

in the Judicial Conference of the United States, and Judge Boggs also served as chair of the Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar Association from 2001 to 2002.

Judge Boggs entire career has been marked by energy, accomplishment, and scholarly brilliance. His fertile, polymath's mind has unlocked a love of learning in countless others. And his 20 years of distinguished service on the bench of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has inspired us all. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Judge Danny J. Boggs for his 20 years on the bench and for his continued service to the law and his country.

INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, from April 29 to May 1, 2006, approximately 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals competition of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, an educational program developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The We the People Program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education through an act of Congress.

During the 3-day competition, students from all 50 States demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles. The students testified before a panel of judges in a congressional hearing simulation focusing on constitutional topics. I am pleased to announce that Incline High School from Incline Village, NV, received the Western Region Award.

I had the chance to meet these bright young students from Incline High while they were here in Washington, DC. Of the many groups from Nevada that I have met with, I have rarely been asked such intelligent and thoughtful questions. I was impressed with their interest and knowledge of complex constitutional issues. These young students are an example of the future of America, and they should be commended for their hard work.

Mr. President, the names of these outstanding students from Incline High School are as follows: Kent Bergantz, Roxanne Casselberry, Dan Driver, Julie Gregory, Amy Hanna, Andrew Herr, Annie Horton, Alisa Johansson, Taylor Lane, Cara Langsfeld, Stephen McKay, Scott Nikkel, Courtney Pennacchio, Mia Perhacs, Tony Ring, Cara Sheehan, Ryan Spizman, Lara St. John, Christin Thompson, Shea Wickland, Alethia Williams, and Carly Wood.

I would also like to commend the teacher of the class, Milt Hyams, as well as the State coordinator, Marcia Stribling, and the district coordinators, Daniel Wong and Shane Piccinini, who have donated their time and energy to prepare these students for the national finals competition. Without the hard work and dedication of these

individuals, our students would have missed an amazing learning experience.

Mr. President and my colleagues in the Senate, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional experts for their outstanding achievement.

NATO AND IRAN

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to share with our colleagues remarks I have made recently at the Atlantic Council, the Council on Foreign Relations, and other forums regarding a role NATO should consider by joining others seeking to achieve a diplomatic resolution of the potential nuclear weapons threat posed by Iran.

I have long been, and remain to this day, a steadfast supporter of NATO. No alliance, since World War II, has achieved a more successful, steadfast record of achieving peace.

I applaud NATO for embracing the concept of "out of area" missions. In Iraq, despite continuing violence, a new unified government is emerging. Even with the differences of opinion among NATO nations related to Iraq, NATO did step forward to participate in the important mission of training Iraqi security forces.

There is no better example of NATO undertaking important "out of area" missions than the leadership NATO is providing in the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, in Afghanistan.

Recently I was in Afghanistan and saw firsthand how ISAF is expanding its reach to provide security and stability throughout Afghanistan. ISAF forces are accepting risks in the face of a rising number of attacks, while the new Government forges ahead putting down roots of democracy so that Afghanistan can take its place among the free nations of the world.

The principal focus of my remarks today is on how NATO might respond to the greatest threat to regional and global stability that we face today: Iran.

I had the privilege this week to join Senator LUGAR and other Members in a private meeting with Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA. Dr. ElBaradei generously shared his insights on the situation with Iran, and how he continues to try to fulfill the responsibilities of his organization. I greatly respect his views.

I agree that when faced with a fork in the road between negotiation and confrontation, the world has rightly chosen, for the present, the path of negotiation. There is time—but not unlimited—to pursue a peaceful resolution to persuade Iran not to pursue steps leading to the development and acquisition of nuclear weapons.

Underway at this very moment are negotiations—the United States together with France, Great Britain, Germany, and other members of the EU, are doing everything to persuade Iran not to develop nuclear weapons.

The U.N. Security Council and the IAEA are also playing important roles in these diplomatic efforts.

Currently, Iran boasts about its inventory of missiles which can range throughout the Middle East and reach Europe. If Iran defies diplomacy and develops nuclear weapons, the threat will increase exponentially.

Free nations are and must face this reality now. As the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert warned in his address to a joint session of Congress this morning:

A nuclear-armed Iran is an intolerable threat to the peace and security of the world. It cannot be permitted to materialize.

I support the principle of preserving as many options as possible in diplomacy.

One of those options is to engage in bilateral talks between the United States and Iran, and/or between one or more other nations that share our objectives and Iran.

Just this morning, the international press is reporting that the Iranian leadership is making serious overtures to the United States to initiate a bilateral dialogue. Dr. ElBaradei confirmed in our meeting with him that Iran is open to such a dialogue. The United States should keep this option on the table, and consider when it is timely to explore procedures for bilateral talks.

Iran needs to understand that the free nations of the world are serious. Iran can go ahead with its civil nuclear program, under the inspection regime of the IAEA, insofar as it relates to Iran's legitimate energy needs, but we will not, as a consortium of free nations, permit Iran to acquire a nuclear weapons capability.

Another option is deterrence. Let's reflect on the worst case scenario: If diplomacy did not succeed, at some point in time, and there is confirmation that Iran is defiantly going forward with a nuclear weapons program, what is the response of the team of nations conducting the diplomacy?

We should reflect on the lessons of the Cold War, when deterrence succeeded. We should consider erecting a "ring of deterrence" that would surround Iran and deter the use of actual force, as was done so successfully during the Cold War.

Initially, such a plan could be limited to a stand-off naval force operating in international waters, and a stand-off air capability in international airspace.

Has any organization had a better record for planning and effecting a policy of deterrence than NATO?

I call upon the North Atlantic Council of nations to discuss the option of deterrence and hopefully to initiate a study of what is a logical sequence of actions to show support to the path of negotiation.

Such a step forward would give NATO a place at the international table as a partner in the diplomatic efforts being pursued by the IAEA, the