

Council have been deterred by the threat of a veto by one or more of the Permanent Members. We frankly urge you to introduce and push for a vote on a resolution imposing multilateral sanctions regardless. Let a country stand before the community of nations and announce that it is vetoing the best effort we can muster to build the leverage necessary to end ongoing mass murder.

There are political risks to advancing this strategy, but we urge you to weigh those risks against the verdict of history if we fail to try. If the Security Council does not act, the United States should engage with our allies to create a coalition that will impose economic penalties on the Sudanese government. The United States has already implemented a number of unilateral sanctions, and we understand that you are considering still more, a development that we would applaud. However, the real key to changing Khartoum's behavior most likely lies in multilateral sanctions, especially those aimed at the Sudanese oil industry.

We encourage you to put this matter before the United Nations Security Council as soon as possible. A threatened veto should not silence us.

We know that you share our commitment to this issue and we commend your courage in recognizing this genocide for what it is. We look forward to continuing our efforts until a timely solution to the crisis in Darfur is found.

Sincerely,

Dick Durbin, Joe Biden, Carl Levin, Russell D. Feingold, Bill Nelson, Joe Lieberman, Mary Landrieu, Sam Brownback, John E. Sununu, Mel Martinez, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Barbara A. Mikulski, Barack Obama, Robert Menendez, Dianne Feinstein, John Cornyn, Susan Collins, Wayne Allard, Mark Pryor, Richard Burr, Sherrod Brown, Olympia Snowe, Frank R. Lautenberg, Amy Klobuchar, Mike Crapo, Maria Cantwell, Elizabeth Dole, Patty Murray, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Chris Dodd, Jim Webb, John F. Kerry, Pat Roberts.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JOHN COOPER

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize former South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department Secretary John Cooper, who received the Outdoor Life Conservation Award from Outdoor Life magazine. This prestigious award reflects his tremendous service to South Dakota and his commitment to wildlife conservation.

Mr. Cooper has been honorably serving the State of South Dakota for over 30 years. He spent 22 years with the Law Enforcement Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where he worked tirelessly to conserve and protect South Dakota's diverse wildlife. In 1995, he was appointed Secretary of South Dakota's Department of Game, Fish and Parks, a position that he held until earlier this year. He also spent years leading committees for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and in 2006 served as its president. In addition to his government duties, Mr. Cooper served as an editor and columnist for Dakota Outdoors magazine for 14 years.

Mr. Cooper's service to South Dakota has been, and will continue to be, vital to the health and wellbeing of our State. It gives me great pleasure to rise with Mr. Cooper and to offer my congratulations for this well-deserved award. I wish him continued success in the years to come.●

HONORING THE REV. DR. JOHN LOUIS WRIGHT

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor my dear friend and fellow Marylander, the Rev. Dr. John Louis Wright, for his exemplary 35 years of service as pastor of First Baptist Church of Guilford and for his work as a community leader and civil rights activist.

Pastor Wright is a native of Baltimore City and a shining product of the Baltimore City public school system. Since 1972, he has served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Guilford, shepherding the church through periods of tremendous growth while faithfully serving its members and the surrounding community.

As a civil rights leader, Pastor Wright is a life member of the NAACP, and he has served as both president of the Howard County Chapter of the NAACP and the Maryland NAACP. He currently serves as director of the Maryland Baptist Aged Home.

Following Hurricane Floyd in 1999, Pastor Wright spearheaded flood relief efforts in North Carolina through the "Twelve Baskets Ministry," bringing much needed supplies to people left homeless by the hurricane.

Preventing handgun violence is an issue of particular importance to Pastor Wright. A 1997 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Citizens' Academy in Baltimore, he is a member of the Maryland State Governor's Commission on Handgun Violence and Marylanders Against Handgun Violence.

Pastor Wright's efforts reach far beyond our shores. He has traveled around the world, sharing his warmth and wisdom in countries as diverse as Egypt, Israel, South Africa, Switzerland, and China. While in Israel, Pastor Wright continued his work by baptizing people in the Jordan River.

I am extremely proud of Pastor Wright's 35 years of dedicated service to his church and community and wish him many more years of continued success and good health.●

HONORING LARRY E. GABRIEL

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Larry E. Gabriel. This month, Secretary Gabriel retired after nearly 7 years in office since his appointment in May of 2000.

Secretary Gabriel was born and raised on a ranch in western South Dakota and received his bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics at South Dakota State University.

While in college, he was recognized as the 1969 Doane's Outstanding Agricultural Economics Student.

Throughout his career, Secretary Gabriel has spent many years committed to public service, including roles as Haakon County Commissioner from 1975 to 1982 and State legislator from 1983 to 1998. He spent 6 years as the house majority leader while in the South Dakota House of Representatives, and currently serves as a member of the hospital board in Philip, SD.

Secretary Gabriel's dedication to South Dakota agriculture has made a defining impact in strengthening and sustaining the economy of our State. His strong support of rural economic development and assistance to young producers has brought increased vitality and prosperity to our agriculture industry.

I also would like to recognize Secretary Gabriel's wife Charlotte and his family for their support and sacrifice which allowed him to serve South Dakota for over 30 years.

It is with great honor that I remember and honor the service provided by Secretary Larry E. Gabriel to South Dakota. May he always be recognized for his lifetime of service to South Dakota agriculture. On behalf of a grateful State, I wish Secretary Gabriel all the best in his retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 327. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans.

H.R. 740. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent caller ID spoofing, and for other purposes.

H.R. 797. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation benefits for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, to provide for the use of the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide an educational