work together to fix it. I will keep fighting for these young people who are raised in America and I will continue to work to pass AgJobs.

And we cannot rest until other important judicial nominees are confirmed, including professor Goodwin Liu for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Edward Chen for the Northern District of California, Judge Edward Davila for the Northern District of California, and Judge Anthony Battaglia for the Southern District of California.

While we passed legislation to help the 9/11 first responders, now we must finish the work of making sure our firefighters and public safety workers have fair working conditions.

I will also keep working to pass important bills that we approved in committee this year to protect our public lands, waterways and ocean resources, including legislation to help restore the Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes, Lake Tahoe, and the San Francisco Bay.

I am grateful to the people of the California for the opportunity to represent them in the United States Senate. I look forward to hearing their ideas as we continue our work in the 112th Congress next year.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I pay tribute during this holiday season to the men and women serving our Nation so nobly across the globe. As we mark the 10th year our Nation has been engaged in combat, we should all be reminded of the extraordinary sacrifice of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen.

As we gather with our loved ones, we must not forget those servicemembers who cannot be with their families and friends this holiday season. We honor these men and women risk their lives to protect our freedom and way of life. The one constant in this uncertain time is the heroism of people who so willingly fight for freedom. The strength of our Nation is built on their devotion and sacrifice.

SPECIALIST KELLY J. MIXON

I rise today to honor the fallen, like Army SPC Kelly J. Mixon of Yulee, FL, who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan on December 8. Specialist Mixon would be 24 years old on Christmas Eve. Sadly, he will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery on December 29.

To the many men and women who have given the last measure of freedom, our country will remember your bravery and patriotism. To the families of these fallen servicemembers, we can never express enough gratitude for the sacrifice you must bear. On behalf of the people of Florida and our Nation, our prayers are with you.

COMPREHENSIVE DATA PRIVACY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as we approach the end of another year—and the end of the 111th Congress—millions of Americans continue to face growing threats to their privacy and security because of data security breaches involving their most sensitive personal information. Last year, I reintroduced the Personal Data Privacy and Security Act—a bipartisan and comprehensive bill that will better protect Americans from the growing threats of data breaches and identity theft. I am disappointed that the Senate will adjourn for the year without considering this important privacy legislation.

This long overdue privacy bill would establish a national standard for breach notification and requirements for securing Americans' most sensitive personal data. The bill—as improved by my manager's amendment—strikes the right balance to protect privacy, promote commerce, and successfully combat identity theft. I urged the Senate to consider and pass this important privacy legislation before we adjourn for the year. Despite its bipartisan approval by the Judiciary Committee, the ranking Republican is objecting and refusing to allow the Senate to proceed.

When I first introduced this bill 6 years ago, I had high hopes of bringing urgently needed data privacy reforms to the American people. I have worked closely with both Republican and Democratic Senators since to enact this important privacy legislation. Although the Judiciary Committee favorably reported this bill three times—in 2005, 2007, and yet again in 2009—it remains stalled on the Senate Calendar. While the Senate has waited to act, the dangers to our privacy, economic prosperity, and national security posed by data breaches have not gone away.

The recently reported cyber attacks in response to the WikiLeaks disclosures are fresh reminders of the urgent need to have national standards to protect the privacy of America's digital information. In June, the insurance company WellPoint, Inc., announced that 470,000 individuals who used the company's Web site to apply for insurance may have unwittingly exposed their Social Security numbers and other sensitive data to the public. Just last month, the University of Hawaii suffered a major data breach involving sensitive student data, including Social Security numbers, dates of birth, names, and grades. And a recent data breach at the Department of Veterans Affairs resulted in the unauthorized release of the Social Security numbers and other personal information of at least 180 of our veterans. These troubling data breaches are painful reminders of the need to enact comprehensive Federal data privacy legislation this year.

This bill offers meaningful solutions to the vexing problem of data security breaches. It requires that data brokers let consumers know what sensitive personal information they have about them and to allow individuals to correct inaccurate information. The bill also requires that companies that have databases with sensitive personal information on Americans establish and implement data privacy and security programs.

In addition, the bill requires notice when sensitive personal information has been compromised. The bill provides for tough criminal penalties for anyone who would intentionally and willfully conceal the fact that a data breach has occurred when the breach causes economic damage to consumers. Finally, the bill addresses the important issue of the government's use of personal data.

I am pleased that the Obama administration has recently issued two privacy reports that make recommendations to improve data privacy that are consistent with the approach adopted in my bill.

I drafted this bill after long and thoughtful consultation with many of the stakeholders on this issue, including the privacy, consumer protection, and business communities. I have also worked closely with other Senators, including Senators FEINSTEIN, HATCH, FEINGOLD, SPECTER, and SCHUMER.

This is a comprehensive bill that not only deals with the need to provide Americans with notice when they have been victims of a data breach but that also deals with the underlying problem of lax security to help prevent data breaches from occurring in the first place. The House of Representatives has passed comprehensive data privacy legislation. The Senate should also pass comprehensive data privacy legislation and should have done so this Congress.

There has been ample time to resolve any concerns, but still there are those who are refusing to allow the Senate to act. We cannot afford to continue to wait to address this important privacy issue. The American people are suffering the consequences of that inaction.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, the basic outline of legislative changes to the Controlled Substances Act that we expect to receive from the Department of Justice are as follows:

The legislation will deem certain nurses or other licensed health care professionals, who are designated by the nursing home as agents of DEA-licensed practitioners (practitioners being the resident's attending physician or specialist), as authorized to transmit the practitioner's order for a controlled substance, specifically Schedule II drugs, to DEA-licensed pharmacies, either orally or by fax. The nursing home, while not licensed by DEA, will be responsible for designating those who are authorized to transmit a practitioner's order, and for making a list of such authorized agents available to the pharmacy.

Whenever oral or faxed orders for controlled substances come in from authorized agents, pharmacies will be required to verify, based on the nursing home's list, that the nurse is authorized to call or fax in the practitioner's order. This chain-of-accountability process will allow the practitioner to