Phyllis and Kenny: and many other beloved family members and friends.

Jane was preceded in death by her father Marvin Bill Lanham.

Today the Senate honors this loving wife, mother, and daughter for her long career of service. And we salute the sacrifice that LCDR Jane Lanham Tafoya made, half a world away from her native Owensboro home, on behalf of a very grateful Nation.

I yield the floor.

H.R. 2715

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise to engage in a colloquy with my colleagues, Senators DURBIN and PRYOR, over the passage of H.R. 2715, a bill that passed on the House suspension calendar by a vote of 421–2 and the Senate by unanimous consent. Due to the fact that this bill bypassed regular order and failed to receive consideration in the Commerce Committee, I believe it is important to explain our intent in passing this bill.

Mr. DURBIN. I am frustrated that the Consumer Product Safety Commission has taken too long to promulgate rules required by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, CPSIA, including the rules on third-party testing obligations and the component part testing rule. I did not oppose H.R. 2715, because it does not delay or impede the Commission’s ability to implement those rules—although it may place some increased costs on the Commission due to actions required as a result of new CPSC mandates and authorities—and I urge the Commission to complete its work expeditiously.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I share the Senator’s concerns about the CPSC’s delay in promulgating its regulations in accordance with the mandates of CPSIA. While I sympathize with the CPSC over its resource constraints, the Commission must accelerate its efforts and complete the important regulations required under CPSIA. The provisions in section 2 of H.R. 2715 were not intended to delay or stop the Commission’s current rulemaking under section 102 (d)(2) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to implement the critical provision related to the third-party testing of children’s products. I fully expect the Commission to go forward with these important rulemakings with no disruption from the passage of this bill.

Given the limited resources of the Commission and recognizing the length of time it has taken to implement the provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, it is intended that most of H.R. 2715’s new mandates on the CPSC are not rulemakings. Some of the new authority, such as the functional purpose exemption and the authority to restrict the scope of the used products exemption, are subject to a hearing and notice-and-comment rulemaking, but not to a rulemaking. Others, such as the creation of a new public registry for small batch manufacturers, can be implemented without notice and comment or even a hearing. As such, the Commission should act to effectuate the new mandates of this bill in a most expeditious manner.

Mr. PRYOR. I also share the Senator’s views that H.R. 2715 is intended to delay the Commission’s rulemaking with respect to third-party testing and believe that Commission should conclude its testing rulemakings in the next 2 months. I supported H.R. 2715 because it made minor modifications to an important consumer product safety law and supported implementation of important aspect of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act such as the consumer product database. This bill will require the CPSC to extend the deadline for posting reports on defective products by 5 days if a business asserts that the information in the report is not accurate. However, this change does not alter the fact that the Commission still must post this information in its database after those 5 days even if it is still reviewing the merits of the complaint.

COTE D’IVOIRE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I spoke about the situation in Cote d’Ivoire just last Friday and pointed out that the person responsible for the chaos and killing—a rebel named Allassane Ouattara—met last Friday with Presi- dient Obama in the White House. I said then and say now again that this was an unwise and grossly misguided decision by Obama. It is in fact an outrage that our President would welcome, with open arms, a po- tential war criminal who is responsible for the death of at least 3,000 people and displacement of half a million refugees in the African country of Cote d’Ivoire. Ouattara is an illegitimate usurper who has scandalized Cote d’Ivoire and warped the election.

Now the Associated Press reports just yesterday that the violence in Cote d’Ivoire remains uncontrolled. The title of the AP story says it all. It reads: “Warlords in Ivory Coast continue to reign, national reconciliation difficult 3 months later.”

The AP story highlights the just released Amnesty International report that pointed out that “Ouattara’s rebel Army continues to carry out violence and intimidation against ethnic groups perceived as having supported Presi- dent Gbagbo, and that almost 700,000 people remain in refugee camps for displaced people in the country’s remote far west.”

The AP highlights the fact that although Ouattara is telling the world that he is seeking reconciliation, in fact Ouattara is allowing “a pervading culture of criminality to continue.”

For example, in the financial capital of Abidjan, warlords have taken over parts of the city and death squads roam the streets looking for Gbagbo supporters. In addition, they are committing “armed robberies, kidnapping and killings almost daily” without any sign of ceasing. At the very least rebel leader Ouattara has no control over his rebel troops, which in the recent past have repeatedly attacked civilians on their march to Abidjan, and at the worst he is tacitly approving their actions by not intervening.

AP also reports that “even the French Embassy sent a security mes- sage to its citizens warning that incidents of unequal gravity are still being reported.” And this is 3 months after the French themselves militarily overthrew President Gbagbo and installed Ouattara! The French are indeed now reaping what they have sown.

I point out again that Amnesty Interna- tional alleges that these forces under Ouattara’s command are continuing to engage in “documented crimes under international law, among them killings, violations and abuses, including extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings, rape and other sexual violence, torture, other ill-treatment and arbitrary arrest and detention; as well as the consequences of high levels of displacement, pervasive insecurity, and intentional destruction of homes and other buildings not justified by military necessity.”

The AP story summarizes the current situation by quoting the conclusion of the Amnesty International re- port which states that “if [this situation is] not addressed quickly, the very serious consequences of the recent wave of insecurity and displacement will have further repercussions during the coming years and may fuel growing discontent and unrest, undermining ef- forts to promote reconciliation in a country torn apart by a wave of ethnic strife and violent conflict.”

This is my ninth time speaking on the Senate floor about the ongoing bloodbath of unspeakable acts of vio- lence that are occurring in the once beautiful and prosperous country of Cote d’Ivoire. I again call for the inter-vention of the African Union—and not the French—to bring an end to the vio- lence there, and call for new elections that will this time prevent the elec- toral fraud by Ouattara that allowed him to claim victory. I also call for the release of President Gbagbo and his wife Simone who are being held incom- munado by Ouattara and either allow President Gbagbo to seek reelection for President or be allowed to go into exile. I have been in communica- tion with a sub-Saharan African coun- try which has agreed to grant asylum to the Gbagbos, and I am calling on our State Department to facilitate such a move as it did for former Haitian Presi- dent Duvalier in 1986.

The killing must stop. My rec- ommendations are a path to stop the killing.
HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT LEX L. LEWIS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heart full of pride and respect that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of SSG Lex L. Lewis. Staff Sergeant Lewis died on July 15, 2011, when his dismounted patrol received small arms fire in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Lewis was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was 40 years old.

Staff Sergeant Lewis was assigned to B Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado. He lived fully and his sacrifice exemplifies the pride and strength of the U.S. Army. They often came to him for counsel and advice during difficult times. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, two Army Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement Medals, and two Army Good Conduct Medals.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Staff Sergeant Lewis's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

Mr. President, I stand with Colorado and people nationwide in profound gratitude for Staff Sergeant Lewis's tremendous sacrifice. He served proudly and honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan when his country needed him most. He died by his own hand and his sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Staff Sergeant Lewis's family.

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to submit for the RECORD a report on the activity of a congressional delegation I led to Belgrade, Serbia, from July 7 to 10, to represent the United States at the 20th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. I did so in my capacity as cochairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

I was joined by my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN, who also traveled to Sarajevo, Bosnia. Senator SHAHEEN is also a member of the Helsinki Commission. Our colleague from Alaska, Senator BINGGICH, also participated on the delegation but was in Dubrovnik, Croatia, as part of the official U.S. Delegation to the 6th annual Croatian Summit of regional political leaders and European officials.

As the report details, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or OSCE PA, has an excellent opportunity for the U.S. Congress to engage our European friends and allies, and to make clear to less friendly countries that our ties to the continent will not be diminished.

U.S. engagement also provides a means for us to advance U.S. interests by encouraging Europe to focus more on policy issues of concern to us, from democratic shortcomings within Europe such as Belarus to the new challenges and opportunities coming from North Africa and the Middle East and other parts of the world.

The revised Senate schedule made us miss the opening days of the Belgrade meeting, but we made up for that with an intense schedule coming from Friday to Sunday. All three U.S. resolutions and most of our delegation's amendments to resolutions were adopted, including a resolution I submitted on political transition in the Mediterranean region and amendments welcoming the arrest of at-large war crimes indictee Ratko Mladic and calling for Turkey to allow the Ecumenical Patriarch to open a theological school in Halki.

Senator SHAHEEN and I also used the opportunity of visiting Belgrade to encourage Serbia's democratic transition. We met with President Tadic as well as the Speaker of the Serbian National Assembly, the chief negotiator in the technical talks on Kosovo-related issues, representatives of civil society, and of Serbia's Romani and Jewish communities.

We came away from our visit impressed with the progress Serbia has made thus far. While there are lingering manifestations of the extreme right wing from the Milosevic era of the 1990s, I believe there is a genuine commitment to overcome them. We should support those in and out of government in Serbia who turn this commitment into action.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Report to which I referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: REPORT OF THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION (CÔDEL, CARD) TO BELGRADE, SERBIA; SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA; AND DUBROVNICK, CROATIA JULY 7-10, 2011 Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Hel- sinki Commission Co-Chairman, and fellow Senator and Commissioner Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) traveled to the 20th Annual Session of the Organization for Security and Co- operation in Europe Parliamentary Assem- bly (OSCE PA), held in Belgrade, Serbia, from July 6-10, 2011. The senators were able to do this despite a U.S. congressional sched- ule that varied from country to country—traveling to the meeting and curtailing Sen- ate attendance to only three of the session's five days. Three resolutions and more than one dozen amendments to various resolutions initiated by the United States Delegation were nevertheless considered and passed by the Assembly. Senator Cardin also able to make a one-day visit to neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina, and both Senators were able to link with their colleague, Senator Mark Warner (D-VA),误区 the Croatian Summit of regional political leaders held in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

THE OSCE PA

The Parliamentary Assembly was created within the framework of the OSCE as an independent, consultative body consisting of 220 parliamentarians from the 56 participating States, stretching from Central Asia to the Atlantic. It brings together the United States and Canada. Annual Sessions are the chief venue for debating international issues and voting on a declaration addressing human rights, democratic development, rule-of-law, economic, environmental and security concerns among the participating States and the international community.

The Parliamentary Assembly adopts its declaration by majority voting for resolutions coming from the Assembly’s plenary meetings, or for new issues to be included than the OSCE itself can adopt on the basis of consensus among the 56 participating States. The heavy focus of OSCE diplomatics on issues like trafficking in persons and combating intolerance in society is rooted in initiatives originally undertaken by the parliamentarians in the Assembly.

Having the largest delegation with 17 members, the United States historically has played a key role in OSCE PA proceedings, and there has been robust congressional participation since the Assembly’s inception two decades ago. This engagement is resonant with the friends and allies in Europe while ensuring that issues of interest or concern to U.S. foreign policy are raised and discussed. In addition to representing the United States at the meetings, members of the Commission have served as OSCE PA special representatives on specific issues of concern, committee officers, vice presidents and the Assembly president.

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

This year’s Annual Session was hosted by the National Assembly of Serbia and held in Belgrade’s Sava Center, the 1977-78 venue for the first follow-up meeting of the diplomatic process that was initiated by the 1975 signing of the Helsinki Final Act and is the OSCE today. During various interventions at the session, note was made not only of the vast changes in Europe since that time but also in Serbia, which was then a constituent republic of a federal state under the former Yugoslavia and is today an independent state making progress in democratic development after overcoming more than a decade of authoritarian rule and erasing the nationalist sentiment.

A meeting of the Standing Committee—composed of OSCE PA officers plus the heads of all delegations—met prior to the opening of the Annual Session. The Standing Committee, chaired by President Petros Ethymiou of Greece, the committee heard numerous reports on the activities of the past year, endorsed a budget that remained unchanged from the previous fiscal year, and approved for consideration at the Annual Session 25 of the