

National Safe Schools Week is intended to raise awareness of school safety issues and empower students, parents, teachers, and parents to do what they can to prevent violence in their schools. Congress should also do its part by passing common sense gun safety legislation and by funding important programs that help to reduce school violence.

According to 2003 statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 950,000 students take a weapon to school each month, resulting in more than 1,400,000 students being injured or threatened with a weapon during the school year. In addition, every month, an estimated 840,000 students feel too unsafe to go to school. This is a problem which left unaddressed will continue to hold children back from reaching their full educational potential.

Statistics cited by the PAX organization, one of the organizers of National Safe Schools Week, indicate that in 81 percent of the school shootings in our country, the attackers told other students of their plans prior to the attack. Further, students are responsible for tipping off school authorities in 93 percent of the cases where weapons are confiscated from students at school. To strengthen this fact, PAX created the Speak Up Campaign. The centerpiece of the campaign is a national hotline, 1-866-SPEAK-UP, where children and teenagers can call to anonymously report threats involving weapons at their school. Since the creation of the hotline in 2002, the Speak Up Campaign has received more than 7,000 calls which were then passed along to appropriate law enforcement officials.

School violence threatens to put our children's safety and ability to learn in

jeopardy. Our Nation's schools need our help to combat this ongoing problem. To start, we should adequately fund Federal grant programs like COPS. COPS hiring grants have been used to hire more than 6,500 school resource officers since 1999. These officers help ensure a safe environment in and around our schools and collaborate with the school community to more effectively deal with school violence issues.

We should also support common sense gun storage requirements to make it more difficult for children and teenagers to access guns and ammunition. Recently, I joined with 69 of my colleagues in voting for an amendment offered by Senator KOHL that would require licensed dealers, manufacturers, and importers to include a safe gun storage or gun safety device with every handgun they sell. Use of such storage devices could help prevent a child or teenager from acquiring a gun that they might use to injure or kill another student at school. Hopefully, Senator KOHL's amendment will become law.

School violence has always posed a threat to students and teachers, but lethal and easily concealable guns have escalated the problem. Gun violence, not only affects students at a particular school, it has a rippling effect on students at schools in the same county, State, and in some cases, the entire country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting efforts to reduce the threat of violence, especially gun violence, to our schools.

CONTINUED JAPANESE BAN ON U.S. BEEF

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to express deep frustration over Japan's unwillingness to lift its ban on U.S. beef. My patience—and the patience of many of colleagues in this chamber—has run out. The time for talk and empty promises is over.

I have long been, and remain, a friend of Japan. I first visited that country many years ago as a student and was deeply touched by the kindness extended to me by the people of Japan. In over 30 years in Congress, I have worked hard to strengthen our trade and economic ties. I have watched proudly as the U.S.-Japan economic relationship has grown and prospered.

Times have not always been easy. I have engaged closely on U.S.-Japan issues through good times and through periods of great strain. But even in the most difficult times, I have made every effort to roll up my sleeves and work through problems in order to ensure that our trade relationship with Japan works for the people of Montana and the United States.

By and large, that relationship works, and it works well. In trade, one of our crowning achievements together has been the construction of a rules-based multilateral trading system—first through the General Agreement

on Tariffs and Trade, and now through the World Trade Organization. Without Japan's leadership and cooperation during the Tokyo Round, the Uruguay Round, and now in the Doha Round, it would have been difficult—if not impossible—to craft the important rules that govern world trade.

It is therefore with bitter disappointment that I stand here today on the Senate floor to draw attention to Japan's failure to play by the rules that it helped to create. Japan has banned U.S. beef from its market since December 2003. That ban—almost 2 years old—costs the U.S. cattle and beef industries hundreds of millions of dollars each month. That ban puts at risk jobs in American ranches. And that ban—with absolutely no basis in science—is unsustainable under international trade law.

In the 2 years since the ban was put in place, I have traveled to Japan to meet personally with Japan's trade and agriculture ministers to argue for lifting the ban on U.S. beef. I have met with the Japanese ambassador to press Japan to lift its ban. I have taken senior officials from Japan and other countries that ban U.S. beef to Montana, and fed them Montana beef on a Montana ranch, to encourage them to lift the ban. And I have urged President Bush, Agriculture Secretary Johanns, U.S. Trade Representative Portman, and other senior administration officials to make lifting the Japanese ban on U.S. beef a top priority.

At first, I was encouraged by what appeared to be steps that Japan was taking to lift this ban. The United States and Japan even signed an agreement in October 2004 to remove the ban. At that time and since, I was repeatedly assured by Japanese officials that, under this agreement, the Japanese government would set up a "scientific" process to determine when and how to resume imports of U.S. beef products.

It is now one year later, and still nothing. Instead, it now looks to me like that Japan's administrative process has become an exercise of smoke and mirrors. Japan says the right things. But its action—or actually inaction—has been far more telling.

Let me assure my Japanese counterparts, there is no higher quality, safer, or better tasting beef in the world. I eat it. My family eats it. Japanese visitors to the United States eat it. Japanese students living in the United States eat it. Many beef eaters around the world prefer and consume U.S. beef. Yet, despite scientific proof of the safety of U.S. beef, there has been no quality Montanan or other American beef imported into Japan in almost 2 years.

I can no longer accept assurances from the Japanese government that it will lift the ban. Montana's ranchers have heard enough vague promises during the last two years. We're fed up. The time for idle promises is over. It is now time for action.

I therefore call upon the United States Trade Representative to sanc-

tion Japan for maintaining its ban on U.S. beef. The United States should impose sanctions on Japanese products imported into the United States in an amount equal to the losses suffered by the U.S. beef and cattle industries.

This is a blunt instrument. But it appears to be the only recourse left. I will no longer sit by and watch Japan flout its international trade obligations behind the smokescreen that it is engaged in a lengthy "process" to lift the ban.

Sanctioning Japan without resort to WTO dispute settlement is not ideal. It's not how the WTO is supposed to work. But U.S. beef producers should not be forced to wait the years it would take to complete a WTO case. They have waited long enough. I will not wring my hands over legal niceties when the livelihoods of ranchers in Montana and across the United States are at stake.

In my experience, the only thing that will get the Japanese to act is leverage. And sanctions are leverage.

We have been here before. In the late 1980s, Japan kept its market almost entirely closed to U.S. beef. U.S. beef producers were permitted to export only six ounces per Japanese citizen per year, a piddling amount. The excuse then was that Japanese intestines were somehow "different" and therefore unsuitable to digesting American beef.

I didn't accept that ridiculous excuse. Instead, I pushed hard for legislation that would penalize Japanese imports. Soon thereafter, the Japanese opened their market to U.S. beef.

And I don't accept this excuse.

THE 15TH ANNUAL WALLENBERG MEDAL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last Tuesday evening, the University of Michigan presented Paul Rusesabagina with its 15th Annual Wallenberg Medal. As my colleagues may remember, Mr. Rusesabagina was the subject of the movie "Hotel Rwanda."

The Wallenberg Medal is named for University of Michigan alumnus and humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg. After receiving his degree in architecture in 1935, he spent time in several jobs in South Africa and Palestine before moving to Sweden in 1941 to work for a Jewish Hungarian businessman named Kalman Lauer. Lauer operated an export-import firm which did business in Central Europe, a large portion of which took place in Hungary. As the Nazis continued to gain power in Europe, Lauer found it increasingly difficult to travel and turned over control of his foreign division to Wallenberg. In 1944, Wallenberg was approached by the American War Refugee Board to take part in a plan to assist Jews in Budapest who were in danger of falling victim to the holocaust.

Wallenberg agreed to take part in the project and was sent to Budapest as a representative of the Swedish Government. In Budapest, Wallenberg hired

several hundred Jews to staff his office, bringing them under the diplomatic protection of Sweden. Additionally, he created a new official looking Swedish passport, known as the "Schutzpass." Wallenberg gave the Schutzpass to thousands of Hungarian Jews and said that it granted the holder immunity from Nazi deportation. The Schutzpass deceived the Nazis and may have saved the lives of as many as 20,000 Jews.

Wallenberg is also known to have rented 32 buildings in Budapest, which he declared to be under the diplomatic protection of the Swedish Government. Using his architectural education from the University of Michigan, he took space designed to hold no more than 5,000 people and turned it into housing for more than 35,000 Jews. These "safe houses" provided a refuge of last resort for thousands who would have otherwise disappeared into Nazi death camps.

There are numerous stories of Wallenberg's courage and heroism throughout the last few years of World War II. Despite repeated threats and attempts on his life, he persevered and continued his work to save as many Jews as possible. Wallenberg is best known for skillful negotiation and fearless confrontation of Nazi soldiers who threatened the safety of those he was working to protect. Tragically, Wallenberg disappeared soon after Soviet soldiers took control of Budapest.

While the circumstances surrounding Wallenberg's disappearance are still unclear, the tens of thousands of Jews he saved from certain death will never forget his brave actions. The University of Michigan created the Wallenberg Medal in 1990 to honor his memory and recognize other outstanding humanitarian leaders. Each year the Wallenberg Medal is presented to an individual who has exhibited extraordinary respect for human rights on behalf of those subjected to persecution. Medal recipients are chosen to honor their self-sacrifice, integrity, and courage in standing up to an oppressive majority. Following the presentation, the Wallenberg Medal recipient is invited to address an audience of students, faculty, and members of the community regarding their experiences and humanitarian work. Past Wallenberg Medal recipients include the Dalai Lama, Nobel-laureate and holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, civil rights leader and Congressman John Lewis, and other extraordinary humanitarians.

This year's Wallenberg Medal recipient Paul Rusesabagina has certainly exhibited qualities worthy of such a high honor. Rusesabagina was the manager of the Hotel des Mille Collines in Kigali, Rwanda in 1994 when the assassination of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana pushed an already tense situation in the country over the edge. Radical ethnic Hutus began rounding up and murdering their Tutsi rivals as well as other moderate Hutus who did not support their actions. It is estimated that nearly one million people