teach, what books to use. Well, none of us wanted that. We wanted the Department of Education to do certain things but not to control local schools. We wanted to leave the control of school curricula, textbooks, what they taught, in the hands of local school boards. So we put this in the law expressly forbidding the Secretary of Education, or anyone in that Department, to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over textbooks, and things like that. That is about as clear as night is from day in the law.

Later, when we passed the No Child Left Behind Act, we further elaborated on that, and No Child Left Behind established the Reading First Program. It reiterates this point:

No funds provided to the Department under this act may be used by the Department to endorse, approve, or sanction any curriculum.

The Department officials repeatedly denied that they showed any favoritism. However, the inspector general's report shows that, in fact, they went to great lengths to influence exactly which instructional materials school districts must use. They accomplished this in several ways.

First they—I mean the Department of Education officials—stacked their grant review panels with members who shared their own philosophy, directly contradicting the No Child Left Behind Act which laid out specific rules designed to ensure the panels were balanced.

Next, they designed the grant applications in such a way as to discourage States from using certain reading programs—reading programs that had been approved at the local level and had been approved at the State level. So the Department designed the applications in such a way as to discourage the States from using these reading programs, even to the point of selectively eliminating phrases from the No Child Left Behind Act they didn't like. The No Child Left Behind Act put in certain phrases they had to use in terms of getting grants. Guess what. They just left those out of the grant application—just left them out totally.

Third, they leaned heavily on school districts to drop reading programs that didn't meet the Department's approval. For example, the Reading First Director opposed a whole-language reading program sold by a company called the Wright Group. In an e-mail, he urged a staffer to make it clear that the Wright Group didn't have his approval. Here is an excerpt from his e-mail. This is an e-mail from the Reading First Director Christopher Doherty. He said:

They—

This is the group that wanted to come in and make an application—

They are trying to crash our party and we need to beat the [expletive deleted] out of them in front of all the other would-be party crashers who are standing on the front lawn waiting to see how we welcome these dirtbags.

What does all that mean? That means: Look, we have our programs, we have what we want; others want in and, guess what, we are going to keep them out. ''They are trying to crash our party''—''our party.'' What did Mr. Doherty mean by ''crash our party''? They have selected publishers, selected materials they want these schools to use. ''Party''? What does that mean?

Here is how it played out in Massachusetts for one State. The Reading First Director, this same guy, Christopher Doherty, called a State official to say he had concerns about certain reading programs that four school districts were using. All of these programs had gone through the appropriate approval process at the local and State levels. Nevertheless, the State official conveyed that concern to the local districts. The three that dropped those approved programs continued to get their Reading First funding. The one district that stuck with the old program that had been approved had its Reading First funding taken away.

What is that saying? It is saying: OK, school districts, if you want money, you have to play our ball game, you have to accept our textbooks, you have to accept what we want, not what you at the local, what you at the State level want, but what we want in Washington.

When we step back and look at the big picture, we see a Department of Education where the attitude is: We know best, and to heck with Congress, to heck with Federal laws. They are saying basically it doesn't matter what the law says about local control of schools. If we like a particular program, we are going to make sure a school uses it, and if we don't like it, we are going to make sure they don't use it; we know best, and we will decide. That seems to be the attitude of the Department of Education.

We live in a nation of law. We have offices such as the inspector general to investigate whether agencies such as the Education Department are really following the laws we pass. Guess what. The inspector general found they are not following the law at the Education Department. They are basically thumbing their nose at it.

So far, the person who has borne most of the blame has been the Reading First Director, Christopher Doherty, but I think we need to look a little higher.

Secretary Spellings responded to the report by blaming other Department employees and noting that the events occurred before she took over the Department. However, as President Bush's domestic policy adviser, she exerted enormous control from the White House over the Department of Education activities.

Michael Petrilli, a former Department official who worked in the Department from 2001 to 2005, wrote a column this week in which he said that Mrs. Spellings knew exactly what was going on.

Here is what Mr. Petrilli wrote:

As the President's first-term domestic policy advisor, she micromanaged the implementation of Reading First from her West Wing office. She put one of her most trusted friends inside the Department of Education to make sure that Doherty and his colleagues didn't go soft and allow just any reading program to receive funds. She was the leading cheerleader for an aggressive approach. And now she bobs and weaves: ''Although these events occurred before I became Secretary of Education, I am concerned about these actions and committed to addressing and resolving them.''

A quote from Secretary Spellings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I didn't realize I had a time limit. I ask for 2 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, if this description is accurate, it is hard to imagine that Secretary Spellings didn't know anything about the abuses described in the inspector general's report. Instead of making others take the fall for what happened, she needs to stand up and say whether she had any knowledge of or involvement in these activities when she worked in the White House.

Last week's report from the IG was just the first of several on the Education Department's management of the Reading First Program. I am afraid that what we have learned so far is just the tip of the iceberg. Secretary Spellings needs to explain as soon as possible her role in this program.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

IN HONOR OF WORLD WAR II VETERANS—PHOTOGRAPHER JOE ROSENTHAL AND ACTOR GLENN FORD

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, in my capacity as a Senator and chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I rise this evening to pay tribute to two men who were bookends of what has been termed the ''greatest generation,'' those Americans who served in World War II. One stood behind the lens and took that famous photo on Iwo Jima that became the iconic picture of the war in the Pacific. The other gave up his life in front of the lens and laid his life on the line in the cause for freedom in Europe. I speak, of course, of the photographer Joe Rosenthal and the famed actor Glenn Ford. Both men died a few weeks ago, and it is fitting that this body, the Senate of the United States, recognize these great men for their contributions.

Most Americans instantly know that image Joe Rosenthal captured: the photo of five marines and one Navy corpsman raising the flag—the American flag—over Iwo Jima. That image became the basis for the Iwo Jima Memorial which rises above Arlington National Cemetery and a copy of which greets those who enter Quantico Marine Base in Virginia. That image was

also made into a postage stamp, not once but twice, and inspired the creation of at least two major pictures: ''The Sands of Iwo Jima'' starring John Wayne and the new movie, ''The Flags of Our Fathers,'' produced by Clint Eastwood, which will debut in a few weeks.

It has been said that Joe Rosenthal's famous photograph not only gave Americans back home an image of what was happening on the front lines, it persuasively argued that America was winning that war.

The impact of that image cannot be overstated. In fact, former President George Herbert Walker Bush, who served as a Navy pilot during World War II, recently recalled seeing the flag-raising photo in the newspaper during the war with Japan and said that without Joe Rosenthal's picture, the war might have dragged on even longer:

> I wonder if Joe fully appreciated what this photograph meant, and what it still means to the American people.

That is what the elder President Bush wrote.

The President's comments were shared recently at a public presentation in which Joe Rosenthal was posthumously awarded a Navy medal for distinguished public service. It was an honor long overdue but one I am proud has finally been awarded.

But while many know the story of Joe Rosenthal's famous photograph, few Americans, however, really know the real life story of the famous actor Glenn Ford.

Glenn Ford was born in Canada. He emigrated to the United States when he was 5 years old. He was a descendent of U.S. President Martin Van Buren. But Glenn Ford made his own way in his life. He went on to become a Hollywood movie star who appeared in over 100 movies and television shows. But his heroic real-life military actions are worthy of a film all its own.

Before the beginning of World War II, Glenn Ford served in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. In the aftermath of the war in Europe, Glenn Ford came upon a displaced persons camp several miles outside of Munich, Germany. An estimated 12,000 to 15,000 homeless Jews were living at the Fernwald camp, which appeared to have been overlooked in the postwar confusion.

According to the Simon Wisenthal Center, which in 1985 presented Glenn Ford with the Liberator's Award:

> The survivors were astonished and wept with gratitude to see an American who really cared, and for seven weeks Ford brought food, books and medical supplies. The supply sergeants looked the other way as Ford loaded up his jeep day after day, and headed up to Fernwald.
>
> Ford alone was responsible for giving hope and life to approximately half of these 12,000 to 15,000 inmates in an over 7-week period. Many women named their newborn sons after him in recognition and in gratitude.

Committed to service in the Armed Forces, Glenn Ford also served a tour of duty in Vietnam in the Mekong Delta during Operation Deckhouse V and twice came under fire—intense enemy fire—and narrowly escaped death from a sniper's bullet, a bullet which wounded the attache standing next to him.

Among his numerous medals and accommodations are the Medal of Honor presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Medaille de la France Libre for the liberation of France, two commendation medals from the U.S. Navy, and the Vietnamese Legion of Merit. He received the rank of captain with the U.S. Naval Reserves in 1968.

Today, as we battle terrorists wherever they are, I think we should all reflect on the words of Glenn Ford penned in 1980. Here is what that honored and decorated movie star said:

> I'm proud to be an American. Let me say again. I'm proud to be an American. And I believe it's time for every one of us to stand up and show our support for our great country. There are faults and occasional inequities in America. But the proof of how good things really are here is the lines at our borders and at our consulates all over the world of people wanting to come here to live.

He went on to say:

> In the last 200 years, we have built a wonderful dream that other countries can only hope to achieve. So let us not hurt that dream by our own selfishness. If we think only of ourselves and do nothing but complain about this magnificent country—instead of supporting her—we will lose everything our forefathers fought for. We must all pull together and elect good officials. And we must save energy and help our neighbors—especially the young of America—understand the real meaning of the free enterprise system.
>
> But let's never forget that to remain free we must always be strong. That is an important lesson I—

Meaning Glenn Ford—

> learned in my navy career in World War II. National defense must be the top priority for any country. If you are not strong, you are not safe. Now is the time for every American to be proud. This is the land of the free and the home of the brave. But only as long as we are brave. If we are not brave, we will not be free.

So penned by the actor Glenn Ford.

As I said at the beginning of my comments this evening, Joe Rosenthal and Glenn Ford were bookends of World War II. Joe Rosenthal was behind the lens and took that seminal picture of the war in the Pacific, the Iwo Jima flag-raising, while Glenn Ford, who had spent his time in front of the lens in motion pictures and in business, left the limelight to become a true war hero and devote his time to save a Nation and to save a world.

Glenn Ford and Joe Rosenthal were true patriots. Now those heroes are gone, like so many other veterans of that great war. The Nation is losing many of its World War II veterans. Believe it or not, nearly 1,000 members of the Greatest Generation pass away each day of each week. But while they are leaving us at a sad and very steady pace, their legacy of freedom and bravery, I hope, will live on forever. Let's think tonight of Joe Rosenthal and the late actor Glenn Ford.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized for 15 minutes under the previous order.

RYAN WHITE CARE REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise tonight to speak about the Ryan White CARE reauthorization.

We have heard a number of speakers on the Senate floor over the past few days claiming to be experts on New Jersey's HIV/AIDS community and our Ryan White Program. Now, some might choose to listen to them, but I choose to listen to the real New Jersey experts. Governor Corzine says the bill will have ''an enormous negative impact for individuals and families with HIV in New Jersey.''

New Jersey stands to lose millions of dollars in the first year alone with these losses increasing over time. The losses will disrupt and destabilize the comprehensive continuum of care that has been established. And New Jersey's HIV/AIDS providers and advocates are unified against the proposed bill and know the real impact these cuts have on real lives.

The medical director from the Monmouth Medical Center and HIV Clinic in Long Branch, NJ, a clinic funded by Ryan White funds, says:

> Since our inception in 2001, we have doubled our size. Fifty-two percent of our clients are women. Forty-eight percent are African Americans. The majority of our clients have no insurance and no access to medications, except to the State ADAP program. Our patients are living longer and having a better quality of life. In fact, this past year we have had 8 babies born to HIV-infected women. None of these infants are infected with the virus. To ensure that we will not lose ground in the fight against this epidemic, the Ryan White program must be reauthorized so that existing clinics and programs continue to provide medical access for care and treatment. Please do not dismantle the system at the expense of another, they tell us.

Now, I really had to bite my lip earlier because some came to the floor of the Senate and had the audacity to say that New Jersey is a privileged State. To them I say: I would gladly give up the privilege of being No. 1 in the Nation in the proportion of women living with AIDS. I would gladly give up the privilege of having the third largest proportion of children living with HIV/AIDS. I would gladly give up the privilege of having the fourth highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS. I would gladly give up the privilege of having the fifth largest number of new AIDS cases each year—each year—despite the fact that we are only the ninth largest in total population. I would gladly give up the privilege of having the fifth highest rate in reported deaths due to AIDS.

I am sure that the 32,000 people living with HIV or AIDS in New Jersey would love nothing more than to be able to