

life and the values that we all share. The call to a service greater than their own self interest has motivated them to risk their lives. All too often, we are unable to repay them for the sacrifices that they make.

Next month we will recognize Veterans Day. It will be marked by patriotic speeches and parades, a solemn recognition of those veterans who are still with us and those servicemembers who have been lost. And rightfully so. But we should not lose sight of the fact that every day there are still families grieving and remembering.

To Sergeant Pankey's wife and daughter in Morrison and his mother in Louisiana, and all of the families and friends left behind in the wake of a soldier's death, we can only offer our humble thanks on behalf of this Nation. We are forever in your debt and will always remember the extraordinary price you have paid on our behalf by offering up your sons and daughters. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

With that in mind, I want to end with a quote from the Bible upon which I sometimes reflect when I am thinking about our men and women in uniform. Matthew 5:9 reminds us: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Right now across the world, the members of our Armed Forces like Sergeant Pankey stand watch on our behalf. They are these very peacemakers, and their place will always be reserved in our hearts.

ARCTIC REFUGE PROVISIONS IN BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last month people from across the country converged on Washington to send a clear message to Congress in opposition to drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Sadly, yesterday's action by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee flies in the face of that grassroots movement. And on top of this, the committee failed to accept commonsense amendments that would have required that drilling in the Arctic follow the same rules as drilling in all other wildlife refuges, insisted that oil taken from the refuge stay in the hands of Americans, and guaranteed what Senators have been told all along—that 50 percent of the revenues from leases would go to the Federal Treasury, despite public suggestions by Members of the Alaska delegation that the State would sue to get 90 percent of all revenues.

There is no doubt that as a nation, we face tough questions about our energy policy. Sacrificing one of America's greatest natural treasures, however, to access a supply of oil that may not last more than a year, wouldn't be available for many years to come, and would decrease gas prices by only a penny at its highest production, is simply not the answer. A responsible, well-

thought-out national energy policy that moves us away from our dependence on a finite resource such as oil is the answer, and I regret that we don't have such a policy. To support our energy needs, care for our citizens, encourage a vibrant economy, and meet our stewardship responsibilities to future generations, we must take a variety of steps, including investing in American ingenuity, advancing our commitment to conservation, and increasing our use of renewable sources of fuel.

As we now move from the committee's reconciliation recommendation to floor debate of the larger budget reconciliation package, I will work to make sure that we do not discard the legacy of protecting the Arctic Refuge that dates back to President Eisenhower in 1960.

NATIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, October 16–22 is National Safe Schools Week. School violence, or even the threat of school violence, in too many of our schools instills fear in our students, and limits their ability to learn. It also can threaten and intimidate teachers and make instruction more difficult.

National Safe Schools Week is intended to raise awareness of school safety issues and empower students, parents, teachers, and parents to do what they can to prevent violence in their schools. Congress should also do its part by passing common sense gun safety legislation and by funding important programs that help to reduce school violence.

According to 2003 statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 950,000 students take a weapon to school each month, resulting in more than 1,400,000 students being injured or threatened with a weapon during the school year. In addition, every month, an estimated 840,000 students feel too unsafe to go to school. This is a problem which left unaddressed will continue to hold children back from reaching their full educational potential.

Statistics cited by the PAX organization, one of the organizers of National Safe Schools Week, indicate that in 81 percent of the school shootings in our country, the attackers told other students of their plans prior to the attack. Further, students are responsible for tipping off school authorities in 93 percent of the cases where weapons are confiscated from students at school. To strengthen this fact, PAX created the Speak Up Campaign. The centerpiece of the campaign is a national hotline, 1-866-SPEAK-UP, where children and teenagers can call to anonymously report threats involving weapons at their school. Since the creation of the hotline in 2002, the Speak Up Campaign has received more than 7,000 calls which were then passed along to appropriate law enforcement officials.

School violence threatens to put our children's safety and ability to learn in

jeopardy. Our Nation's schools need our help to combat this ongoing problem. To start, we should adequately fund Federal grant programs like COPS. COPS hiring grants have been used to hire more than 6,500 school resource officers since 1999. These officers help ensure a safe environment in and around our schools and collaborate with the school community to more effectively deal with school violence issues.

We should also support common sense gun storage requirements to make it more difficult for children and teenagers to access guns and ammunition. Recently, I joined with 69 of my colleagues in voting for an amendment offered by Senator KOHL that would require licensed dealers, manufacturers, and importers to include a safe gun storage or gun safety device with every handgun they sell. Use of such storage devices could help prevent a child or teenager from acquiring a gun that they might use to injure or kill another student at school. Hopefully, Senator KOHL's amendment will become law.

School violence has always posed a threat to students and teachers, but lethal and easily concealable guns have escalated the problem. Gun violence, not only affects students at a particular school, it has a rippling effect on students at schools in the same county, State, and in some cases, the entire country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting efforts to reduce the threat of violence, especially gun violence, to our schools.

CONTINUED JAPANESE BAN ON U.S. BEEF

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to express deep frustration over Japan's unwillingness to lift its ban on U.S. beef. My patience—and the patience of many of colleagues in this chamber—has run out. The time for talk and empty promises is over.

I have long been, and remain, a friend of Japan. I first visited that country many years ago as a student and was deeply touched by the kindness extended to me by the people of Japan. In over 30 years in Congress, I have worked hard to strengthen our trade and economic ties. I have watched proudly as the U.S.-Japan economic relationship has grown and prospered.

Times have not always been easy. I have engaged closely on U.S.-Japan issues through good times and through periods of great strain. But even in the most difficult times, I have made every effort to roll up my sleeves and work through problems in order to ensure that our trade relationship with Japan works for the people of Montana and the United States.

By and large, that relationship works, and it works well. In trade, one of our crowning achievements together has been the construction of a rules-based multilateral trading system—first through the General Agreement