

including: Operation Safe Skies, Operation Warning Track, Operation Patriot's Call, Operation Dragon's Fire, and Operation Thunder. In total, the 48th Brigade conducted 12,647 combat patrols, 792 cordon and search missions, established 6,219 traffic control points, and conducted 3,782 convoy security missions.

The soldiers of the 48th captured and detained over 500 Anti-Iraqi insurgents, trained over 2,460 Iraqi Soldiers, and established two Iraqi forward operating bases in Sunni-dominated areas of Iraq. The Brigade introduced more than 11 million dollars' worth of new and vital essential services as well as set the conditions to create over 621 new jobs in southern Baghdad. One of the most historical highlights was the Brigade's ability to work with the International Elections Commission of Iraq to establish 22 polling sites across Iraq. Due to the 48th's involvement, nearly 63,000 Iraqi citizens were able to vote on their new Constitution during the "first ever" Iraqi national elections.

On October 2005, the 48th Brigade officially took over security operations for the Logistics Support Area, LSA, Anaconda base. LSA Anaconda is the largest operating base in Iraq and is located in the north-central Iraq province of Salah al Din. The 48th Brigade was simultaneously responsible for convoy security escort missions near Camp Adder, Iraq—located in the southern province of Nasiriyah. The 48th's ability to successfully complete these two missions located in two different areas of the country was instrumental to the success of all Multi-National Forces operating in Iraq. The 48th Brigade Combat Team successfully conducted operations throughout an area of over 1,192 miles while conducting 1,500 patrols and successfully securing the largest military operations base in Iraq.

It is my great honor to commend the 48th Brigade and welcome them home as honorable Soldiers who served our country courageously. The last of the 4,200 members of the 48th Brigade arrived back in Georgia on May 11th, 2006. Following their return, they out-processed at Fort Stewart and were released from active duty to return to their hometowns throughout the State of Georgia. While we welcome the 48th Brigade back from their mission, we need to also honor the 26 soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. My heart goes out to the families of these soldiers. They are true heroes and our Nation will be forever in debt to their sacrifice.

I know I speak on behalf of our Nation, the State of Georgia, and the American people when I thank the 48th Brigade for living up to the calling of our National Guard "Citizen Soldiers" and making everyone in Georgia, and in America, extremely proud and grateful for their contribution.

HONORING IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am honored to have joined my colleagues Senator HAGEL, Senator DURBIN and Senator MURKOWSKI to submit S. Res. 491 commemorating the 65th anniversary of Ignacy Jan Paderewski's death on June 29, 1941 and recognizing his accomplishments as a musician, composer, statesman, and philanthropist.

I.J. Paderewski was a brilliant pianist who played hundreds of concerts in the United States and Europe. Paderewski always gave back to his society. As a pianist Paderewski donated a bulk of the proceeds from his concerts to charitable causes and helped establish the American Legion's Orphans and Veterans Fund.

When he decided to enter into politics, Paderewski continued to work for the betterment of society. He worked hard to bring independence to Poland, served his country as the first Premier of Poland during World War I and fought against the Nazi dictatorship in WWII.

During his time in politics one of Paderewski's main goals was to build a strong relationship between Poland and the United States. This is why it is so fitting that this resolution acknowledges Poland as an ally a strong partner in the war against global terrorism. The strong relationship that exists today is due in part to the foundations laid by I.J. Paderewski.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski's contributions to music, democracy, and humanity—as a renown pianist, composer, humanitarian and great Polish statesman—make him one of the most deeply valued and appreciated figures in the Polish American community. His close and friendly relationship with his contemporary U.S. social, cultural and political leaders, including many U.S. Presidents, made him a real friend of the American people. That is why it is an exciting opportunity for me, an American of Polish heritage to honor Ignacy Jan Paderewski by acknowledging his work, his accomplishments and all that he contributed to the world with this resolution.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as chairman and on behalf of my colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee, I would like to recognize the dedicated public works professionals, engineers, and administrators who represent State and local governments throughout the United States and was pleased to introduce S. Res. 475 proclaiming the week of May 21–May 27, 2006, as National Public Works Week.

As we celebrate the contributions of the tens of thousands of men and women in America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services that Americans rely on every day, let us not forget these same people are

our first responders too. More often than not, they are on the scene before police, fire, and medical personnel. They can be found clearing roads, restoring water and power as well as critical infrastructure lifelines following disasters. Only in the absence of these dutiful public servants, would we truly recognize how valuable their tireless efforts are in providing and maintaining the basic infrastructure that many Americans often take for granted.

America's public infrastructure is the lifeblood of every community. It includes the roads, bridges, public transportation and airports, the drinking water and wastewater treatment systems, the solid waste services and facilities and other important utilities essential to our quality of life. These structures and services help sustain community life, safeguard the environment, protect our health, support our economy and allow people and goods to move safely and efficiently. These structures and services are truly public goods.

Because of my work on the most recent transportation law, SAFETEA-LU, Public Law 109–59, I have a better appreciation of just how important a reliable, well maintained and fully functioning network of interstate highways and transportation infrastructure is to the Nation. America's transportation system is one of the world's most expensive, with more than 3.9 million miles of roads, 5,300 public-use airports, 26,000 miles of navigable waterways, and more than 173,000 route-miles serviced by buses and rail in urban areas.

Transportation-related goods and services contribute more than \$1.3 trillion to U.S. gross domestic product, about 11 percent of the total.

Furthermore, every \$1 billion invested in roads and bridges generates approximately 47,500 jobs. Not only are infrastructure investments of the most fundamental and important functions of government, but they are also financially wise.

The Nation's 54,000 community drinking water systems supply drinking water to more than 250 million Americans, and municipal wastewater treatment systems each year prevent billions of tons of pollutants from reaching our rivers, lakes, stream, and coastlines. By keeping water supplies free of contaminants, these water utilities protect human health and preserve the environment. Additionally, our water infrastructure supports a \$50 billion a year water-based recreation industry, at least \$300 billion a year in coastal tourism, a \$45 billion annual commercial fishing and shell fishing industry, and hundreds of billions of dollars a year in basic manufacturing which rely on clean water.

Clearly, public works professionals play a vital role in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States.