

train that is threatening to crush our kids' and grandkids' future. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to take care of it now. All of us—all of us—should think about them. We have a moral responsibility to the future of this country, our children and our grandchildren, to make sure our legacy is one that we can be proud of, that they will have the same opportunities we had during our lifetime.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I support Senator KOHL's amendment to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, Reform Act. This legislation would make it more difficult to prevent public disclosure of information in lawsuits involving a product that poses a serious public health or safety risk.

Senator KOHL's amendment would promote transparency in court proceedings by prohibiting courts from restricting access to information in civil cases that could affect public health or safety. The amendment would prohibit judges from sealing court records, information obtained through discovery, and certain details of a settlement unless the public health or safety interest is outweighed by a specific and substantial interest in maintaining confidentiality. When issued, protective orders could be no broader than necessary to protect the privacy interest asserted.

The Judiciary Committee heard compelling testimony in a recent hearing about the tragic consequences of court secrecy in cases concerning defective products. We heard from Johnny Bradley, a Navy recruiter who tragically lost his wife in a car wreck that resulted from tread separation on a Cooper tire on his Ford Explorer. Mr. Bradley chose to buy Cooper tires in the wake of the Bridgestone/Firestone recall, believing that they would be safer. It was not until after the tragic death of his wife that he found out during litigation that Cooper had faced numerous similar incidents and had thousands of documents detailing design flaws and defects in the company's tires. The details from as many as 200 lawsuits against Cooper remained covered up through various protective orders, demanded by the tire company. As a result, vital information that could have saved Mr. Bradley's wife was not disclosed to the public. Mr. Bradley's story is just one example of the terrible consequences of court secrecy in cases involving products that pose health and safety risks.

Last December, Senator KOHL introduced the language contained in this amendment as the Sunshine in Litigation Act. I am a cosponsor of Senator KOHL's bill, and I support this amendment. In an environment where the administration is clearly not enforcing product safety regulations, we need to make sure that consumers have better access to information that affects their health and safety.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 2663, a bill to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Harry Reid, Charles E. Schumer, Russell D. Feingold, Bernard Sanders, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Jon Tester, Christopher J. Dodd, Edward M. Kennedy, Blanche L. Lincoln, Byron L. Dorgan, Richard Durbin, Mark L. Pryor, Jeff Bingaman, Amy Klobuchar, Kent Conrad.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE ALDO VAGNOZZI

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, Representative Aldo Vagnozzi is a beloved figure in Michigan. He is one of those people who talks the talk, walks the walk, and does both to the great benefit of all of those who are fortunate enough to cross his path.

Aldo served in the U.S. Army during World War II as an interpreter in Italy, talking in English and Italian and rising to the rank of sergeant. He took advantage of the GI bill to finish his education at Wayne State University, graduating with a degree in journalism in 1948.

That same year, he married Lois Carl, beginning a 50-year marriage. They would raise two daughters and two sons, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

As editor of several publications, including numerous labor newspapers, Aldo reported on and learned about Michigan's social and political environment and the workings of government. This understanding, along with his knack for making friends, would serve him and the State of Michigan well.

Aldo would later serve on the Farmington Hills City Council, the Farmington District School Board, the Farmington Area Parent-Teacher Association, and as the mayor of Farm-

ington Hills. He has been actively involved in numerous community organizations.

In 2002, Aldo ran for election to the Michigan House of Representatives. He personally went door-to-door to 15,000 houses, walking over 900 miles including a 5-day, 70-mile walk from Farmington Hills to Lansing.

Term limits will keep Aldo from continuing his service in the House of Representatives after his current term ends this year, and he will be deeply missed by his colleagues and his constituents.

I salute my friend Aldo Vagnozzi for his years and years of service to Michigan, his indomitable spirit, and his remarkable ability to walk, talk, and sometimes do both while working for the people of Michigan.

I have lost track of the retirement parties I have been to for Aldo Vagnozzi. I am confident his next one won't be his last as he moves on to other endeavors.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

Mr. KYL. Madam President, last week marked the 47th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Peace Corps. Since its inception in 1961, 190,000 Americans have served in 139 countries around the globe. Currently, 126 Arizonans are Peace Corps volunteers, dedicating their time and hard work to projects in 51 countries.

The Peace Corps is an organization through which many Americans have made meaningful service and have contributed to the well-being of peoples in other lands. A spirit of generosity and volunteerism helped build our Nation; in that same spirit, these Peace Corps volunteers are helping others to build theirs.

Peace Corps volunteers are also ambassadors of American culture—exchanging ideas and bridging cultural divides are critical to helping people understand America's values and message of freedom.

I would like to pass on my thanks and congratulations to those who have served in the Peace Corps, and I applaud their contributions to our Nation and nations abroad.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER K. BRADISH

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I pay tribute to a very distinguished staffer in my office, Christopher K. Bradish, who serves as my legislative assistant for defense and foreign affairs issues.

Recently, the National Guard Association of the United States recognized Christopher's extraordinary work by presenting him with the Patrick Henry Award—the civilian counterpart to the National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Service Medal. Created in 1989, the Patrick Henry Award provides recognition to local officials and civic leaders, who in

a position of great responsibility distinguished themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard, or the National Guard Association of the United States.

To fully comprehend the magnitude of this honor, it is important to note the criteria for the selection of the Patrick Henry Award. Superior performance of normal duty alone does not justify award of this honor. An individual must have provided exceptionally strong support for the National Guard such that the readiness and the future of the National Guard must have been positively impacted.

Christopher has provided a tremendous service to our Nation's military, as the United States continues to wage a war on terrorism in this post-9/11 era. Additionally, he has demonstrated a remarkable amount of enthusiasm for ensuring that the Armed Forces and National Guard have the readiness capabilities to defend our country. The assistance he has provided the National Guard will not be easily matched; however, for Christopher this level of dedication is par for the course.

I applaud the National Guard Association of the United States for recognizing Christopher's behind-the-scenes work to increase National Guard funding and champion projects of special interest to the Guard. Christopher also strives to provide the legislative tools necessary to give soldiers and airmen the best support available. He has worked hard on these issues—each time jumping in feet first, soaking up knowledge, and moving legislation forward in this often complicated process.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in commending Christopher K. Bradish for his receipt of the Patrick Henry Award and his leadership on behalf of the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard, and the National Guard Association of the United States.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTIONS ON IRAN

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I wish to speak on the latest round of United Nations Security Council sanctions on Iran.

This past Monday, the Security Council voted 14 to 0 to increase sanctions on Iran in response to its continued enrichment of uranium. I applaud the United Nations for pursuing the diplomacy necessary to avoid hostilities. The vote was another step on the long diplomatic path toward increasing stability in the Middle East, but more remains to be done. Among other measures, these sanctions are important in restricting the travel and freezing the assets of certain Iranian officials and banks. The U.N. is now following the American lead in taking action against banks like Bank Mellī which are deeply involved financially with the Iranian Government and its nuclear program.

The near unanimity shown by members of the Security Council, including

the five veto-holding countries, was a strong and unmistakable signal of the international community's condemnation of Iranian policies. That signal would be even stronger if the Security Council members—and Russia and China in particular—would take further economic measures, including against Iran's energy sector. These countries need to realize that a nuclear-armed Iran does not just threaten the United States or the West but indeed the entire Middle East, the nuclear nonproliferation regime, and potentially the world. The very idea of a nuclear Iran is chilling.

In March of last year, Senator DURBIN and I introduced the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act, a bill outlining steps the United States and its allies should take to prevent Iran from continuing its nuclear program. I am pleased that this legislation currently has 69 cosponsors, and the Bush administration has taken many of the measures I suggested. Other nations, particularly our European allies, should follow the United States in using additional sanctions to supplement the actions of the Security Council. The international community particularly needs the cooperation of states which actively do business with Iran to draw down that business, in addition to holding key Iranian leaders personally responsible.

Some of the foreign countries which engage Iran economically have been cooperative in reducing the extent of that cooperation, like Germany, which is steadily decreasing the export credits granted to investments in Iran. Others have been far more recalcitrant, especially Russia, which continues to provide nuclear and military assistance to Tehran. This cooperation, under the circumstances, is unacceptable.

The diplomacy of the United States and the United Nations must continue to intensify until Iran verifiably agrees to forego its nuclear ambitions. Until that day, and until Iran's political leaders decide they have more to gain from cooperation than from conflict, the sanctions enacted today and others like them will continue.

EQUAL CARE FOR ARMED FORCES

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to an important piece of legislation to secure equal care for members of the armed services who suffer from a mental illness. I am pleased to have my colleagues Senators EVAN BAYH and BILL NELSON joining me in this cause by serving as original cosponsors of this bill, the Travel Assistance for Family Members of our Troops Act of 2008.

There is no greater obligation than caring for those who have served this country through their military service. We would be remiss if we did not ensure that the health care of our heroes in arms is the finest medicine has to offer.

What we now refer to as post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, was once

described as "soldier's heart" in the Civil War, "shell shock" in World War I, and "combat fatigue" in World War II. Whatever the name, they are serious mental illnesses and deserve equal attention and care as a physical wound.

In recent reports, we have heard that 20 to 40 service men and women are evacuated each month from Iraq due to mental health problems. In addition to those who are identified, there are many more who will return home after their service to face readjustment challenges. Some will need appropriate mental health care to help them adjust back to "normal" life, while others will need medical assistance to heal more serious PTSD issues. Yet others will need help to mentally cope with their physical wounds.

So many of our veterans from previous conflicts, such as World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars, needed similar programs once they returned home. Yet I fear that we didn't do enough to help them. With proper and early support systems in place, including support of their families, we can work to prevent the more serious and chronic mental health issues that come from a lack of intervention.

The legislation I am introducing today will provide support for family members of our uniformed service men and women receiving inpatient treatment for serious psychiatric conditions. Right now, the Department of Defense does not classify Active-Duty servicemembers receiving treatment for mental illnesses as "Very Seriously Ill" or "Seriously Ill."

Therefore, under current policy, family members are not eligible to receive the same travel allowances as patients being treated for physical injuries.

This bill will eliminate the current disparity in treatment against our country's men and woman who are bravely serving in the armed services. We have already taken legislative steps through the Defense reauthorization bill to begin to address needed improvements in the quality of health care, both from mental and physical injuries. This bill is another important piece in that process.

Travel Assistance for Family Members of our Troops Act of 2008 ensures that patients with serious mental impairments can spend time with their family—the same treatment we currently are providing to patients with physical injuries requiring inpatient care.

We urge our colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE MINNEAPOLIS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I wish to recognize the Minneapolis Emergency Communications Center, which is being honored today as the Nation's Outstanding Call Center.