

after occupying the northern part of Iraq the first meetings were held to set up Province Council elections and those elections were held one week later. The division worked with Iraqis to quickly restore power, water, fuel, transportation, and industry. They set the model for cooperating with the local leaders and population to create a stable and prosperous Iraq. This all happened because of the leadership of General Petraeus.

I visited General Petraeus and the Screaming Eagles in Iraq earlier this year. I saw firsthand the results of his careful preparation and skillful execution of a plan to bring order and governance to the people of northern Iraq. I was, and remain, impressed by what I saw.

Because he was so successful leading the 101st Airborne in Iraq, General Petraeus has been assigned back to Iraq for the transition of power to the interim Iraqi government. I have no doubts that he is the right man for the job and will help the Iraqi transition to self-government proceed smoothly.

Again, I want to congratulate General Petraeus and wish him well in his new assignment. He is blessed with a wonderful family at home who will be eagerly awaiting his return. I thank him for his service.

COMMENDING AUSTRALIA FTA

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today, May 18, 2004, is a historic day for U.S.-Australia bilateral relations. A landmark agreement on free trade was reached today between the United States and Australia.

I believe the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement is good for America. An FTA with the world's 15th largest economy will bring substantial benefits to my state of Oregon and to the whole U.S. economy. Australia is an industrialized nation with a high standard of living that is already a large market for U.S. exports valued at over \$23 billion annually. The Australia FTA will boost U.S. manufacturing and create U.S. manufacturing jobs by reducing 99 percent of all Australian tariffs to zero. For the first time, the United States will have a significant advantage over European and Japanese competitors in the Australian market. U.S. goods and services will be able to compete fairly with other foreign exports in the lucrative Australian marketplace. This will be worth over \$2 billion a year to U.S. manufacturers.

U.S. agricultural exports to Australia will grow by \$700 million, as tariffs on all agricultural goods are zeroed out under the FTA; this is money in the bank for U.S. farmers.

Australia is an important market for my home State of Oregon. Australia is the 10th largest export market, and is particularly important for high quality manufactured goods. Western Star—a subsidiary of DaimlerChrysler—located in Portland, OR would save nearly \$2 million a year in eliminated tariffs and

duties that average \$4,000 per truck exported to Australia. This money could be reinvested in expanded production and opportunities for workers in my home State of Oregon.

Trade with Australia also supports numerous other high-paying jobs in areas such as transportation, finance and advertising. Furthermore, Oregon exports over \$39 million per year in computers and electronic products. Access to 19 million potential customers is no small deal for Oregon businesses.

Furthermore, Australia is the ideal trading partner for the United States. It is an advanced, efficient high wage economy with dependable legal and financial regimes. It has labor and environment standards comparable to the United States. A free trade agreement with Australia just simply makes good sense.

The FTA will only strengthen our relationship with a close ally. Australia and the United States have been true allies through good times and bad. We have fought together in every major conflict in the last 100 years to defend peace and security. We must stand steadfast with our ally, not only in the defense of peace, but also in the prospect and benefits of free trade.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

JASON METCALFE

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to commend an exceptional young Floridian, who is raising money to build an ALS clinic in Jacksonville. Jason Metcalfe may only be a fourth grader at Tynes Elementary school, but his story can teach us all—young and old alike—a lesson in the spirit of giving.

Jason's good friend and confidant, Mr. Chapman, was diagnosed with ALS, a debilitating condition commonly called Lou Gehrig's disease. After learning Mr. Chapman was stricken with the devastating disease, he took action.

Jason made a long-term goal to become a scientist and help find a cure for ALS. He has already improved his grades and is now receiving top marks in school. In addition to his commitment to education, Jason decided to help in the short term by collecting money to support ALS research and treatment facilities. He has been saving his allowance, selling candy and taking donations. And I am proud to report that he has already shattered his original goal of raising \$500 and has collected in excess of \$11,000.

Mr. Chapman passed away on February 1, 2004, but Jason's dream to become an ALS researcher and to build a clinic in Jacksonville lives on. Jason's hard work, determination and leadership is an example to us all. I am proud of the work he is doing to give back to people like Mr. Chapman, who suffer from ALS.

Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to recognize the efforts of an exceptional young Floridian. •

BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH

• Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Benigno family of Clinton, NJ, for their tireless efforts to advance the cause of brain injury research.

Nearly 20 years ago, Dennis and Rosalind Benigno's 15-year old son, Dennis John, was struck by a car while walking home from a football physical. Dennis John suffered severe, long-term brain injuries in the accident. Now 34, Dennis John cannot walk or talk. He communicates with his eyes and laughter, and seems to understand when his parents talk to him. Dennis and Rosalind have made a life of caring for their injured son.

Their personal tragedy, however, is not the end of the story. Mr. Benigno has turned tragedy into action. He has been a passionate advocate on behalf of his son, raising awareness and promoting research efforts that offer the prospect of a cure for traumatic brain injury. The Benigno's founded the Coalition for Brain Injury Research, which has donated more than \$125,000 in the past 2 years to the study of brain cell repair. They raise funds through walkathons and a lecture series, and Mr. Benigno has traveled throughout the country for research dollars.

Mr. Benigno has also turned to his elected representatives in New Jersey and Washington, DC. His efforts have led to the creation of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, co-chaired by my good friend Congressman BILL PASCRELL. For the last 6 years, Mr. Benigno has also lobbied local, State, and Federal legislators to support legislation that would create a dedicated source of funding for medical research into traumatic brain injuries.

His work has begun to pay off. On January 2 of this year, Governor McGreevey signed the Brain Injury Research Act into law. With this legislation, New Jersey becomes the first State in the Nation to create a funding stream for researchers devising treatments and cures for brain injuries. The act is expected to raise more than \$3 million a year for brain injury research from a \$1 surcharge on motor vehicle penalties.

Dennis John is one of more than 5.3 million Americans who currently suffer disabilities from brain injury, according to the Centers for Disease Control, CDC. Every year, 200,000 people sustain brain injuries, a number that exceeds the incidence of HIV/AIDS and breast cancer. Right now, there is no cure. In fact, brain injuries are the only catastrophic illness for which scientists have yet to readily identify a cure as their research goal. The Brain Injury Research Act, finally, offers hope to the hundreds of thousands who suffer from brain injuries that an effective therapy may be in sight.

While religious authorities, ethics scholars, and we here in the halls of government continue to debate the implications of stem and fetal cell research, the Benigno's remain focused