

of the Interstate Commerce Commission Sunset Act of 1995 (S. 1396), which provides for the orderly transfer of the residual functions of the Interstate Commerce Commission to an independent Intermodal Surface Transportation Board within the Department of Transportation.

Pennsylvania is a rail-dependent State, and both shippers and railroads are in agreement that there should be no regulatory gap between the Commission and its successor agency during which no agency of the Federal Government has jurisdiction to enforce the Interstate Commerce Act. The fiscal year 1996 Transportation appropriations bill, H.R. 2002 (Pub. L. No. 104-50), provides no funding for the Commission effective December 31, 1995, making passage of the sunset legislation and a prompt House-Senate conference necessary to avoid disruption in the rail industry.

I am pleased to note that the managers' amendments included language that I have worked on and supported, which is designed to ensure that this legislation maintains the balance between the rights and remedies of carriers and shippers incorporated into the Staggers Rail Act of 1980, which provided new market freedoms to this industry. Several provisions in the reported bill could be interpreted as reregulating certain aspects of the railroad industry. These provisions, if left untouched, could undermine the Staggers Act reforms, which have worked well for both shippers and railroads. Therefore, I wish to thank Chairman PRESSLER, the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, and Senator EXON, the ranking minority member, who have worked closely with me, Senator SANTORUM, Senator MACK, and other Senators, in a bipartisan manner to finalize language that maintains a deregulated environment for our vital railroad industry as we streamline Government and provide for an orderly transition from the Interstate Commerce Commission to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Board.●

LAST RESPECTS TO PRIME MINISTER RABIN

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I had the honor to speak at a tree planting across from the White House, a ceremony honoring the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, conducted by the Jewish National Fund.

It was the first time a tree had been planted in the area of the White House honoring a foreign leader.

My hope is that all parties in the Middle East, as well as other nations, including the United States, will do everything we can to pursue Yitzhak Rabin's dream of peace, a practical peace where neighbors can get along and trade and have normal discourse.

At the funeral tribute to Prime Minister Rabin in Israel, which I watched on television, nothing was more moving than the tribute of his teenage granddaughter, Noa Ben-Artzi Filosof.

You would have to be hard-hearted indeed not to have tears come to your eyes as she made this moving tribute to him.

I was proud of President Clinton's tribute, and I thought King Hussein and President Mubarak also did an excellent job.

But for those who may not have heard or read the tribute of Prime Minister Rabin's granddaughter, I ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The tribute follows:

[Translated and transcribed by the New York Times]

A GRANDDAUGHTER'S FAREWELL

(By Noa Ben-Artzi Filosof)

Please excuse me for not wanting to talk about the peace. I want to talk about my grandfather.

You always awake from a nightmare, but since yesterday (Sunday) I was continually awakening to a nightmare. It is not possible to get used to the nightmare of life without you. The television never ceases to broadcast pictures of you, and you are so alive that I can almost touch you—but only almost, and I won't be able to anymore.

Grandfather, you were the pillar of fire in front of the camp and now we are left in the camp alone, in the dark; and we are so cold and so sad.

I know that people talk in terms of a national tragedy, and of comforting an entire nation, but we feel the huge void that remains in your absence when grandmother doesn't stop crying.

Few people really knew you. Now they will talk about you for quite some time, but I feel that they really don't know just how great the pain is, how great the tragedy is; something has been destroyed.

Grandfather, you were and still are our hero. I wanted you to know that every time I did anything, I saw you in front of me.

Your appreciation and your love accompanied us every step down the road, and our lives were always shaped after your values. You, who never abandoned anything, are now abandoned. And here you are, my ever-present hero, cold, alone, and I cannot do anything to save you. You are missed so much.

Others greater than I have already eulogized you, but none of them ever had the pleasure I had to feel the caresses of our warm, soft hands, to merit your warm embrace that was reserved only for us, to see your half-smile that always told me so much, that same smile which is no longer, frozen in the grave with you.

I have no feelings of revenge because my pain and feelings of loss are so large, too large. The ground has been swept out from below us, and we are groping now, trying to wander about in this empty void, without any success so far.

I am not able to finish this; left with no alternative. I say goodbye to you, hero, and ask you to rest in peace, and think about us, and miss us, as down here we love you so very much. I imagine angels are accompanying you now and I ask them to take care of you, because you deserve their protection.●

MARINE CORPS ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I attended the Marine Corps Anniversary Observance at the Marine Corps War Memorial. The speaker at those ceremonies was our colleague from New Hampshire, BOB SMITH. As a former

marine, I was very impressed with Senator SMITH's remarks, and I ask that they be printed in the RECORD for all—Marines and those who wish they were—to read.

The remarks follow:

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB SMITH—MARINE CORPS 220TH BIRTHDAY

Thank you very much, General Krulak. Secretary Perry, Secretary Dalton, General Shalikashvili, Senator WARNER, Colonel Dotter, and distinguished guests. It is a great honor to join with you all today in commemorating the 220th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Before we begin, I want to take this opportunity to commend you personally, General Krulak, on the superb readiness of your troops, and for your outstanding leadership as commandant of the Marine Corps.

It is fitting that today's commemoration coincides with the observance of Veterans Day. Indeed, as our Nation pauses to reflect upon the historical sacrifices of its warriors, what better place for us to congregate that here at this great shrine. What better way to honor our Nation's veterans than to celebrate 220 years of Marine Corps history.

As you know, I was not a marine. However, I took my share of "incoming" on the floor of the U.S. Senate fighting the battle for those M1A1 tanks and MPS ships, and I am proud of it. I am a marine in spirit, and I have a letter from General Mundy to prove it.

The Marine Corps was created on November 10, 1775 when the Continental Congress decreed that two battalions of Marines be organized under the direction of Captain Samuel Nicholas, the first commandant.

Recruitment procedures being somewhat different back then, the Marines were recruited at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. Although their indoctrination was not quite as rigorous as a trip through San Diego, Parris Island, or Quantico, these pioneering Marines made history by launching an amphibious landing at New Providence Island in the Bahamas, capturing a British fort and securing its arms and powder for Washington's Army. They later went on to fight at such locations as Trenton, Morristown, Penobscot Bay, and Fort Mifflin.

In the two centuries since those colonial battles, the size and structure of the Marine Corps has evolved, doctrine has changed, and areas of operational responsibility have expanded. The corps has emerged as a truly global force, deploying to Central and South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, with the status of being the first to fight.

But what has never changed, and what continues to distinguish the United States Marine Corps from any other fighting force in the world, is its unique culture and character.

The Marine Corps is rich with tradition, its men and women strong on character and conviction. Honor discipline, valor, and fidelity are the corps virtues; dedication, sacrifice, and commitment its code. To those who willingly join this elite society, service is not merely an occupation, it is a way of life. Once a marine, always a marine.

It is this way of life, this absolute, unwavering commitment to duty, honor, and country, that has distinguished the United States Marine Corps from every other fighting force in history. And it is this selfless dedication, manifested through uncountable examples of battlefield valor, that has preserved our freedom and enabled our nation to prosper.

But there have been costs. Tremendous costs. Look at the costs of Iwo Jima. Between February 19th and March 26th 1945, nineteen-thousand Americans were wounded

and seven thousand were killed in the campaign to capture that strategic four mile island. Against tremendous adversity, our marines persevered and prevailed in this critically important campaign. Four of the men depicted in this memorial died within days of raising the flag.

But those of us who have served in the Armed Forces and gone to war know that freedom is never free. We knew it when we enlisted, we know it today. So many of our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have perished in defense of freedom. So many more have been wounded or disabled. Each of us has suffered the loss of a fallen comrade or loved one.

This veterans day has a very special significance for me. For it was 50 years ago that I lost my father on active duty during World War II. He was a naval aviator who flew combat missions in the South Pacific.

He knew the risks, he knew them well. And he accepted them. The stakes were too high not to. My father gave his life in service to his Nation. And on this very special occasion, when I am so honored to join with you today, I want to pay tribute to my father and mother who, together, rest on a quiet little hillside in Arlington Cemetery. Like my dad, my mother never wavered in her love of country, even when she saw her only two sons depart for Vietnam.

Freedom is never free.

But some things are worth fighting for. Some universal principles of freedom, of morality, of human dignity, and of right and wrong must be defended, no matter what the costs. And through thick and thin, the United States Marine Corps has answered the Nation's call, remaining true to its convictions and determined in its vow to be most ready when the Nation is least ready.

Whether it be the colonial battles at New Providence Island and Trenton, or the historic campaigns at Belleau Wood, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Inchon, the marines have always delivered for our Nation for the cause of freedom.

And today, whether rescuing American citizens in Rwanda, maintaining the watch off Somalia, conducting migrant rescue and security operations in the Caribbean and ashore in Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti, responding to crises in the Persian Gulf, or rescuing downed pilots in Bosnia, the Marine Corps continues to deliver on its commitment to the American people and the United States Constitution. They even survived the media onslaught when they landed in Somalia.

When I think back upon the uncountable acts of heroism and sacrifice by our marines, I am always reminded of the words of Admiral Chester Nimitz following the battle of Iwo Jima.

From the fleet, Admiral Nimitz concluded, and I quote, "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue." Unquote.

Let me briefly provide an example of the kind of valor to which Admiral Nimitz was referring. On February 23, 1945, a young marine corporal named Hershel Williams earned the Congressional Medal of Honor at Iwo Jima. When marine tanks were unable to open a lane for the infantry through a network of concrete pillboxes and buried mines, Corporal Williams struck out on his own to suppress the Japanese onslaught.

Corporal Williams fought desperately for 4 hours, covered by only 4 riflemen, preparing demolition charges and using a flamethrower to wipe out multiple enemy positions.

On one occasion, he daringly mounted a pillbox under heavy fire, inserting the nozzle of his flamethrower through the air vent, and destroying the enemy guns that were ravaging our troops.

According to the Medal of Honor description, Corporal Williams' unyielding deter-

mination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strongholds, enabling his company to reach its objective.

This is the kind of uncommon valor that Admiral Nimitz was talking about. But one does not have to reach back into history to find heroism. It is right here in front of, and around me, today. The highest decorations that our Nation bestows are worn on the chest of many of you here today. It is you who carry the torch of freedom, and you who continue the legacy of Corporal Williams and the millions of other marines who have served our Nation. And you do it willingly, sometimes without receiving the credit you so richly deserve.

Though the world remains dangerous, and the future uncertain, there is one constant that we as Americans can take great pride and comfort in. That is the fact that our United States Marine Corps remains on station, throughout the world, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, every year, defending our freedom and preserving our security.

The honor, the dedication, the sacrifice, and, yes, the uncommon valor of every marine who has served before lives on through those of you who stand watch today. As we honor this history, we should pause to reflect upon the 275 Marine Corps soldiers who are still listed as POW/MIA from Vietnam, Korea, and other wars. They are always in our hearts.

I know that my friends in the Navy, Army, and Air Force will understand when I take the liberty of saying to General Krulak and all members of the Marine Corps—past, present and future—Semper fi.

Thank you very much. ●

CHINA-UNITED STATES TIES WARM A BIT AS CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS CHILL

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I have felt for some time that the United States made a mistake in recognizing the People's Republic of China and derecognizing Taiwan, sometimes referred to as the Republic of China.

My position for a long time was that we should recognize both Chinas, as we recognized both Germanys. That did not prevent East Germany and West Germany from uniting as one country.

But when the mistake was made of playing the China card, in large measure in response to the Soviet Union and its perceived threat, we had set up a situation that potentially could mean military trouble in Asia.

The New York Times carried a story on Saturday, November 18, by Patrick E. Tyler that talks about an improvement in United States ties but a worsening of China-Taiwan ties.

I am concerned about any leadership that could emerge in dictatorial China that might be a threat to the free Government of Taiwan.

I hope that our military leaders and our diplomatic leaders will not pussy-foot around in making clear that there would be serious repercussions if China were to invade Taiwan.

I ask that the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

CHINA-U.S. TIES WARM A BIT AS CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS CHILL

(By Patrick E. Tyler)

BEIJING, Nov. 17.—China and the United States made new progress today in resuming a program of high-level military contacts by agreeing to an exchange of visits of their top military officers next year.

But American defense officials visiting here this week reported that during private conversations they encountered trenchant rhetoric and signs of unrelenting determination by Beijing's military and civilian leaders to undermine the rule of the President of Taiwan, Lee Teng-hui.

In recent days, China has restated its intention to use all means, including military intimidation and force if necessary, to end what Beijing considers a drive by Mr. Lee to achieve independence for Taiwan.

Mr. Lee insists he is only seeking greater international recognition for the island, which has been estranged from the mainland since the nationalists fled there after their defeat by the Communists in 1949.

As three days of talks ended, the Pentagon was receiving reports that China had begun a new military exercise off its southeastern coast near Taiwan, military officials here said.

It followed a Taiwanese drill earlier in the week intended to demonstrate the island's ability to repulse an invasion from the mainland.

The visit of the American delegation led by Joseph S. Nye, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, was the first by American military officials since the diplomatic rift that followed a White House decision to allow Mr. Lee to make a private visit to the United States in June.

And it demonstrated that United States-China relations are recovering at a time of unremitting military tension across the Taiwan Strait that could lead to another rupture in relations and, perhaps, military conflict.

"The Chinese have a military operation starting right now," an official traveling with Mr. Nye said tonight. "And what is clear is that China is brushing off military plans and operational contingencies that they haven't thought about since the 1950's. This is an issue we are very concerned about."

Mr. Nye and officials traveling with him said that communication between China and the United States is improving in some areas, but "there was no give whatsoever" on Taiwan, one official said.

"Every single person referred to Taiwan, and their point was that every Chinese is united on this question," the official said.

"It was interesting because they made a comparison with our system. They said you may have differences in your Congress, but in China we are all united that there is only one China and Taiwan is part of China."

Chinese military leaders, during extensive closed door talks with the American delegation, engaged in "subtle exploration" of how the United States would respond in the event of a military crisis over Taiwan, one official said.

But the American officials refused to discuss United States contingency planning. "We stand for peaceful resolution of disputes across the Taiwan Strait," Mr. Nye said at a news conference today.

Any use of force by China against Taiwan "would be a serious mistake" and, he added, continued military exercises near Taiwan "are not helpful."

Mr. Nye announced that the Chinese Defense Minister, Gen. Chi Haotian, would visit Washington next year and that Gen. John