

him, while also quietly airing their greatest fears.

Stephen told his daughter, who pleaded with him not to go, that he was needed in Iraq. Putting her on his knee, Stephen told her that he was going to Iraq to help the children there—to keep them safe, so that they could have a chance at a better life.

Danica also pulled her brother aside and told him to be careful. “I told him to keep his head down,” she says. “Not to be a hero, not to do more than what he had to do to get by.” Stephen understood his sister’s motivations, but as his actions would demonstrate, and as his fellow soldiers would later recall, Stephen did anything but the bare minimum.

SP Phillip Pilcher, who was on patrol with Stephen that fateful day, recalls “Stephen was one of the hardest working guys over there; he would work two to three hours later than everyone else just to make sure that everything was where it needed to be.”

Specialist Gonzales, who credits Stephen with being instrumental in making him a better soldier, strikes a similar chord. “Stephen was the heart and soul of our squad and our regiment,” he says. “Even though he didn’t have the stripes on his arm, he was still a great leader.”

Many of the friends Stephen made over his 30 years came to say goodbye when he was laid to rest. BG Dan Bolger, who helped command the Second Infantry Division in Korea and asked to be the survivor-assistance officer for Stephen’s family, was astounded by what he saw that day: For a 22-mile stretch along the path of the funeral procession, people, some holding signs, others flags, stood in silent tribute to their fallen hero.

A few months before his death, Stephen wrote a letter to his mother, to be sent in the event he did not return. He wrote, “Different people will remember me for different reasons, but I would hope that everyone would think that I was over here for them.”

The devotion to honor and sacrifice expressed in those words tells us how Specialist Downing was able to touch so many people, and why so many people paid their final respects to his memory. As his mother recalls, “Stephen didn’t have friends—he had family.”

I thank Stephen’s mother, Stella Maynard, and his niece, Chelsea Downing, who have traveled to our Nation’s capital to—meet with me today, for sharing Stephen’s story. His children, Taylor and Stephen, his sister, Danica, his step-father, Jim Maynard, and other beloved family members are in our thoughts today as well.

We can never repay Specialist Downing’s family for their loss. But we can, and we must, honor the sacrifice of their beloved father, son, uncle and brother, and recognize that without his courage and the courage of the men and women of our Armed Forces, America could not lead the world in the defense of freedom.

Mr. President, Stephen’s mother, Stella, put it just right, and we are all blessed to have had SP Stephen Downing in our family.

MISSILE DEFENSE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the recent successes of the Missile Defense Agency. Last Friday, a week ago from today, the Missile Defense Agency conducted a test of the ground-based midcourse system and scored an intercept. This exercise was designed to evaluate the performance of several elements of the ballistic missile defense system, and it appears that all elements worked remarkably well. Although it was not a primary objective for the data collection flight test, an intercept of the target warhead was achieved.

The test marked the first time an operational interceptor was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base while the target flew from Alaska. It was conducted by crews who were manning operational fire control systems in Colorado Springs. It also marked the first use of the early warning radar at Beale Air Force Base in California.

I congratulate the head of the Missile Defense Agency, General Obering, and especially all the dedicated men and women of the MDA who helped make this test a success.

General Obering stated that the test is about as close as we can come to an end-to-end test of our long-range missile defense system. This success only builds upon a long record of missile defense intercepts and, more importantly, it is the fourth intercept in the last 90 days that used hit-to-kill technology.

In June, we launched a sea-based AEGIS interceptor that was successful in intercepting a separating warhead. In July, we launched a land-based terminal-phase interceptor, Terminal High Altitude Air Defense—or the THAAD—interceptor, successfully intercepting the target. Very recently, we had a successful Patriot-3 intercept that was conducted by the U.S. Army in collaboration with the Missile Defense Agency.

There have been many naysayers and doubters on missile defense, but I am proud to have supported the Missile Defense Agency over the past several years as it has grappled in an intensive effort to track down and eliminate or minimize risks that have contributed to setbacks in the past. There is an emphasis on quality that is paying off, as witnessed by our most recent tests. We learn from our mistakes, and we now see the fruit of the combined efforts of a wide range of dedicated military, civilian, and contractor personnel.

Testing will continue. We will encounter difficulties, but the program will move forward. We are succeeding in building an integrated and layered ballistic missile defense system. Our defenses will continue to improve, and our citizens will be increasingly protected and grateful.

While I am pleased that we have a limited missile defense capability, I believe our missile defense system needs to be challenged even further. We need more testing so that we can better understand the task at hand and discover the errors that must be corrected. I am confident that the Missile Defense Agency is on the right path. I look forward to supporting the Agency testing plan in the future. I do not expect perfection. In fact, I expect some failures. But in the context of several missile defense intercept tests per year, one or two failures only means that we are pushing to find out the real capabilities of the system.

We all know hit-to-kill technology works. We now need to further develop the midcourse system and introduce greater capability to that system. I look forward to assisting the Missile Defense Agency in its future programs so our Nation can rest assured that we are protected from rogue nations that wish to do us harm.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter addressed to me dated September 8, 2006.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2006.
Hon. TED STEVENS,
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Select Committee on Intelligence, we submit the following unclassified reports, together with additional and minority views, for filing with the Senate: (1) Postwar Findings about Iraq’s WMD Programs and Links to Terrorism, and How they Compare with Pre-war Assessments and (2) The Use by the Intelligence Community of Information Provided by the Iraqi National Congress.

Senate Resolution 400 of the 94th Congress (1976) charges the Committee with the duty to oversee and make continuing studies of the intelligence activities and programs of the United States Government, and to report to the Senate concerning those activities and programs. Pursuant to its responsibilities under Senate Resolution 400, the Committee has undertaken an in-depth examination of the matters described in the reports.

Both reports have been approved by the Committee in both classified and unclassified form. The classified reports are available to Members for reading at the Committee. The classified reports will also be provided to appropriately cleared officials of the Executive branch.

The unclassified versions of the reports, which are hereby transmitted for printing, are intended to provide the Senate, and through it, the American public, a substantial factual record upon which to consider the issues covered by the reports.

Sincerely,
PAT ROBERTS,
Chairman.
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV,
Vice Chairman.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of my amendment to

the fiscal year 2007 Defense appropriations bill, S.A. 4911 to H.R., 5631, with Senator REED to restore full funding for Predator unmanned aerial vehicles, UAVs, for the U.S. Special Operations Command, SOCOM. This amendment will allow SOCOM to receive its full complement of Predators by 2010 by adding \$64.4 million to the fiscal year 2007 Defense appropriations bill.

Our brave troops and intelligence collectors must have the tools they need to find, fix and eliminate terrorists intended to do our Nation harm. The Predator, which comes in armed and unarmed modes and has advanced sensors and cameras, is one of the most important systems we have to monitor terrorist activity in hostile environments. The Predator also is a critical intelligence gathering platform in fighting insurgents in Iraq and the Taliban in Afghanistan. According to Defense News, the Predator was central to the detection and killing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Iraq this past June.

I have been pleased to fight for putting more Predators in the hands of our Special Operations Command ever since U.S. Special Operations Command Deputy Commander Eric Olson responded to my question about whether he had all the tools he needs to win the war on terror in an April 6, 2006, hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee. Admiral Olson said his command did not have enough Predators, and was not slated to have adequate numbers of Predators for several years. This is unacceptable, and I expressed my concern to Chairman WARNER and Ranking Member LEVIN in an April 27, 2006, letter urging committee action on this shortcoming.

I was equally pleased that the Senate Armed Services Committee adopted my amendment calling for full funding of the Predators for the Special Operations Command during mark-up of the fiscal year 2007 Defense authorization bill.

Unfortunately, defense appropriators cut back funding for Predators in its mark-up of the fiscal year 2007 Defense appropriations bill. My amendment restores full funding for a second squad of Predators for our Special Operations Forces' war-fighters and intelligence collectors by 2010. Giving our military and our intelligence personnel the best tools, as quickly as possible, to win the war on terror is something we must do.

COMBATING GUN TRAFFICKING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have long supported law enforcement's efforts to combat gun trafficking. Earlier this summer, 11 people were charged with purchasing firearms in gun shops in Virginia and illegally dumping them on the streets of New York City between 2004 and 2005. These arrests bring attention to the need to vigorously enforce our gun laws in order to stem the flow of guns to the black market.

These individuals have been charged with making straw purchases of handguns at various gun shops in Norfolk and Portsmouth, VA, and transporting them to New York City, where they were allegedly sold on the streets at a significant markup. Straw purchases are transactions that violate Federal law in which one individual submits to the required Federal background check for a gun that is clearly intended for use by someone else. Such purchasers play a crucial role in the illegal trafficking of guns by purchasing with the intention of reselling them to prohibited buyers. The alleged conspiracy, which took place from September 2004 through June 2005, was first uncovered in 2004 when New York City police officers began making undercover purchases of firearms from this organization on the streets. The guns were traced back to gun shops in Virginia where the original straw purchases are said to have taken place. More than 50 guns were involved.

Gun trafficking has also been a problem in my home State of Michigan. According to an Americans for Gun Safety analysis of ATF trace data from 1996—1999, over 40 percent of the guns traced to crimes committed in Michigan in 1998 and 1999 originated in other States, a much higher rate than the national average. The largest number of out of State suppliers of guns to Michigan during that period were in Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia, and Alabama.

These statistics demonstrate the length to which criminals are willing to go to circumvent our gun laws. This kind of activity can be stopped by vigorously enforcing our gun laws, providing law enforcement with stronger tools to crack down on gun trafficking, on corrupt gun dealers and other armed criminals, and by passing sensible gun safety legislation.

I commend the hard work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and other Federal, State and local law enforcement officers. Vigorous law enforcement is an integral part of reducing gun violence.

IN MEMORIAM OF CONGRESSMAN BOB MATHIAS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the life of Congressman Robert "Bob" Mathias Olympian, Congressman, and San Joaquin Valley son. Congressman Bob Mathias passed away on September 2, 2006.

Bob Mathias was born in Tulare, CA, on November 17, 1930. Mr. Mathias attended and graduated from Tulare Union High School in 1948. In 1953, he graduated with his bachelor of arts degree from Stanford University, and in 1954 he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he rose to the rank of second lieutenant. In 1966, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 18th Congressional District that also included his hometown of Tulare, and continued his service until 1974.

By all accounts such impressive accomplishments would be considered aspects of a fruitful life. However, Mr. Mathias was also a gifted athlete. Mr. Mathias' athletic career was laden with accomplishments, including consecutive gold medals in the Olympic decathlons, four national Amateur Athletic Union—AAU—championships, and three world records in the decathlon. Seventeen-year-old Bob Mathias first competed in the 1948 London Summer Olympics, only months after picking up the sport. He became the youngest Olympic gold medalist, winning the decathlon. His meteoric rise in 1948 led to his depiction on the cover of LIFE magazine and the Sullivan Award for Athlete of the Year from the AAU. At the 1952 Helsinki games, Mr. Mathias again won the gold medal in the decathlon, and continued to make history as the first person to ever win consecutive Olympic decathlons. That same year Bob Mathias was named the Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year recognition of his feats on the track and on the football field. Mr. Mathias was also a member of the 1952 Stanford football team, playing an integral part of that team that went on to the 1952 Rose Bowl.

His athleticism and accomplishments earned him a place in the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame, as well as the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. He also went on to guide younger generations of athletes as the Director of the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, the National Fitness Foundation, and the American Kids Sports Association.

Throughout his life, Congressman Mathias remained a humble man, true to his roots, dedicated to his family and his country, unfazed by fame. As a young child, Mr. Mathias battled anemia and other illnesses. His perseverance in athletics and academics despite these problems no doubt prepared him for his work later in life. After his athletic career and service in the Marine Corps, Bob Mathias served as a goodwill ambassador for youth programs on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. His service to his country continued in his dedication to the constituents of the 18th Congressional District.

Congressman Mathias is survived by his wife Gwen; his 4 daughters, Romel, Megan, Marissa, and Alyse; his son Reiner; his 10 grandchildren; his sister Patricia; and his two brothers, Jim and Eugene. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

Congressman Mathias will be missed by his family, his friends, his fans and all those whose lives he touched. May his kindness, humility and hard work remain an inspiration to us all.

FASD AWARENESS DAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, tomorrow is the ninth day of the ninth month, a day designated as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Awareness Day. I rise today to state