

also lays out additional factors to be considered during the CFIUS review process as they relate to our “national security.”

I would like to address two of these factors today as they relate to a real threat in our hemisphere and to the United States. The act requires that CFIUS review any transaction related to major U.S. energy assets as part of our critical infrastructure and any covered transaction that would result in the control of any critical U.S. infrastructure by a foreign government or an entity controlled by a foreign government.

I raise these issues because I am particularly concerned by the recent, and ongoing, actions of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez against U.S. oil companies in Venezuela. While Venezuela has undertaken many actions to the detriment of U.S. companies, President Chavez and Petroleos de Venezuela have been courting government-controlled Russian and Iranian oil interests to take their place.

It is no secret that Hugo Chavez is an enemy of the United States, the liberty and freedom we stand for, and the open and honest commerce that is the lifeblood of our economy. It is also no secret that President Chavez will use whatever assets are at his disposal to harm our country. The lone tool in his kit is Venezuela’s oil and gas wealth.

Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. already has a footprint in America through the ownership of CITGO Petroleum Corporation. While the CITGO gas stations you see on the roadsides and corners of American streets are franchised and owned largely by American small business men and women, these gas stations rely upon Petroleos de Venezuela and Hugo Chavez for their gas supply.

Because the revenue it generates supports the Venezuelan economy, we might think it is a far-fetched idea that Hugo Chavez and Petroleos de Venezuela would cut off oil and gas supplies to the United States, or other Nations. Yet one only has to look at the actions of the Russian Government to see how energy supplies can be used as an economic and political weapon against other nations.

The Russian strategy of using the power of energy assets as an economic tool began in 2003 when the Russian Government expropriated the assets of Yukos Oil, at that time, Russia’s largest privately owned energy company. The Russian Government took Yukos assets without compensation to Yukos owners or investors and these assets also included \$6 billion of U.S. investors’ money.

In the winter of 2006, the Russian Government cut off natural gas exports to the Ukraine in an attempt to pressure the Ukrainian Government to slow its democratic reforms and move toward the West. Later in 2006, Russia also cut off crude shipments to Lithuania in an attempt to stop the sale of a refinery to a Polish competitor. And earlier this year, the Russian Govern-

ment cut off shipments to Belarus to force that country to accept higher prices and turn its pipeline system over to Russian Government-controlled companies.

The Russian Government continues using heavyhanded tactics to move Western companies out of Russia so it can regain control of oil and gas reserves previously sold to these companies for development.

The comparisons of President Chavez’s actions to renationalize Venezuela’s oil and gas industry are eerily similar to those taken by the Russian Government. As Hugo Chavez increases his government’s stranglehold on Venezuela’s oil and gas supply, will he cut off supply to the United States, or other nations, in an attempt to influence economic and political events? Will he cut off supply to CITGO stations in the United States?

Reforms to the CFIUS process identifying energy infrastructure and energy security as national security interests, and the inclusion of these as factors to review when foreign-owned companies especially state-controlled companies with histories of using energy assets as political and economic tools will prevent Hugo Chavez and the Venezuelan Government from controlling additional energy assets here in the United States.

I applaud President Bush for signing this important measure and encourage the CFIUS panel to perform stringent reviews of any potential sale of critical U.S. energy infrastructure to a foreign-government controlled company and deny any sale to entities controlled by tyrants like Hugo Chavez who have a history of expropriating U.S. assets and who, no doubt, would be willing to use the control of these assets to threaten U.S. national security and our economic well-being.

MANUFACTURING

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, the manufacturing sector is under siege from cheap imports, unfair trade agreements, and escalating health care and energy costs. Instead of working to alleviate this burden, the Bush administration has turned its back on manufacturing. The administration slashed funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, and the Advanced Technology Program, ATP, in this year’s budget. MEP helps manufacturers streamline operations, integrate new technologies, shorten production times, and lower costs. ATP provides grants to support research and development of high-risk, cutting edge technologies. Both MEP and ATP help manufacturers survive and compete with countries such as China.

Today I offer, with Senator VOINOVICH, some help for beleaguered manufacturers. The Advanced Multidisciplinary Computing Software Center Act was drafted from recommendations made by the Council on Competitiveness regarding high-performance com-

puting. The legislation would provide grants for the creation of five Advanced Computing Software Centers throughout the United States that would transfer high-performance computing technologies to small businesses and manufacturers.

High-performance computing will allow manufacturers to visualize and simulate parts and products before they can be created, which will cut the time and cost required to experiment with new materials. General Motors, for example, uses high-performance computing to simulate collisions, saving millions of dollars in development costs and substantially shortening design cycle times.

Presently, only large companies like GM have the resources to reap the benefits of high-performance computing. This bill would provide grants to small and medium manufacturers to implement this technology and create new opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and product development and allow manufacturers and businesses to harness the full potential of high-performance computing

TRIBUTE TO ROGER LANDRY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the passing of Roger Landry of Springvale, ME, and pay tribute to this former Maine State legislator and steadfast advocate for our Nation’s veterans. Roger was one-of-a-kind individual who was truly a force of nature who allowed nothing to stand in the way of achieving results and helping others, and he had a unique ability to harness the compassion and empathy he felt so deeply to produce positive and tangible results that truly touched the hearts of so many. Whether serving his country as a highly decorated master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years, providing a welcoming presence ceremonies to honor our returning troops, or fighting for better care for our heroic veterans, Roger was truly a benevolent force of nature who placed a premium on helping others, especially those servicemen and women who have given their all for this land.

Those in our State extraordinary enough to have worn our Nation’s uniform never had a better friend or ally than Roger. He carried his tireless compassion, disarming humor, and can-do spirit to the Maine House of Representatives where his impact was felt immediately and where he sought common ground to advance the public good. We owe him an exceptional debt of gratitude for his enduring devotion to his State of Maine which he loved.

His service in the Military, in the State legislature, and as a citizen of Maine forged a legacy that should stand as an inspiration to us all—he will be greatly missed and forever remembered. Roger was a remarkable public servant and a dear friend—I will always cherish having known him. My thoughts and prayers continue to be

with his wife Jane, his children/Darrin, Dean, and Dawn, his eight grandchildren, and the entire Landry family

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING RON MIZUTANI

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a great storyteller with a passion and deep empathy for the people of Hawaii. After a 20-year career in television journalism, Ron Mizutani announced this week that he will be leaving his post as news anchor and reporter for a top rated Honolulu newscast to pursue interests outside of journalism.

Ron exemplifies Hawaii's melting pot, our diverse human landscape rich with the contributions of unique cultures from around the Pacific and across the globe. His desire to make the islands he grew up in a better place for the future, while cherishing the cultures of old, is well known throughout Hawaii. Drawing on his personal heritage from Asia, Europe, and Hawaii's indigenous peoples, Native Hawaiians, Ron crossed cultural lines and played a major role in bringing the diverse people of Hawaii together into a cohesive unit.

In his writing, Ron was true to the language and style of the islands. A proud graduate of my alma mater, Kamehameha Schools, Ron's colleagues routinely turned to him whenever they needed help with the pronunciation of a Hawaiian word or a greater understanding of traditional practices.

Ron started his career as a sportscaster, and with time and experience moved into news reporting. He is one of the only in-studio anchors that would actually go out, get dirty and cover news in the field on location. As Ron's longtime photographer partner Greg Lau proudly recalls a day when an unusual storm generated high surf along the North-East shores of the islands, topping the beaches and coming into people's homes. Ron put his story second, jumping into the dangerous surf and ruining his clothes to help stack sandbags and salvage what could be saved. That was the part of the story viewers never knew, but colleagues certainly did.

Telling stories about the people, places, and issues facing the islands of Hawaii was Ron's kuleana, or duty. Ron took his kuleana seriously. His work captured the soul of the islands and he came to work every day with a mission to tell his story in a way that was compelling while remaining true to the issues at hand. More importantly, he refused to sensationalize the news.

Ron's storytelling ran the gamut: from entering homeless camps to tell the stories of the real people who had hit hard times amidst the islands' soaring property prices, following a local boy turned New York Mets hitter Benny Agbayani in his big moment in

the World Series, the bittersweet celebration of a Native Hawaiian man who got his piece of Hawaiian Homelands after 50 years on a waiting list, to flying to the face of hurricanes to keeping Hawaii residents safe and informed, Ron always went to great lengths to shed light on stories he knew needed to be told.

Mr. President, Ron's contribution to Hawaii's understanding of itself and its people will be sorely missed. We wish him well in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RUSSELL M. OPLAND

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I commend a distinguished public servant, the commander of Delaware Civil Air Patrol, COL Russell M. Opland.

Civil Air Patrol, CAP, is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, and is comprised entirely of civilian volunteers. It was formed on the shores of Delaware and New Jersey in 1941 to patrol coastal waters for enemy submarines. The wing commander is the senior corporate officer within a CAP Wing and is responsible to the Civil Air Patrol Corporation and to the regional commander for ensuring that corporate objectives, policies, and operational directives are executed within the Wing.

CAP has three missions: cadet programs, emergency services, and aerospace education. The cadet program provides youth, ages 12-21, the opportunity to serve their communities and develop into responsible citizens, inspiring them to become the next generation of pilots, engineers, mechanics, and aviation enthusiasts. As part of the emergency services mission, CAP performs 95 percent of inland aerial search and rescue missions in the continental U.S. CAP volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief, and counterdrug missions at the request of Federal, State, and local agencies.

Colonel Opland has led the Delaware Wing of the CAP since August 2003 and will step down on September 8, 2007. He has volunteered an average of 38 hours a week to the people of Delaware and the CAP cadets while still keeping his full time job as chief privacy and information security officer for the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

During his tenure as commander, Colonel Opland earned significant awards and honors including the following: four Exceptional Service Awards, three Meritorious Service Awards, the Gill Robb Wilson Award, No. 2074, Delaware Wing Senior Member of the Year, the Air Force Association, AFA, Award for Outstanding CAP Achievements, "Outstanding" rating as Commander, 2005 Wing Compliance Inspection, and "Outstanding" rating as Incident Commander, 2003 Evaluated SAR/DR exercise.

In addition to his personal awards, Colonel Opland led the Delaware Wing to national recognition. Despite the Wing's small size, Colonel Opland's at-

tention to operational detail and discipline allowed the Delaware Wing to log the most flying hours of any CAP wing in the nation, resulting in the wing receiving three new aircraft. For each of the past four years, Delaware cadets participating in national drill team and/or color guard competitions placed third or higher.

I commend Colonel Opland for his dedication to aerospace education, to helping build young enthusiasts who believe in volunteering, and to the vital aerial missions that help keep Delaware and the Nation more secure. It is the tireless work of citizens like him that make this Nation great.

PROJECT COMPASSION

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the work of an organization dedicated to preserving the memory of our service men and women who have died on active duty since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Project Compassion has dedicated itself to providing one gallery-quality portrait of every one of these fallen heroes to their designated next of kin at no cost to the family. Project Compassion started in the spring of 2003 in the State of Utah, when a local artist named Kaziah Hancock learned of the death of a fellow Utah resident who was serving in Iraq. She located the soldier's family and painted a free portrait for them as a gift of her appreciation. She then decided to paint as many portraits of our fallen men and women as her personal time and savings would allow. For more than 5 years, she has refused to take a single dollar from anyone who has received a painting.

And in these last 5 years, Project Compassion has never faltered in its mission to provide a tangible "thank-you" to the families of the brave men and women who have fallen in service to our country. That mission has required the addition of four more artists, all of whom dedicate their time to be a part of the effort. In November 2004, Project Compassion teamed up with Marie Woolf, a California-based creative media director, who agreed to manage and publicize the project. She worked to establish crucial relationships with the media, government, and the armed services to fulfill the Project Compassion mission.

All of the military services except for the Army now include Project Compassion information with the standard paperwork personally delivered by casualty officers. However, Project Compassion is one of the Army's few third party organizations approved to contact next of kin who have given their consent to be contacted. Project Compassion is also a member of America Supports You, a Defense Department program connecting citizens and corporations with military personnel and their families serving at home and abroad.

As of July, over 600 portraits have been completed and delivered to the