

This past week, we were reminded yet again of the need to improve the operations of the Terrorist Screening Center, which failed to make watch list records of suspected known terrorists available to front-line screening agents but continues to list the names of innocent Americans in its watch list database. I won't go through all of the stories that come out of some of these things: a year-old child having to get a passport to fly and prove they are not a 45-year-old terror suspect or one of the most senior Members of the Senate being blocked 10 times from taking a flight he has been taking for 30 or 40 years because he is on a terrorist watch list. Somehow, they got the names mixed up. We saw a recent Government Accountability Office report on the Department of Homeland Security with its failing grades, having failed to achieve half its performance expectations since 2003. If you or I in college were to get a 50 or less on all our exams, we would be out on our ear in a moment. This is what we have seen from the Department of Homeland Security. We heard from an independent commission and former military leaders who indicated the Iraqi police force is so riddled with corruption and sectarianism that they should be disbanded, and after 4 years and hundreds of millions of American taxpayer dollars, we should start over from scratch. We can't even find half the weapons we have given them until they turn up in terrorist hands. But we send these hundreds of millions of dollars to the Iraqi police force and we tell the police in America: We have to cut out the COPS Program. We don't have money for our American police. We can't afford to improve our American police because we have to send hundreds of millions of dollars to the Iraqi police. If I have to call a police officer, I am going to call an American police officer. I would like to know that some of that money was spent on them.

This past week also provided a reminder of the need to refocus our efforts on bin Laden. Six years after 9/11, he has not been brought to justice but continues to taunt us. He should never have been allowed to escape when our forces had him cornered in Tora Bora. One of the greatest mistakes of this administration—not counting the great mistakes made before 9/11—was withdrawing our special forces and not providing the support needed. That was another mistake driven by ideology. Think how much better it would be today had they actually succeeded in the one thing the whole Congress agreed on—to go and get bin Laden. They failed. The bipartisan leaders of the 9/11 Commission are right that the occupation of Iraq has provided a recruiting bonanza for al-Qaida and a costly distraction. Iraq, a country that didn't have al-Qaida, is now a recruiting bonanza for them. We need to be smarter and more focused in countering terrorism.

How many costly mistakes are the American people going to be asked to

bear? I hope all Senators, Republicans and Democrats, will join together in the days ahead as we did 6 years ago, when so many of us stood on this floor and joined hands to do the things that needed to be done. The American people deserve a government that works and that works for them. American freedom and values need to be defended and reinforced, not mortgaged to fleeting and ill-considered promises of security.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER SENATOR DANIEL BREWSTER

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the State of Maryland and the United States lost a brave and committed public servant last month. Former Senator Daniel Brewster, who served in this esteemed Chamber during the 1960s, died of cancer on August 19.

Few Americans have the political ancestry of Senator Brewster, who was a direct descendant of Ben Franklin and the former Attorney General for President Chester Arthur. Public service came naturally to this man, whose life and work showed his commitment to our country. He first gave to this country through his military service as a decorated war hero, wounded seven times during his service in Guam and Okinawa. Then he served as an elected official for 18 years. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates starting in 1950, was elected to the House of Representatives in 1958 and then to the Senate in 1962.

Senator Brewster first came to politics as an advocate for civil rights. In his own Baltimore neighborhood, neighbors complained when he invited African-American servicemen from World War II to his home. This was an outrage to him. He would never slight a person, particularly soldiers who had courageously served to defend the American flag. Senator Brewster went on to cosponsor the Civil Rights Act of 1964, forever changing the course of history in this country.

Senate Brewster represented much of what is great about public service: a desire and commitment to make this country better and stronger for every American, black and white, rich and poor, farmer and businessman.

Senator Brewster had some very trying times in his life: First, at the age of 10 when his father died; then when he was beset with personal struggles in the very public forum of public life. The lesson he left for all of us is one can rise above adversity, even in the face of trying times, and continue to serve the people of this great Nation. He did that and left this country and this Congress with a lasting legacy of accomplishments.

He left another legacy quite apparent today, introducing some of our country's strongest leaders to the world of politics. House Speaker NANCY PELOSI and House Majority Leader STENY HOYER both started their political careers working for Senator Brewster.

I am personally indebted to Senator Brewster for the wisdom and advice he shared with me as a newly elected Senator. This past spring, he, along with former Senators Joe Tydings and Charles Mathias, Jr., met with me to share their insights. For this, I am forever grateful.

Senator Brewster and his wife Judy Lynn had five children: Gerry, who served in the Maryland legislature, Daniel, Jr., Dana, Danielle, and Jennilie. On behalf of the citizens of Maryland and this body, I wish to extend our sincere condolences to Senator Brewster's family. He will be missed by all.

CONGRATULATING DR. BILLINGTON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, an important anniversary will be marked on September 14, at the Library of Congress. Twenty years ago, in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building, then-President Reagan presided over the swearing-in of Dr. James H. Billington as the 13th Librarian of Congress.

When he was appointed, Dr. Billington brought great expertise to the Library, both as the world's premier scholar of Russian culture and history and as director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. His vision, and the hard work of so many dedicated Library staff members, has led to continued growth of the Library of Congress. He has fulfilled the promise made on September 14, 1987—to make the riches of the Library more broadly available to ever widening circles of our society.

At the time, Senator Wendell Ford remarked that the Library of Congress "represents our nation's commitment to a knowledgeable citizenry." Dr. Billington has upheld that commitment by enhancing the Library and making its riches and inspiration available to all Americans. Under his leadership, the Copyright Office, the Law Library, the Congressional Research Service, and the National Library have seamlessly worked together to build the collections and preserve them for future generations.

The Library's accomplishments of the last two decades are extraordinary. The collections have expanded by 50 million items, and state-of-the-art facilities have been built to ensure their long-term preservation. The establishment of the Kluge Center for Scholars and the Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Human Sciences have enriched not only the scholarly life of Washington but also have enabled Members of Congress to meet thought leaders and benefit from their perspectives. Also, the Library was a pioneer in online collections and services, launching American Memory, THOMAS, the World Digital Library and resources for teachers, students and families across the Nation and world.