

same amendment, there ought to be nothing for conferees to reconcile.

But here we are with an omnibus bill that does not include our amendment to suspend enforcement of the Cuba travel ban. How did this happen?

It wasn't the conferees. Thirteen of the 16 Senate conferees were supportive of our amendment. The conferees would not have stripped out the amendment.

But the congressional leadership would. And they did, before even submitting the bill to the conference committee for consideration. They pointed to a phony veto threat—not made by the President—to justify a blatantly political move calculated to improve their standing with a small number of constituents in Florida.

This, despite a recent poll by the Miami Herald and St. Petersburg Times that found that most Florida voters favor lifting the ban on travel to Cuba—by better than a 2-to-1 margin.

Is this democracy in action? Is this the example we are setting for the rest of the world? Is this the example of participatory government that we hold to the Cuban dissidents as the beacon of freedom and liberty?

If this ugly episode were the only consequence of this administration's obsession with retaining the failed Cuba travel ban, that would be bad enough.

But it is not the only consequence. Far worse, the administration's pandering to its south Florida allies is undermining U.S. efforts to fight terrorism.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, OFAC, is charged with enforcing sanctions against foreign countries, terrorist networks, international narcotics traffickers, and those involved in proliferating weapons of mass destruction.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

WILLIAM JOHNSON'S RETIREMENT

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize William Johnson's retirement after 33 years of teaching in the Brandywine School District. His dedication has won him the respect of two generations of faculty and students alike, along with the gratitude of many in our State. He has been, and remains, a trusted friend.

Mr. Johnson has spent much of his life in public service. He served honorably in the United States Army for 6 years, from 1965–1971. His teaching career at Hanby Middle School in Wilmington, Delaware, where he has taught Earth and Space Science for 23 years comes to an end this month. He will be sorely missed there.

Mr. Johnson received his bachelor's degree in Education from Delaware State University and his Master's in Education from Antioch University. He has also taken advanced studies classes at the University of Pennsylvania and

has completed all the classes needed for a doctorate degree with California Coast University. He will be dedicating much of his time after his retirement to working on his dissertation in Earth and Space Science.

Having taught at Hanby since 1980, there are many attributes that make Mr. Johnson a great teacher. He has an unparalleled commitment to his craft. He stays after school on a regular basis to work on experiments with his students, teaches remedial classes with the same expectations as every other class, and ensures his students have a lot of hands on experience in the classroom. In 1997, Mr. Johnson led a group of six students in an inventor's club as they tried to come up with inventions for the Duracell Battery Company. With his leadership and guidance, the students came up with several creations, including a curb sensor to help cars detect curbs behind them, a laser device that takes atmospheric and meteorological measurements, and a computer program that analyzes satellites and orbits around the earth. These inventions are extraordinary for middle school students.

In addition, in October of 1998, Mr. Johnson was honored and certified by then-Vice President Al Gore as a teacher of the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment Program. Some 500 people were honored with the certification, which enables the teachers to teach students how to view environmental images and read globe data in hopes of determining the effects of global warming.

Mr. Johnson is a member of the Delaware Teachers of Science, National Science Teachers' Association, American Federation of Teachers and the Satellites Educators' Association. Over the years, Mr. Johnson has received many awards and honors including Who's Who Teacher of the Year, FAME Teacher of the Year, as well as Hanby's Teacher of the Year candidate. He also serves as a representative for the United Negro College Fund—UNCF—in the Brandywine School District, coordinating donations from teachers and administrators. The fund goes to support various black colleges across the nation.

Mr. Johnson is married to the former M. Patricia Durnell. The two were married in West Chester, PA in August, 1981, and now reside in Chadds Ford, PA. His hobbies and interests include reading, jogging, collecting baseball cards and jazz albums, baseball, golf, and alto saxophone.

Mr. Johnson is forever the consummate professional. He works hard at his job, works hard for his students, and never desires the spotlight or recognition for all his contributions. Through his tireless efforts, he has made a profound difference in the lives of thousands of students and enhanced the quality of life for an entire state. Upon his retirement, he will leave behind a legacy of commitment to public service for the generations that will

follow. On behalf of each student whose life Mr. Johnson has touched, let me express our heartfelt gratitude. We congratulate him on a truly remarkable and distinguished career, and we wish him and his family only the very best in all that lies ahead for each of them.●

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA ROTC

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize the outstanding work of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets at the University of Virginia who participated in a 24-hour vigil on September 15–16, 2003 in honor of National POW/MIA Remembrance Day. The POW/MIA Vigil specifically honors those men and women who defended our nation and never returned with a 24-hour, tri-service honor ceremony.

The ROTC cadets at the University of Virginia started their POW/MIA vigils in 2000 when Air Force cadet Elizabeth McGraw served as Arnold Air Society Deputy Commander. Subsequent vigils were commanded by Cadet Christopher Tulip in 2001, Cadet Tara Graul in 2002, and Cadet Jeremy Porto in 2003.

This year's Vigil planning committee included Cadets James Hayne, Joshua Becker, Alina Sullivan, Dan Barton, and Nic Skirpan. U.S. Air Force Colonel John C. Vrba, commander of AFROTC Detachment 890 at Virginia, supervised the ceremony, which began with a solemn precision drill performance by members of the AFROTC Drill Team: Cadets Suzanne Hahl, Jacklyn Noveras, Brandon Bert, Timothy Farwell, and James Hayne. Air Force and Army Cadets, and Navy Midshipmen from the three ROTC detachments then marched in solemn 15 minute "honor shifts" guarding the American flag which was displayed prominently on the back wall of the University of Virginia's Amphitheater.

One of the MIAs that these young Cadets honored was U.S. Army Captain Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace, a 1959 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. On July 8, 2002, I had the distinct honor of being present at the White House for the posthumous awarding of the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush for Rocky's conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while a captive of the Viet Cong from October 29, 1965, until he was executed on or about September 26, 1965. His captors took his life after they had given up trying to break Rocky's indomitable will to resist interrogation and indoctrination, his unshakable faith in God, and his steadfast trust in his country and his fellow prisoners.

When I visited the White House last year for Captain Versace's Medal of Honor ceremony, I was among many of Captain Versace's West Point classmates and family members. One of those classmates was John Gurr, who