

Mr. Ball said the system was not facing financial disaster, as the president contended, and could be strengthened by, among other measures, raising the level of wages that could be taxed for Social Security, which is currently capped at \$102,000. With Democrats in the majority since the elections of 2006, Congress has not addressed privatization.

Robert D. Reischauer, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office, said Mr. Ball's influence was potent. "For years he has been one of the strongest defenders of the existing structure," Mr. Reischauer said Thursday. "He provided the intellectual firepower to those who want to preserve it."

Robert Myers Ball was born in Manhattan on March 28, 1914, the son of Archey and Laura Crump Ball. His father was a Methodist minister. Mr. Ball graduated from Wesleyan University with a degree in English in 1935, and an official for three presidents and an architect of Medicare. year later earned a master's degree there in economics.

Besides his son, Jonathan, of Cazenovia, N.Y., Mr. Ball is survived by his wife of 71 years, the former Doris McCord; a daughter, Jacqueline Ball Smith of Meredith, N.H.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Ball first worked as a Social Security field assistant in New Jersey in 1939. In 1947 and 1948, he was staff director of the Senate Finance Committee's advisory council on Social Security, playing a crucial role in shaping legislation that significantly expanded coverage and benefits. In 1949, he rejoined the Social Security Administration and began rising through the ranks. President John F. Kennedy appointed him commissioner in 1962.

As commissioner, he played significant roles in creating and winning enactment of Medicare, which provides health insurance to people 65 and over, and the Social Security disability program.

Recently, Mr. Ball had called on all presidential candidates to vow not to cut Social Security benefits. Last October, in an op-ed article in *The Washington Post*, he wrote: "Social Security is the nation's most effective antipoverty program. But it's much more than that. For every worker it provides a solid base on which to try to build an adequate level of retirement income. To weaken that foundation would be grossly irresponsible."

NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the importance of the National Defense University, NDU, and its contribution to our national security. Since 1976, the NDU has been the premier center for Joint Professional Military Education. Under the direction and leadership of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, NDU provides an educational and research environment to prepare future leaders of the armed services, the Department of State, other civilian agencies, and allied countries for high-level policy, command, and staff responsibilities. In addition, a limited number of students from private industry attend the university. Members of both Houses of Congress have benefitted from interactions with students and experts on the NDU campus. Students are selected for their leadership potential and many NDU alumni have gone on to senior leadership positions in their service, agency, or country.

NDU is a center for joint, multi-national, and interagency education. It is comprised of the National War College, NWC; Industrial College of the Armed Forces, ICAF; Joint Forces Staff College, JFSC; Information Resources Management College, IRMC; School for National Security Executive Education, SNSEE; Institute for National Strategic Studies, INSS; Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction, CSWMD; Center for Technology and National Security Policy, CTNSP; Institute for National Security Ethics and Leadership; and five special programs: Capstone/Pinnacle/Keystone, Joint Reserve Affairs Center, JRAC; International Student Management Office, ISMO; Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellows Program, SDCFP; and the NATO Staff Officer Orientation Course, NSOOC.

With facilities located in Washington, DC, and Norfolk, VA, more than 1,000 people attend university courses and programs on any given day. NDU is an accredited graduate-level university awarding approximately 600 masters degrees each year. Through agreements with a number of universities, IRMC students can earn 15 graduate credits for work completed at NDU.

At NDU, students are taught how to think—not what to think. The curriculum combines information technology, classroom experience, and experiential learning. Through lecture programs, students gain important insights from top military, government, industry, and international leaders to include the President of the United States, Cabinet-level officials, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, commanders from major military commands, Members of Congress, civilian leaders, and foreign ministers of defense. Speakers talk frankly with students under the University's nonattribution policy allowing a free exchange of ideas.

Annually, NDU's outreach efforts include more than 500 conferences, symposia, and workshops; 20,000 visitors; 120 faculty and staff publications; and 350 conference presentations by university faculty and staff to both national and international audiences.

The award-winning NDU Press produces numerous publications, which address national security issues. The NDU Library with a collection of more than 500,000 bound items, audiovisual materials, classified documents, and on-line services is an extensive source for information about national security policy, military strategy, defense resource management, and industry studies.

The National Defense University is a significant and valuable institution for the development of leaders for America's national security needs.

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Defense Ad-

vanced Research Projects Agency on its 50th anniversary. Today, DARPA celebrates 50 years of innovation and dedication to America's security.

After the Soviet launch of Sputnik, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was determined to ensure this nation was never again surprised by the technological accomplishments of an adversary. On this day in 1958, a central research and development organization, known then as the Advanced Research Projects Agency, or ARPA, and unlike any organization in the world, was created within the Department of Defense.

From the very beginning, its mission has been to ensure that the United States Armed Forces have access to the most advanced war fighting capabilities by developing ideas that many would consider too risky to implement. DARPA's mission is about making smart investments on high-payoff opportunities, and it has been very successful.

Over the past 50 years, DARPA has delivered to our country innovative technological achievements that have given American Forces never-before-seen capabilities. I also note that this achievement has not come without tremendous sacrifice by thousands of DARPA employees and their families as they worked long days to solve challenging scientific matters.

DARPA's notable achievements include early ballistic missile defense, stealth aircraft technology, unmanned aerial vehicles, and autonomous navigation. The benefits of DARPA's efforts have evolved in many ways, from the rocket engines that powered the first manned space flight to the smallest microelectronics in our cell phones today. DARPA also helped develop the Internet, and built the small receivers that made the global positioning system data easily accessible—both have changed the ways our forces operate, and have also changed the lives of all Americans for the better. Entire industries have developed from early DARPA-funded research in core technologies such as material sciences, microelectronics, photonics, and information technology.

I congratulate DARPA for its service to our Nation. The Agency's commitment and contributions over the past 50 years have made DARPA the crown jewel in our nation's national security and we look forward to the achievements they will continue to make for future generations.

As DARPA begins its work for the next 50 years, it is important that we do everything possible to help DARPA continue its tradition of excellence, and thus keep our Nation strong.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I was unable to cast my vote on Thursday, February 7, 2008. As a result,