

believe the jury delivered the just and appropriate verdict and I thank them for their service to their country.

In April of last year, Moussaoui pleaded guilty to conspiring with al-Qaeda to commit acts of terrorism using weapons of mass destruction and other terror-related crimes. He shares responsibility for the most heinous act of terrorism against America: Three thousand innocent Americans were murdered. Their loss is still a gaping wound in our hearts.

Nothing will ever bring these innocent Americans back, but today Zacarias Moussaoui received what he would deny all of us. Today justice was served.

TENNESSEE STORMS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I end tonight saying a few words about the devastating storms that occurred last night in my home State of Tennessee. First and foremost, I offer my deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones last night. My heart goes out to those families who are reeling in the aftermath of this sudden and totally unexpected tragedy. The people of Tennessee grieve with you and our prayers are with you through this painful ordeal.

I let my fellow Tennesseans know I requested that the President have a quick review and approval of the State's request for assistance. I have also taken the opportunity to talk directly with acting FEMA Director David Paulison to expect my clear support for the State's request. Director Paulison is looking into the matter, of course. We had a good exchange. I appreciate FEMA's strong support.

Senator ALEXANDER and I stand ready to assist the State and local officials in any way possible to ensure our communities have the resources they need. We will pull together as Tennesseans and neighbors and together we will get through this awful crisis. Our thoughts and our hearts and prayers go out to others who have been affected by the storms in other States.

When I talked to Director Paulison today, he was describing that those storms were northwest of Tennessee, as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, last night, severe tornadoes and strong storms swept through west Tennessee. Dyer and Gibson Counties were the hardest hit. According to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, at least 23 individuals lost their lives in just those two counties. One of those killed was Jane King of Newbern, TN. She was a relative of Congressman JOHN TANNER, and our thoughts are with JOHN and Betty Ann Tanner and all of Jane King's family.

At least 70 people have been injured as a result of the storms. TEMA expects that number to rise. There is damage to at least 11 other counties in

west Tennessee. Thousands of Tennesseans have lost their homes and their livelihoods. TEMA reports that 1,200 buildings were damaged or destroyed in the town of Bradford alone.

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency officials are on the ground in the counties affected. They are helping to survey damage. They are offering assistance. A state of emergency is in effect. The biggest need thus far is to get the roads clear. GEN Gus Hargett has assigned 30 members of the 230th Engineer Battalion of the Tennessee National Guard to assist with debris removal. The Dyersburg Armory is being used as a Red Cross processing site.

This afternoon, Senator FRIST and I sent a letter to President Bush asking for speedy review and approval of the State's request for Federal disaster assistance. I ask unanimous consent that letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,

WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 3, 2006.

THE PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Last night devastating tornados swept through several West Tennessee communities. In Dyer and Gibson counties at least 23 individuals lost their lives. Many others lost their homes and livelihoods. State and local officials currently are assessing the damage. Many of the affected communities are in rural areas and it could take some time before the full extent of the damage is realized.

In anticipation of Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen's request for Federal disaster assistance, we respectfully urge you to act as expeditiously as possible and approve Tennessee's request for federal assistance. It is our understanding that there is significant damage in many areas of West Tennessee, and local emergency responders and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, TEMA, are working to provide assistance to survivors. They will soon begin the process of assessing the damage to affected communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our request on behalf of Tennesseans suffering from these devastating and unforeseen events. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM H. FRIST, M.D.,
Majority Leader, U.S.
Senate.

LAMAR ALEXANDER,
U.S. Senate.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, tomorrow Governor Bredesen and Congressman TANNER will be on the site. We will continue to be in touch with Governor Bredesen and provide whatever assistance we can. We will work closely with State and local officials.

My prayers are with the families who have suffered tremendous loss as a result of these storms, and I know we will see shining examples of the Tennessee volunteer spirit and neighbor helping neighbor as west Tennesseans rebuild their homes, their businesses, and their lives.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak about this important amendment on the Western Hemisphere travel initiative.

The Western Hemisphere travel initiative was authorized in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 based on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

It mandates that the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, implement a new documentation program validating citizenship by January 1, 2008. Once executed, all U.S. citizens crossing the Canadian or Mexican Border into the United States will be required to carry a passport or other accepted documentation, such as a passcard, in order to verify their citizenship.

The DHS and the State Department are in the process of promulgating rules to implement this initiative and are considering executing the air and sea portion of this initiative by next January.

While the need to tighten security at our borders is an important undertaking, I am concerned that in their haste to accomplish this mission pursuant to a congressionally mandated timeline, DHS and the State Department may be overlooking serious concerns about the implementation of this initiative raised by border States and Canada.

They are evaluating two options in order to identify citizenship. The first would require a person entering the United States to present a passport. However, passports are expensive and require weeks to acquire. The second alternative is the issuance of a passcard, which would be slightly cheaper but would still require a background check and could only be used for travel between Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Each of these options assumes that DHS and the State Department are able to process the flood of requests for passports and passcards. There is no reasonable way they could get all of these requests processed by the deadline, thereby adversely affecting travel and business for millions.

Take for example a military family reassigned from the lower 48 to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, who has to drive from the lower 48 through Canada with all of their belongings. This family may not have the opportunity or funds to acquire passport before traveling.

Alaska is the only State in the Nation that you have to pass through a foreign country to get to by land. I have a lot of concerns about how this initiative will affect travel.

Each year, a large number of people travel to Alaska from the lower 48 on the Alaska-Canada Highway, also known as the Al-Can. Each summer, we routinely see large numbers of RV's on the road with license plates from New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, California, everywhere. They are now going

to need this card or a passport to get to another State. I worry about how that will affect our tourism, as well as the opportunity for Americans to visit one of the most beautiful places in this country.

These are just some of the situations which need to be considered before implementing this plan. I believe that DHS and the State Department are operating under an unrealistic time frame imposed by the act. We need to ensure that they have enough time to properly test and implement the system, which includes biometrics and new equipment for the borders, to ensure its effectiveness.

We share a special relationship with our friends in Canada, and I would hate to see a hastily imposed initiative negatively affect movement in and out of Canada, or negatively affect our relationship with our neighbors.

The deadline Congress gave DHS is fast approaching, and with little progress made so far. I think we need to pass this amendment to give DHS more time.

There is just too much at stake to rush this, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER RICHMOND

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize the Retail Merchants Association of Greater Richmond, Incorporated, which has served the business community of Richmond for 100 years. What began as a small advocacy group founded by 12 merchants in 1906 has grown into a thriving organization that serves 4 cities and 10 counties in central Virginia.

The Retail Merchants Association of Greater Richmond has worked tirelessly to ensure that its companies grow and prosper. It has also demonstrated a commitment to serving the larger community of Greater Richmond by investing in institutions and programs that promote innovation, encourage fellowship and ensure the safety of its residents.

The Retail Merchants Association of Greater Richmond, recognizing the importance of leadership, cooperation, integrity and foresight, has truly been a positive force in making central Virginia a wonderful place to do business. I am confident that it will continue to serve the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia for many years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR KEON CHI

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Dr. Keon Chi on his retirement from the political science department at Georgetown College in Georgetown, KY.

Since 1970, Dr. Chi has helped to enrich and prepare the students of

Georgetown College. His keen insight into American and global political systems did much to give his students an idea of how people are governed.

Dr. Chi is a gifted academic. Some of his best work has been on the subject of privatization of state government functions. Because of this expertise, he was selected to serve on advisory panels and commissions on privatization for both the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Federal Government.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Chi for his dedication and commitment to teaching and academics. In order for our society to continue to advance in the right direction, we must have professors like Keon Chi in our institutions of higher learning, in our communities, and in our lives. He is Kentucky at its finest.●

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, NORWOOD YOUNG AMERICA, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Central High School in Norwood Young America, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Central High School is truly a model of educational success. The school earned its Award for Excellence in Education for its interdisciplinary Holocaust Unit, which is required of all seniors for graduation.

The Holocaust Unit has been a hallmark of Central High School for over 10 years. Mr. Mark Lagergren, a social studies teacher at Central, developed the unit and has coordinated with several English teachers to teach it to all students.

Guest speakers, including Holocaust survivors, are invited to talk with the students; students are assigned to read and discuss several pertinent books; and students are required to produce a final, senior Holocaust project.

Ms. Kelly Street, an English teacher at Central High School and a Central High graduate, shared with me the impact the unit has had on her life, saying, "Before Mr. L's class we had heard references to the Holocaust, concentration camps and Hitler, but after his class we were mini-experts on the subject. I remember Mr. Lagergren's lectures and how powerful they were; I could actually feel his passion for such a harrowing part of history. How can any human being not feel something after seeing pictures and watching videos on the era, and then have those pictures and videos followed by the passionate clarification of a teacher who has dedicated his career to the study of the Holocaust? It was a blessing to be a part of it."

Ms. Street was very appreciative of survivors' personal accounts, and she credits Mr. Lagergren for having brought these survivors to share their profoundly personal stories.

Much of the credit for Central High School's success belongs to its prin-

cipal, Ron Brand, and all the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Central High School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Central High School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Central High School in Norwood Young America for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

CENTURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PARK RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Century Elementary School, in Park Rapids, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Century Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. The school, which enrolls a large percentage of children from low-income families, has achieved significant academic success.

Test scores in 2005 qualified the school for four stars in reading and five stars in mathematics from the Minnesota Department of Education. In addition to receiving three stars in both reading and mathematics for having made adequate yearly progress, the school received an additional star in reading and math for outstanding performance compared to schools with similar percentages of low-income pupils. It received another star in math for having more than 30 percent of its students scoring at Level 5 on their Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments, the highest possible level on these statewide tests.

The year 2005 was the second successive year in which Century School received four or five stars. Last year, the school received five-star status in reading and four-star status in mathematics.

The Park Rapids School District has also recognized the advantages of a full-day kindergarten program, and although the State funds a half-day program, the local school board has allocated sufficient funds to make possible the full-day program.

Century Elementary's success is even more remarkable considering the limited amount of funding available for the school district. The district has attempted to pass an operating levy referendum four times to make up for lack of adequate funding from the State of Minnesota, but these referenda failed to be approved. The district has been forced to lay off 42 teachers over the past 4 years accounting for a 30-percent reduction in total teachers.

Much of the credit for Century Elementary School's success belongs to its