HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT LEX L. LEWIS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heart filled with sorrow 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, CO. Friends and family members remember Staff Sergeant Lewis as a soldier who truly loved the Army. His mother Betty said, “He just liked being a soldier... this is what he wanted to do.”

After graduating from high school, Staff Sergeant Lewis joined the Navy and was first stationed in Japan. He joined the Army later, in 1999, and bravely served three combat tours—two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Lewis’s commanders and fellow soldiers describe him as a soldier who exemplifies the proudest traditions 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 honor.

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. I applaud by his service 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 colleagues from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN, who also traveled to Sarajevo, Bosnia. Senator SHAHEEN is also a member of the Helsinki Commission. My colleagues from Alaska, Senator BEGICH, 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, offered 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 intensive schedule 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 violence that marked 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 (CODEL) TO BELGRADE, SERBIA; SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA; AND DUBROVNIK, CROATIA JULY 7-10, 2011

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman, and fellow Senator and Commissioner Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) traveled to the 26th Annual Session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), held in Belgrade, Serbia, from July 6–10, 2011. The senators were able to do this despite a US. congressional schedule that was fraught with cuts and conflicts. Mr. Shaheen was also able to make a one-day visit to neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina, and both Senators were able to link with their colleague, Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), attending 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 320 parliamentarians from the 56 participating States, stretching from Central Asia to the Baltic Sea and including 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, or the member of the United States Delegation (D-AL), but also for franker language addressing controversial or new issues to be included than the OSCE itself can achieve on the basis of consensus among the 56 participating States. The heavy focus of OSCE diplomats 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 reassuring to 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 Annual Sessions, 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 1975 Helsinki Final Act established 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 segments of 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 the former Yugoslavia. Serbia today is an independent state making progress in democratic development after overcoming more than a decade of authoritarian rule and erosion of 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 Chair of the Standing Committee, DElegation of Greece, the committee heard numerous reports on the activities of the past year, endorsed a budget for the coming years, and approved a budget for the coming years, and approved a budget for the 27th Annual Session. The budget for the 27th Annual Session. The budget for the 27th Annual Session. The budget for the 27th Annual Session. The budget for the 27th Annual Session. The budget for the 27th Annual Session. The budget for the 27th Annual Session.
items introduced by various delegations to supplement the committee resolutions. Only an Italian draft on Asbestos Contamination failed to achieve a 23 vote approving its consideration.

With approximately 230 parliamentarians in attendance, the opening plenary of the Annual Session featured a welcoming by Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna. He committed himself to facilitating greater PA engagement through his leadership of the OSCE Secretariat and coordination with its institutions.

In his own remarks, PA President Ethymiou noted the “spirit of Helsinki” which defined the PA at the Belgrade meeting more than three decades ago and lamented the crisis in which the OSCE finds itself today. He called for significant changes to the operations of the Vienna-based organization to make it effective and relevant, in addressing the political and security issues of today. The theme for the Annual Session of the PA, “Strengthening and Efficiency, a New Start after the Astana Summit—was chosen to address this matter in light of last December’s summit meeting in Kazakhstan, which had heightened the political attention paid to the OSCE’s work.

The following three days were devoted to committee consideration and amendment of the three resolutions and 21 supplementary items, and plenary consideration of the four additional supplementary items. Two additional resolutions were defeated in the process. The first was another initiative of an Italian delegate focusing on crimes causing serious social alarm, which lacked significant support. The second originated with the Belgian delegation on enlarging the OSCE’s Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to include Lebanon and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The latter was lost in a close vote after being heavily debated by those who advocate wider engagement in the long-term and those who questioned the timeliness of such an action.

The OSCE’s work on trafficking in human organs in Kosovo and gender issues in the OSCE and the participating States, national minority concerns including the plight of Roma, cyber security, as well as combating terrorism, transnational organized crime, and human trafficking for labor and organs.

U.S. INITIATIVES IN BELGRADE

Despite its small size, the U.S. Delegation remained active in the deliberations, introducing three resolutions of its own, working closely with the delegation of the Netherlands on a fourth, and suggesting over a dozen amendments to various other resolutions. All four of these resolutions were adopted, as were all but two of the U.S. amendments.

Co-Chairman Cardin’s major initiative was a resolution focusing on the situation in Kyrgyzstan. This resolution was sponsored by the OSCE and its participating States to make their expertise in building democratic institutions available to Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The resolution specifically encouraged the interim governments of Egypt and Tunisia to make a formal request for OSCE support following their consultations with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, for an OSCE civil society forum to be hosted by a Mediterranean Partner State later this year. The Senator collaborated with the head of the OSCE delegation to the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, and the OSCE Chair-in-Residence for the Mediterranean Partnership, to prepare the resolution, which did pass examined the deplorable situation, and urged OSCE States to become parties to the OSCE Chair-in-Residence for the Mediterranean Partnership, to prepare the resolution, which did pass examined the deplorable situation, and urged OSCE States to become parties to the OSCE’s work.

In addition to hearing closing comments from Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and adopting the final declaration, the parliamentarians attending the Annual Session voted on contested nominations for the PA’s leadership. President Ethymiou was unopposed, as was Treasurer Roberto Battelli of Slovenia, and both were re-elected by acclamation as a race for the three Vice President positions, Wolfgang Grossruck of Austria was re-elected, with Walburga Habsburg-Douglas of Sweden and Tonino Picula of Italy also elected for the first time. Senator Cardin has one additional term in his term as Vice President and is not eligible for another re-election. Co-Chairman Cardin chaired a joint PA-Congress of States committee to consider dramatic changes, with only one officer retaining his position as committee chair. Others moved to various positions on the Committee of the Whole and the PA leadership. The PA leadership re-election bid as a committee Vice Chair due to his inability to be in Belgrade. He was unsuccessful in fighting off a challenge by a French delegate who entered the race at the last minute.

SIDE EVENTS IN BELGRADE

In addition to the formal proceedings, OSCE PA meetings often offer the possibility for delegations to focus on issues needing additional attention. A lunch-on focusing on gender issues in the OSCE is held annually, including in Belgrade. Non-governmental organizations may also hold their own events and invite the delegates to participate. In Belgrade, a coalition held a session on continued use of torture in OSCE States, with a focus particularly on the situation in Kyrgyzstan following the ethnic violence in 2009. Delegation-sponsored events in Belgrade included one on human rights protection and combating trafficking in human organs in Kosovo and elsewhere, and one featuring a film on two Jewish sisters in Serbia who escaped the Holocaust through the efforts of Senator Shaheen and U.S. Ambassador to Serbia Mary Burce Warlick in attendance, Senator
Cardin participated in the latter event with opening comments on the work of the Vilnius-based organization, which prepared the film. Delegation staff attended most of the meetings and a number of other events, including a roundtable with President Boris Tadic. National Assembly Speaker Slavica Dzajic-Decajnovic and chief negotiator for technical talks on Kosovo Boris Tadić's deputy ambassador, Vojislav Sekulic, briefed the Senators and attended the meetings.

Evident in the bilateral meetings was the progress Serbia was making in its internal political transition and attainment of European integration. Serbian officials made clear they were committed to overcoming the nationalist legacy of the Milosevic era, strengthening Serbia's democratic institutions and encouraging greater respect for the rule of law. While there are clear differences between the Serbian and United States positions on Kosovo, regarding Kosovo, the officials asked for an expression of congressional support for agreements being reached in technical talks between Belgrade and Pristina that would benefit the people and brought an increased sense of regional stability, as well. They also stressed their support for Bosnia- Herzegovina's territorial integrity and statehood. The U.S. Delegation welcomed Serbia's approach and encouraged Belgrade to curtail the activity of parallel Serbian institutions in northern Kosovo which are currently the greatest source of instability in the region. The message was amplified throughout the region by a VOA interview conducted with Senator Cardin.

The U.S. Delegation also met with representatives of Serbia's civil society and Romani communities. The Senators expressed support for civil society efforts to promote greater tolerance in society, to monitor the extent to which laws and policies adopted were actually implemented, and to tackle issues—such as corruption—that impede prosperity. They learned that the Romani communities in Serbia, similar to those in other regions of the Western Balkans, have difficulties in obtaining adequate housing, education for their children and personal documentation necessary to exercise their rights and privileges as citizens. In a meeting with Serbia's Chief Rabbi, which also included the President of the Jewish Federation of Serbia, the discussion focused on religious tolerance in the region, cooperation with the other religious groups in Belgrade, and property restitution legislation pending in the Serbian parliament.

On June 13, Senator Shaheen left the proceedings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to make a one-day visit to neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina, where ethnically based political leaders have made considerable progress in achieving government formation and the political and economic reforms necessary for progress on European integration. Visiting two days prior to the beginning of the Assembly, she met with President Bakir Izetbegovic and U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina Patrick S. Moon to pay her respects as the procession of 63 vices honoring the victims of the Srebrenica massacre was delayed back in a few years and examine whether these new authorities had been interpreted and implemented as intended.

I believe that Congress has not yet adequately examined this issue and that there are important questions that need to be answered before the FISA Amendments Act is given a long-term extension.

BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH SERBIA AND A SIDE-TRIP TO BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

While the delegation travelled to Belgrade principally to represent the United States at the OSCE PA, the Belgrade Commission leadership regularly uses this travel to discuss bilateral issues with the host country and to visit nearby countries of concern. Delegation meetings with President Boris Tadic, National Assembly Speaker Slavica Dzajic-Decajnovic, and chief negotiator for technical talks on Kosovo Boris Tadic's deputy ambassador, Vojislav Sekulic, briefed the Senators and attended the meetings.

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CONCLUSION

During the course of three days, the delegation learned that it was able to advance U.S. objectives at the multilateral OSCE PA as well as the U.S. bilateral agenda together. The Senators pledged support for political leaders and European officials in Dubrovnik, Croatia, as part of the official U.S. Delegation led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns. In his statement to the summit and during meetings with various leaders, particularly with Croatian officials, Senator Begich expressed his admiration for Croatia's performance as a NATO ally, including its support for NATO operations in Afghanistan, and encouraged Croatia to support neighboring Bosnia's stability and prosperity. He also suggested ways Croatia could enhance its business and investment climate.

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INTelligence AUTHORIZATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to briefly address S. 1499, the Intel- ligence authorization bill for fiscal year 2012, which has now been reported by the Select Committee on Intelli- gence. I know that the chair and vice chair of the committee, Senator FEIN- STEIN and Senator CHAMBLISS, along with their respective staff, have worked hard on this bill, and I support nearly every provision in it. However, I strongly disagree with the decision to include a 3-year extension of the FISA Amendments Act of 2006 in this bill. I believe that any request to pass this bill by unanimous consent. Consistent with my own policy and Senate rules, I am announcing my intention to object by placing a no-

tice in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

As most of my colleagues and member, Congress passed the FISA Amendments Act in 2008 in an effort to give the government new authorities to conduct surveillance of foreigners outside the United States. The bill contained an expiration date of December 2012, and the purpose of this expiration date was to force Members of Congress to come back in a few years and examine whether these new authorities had been interpreted and implemented as intended.

I believe that Congress has not yet adequately examined this issue and that there are important questions that need to be answered before the FISA Amendments Act is given a long-term extension.

The central section of the FISA Amendments Act, the part that is new section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act itself, specifically stated that it was intended to address foreigners outside the United States. The Act even required the Attorney Gen-
teral to develop procedures designed to make sure that any individuals targeted with this new authority are believed to be outside the United States. So one of the central questions that Congress needs to ask is, Are these procedures working as intended? Are they keeping the communications of law-abiding Americans from being swept up under this authority that was designed to apply to foreigners?

I wanted to know the answer to this question, so Senator UDALL of Colorado and I wrote to the Director of National Intelligence if it was possible to count or estimate the number of people inside