

current events in Israel and the Middle East.

I strongly condemn the ongoing murderous attacks by Hezbollah on Israel and its soldiers. Several days ago, eight Israeli soldiers were killed and two were kidnapped following an unprovoked attack on northern Israel. Hezbollah must immediately and unconditionally release all Israeli soldiers. Hezbollah has refused United Nations demands to disarm and has been responsible for terrible acts of violence for many years. No country should provide support for Hezbollah, which is a U.S.-designated terrorist group. Hezbollah's actions are contrary to the interests of the Lebanese people and hurt the region.

The Hezbollah attack follows a June 25 attack by Hamas on a southern Israeli military post that resulted in the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier and the killing of several others. Hamas must also immediately and unconditionally release the soldier it is holding and end attacks on Israel.

The United States will stand by our longtime ally and friend. The Israeli people have the right to live in peace and security. Israel has the right to protect its citizens. I strongly condemn the ongoing murderous attacks by Hezbollah and Hamas on Israel and its soldiers and believe that restraint is needed in the region to stop the escalation of violence and protect innocent lives.

I yield the floor.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, today I condemn Hamas's and Hezbollah's unprovoked acts of war against Israel and to express strong support for Israel's right to defend itself.

On July 12, Hezbollah attacked an Israeli military unit patrolling the Israeli border south of Lebanon, and two Israeli soldiers were taken hostage. Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, has admitted that this was a calculated act, which Hezbollah had planned for 5 months. Analysts agree that this act is a sign of support for the Hamas kidnapping of another Israeli soldier on June 25. It is also a sign that two of the regions most recalcitrant terrorist organizations have no interest in the peace and security of the people they supposedly now represent in elected governments in Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories.

Both of these attacks were clear acts of war—attacks on Israeli soldiers guarding undisputed Israeli territory. The Hezbollah attack was also a blatant breach of Security Council resolutions 1559, 1655, and 1680, which certified Israel's full withdrawal from Lebanese territory, called for the disarmament of all militias in Lebanon, and called for an end to attacks across the Israel-Lebanon border.

Despite these resolutions, Hezbollah remains an armed militia group with unrestrained activity in Lebanon and has not been pressured by the Lebanese Government to disarm. In fact,

Hezbollah is a part of the Lebanese Government now with 23 seats in the Lebanese parliament and two ministers in the Government. According to the Department of State, Hezbollah receives \$30–40 million a month in cash, aid, and arms support from Iran. Additionally, Syria is still a strong partner with Iran in supporting, sheltering, and funding Hezbollah to the detriment of the people of Lebanon.

Mr. President, I believe it is critical that the Senate recognize Israel's right to defend itself, and call on the Government of Lebanon to immediately and unconditionally release the abducted Israeli soldiers. The same holds true for the soldier held by Hamas in Gaza. At the same time, we must insist that Iran and Syria immediately cease interfering in the internal affairs of Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories by ending all support for Hezbollah and Hamas.

I will shortly be introducing legislation to increase pressure on the Government of Lebanon to do the right thing and disarm Hezbollah. The Lebanese people surely deserve better than to have their fate determined by this terrorist organization. But for now, Israel deserves our unwavering support as it aims to protect its people from these unprovoked attacks.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PIEDMONT, WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this year marks the 150th birthday of the town of Piedmont, WV. This little town, chartered in 1856, is located on the North Branch of the Potomac River in the northeastern corner of West Virginia.

In the late 19th Century, the town of Piedmont bustled with economic activity. A period of prosperous growth began when the Baltimore Ohio Railroad established a locomotive shop complex and switching yard in the area, and the town became an important freight-generating point on the B&O line.

When local entrepreneurs persuaded surrounding railroads to turn from wood to coal for firing their locomotives, the coal industry in the region boomed.

In the 1880s, William Luke established the West Virginia Paper Company's paper mill—Westvaco—in Piedmont, which became a major source of jobs for Piedmont residents. This included native Appalachians, migrant African Americans, and European immigrants, especially Italians and Irish. Therefore, soon after the opening of the paper mill, Piedmont became a town saturated with ethnic neighborhoods. A resident of Piedmont has written that, "Piedmont's character has always been completely bound up with the Westvaco paper mill."

This Town of Piedmont features some unique characteristics. For example, "Ripley's Believe It or Not" once pointed out that Kenney House Hill in Piedmont is the only street in the

world from which a person can enter all three stories of the same building!

Piedmont is also known for a number of famous residents it has produced. This includes Don Redman, a famous jazz musician and composer, who wrote a number of hit arrangements for American music greats like Jimmy Dorsey, Harry James, and Count Basie.

Henry Gassaway Davis was a giant in the coal mining and banking industries in the late 19th Century, and a two-term U.S. Senator from West Virginia. In 1904, Davis was the Democratic nominee for Vice President—he was 80 years of age at the time, making him the oldest person ever nominated for President or Vice President on a major party ticket.

Thousands of people throughout the United States know of the town of Piedmont because of the writings of another of the town's famous residents, the nationally renowned writer and eminent scholar, Henry Louis Gates. Dr. Gates is the W.E.B. DuBois Professor of Humanities at Harvard University and Chairman of Harvard's Department of African and African American Studies Program.

In his memoir, *Colored People*, Dr. Gates discusses life in Piedmont during the 1950s. The book, which reflects on his childhood in this small rural community, before and during the civil rights movement, is a vivid portrayal of the people of Piedmont, whom he describes as "virulent nationalists—Piedmont nationalists." "[N]estled against a wall of mountains, smack-dab on the banks of the mighty Potomac," writes Dr. Gates, "we knew God gave America no more beautiful location." According to Gates, the town's credo is: "all New York's got that Piedmont's got is more of what we got. Same but bigger." "Otherwise," he writes, "the advantage was all to Piedmont."

Mr. President, I congratulate the town of Piedmont, the little town "on the side of a hill in the Allegheny mountains," as Dr. Gates calls it, on its 150th birthday which the town will celebrate with its "Homefest." I wish the town the best of success on this milestone event.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

U.S. ARMY LIEUTENANT SHAW VAUGHAN

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment of the Senate's time to remember a Coloradan who was lost to us last month in defense of this Nation.

Shaw Vaughan was a loving and supportive son and older brother, an avid hunter and fly fisherman. One of his most prized possessions was his 1969 Jeepster Commando, an off-roading vehicle he had personally rebuilt, affectionately named Hercules. Hercules sits quiet today, its red finish gleaming undimmed in the mountain sun.

U.S. Army LT John Shaw Vaughan, of Edwards, in Eagle County in my State of Colorado, was killed on June 7 in Mosul, Iraq. Lieutenant Vaughan