

Kids are beginning to drink earlier and earlier—at younger and younger ages—and they are doing so in ways that could negatively affect their bodies, their minds, and their futures. I urge swift passage of this legislation and look forward to seeing the good work that comes from it.

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL JAMES L. JONES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to GEN James Logan Jones, USMC, who is concluding his extraordinary career in the Marine Corps with his retirement as Commander, United States European Command and as the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO.

For 5 decades, Jim Jones and his family have faithfully served our Nation in peace and war. From 1965, when he led a platoon in the jungles of Vietnam, to 1999, when he became the 32nd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and subsequently led the Corps through 9/11 and the ensuing, turbulent years of the global war on terrorism, to the present day as he ensures that NATO—the world's preeminent security alliance—is ready for the 21st century, Jim Jones is the embodiment of what a modern American military leader should be—warrior, statesman, visionary.

My long association with General Jones began in 1972 when I was privileged to take the oath of office as Secretary of the Navy at the historic Marine Barracks in our Nation's Capital. Years before, in the winter of 1951 to 1952, I served in Korea, as a young Marine Corps ground officer with the 1st Marine Air Wing. That modest service, coupled with many years of reserve duty thereafter, prompted me to select the Marine Barracks when I became the first Secretary in history to be sworn in on those grounds. Ten years later, I learned that one of the Marine captains who commanded a company of marines that marched at the ceremony that day was CPT Jim Jones. Years later, we were reunited when he was specially selected to come to the Senate to serve as a Marine Corps liaison officer. Our first trip, with Senator John Tower, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee in the early 1980s, was to go to Lebanon to inspect the tragic site where the U.S. Marine barracks were blown up by suicidal terrorists.

Jim's service in the Corps is a lasting memory for me, and many other Members, to name a few: Senators HAGEL, INOUE, LEVIN, LUGAR, MCCAIN, ROBERTS, STEVENS, BURNS, and THOMAS, because of his professionalism and dedication to the Senate's constitutional obligation "to raise and support armies," and "to provide and maintain a navy."

As the years passed on, I have observed with great admiration as Jim Jones applied his talents and abilities to the numerous opportunities and

challenges he faced—from Vietnam to the halls of the Pentagon and Senate, to the deserts of the Middle East, to Eastern Europe and Africa. Our Nation has produced such a courageous, skilled and dynamic officer in Jim Jones.

Among his most challenging assignments was his last where he led the most aggressive transformation efforts in NATO's history—including a comprehensive headquarters realignment, developing NATO's global military capabilities, creating the NATO Response Force, bringing new members into NATO's military structure, and embracing the concept and practice of out-of-area missions for NATO. Under his guidance, NATO now has 30,000 troops deployed in locations across the globe and is leading the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Unlike his predecessors, Jim Jones would travel to any geographic location in his area of responsibility to personally brief traveling Members of Congress—using charts galore.

As a steadfast, life-long supporter of NATO for its unparalleled success in achieving peace through steadfast resolve, I was privileged to watch General Jones provide extraordinary leadership of NATO's military forces as NATO expanded its membership and began to embrace of out-of-area missions. I share his view that: "NATO has been, and needs to remain, a great Alliance: great Alliances do great things. It is possible, even probable, that NATO's most important days and most important missions lie ahead in the future." Thanks in no small measure to General Jones' contributions, I am confident that NATO is and will be always ready for those challenges.

For the years they have shared with him the burdens and joys of arduous public service, it is also important that we publicly thank his wife Diane, and their children, James, Jennifer, Kevin, and Greg. They, too, have sacrificed much for their country. How proud they are, and we are, that their son Greg is an active duty captain in the Marine Corps today. In keeping with the finest traditions of the Marine Corps throughout its 229-year history, General Jones and his family are grateful for their opportunity to serve, and our Nation is equally grateful for their contributions.

As GEN Jim Jones prepares to "hang up" his Marine Corps sword, our Armed Forces, the Congress, and our Nation owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his many years of commitment and service to this country.

General, sir, in the immortal words of the Navy-Marine Corps team, may you have fair winds and following seas as you embark on your next endeavor. Semper Fidelis.

IRAQ'S TOLL OF SLAIN JOURNALISTS CONTINUES TO RISE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Iraq is a dangerous and chaotic place for our

brave American soldiers there, for our coalition partners, and for Iraqi families who must struggle just to make it safely through each day. It is also a perilous place for the journalists who attempt to cover the situation on the ground. They are at the front of the front lines of this conflict, and the dispatches from Iraq produced by representatives of a free and independent press are a vital conduit of information that helps the American people—and their representatives in government—to make more informed decisions. These are print reporters, television correspondents, photo journalists and the other professionals who help journalists in gathering and transmitting the news.

We learned in recent days of the deaths of two more news professionals. Raad Jaafar Hamadi, a journalist with the daily Al Sabah, was shot dead in his car in the east of Baghdad on November 22. Fadhila Abdelkarim, an administrative staff worker of TV station Nainawa, was shot outside her home in Mosul on November 26.

American media professionals have been among the casualties. They are as well known to us as NBC correspondent David Bloom, and those who we will never know by their bylines or on our TV screens. Director General Koichiro Matsuura of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—UNESCO—this week noted that the number of media professionals killed in Iraq continues to grow unabated, and that "since January more than 35 journalists have paid with their lives for their determination to fulfill their mission."

According to Reporters without Borders—RSF—137 journalists and media assistants have been killed in Iraq since the start of the war in 2003, while 51 have been kidnapped. According to RSF, four of the kidnap victims are still being held hostage.

Some in the administration have chosen over the years to disparage the journalists serving in Iraq—for instance, labeling them "lazy" or unwilling to leave their bureaus or hotels.

The reality is far different. Day after day, journalists in Iraq face, and accept, incredible dangers just to do their jobs. As news professionals on one of the most challenging and important news beats on the planet, they deserve great credit for their courage and their commitment, and they deserve our appreciation.

A PLAN FOR IDAHO'S ROADLESS AREAS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on November 29, 2006, Idaho Governor James Risch presented Idaho's petition for our Roadless Areas to the Roadless Area National Advisory Committee here in Washington, DC. I strongly support this collaborative and comprehensive petition.

The Idaho Roadless process was of a thorough and collaborative nature.