

We learned recently that in February of 2005, Marine commanders in Iraq realized that they needed vehicles designed specifically to defeat the IED threat and asked the Pentagon to build them. Yet 2 years later their request remains unfulfilled. Secretary Gates has indicated that MRAPs compete with other defense spending, which may make it difficult to produce all we need. I just don't get that logic. I can see no greater use of our dollars than getting American troops the best possible protection that exists today. This Nation can afford to do that and whatever else is necessary to do right by our military men and women and their families.

At a later date we will get to the bottom of what happened in 2005, but our first order of business today should be making sure that we get our troops the technology they need as soon as possible. That will require a genuine assessment of how many MRAPs are needed in the field and how much it will cost to build that critically needed inventory.

We also need to provide our troops with all the latest in tested technology to defend against the new weapons which insurgents are using in Iraq: shaped charges called EFPs, or explosively formed penetrators/projectiles, those shaped-charges which hit our vehicles from the side with devastating effect. We cannot wait another 2 years to field technology to protect against these devices when Americans are dying today.

Today I ask of my colleagues, of the President, of our military commanders, and of the American people, that we pay respect to American servicemembers with more than words. We have the ability and the obligation to do more and we must.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, 63 years ago today, many brave Americans and other allied forces members were dropped out over the frigid North Atlantic coastline of Normandy; numerous others stormed the beaches from the sea. Ultimately, well over 100,000 determined Allied troops were involved in one of the most remarkable and well orchestrated military events in history. D-day was among the greatest victories of World War II. June 6, 1944 is a day all lovers of freedom should hold on high. We cannot ever forget the sacrifice and meaning of that day.

Were it not for the supreme leadership—both here and abroad—of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and many other government and military leaders—and a patriotic citizenry—we might be living in a starkly different world today. D-day does not just signify singular success; it symbolizes the power of our fearless democracy and way of life. This triumph—not only on D-day, but in the war effort at large—helped to further a clear message made by an earlier American President, one who

was considering the weight of World War I. As Woodrow Wilson remarked a generation earlier, "The world must be made safe for democracy." The events of June 6, 1944, helped to make the world a safer place. Victory would not have come about without the smart and strong dedication of our military.

We must take it upon ourselves as Americans, and as grateful citizens, to continue to thank the brave patriots who served in what has become a legacy of freedom; we thank them for their service and their sacrifice. Every generation faces new challenges and must accept the consequences of inaction. We are better off for the actions of the Greatest Generation. Across the beaches of Omaha, Utah, Juno, Gold, and others, our brave Allied troops sacrificed mightily on June 6, 1944. That sacrifice lives on.

For all those veterans of D-day, and for that matter, any campaign of World War II, thank you. You helped to make the world safe for democracy. Your victorious struggle of more than 60 years ago makes this Nation proud and grateful. Thank you for your dedication and sacrifice.

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Los Alamos National Laboratory for its part in completing the 100th genome sequence. Like the Human Genome Project, this achievement serves as a constant reminder of the possibilities before us and a step forward in scientific knowledge. The scientists of Los Alamos National Lab constantly achieve excellence through their various endeavors, and I am proud of their contribution to this vast project. This well-deserved recognition highlights their continuing dedication to serving this country through research in health and environment-related fields.

Los Alamos National Laboratory has championed the advancement of national security for over 60 years. In the tumultuous times of World War II, it stood as our Nation's front line in acquiring a superior tool with which we could be certain that freedom would prevail. However, once its mission was complete it continued to pursue the advancement of American security and research. What began as an installation solely focused on the creation of an atomic bomb has developed into a diverse and advanced institution dedicated to securing our nuclear ordinance, combating the effectiveness of weapons of mass destruction, and addressing many problems in areas such as energy and health.

Los Alamos National Laboratory serves as one of five national laboratories working with the Department of Energy to sequence genomes. Labeled the Joint Genome Institute, this group of research institutions first helped to complete the Human Genome Project, which has since been called one of the

greatest scientific advances of our time. The benefits of this outstanding achievement are many. For example, we can now match organ donors and recipients with less uncertainty and even diagnose disease more efficiently.

Over the years, the mission of the Genome Project has oriented itself towards other vital interests. The Joint Genome Institute is now targeting specific animals and microbes with traits that, if harnessed, could aid in areas such as biotechnology, alternative fuels, and the environment. For example, the organism just completed has shown potential in aiding the cleanup of uranium-contaminated areas. This application would greatly benefit Los Alamos itself, which has several radioactive wastesites.

In the past, I have strongly supported the research of Los Alamos National Laboratory and the advancement of the Genome Project and have helped each of them secure defense and biotechnology funding. In return, their research has yielded important advances in areas such as health, energy, and the environment. Furthermore, the continuing excellence of Los Alamos National Laboratory has led to the creation of many jobs in the northern New Mexico region. Los Alamos continues to succeed in its purpose of national service, and I am pleased to offer my support and congratulations for their contribution to the 100th mark in the Genome Project.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100th ANNIVERSARY OF HETTINGER, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 3-8, the residents of Hettinger will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Hettinger is a vibrant community in southwest North Dakota. Hettinger holds an important place in North Dakota's history. The townsite was founded in 1907, and Erastus A. Williams of Bismarck, whose son-in-law was Mathias Hettinger, was credited with naming the community. It became the county seat of Adams County in 1907. The post office was established in May 17, 1907, and Hettinger was organized into a city in 1916. One of the last living survivors of the Titanic, Ole Abelseth, was a longtime resident of Hettinger.

Today, Hettinger is a magnet for outdoor enthusiasts who come to enjoy bird watching, fishing, and big game hunting. Nearby Mirror Lake offers camping and other outdoor activities for all ages. In 2004, Hettinger was recognized as Hometown of the Year by the Bismarck Tribune and it received the North Dakota Capital Community Designation by the Federal Home Loan