

DR. SAMUEL B. HAND, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY EMERITUS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about an extraordinary Vermonter, Dr. Samuel B. Hand. Many people argue about what makes you a true Vermonter. Some say it is if you were born there; some say it is if you plan to die there. Until the debate is concluded, the person who could settle the matter is Dr. Hand.

While originally from Long Island, in 1961, Dr. Hand became a professor of European history at the University of Vermont, UVM. As a scholar with a passion for history, Dr. Hand quickly became one who added to Vermont's achievements and glories. He emphasized to his students the importance and the excitement of the history of Vermont, resulting in a number of his former students becoming teachers and archivists in Vermont.

Last month, the University of Vermont's Center for Research on Vermont honored Dr. Hand as the recipient of a lifetime achievement award for his expertise in Vermont history and his generous mentoring skills.

In addition to being the "heart" of the history department, as his colleagues called him, Dr. Hand coauthored a number of books, including "Vermont Voices, A Documentary History of the Green Mountain State" and "A Vermont Encyclopedia", and directed a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded series, "Lake Champlain: Reflections on Our Past." He was also one of the founding members of the University of Vermont's Center for Research on Vermont and served as president of the Vermont Historical Society and as president of the Oral History Society. Today's editorial in the Burlington Free Press praises Dr. Hand for "extend[ing] his base beyond the walls of UVM and reinforced the important collaboration between the state's flagship university and Vermont."

Both the University of Vermont and the State of Vermont are truly fortunate to have benefited from the dedication and intelligence of Dr. Hand. Vermonters like him make me proud to represent such a great State. Mr. President, I would ask that this statement and the Burlington Free Press editorial be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

[From the Burlington Free Press, June 11, 2003]

A VERMONT SCHOLAR

Samuel B. Hand still has a trace of Long Island in his voice, but the retired University of Vermont history professor knows more about Vermont than many of the state's residents.

Hand was recognized for his contributions to the study of his adopted state last month when he received a lifetime achievement award from the University of Vermont's Center for Research on Vermont, of which he was a founding member.

Although he started out teaching European history when he arrived at UVM in 1961, Hand quickly saw the merit of specializing in Vermont history.

His graduate students had a greater opportunity to have their work published than if they had chosen a broader and more heavily researched topic, and many of the students had a personal connection to the state's history.

"I might have a student from California who was a sixth-generation UVMer with a grandfather who was once a state senator," Hand said in an interview. "Vermont history is very personal."

Beyond his mentoring of students—for which he was named UVM graduate faculty teacher of the year in 1994, the year he retired—Hand has been a prolific researcher and writer.

The professor of history emeritus has written many articles about Vermont, and co-authored "Vermont Voices, A Documentary History of the Green Mountain State" in 1998 and "A Vermont Encyclopedia," which will be out in August.

His book, "The Star That Set, The Vermont Republican Party, 1854-1974," was published last year.

Hand, 72, has brought together organizations and university disciplines that share a common interest in Vermont. As a former president of the Vermont Historical Society and last year's recipient of the Founders Circle Award from the Ethan Allen Homestead, Hand has extended his base beyond the walls of UVM and reinforced the important collaboration between the state's flagship university and Vermont.

Along the way, he has influenced students and aspiring historians to see Vermont history—not as dry and distant—but as alive and brimming with dramatic stories and interesting characters, such as Ethan Allen, Samuel de Champlain and former Gov. George Aiken, described by Hand as "the quintessential Vermonter against whom other Vermonters measured themselves."

Hand has played a major role in bringing Vermont stories to life and encouraging people to know their roots and appreciate their home. It is work well worth a lifetime achievement award.

AN OKLAHOMA LOSS IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, over the past few months we have seen the fall of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime coupled with the dawning of a new day for the Iraqi people.

With major military combat operations in Iraq over and the security of our homeland bolstered, America and her allies are turning our efforts toward helping the Iraqi people build a free society.

Like many Americans, I was thrilled and heartened by the dramatic images of U.S. troops helping Iraqi citizens tear down statues and paintings of Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi people needed our help, our tanks, our troops, and our commitment to topple Saddam Hussein.

For the first time in their lives, many Iraqis are tasting freedom, and like people everywhere, they think it is wonderful. I am proud of our military and America's commitment to make the people of the Middle East more free and secure.

Our military men and women surely face more difficult days in Iraq, and

the Iraqi people will be tested by the responsibilities that come with freedom. The thugs who propped up the previous regime and outside forces with goals of their own will seek to cause problems, stir up trouble, and initiate violence. Freedom is messy—nowhere more so than in a country that has just shaken off a brutal dictatorship.

But the journey toward a democratic Iraq has now begun. Like so many nations before it, Iraq now endures the growing pains common to a fledgling democracy. The uncertainty in today's Iraq will soon give way to the promise of a better future for the Iraqi people. As we move closer to this goal, we must remember those who sacrificed for this noble cause.

Today, I rise to honor a man who made the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country and the cause of freedom. Petty Officer 3rd Class Doyle Wayne Bolinger, Jr., 21, of Poteau, died last week in Iraq when an unexploded ordnance accidentally detonated in the area where he was working. Bolinger, who joined the Navy shortly after high school, was assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 based in Gulfport, MS, whose members are commonly known as Seabees. His unit has been in the Middle East since January providing construction support to our Armed Forces during military operations.

Everybody liked Bolinger. He was known to always have a smile on his face. People in Poteau, who he often helped out with various jobs, will miss him especially.

His family recently issued a statement saying, "Wayne is a very special young man and is proud to be a Navy Seabee. He died defending his country. He is without a doubt one of America's finest."

I could not possibly agree more. This young man represents the very best this Nation has to offer. Petty Officer Bolinger did not die in vain. He died so many others could live in security and freedom. For that sacrifice we are forever indebted. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family today and with the troops who are putting their lives on the line in Iraq.

REMEMBERING THE MIAS OF SULTAN YAQUB ON THE 21ST ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR CAPTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the Israeli soldiers captured by the Syrians during the 1982 Israeli war with Lebanon. It is with great sadness that we mark today 21 long years of anguish for their families, who continue to desperately seek information about their sons.

On June 11, 1982, an Israeli unit battled with a Syrian armored unit in the Bekaa Valley in northeastern Lebanon. Sergeant Zachary Baumel, First Sergeant Zvi Feldman, and Corporal Yehudah Katz were captured by the

Syrians that day. They were identified as an Israeli tank crew, and reported missing in Damascus. The Israeli tank, flying the Syrian and Palestinian flag, was greeted with cheers from bystanders.

Since that terrible day in 1982, the governments of Israel and the United States have been doing their utmost by working with the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations, and other international bodies to obtain any possible information about the fate of the missing soldiers. According to the Geneva Convention, Syria is responsible for the fates of the Israeli soldiers because the area in Lebanon where the soldiers disappeared was continually controlled by Syria. To this day, despite promises made by the government of Syria and by the Palestinians, very little information has been released about the condition of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz.

Today marks the anniversary of the day that these soldier were reported missing in action. Twenty-one pain-filled years have passed since their families have seen their sons, and still Syria has not revealed their whereabouts nor provided any information as to their condition.

One of these missing soldiers, Zachary Baumel, is an American citizen from my home of Brooklyn, NY. An ardent basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School in Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. but fate decreed otherwise and on June 11, 1982, he disappeared with Zvi Feldman and Yehudah Katz.

During the 106th Congress, I cosponsored and helped to pass Public Law 106-89, which specifies that the State Department must raise the plight of these missing soldiers in all relevant discussions and report findings to Congress regarding the development in the Middle East. We need to know that every avenue has been pursued in order to help bring about the speedy return of these young men. Therefore, I strongly feel that we must be sure to continue the full implementation of Public Law 106-89, so that information about these men can be brought to light.

Zachary's parents Yonah and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, and the American Coalition of Missing Israeli Soldiers, and the MIA Task Force of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. These

groups have been at the forefront of this pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their good work and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts. For two decades these families have been without their children. Answers are long overdue.

The agony of the families of these kidnapped Israeli soldiers is extreme. They have not heard a word regarding the fate of their sons. I believe that we must pledge to do our utmost to obtain information about these soldiers and to bring them home, for the sake of peace, decency and humanity.

THE COAL ACT

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, on June 10, Senator GRASSLEY, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, issued a statement concerning the Coal Act, included in the 1992 Energy bill, and very specifically the intolerable situation regarding reachback and superreachback coal companies.

The tax levied on these companies in that act is unfair. It never should have been enacted to begin with. It even applies to companies that are no longer in the coal mining business. The Coal Act created the combined benefit fund, CBF, in an attempt to solve many of the pension problems of retired coal miners. There were never any hearings. There was no serious debate on the Senate floor.

The combined benefit fund is approaching insolvency. There are accountants who today would say it is already insolvent. It has been saved from terminable illness only by annual appropriations in recent Appropriations bills. These appropriations do not permanently solve the problem.

I, for a number of years, have attempted to pass legislation to solve this issue. It is my hope that the House of Representatives would at last send to the Senate a bill rectifying this problem so we might also enact it and at least put an end to this inequity.

DEDICATION OF THE BATTLE CREEK FEDERAL CENTER

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, on Saturday, May 31, I had the honor of being present at the renaming of the Battle Creek, MI Federal Center for three American heroes, the late Senator Phil Hart, my husband Bob Dole, and my Senate colleague DAN INOUE.

This recognition would not have happened without the efforts of my friend and colleague, CARL LEVIN. At the dedication Senator LEVIN spoke eloquently and his message about honor, duty, country captured the attention and respect of all those present at this important event. I thank him again and ask unanimous consent that his remarks be included in the RECORD.

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

"What an overwhelming moment this is for all of us just to be with these heroes and

their families. For Barb and me it's a treasured moment to join with Bob Dole, Danny Inouye, and two sons of Phil Hart, Jim and Walter Hart; to be with my colleague Libby Dole. You know, I used to say that the U.S. Senate was the world's most exclusive club. They used to say that. But now, Barb, my wife, and Bob will testify to this, are members of the truly most exclusive club in the world which is the Senate's spouse club, because now that Libby Dole is in the Senate, Bob Dole knows what it's like to be a Senate spouse.

Thanks are due to so many people for making this day possible. We are very grateful to the General Services Administration for their prompt response to the idea; Administrator Perry, thank you. To the people of Battle Creek, first and foremost, for again accepting three American soldiers into your heart as you did tens of thousands of American soldiers many years ago. By renaming this building and accepting these three names, you have again said what this community truly is all about and what you, in Battle Creek, and what the workers in this federal center are all about. Thank you for taking them back into your hearts and embracing them by accepting these three names.

For thousands of young soldiers, this was the place they came home, the place where a grateful America cared for the injuries they received defending our nation. And today, by renaming this building we are paying tribute to three soldiers who became close friends during their convalesces at Percy Jones Army Hospital, and went on to serve together in the United States Senate. Renaming the federal center after these three heroes recognizes their unique achievements while honoring all those who received care here and who provided care here. As a new generation of valiant soldiers emerges from the conflict in the Persian Gulf, and we greeted many of them just a few weeks ago here in Battle Creek, it is more appropriate than ever we remember past heroes who were wounded in service to their country. By honoring these three men we will inspire a new generation to follow their example.

Phil Hart, a native son of Michigan, was wounded during the D-Day assault. He spent more than three months at the Army hospital here in Battle Creek. According to Bob Dole, Phil Hart would tirelessly spend from morning 'til night running errands for the rest of us. He was, in Bob Dole's words, and I know Danny Inouye shared this very deeply, 'he was without a doubt one of the finest men I ever knew'. Phil Hart became the conscious of the Senate, whose decency was legendary and whose integrity was so deep that he would without flinching take on an unpopular cause, or a powerful constituency, for the good of the nation.

Bob Dole arrived at Percy Jones in a plaster body cast. His recovery program overall took three years, which underscores his courage and his determination. When told by doctors his disability would be career dooming, he refused to accept their diagnosis and he fought successfully to prove them wrong. In his first speech in the Senate, in 1969, which was 25-years to the day after his serious wounds were received in Italy, leading his squad of the 10th Mountain Division in the Italian Alps, Bob Dole, in that first speech, called for the creation of a commission to seek ways to assist people with disabilities. Two decades later, the Americans With Disabilities Act crowned that effort and in Bob Dole's last speech in the United States Senate, he spoke of his meeting and his friendship, his lifelong friendship that was created here with Phil Hart and Danny Inouye.