tenets of tribal sovereignty are thus essential responsibilities of this country.

South Dakota’s tribes have a special place in this history due to their proactive leadership in the Federal-tribal relationship. For example, the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie was entered into by Indian tribes in South Dakota that desired a peaceful relationship with the United States and a mutual recognition of sovereignty. In this treaty, like many others, the United States entered an agreement to end hostilities and for the cession of land, in return entering into a contract to provide assistance with education, health care, farming and other necessities; these responsibilities continue today. During this month of recognition and remembrance it is only appropriate to recognize the special status of the treaty tribes.

In addition to this unique governmental relationship, American Indians actively enrich the fabric of our Nation’s character in many ways. Tribal members have courageously served to protect America in every conflict since the Revolutionary War, and they have served at the highest rate of any group in the country. Tribal educational models are rapidly gaining respect for an approach that stresses the importance of history and culture as well as the skills necessary for students to prosper in an increasingly global world. American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month honors the unique heritage of this country’s first inhabitants, and most importantly reaffirms our responsibility to honor Indian treaties.

RETIREMENT OF MARGO CONNOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Margo Connor, who has retired after 33 years of service to the Senate community. During the past three decades, Mr. Connor has assisted in providing catering for Senate functions on Capitol Hill. In a fast-paced environment with a high turnover rate, she remained dedicated and personal, with a keen ability to establish close relationships.

Margo spent 17 years in the special functions office for the former Dirksen Senate Dining Room. She compiled menus and prepared the former Senate Dining Room for functions. Meeting and interacting with many different people were her favorite aspects of her service; she was on a first-name basis with former Senators such as David Pryor, Thomas Eagleton, Gary Hart, and Jennings Randolph. Margo’s commitment to providing a pleasant, comfortable, and professional environment for Senate functions resulted in close friendships. Senator Randolph would often call her at home, making requests for a special bread with nuts on his bread plate. After working on their honeymoon, Senator Joe Biden and his wife shared their pictures with her. Instead of calling it the Senate Dining Room, Senator Pryor referred to the Senate Dining Room as simply “Margo’s Room.”

After working in the Senate Dining Room, Margo took a position in the accounting office processing bids for the Senate Restaurant. Several years later, she moved to the Capitol Senator’s Dining Room where she was a hostess. After working as a hostess, she worked in the Senate catering office, where she has been for the last 13 years.

In her years on Capitol Hill, Margo has seen a great variety of events. She hosted service members of the National Football League, the Dalai Lama, and a number of other notable people. Among others, she met Paul Newman, whose suitcase she watched in the kitchen as he spoke at an event. During annual events at Union Station commemorating Columbus Day, Dr. David R. Cushman, president of the National Columbus Celebration Association, told her that she was the only one who understood what he needed. Margo will miss the people she works with, whom she considers to be like family. In turn, I know she will be missed greatly by those who have had the opportunity to know and work with her. In fact, Margo has been such a presence in the Senate, and has beenfriend so many over the years, that it is difficult to express how much she will be missed. I am pleased to join the entire Senate community in thanking Margo for her years of service and wishing her a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JOHN LEE McELROY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is never too late to honor great heroism and sacrifice. That is why I am proud to say that after 40 years, a brave Kentuckian lost in battle will finally return home with honor to American soil.

On May 12, 1968, MAJ John Lee McElroy of the U.S. Air Force undertook what would be his final mission. Stationed in the Quang Tin province of the Republic of Vietnam, he was the navigator on a C-130 Hercules aircraft when his plane was struck by intense enemy fire and crashed. There were no survivors.

"On this particular day [Major McElroy] was flying a most important mission of aerial evacuation for American and allied personnel," wrote COL Marion F. Garuthers, the major’s commander, in a letter to his parents. "His example of Christian living significantly influenced all persons with whom he associated."

Sadly, while the family of Major McElroy knew his final fate, they did not get to say their final goodbyes. For four decades, his remains went unrecovered. His wife, Regina M. McElroy, and his parents, Oscar L. and Gladys V. McElroy, passed away never knowing if...