

policies that will prevent future misdeeds. That isn't a new idea, it is a very old idea. It is the American system of justice. So let's let the Government Accountability Office get to the bottom of this. Let's make sure we have done our due diligence; have a thorough, complete, honest and accurate, fair investigation before we pass laws that turn us into judges and juries.

The report I am calling for will provide us with the guidance we need. Let's follow the facts. Let's not follow our passions. It is a clear call for accountability from the Government Accountability Office when it comes to this organization of ACORN. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I submit pursuant to Senate rules a report, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED
SPENDING ITEMS

I certify that the information required by rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate related to congressionally directed spending items has been identified in the committee report which accompanies H.R. 2847 and that the required information has been available on a publicly accessible congressional website at least 48 hours before a vote on the pending bill.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to speak on an amendment I have filed with my colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI.

This amendment will repeal a provision contained in the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill each year since 2004, which has prevented tribes in certain areas of Alaska—and only in Alaska—from receiving any Federal funds to support their programs. This rider was added several years ago as part of a dispute over tribal sovereignty, but I join with Senator MURKOWSKI to say to our colleagues that whatever the merits of the past dispute, this provision is having real and adverse impacts on the administration of justice in Alaska.

Perhaps no place is seeing the negative impacts of this policy quite as acutely as Sitka, AK. This provision is currently harming the efforts of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska to work with the judicial system of the State of Alaska, and everyone in that part of the State—Alaska Native or not—is paying the price.

The Sitka Tribe has been working with the State of Alaska's court system to create a collaborative effort to battle substance abuse in their community. Tribal leaders and local court officials created the Tribal Youth Diversion Effort, TYDE, which currently takes on the nonviolent drug possession cases of both native and non-native minors, rather than forcing local youth to go through the State court system. This program has reduced the caseload of the both the State courts

and city attorney. Perhaps even more importantly, the TYDE program provides the youth with a comprehensive program to deal with substance abuse. It is a successful program, and both tribal leaders and local criminal justice officials would like the opportunity for the Sitka Tribe to receive Federal funds to support and expand their important work.

Currently, because of this 2004 rider, the Sitka Tribe cannot receive any Department of Justice funding for their programs. I believe we should do more to support local programs such as the TYDE in their efforts to prevent alcohol and drug abuse. This is a problem for American youth wherever they live, but it is an especially devastating circumstance for Alaska Natives. Tribal governments in the lower 48 do not face similar restrictions, and along with my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI, I respectfully request that my colleagues support this important amendment.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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.

REMEMBERING SENATOR TED M.
KENNEDY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today we remember our colleague and our friend Senator Ted Kennedy. There are few people alive today whose lives have not been impacted by the work of Senator Kennedy.

A brilliant legislator, Senator Kennedy championed bipartisanship and compromise to leave behind an incomparable record. In his 45 plus years in the U.S. Senate, he authored over 2,500 bills and several hundred became law. Today, people with disabilities cannot be discriminated against in the workplace because of Senator Kennedy. Women must be paid the same as men for the same work because of Senator Kennedy. And low-income children have access to health care because of Senator Kennedy.

Like his brothers before him, Senator Kennedy challenged young people across America and around the world to devote their lives to something more than just themselves and lead by example. Whether it was championing civil rights legislation in the 1960s, condemning apartheid in South Africa before it became politically popular to do so, promoting the need for early childhood education or advocating for health care, Senator Kennedy led the charge.

Senator Hubert Humphrey once said that the moral test of government is how it treats those in the dawn of life, our children, those in the twilight of life, our older citizens, and those in the shadows of life, people with disabili-

ties, the homeless, the dispossessed. Senator Kennedy took up the causes of these Americans as his own. The poor, the powerless and the forgotten lost an ever-faithful protector and their tireless advocate.

On a personal note, I recall in early 2007, during my first weeks in the Senate, Senator Kennedy gave me and other freshman Senators floor time to speak about increasing the minimum wage. In early 2009, when I was named to the HELP Committee, Senator Kennedy called to welcome me to the committee and invited me to hold field hearings in Pennsylvania on issues like health care and education. I will never forget his courtesy and the respect he showed to fellow Senators.

In closing, I am reminded of the words Senator Kennedy spoke about Mike Mansfield when the majority leader retired:

No one in this body personifies more nearly than Mike Mansfield the ideal of the Senate. Wisdom, integrity, compassion, fairness, humanity—these virtues are his daily life. He inspired all of us, Democrat and Republican, by his unequalled example. He could stretch this institution beyond its ordinary ability, as easily as he could shame it for failing to meet its responsibility.

The same can be said about Senator Kennedy. We will miss him in this Chamber, but we will never forget the lessons he taught us or the legacy he leaves behind.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST PAUL E. ANDERSEN

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SPC Paul E. Andersen from South Bend, IN. Paul was 49 years old when he lost his life on October 1, 2009, due to injuries sustained from indirect fire in Baghdad, Iraq. He was a member of the 855th Quartermaster Company, U.S. Army Reserve, South Bend.

Today, I join Paul's family and friends in mourning his death. He will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, and friend to many. Paul is survived by his wife Linda, children, grandchildren, and extended family.

Paul joined the Army in 1984. In November of 2008, he began his second tour in Iraq. Paul was a Michiana native who grew up in Elkhart and graduated from Buchanan High School in 1979. For the past 8 years he was living and working in South Bend. He loved his wife Linda deeply and returned home on leave this past August to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary. Family members say he lived to be in the service and loved military life. Though he was scheduled to return from Iraq in early November, Paul had expressed a strong desire to stay in Iraq for another year. Just prior to his death, he had reenlisted for the next 6 years. His family takes comfort in the idea that he died doing what he loved most.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in

the example Paul set as a soldier, father, and grandfather. Today and always, he will be remembered by family, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Paul E. Andersen in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. I pray that Paul's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Paul.

ADVANCED TACTICAL LASER

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, under paragraph 9 of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I am here by submitting a description of Senate amendment No. 2605 that was accepted by unanimous consent to H.R. 3326 as follows:

Item: Additional User Evaluation and System Study for Advanced Tactical Laser (ATL)

Request Amount: \$5.0M.

Requestor: Boeing Corporation

Address: Boeing—SVS, 4411 The 25 Way NE #350, Albuquerque, NM 87109-5858

Suggested Location of Performance (major portion of the work): Albuquerque, NM.

Senate amendment No. 2605 proposes to allocate up to \$5 million consistent with the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board report entitled "The Airborne Tactical Laser (ATL) Feasibility for Gunship Operations" to conduct additional enhanced user evaluation of the ATL and enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to conduct a system analysis of integrating solid state laser systems onto C-130, B-1, and F-35 platforms for the purpose of close air support. Such system study shall estimate per unit costs of such laser systems as well as costs to operate and maintain each platform with the laser system.

Why Spending is in Interest to the Taxpayer: The Air Force Scientific Advisory Board report entitled "The Airborne Tactical Laser (ATL) Feasibility for Gunship Operations" made a number of recommendations regarding the advanced tactical laser. In addition to phasing out the ATL chemical laser system and transitioning to an electric laser system, the board recommended that additional enhanced user evaluations take place of the integrated laser-gunship system so that the most data possible can be collected of the funds spent to date on operational aspects of the tactical laser system regardless of laser characteristics. In addition, the board questioned the utility of placing tactical laser systems on high-speed platforms such as the F-35

and B-1, which were not designed for low speed, long-loiter close air support missions and recommended a system study of the available platforms to understand the cost per unit of integrating the laser onto each platform as well as long-term operations and maintenance costs with each integrated system. Senate amendment No. 2605 carries out the recommendations of the board to get the best benefit of the taxpayer's dollar spent to date and into the future on tactical laser systems under development by the Air Force.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter dated October 7, 2009.

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

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, October 7, 2009.

Hon. DANIEL INOUE,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Dirksen Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. THAD COCHRAN,
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Dirksen Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN INOUE AND VICE-CHAIRMAN COCHRAN: On October 6th, the Senate adopted by unanimous consent Senate Amendment 2605, which proposes to allocate up to \$5 million consistent with the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board report entitled "The Airborne Tactical Laser (ATL) Feasibility for Gunship Operations" to conduct additional Enhanced User Evaluation of the ATL and enter into an agreement with a Federally Funded Research and Development Center to conduct a system analysis of integrating solid state laser systems onto C-130, B-1 and F-35 platforms for the purpose of close air support.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in this congressionally directed spending item, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have submitted a description of the amendment in the Congressional Record and on my official website, along with the accompanying justification. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Jonathan S. Epstein on my staff.

Sincerely,

JEFF BINGAMAN,
U.S. Senator.

REMEMBERING BELLE ACKERMAN LIPMAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of an extraordinary woman. Belle Ackerman Lipman passed away at her home in Memphis, TN, on August 17, 2009, in the 100th year of her remarkable life. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, Mrs. Lipman is a model for all of us who hope to live life fully and for all the years granted us.

A daughter of Romanian immigrants, Belle Ackerman was born in 1910 in Philadelphia, where her parents owned a general store. Just five blocks away from the store lived young Mark Lipman, who would become the love of

Belle's life. The businessman and his young wife moved not long after their marriage to Little Rock, AR, where Mark saw new business opportunities, and then in 1958 to Memphis, TN. There, Belle Lipman became a pillar of the community. Her work in civic affairs was extensive. She was president of the Little Rock chapter of Hassadah, the worldwide Jewish women's organization, among a host of endeavors in charity, service and the arts.

But it is not those remarkable accomplishments alone that made Belle Lipman such a special woman. As years passed, her zest for life, for new experience, and to learn of new cultures grew apace. A lifelong interest in travel made her one of the first American citizens to travel to China after diplomatic relations with that nation were reestablished in 1979. Her travels took her to a hot-air balloon over the plains of Kenya, the rivers of the Amazon, and the ancient cities of Peru. She rode the Orient Express at the age of 87. At 92, she crossed the Arctic Circle. At 95, she visited the mountains of Tibet and a host of other places. At her 95th birthday party, she celebrated the only way she knew how, with verve by dancing the Charleston.

Belle Lipman was a model—a model of how to live life to the fullest and how a thirst for new experiences can fill a lifetime. My wife Barbara and I send our condolences to her beloved children, her son Ira and her daughter Carol, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren. We do so with the sure knowledge that the joy of Belle Lipman's life will over time ease the pain of her passing, leaving the warmest of memories to sustain family and friends.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 90 World War II veterans from all over Louisiana who traveled to Washington, DC, on September 26 to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable service members.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, sponsored this trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring surviving World War II Louisiana veterans by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. The veterans visited the World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iwo Jima Memorials. They also traveled to Arlington National Cemetery.

This was the first of three flights Louisiana HonorAir made to Washington, DC, this fall. It is the 18th flight to depart from Louisiana, which has sent more HonorAir flights than any other State to the Nation's Capital.