HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES
STAFF SERGEANT LEX L. LEWIS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart 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 affectionately referred to 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.

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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 international teleconference 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 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.

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 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, provided 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.

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There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

REPORT OF THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION (CODEL CARDIN) 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 canceled from traveling to the meeting and curtailed Senate 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. Senators were 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) during 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 across Europe to the United States and Canada. Annual Sessions are the chief venue for debating international issues of concern to the OSCE PA, which has played a key role in OSCE PA proceedings, and there has been robust congressional participation since the Assembly’s inception in 1992. 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 OSCE PA have served as OSCE PA special representatives on specific issues of concern, notably undertaken by the parliamentarians in the Assembly.

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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, inspired 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.
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 welcome by Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic, the National Assembly Speaker Slavica Djukic-Dejanovic and reports by the OSCE Chair-in-Office, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audrius Ažubalis, and the newly appointed OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier of Italy. Zannier welcomed the OSCE PA’s interest in fostering closer cooperation with the OSCE and 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 Efthymiou noted the “spirit of Helsinki” which drove the work 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 them effective and relevant in addressing the political and security issues of today. The theme for the Annual Session was the OSCE’s Effectiveness and Efficiency, a New Start after the Astana Summit—was chosen to address this matter in light of last December’s summit meeting in Astana, 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 supplementary items 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 vote after being heavily debated by those who advocate wider engagement in the long-term and those who questioned the timing of the resolution. A second resolution, which parliamentarians felt it inappropriate for the OSCE to solicit interest by the Lebanese Government and the PNA while they are both still not formal or de facto members of the OSCE principles. Some of the resolutions which did pass examined the deplorable human rights situation in Belarus, the unresolved conflict in Moldova, 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 drafts. 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 on Combating Labor Trafficking in Supply Chains, urging governments to ensure that all goods they procure are free from products produced by trafficked labor and to press corporations to independently verify that their supply chains are free of exploitation. The resolution also sought to raise consumer awareness about industries more likely to use trafficked labor. Two strengthening amendments authored by Co-Chairman Cardin were welcomed by a recent OSCE meeting on the issue and urged diplomats to pass a declaration on the matter during a meeting of OSCE foreign ministers later this year.

The second Smith Resolution focused on International Parental Child Abductions and passed without amendment. Its core focus was to press OSCE States to become parties to the 1983 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and to implement its provisions. The resolution also urged governments to consider be ratified at the 2011 OSCE Ministerial Council in Vilnius this December.

Ranking House Commissioner Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), who serves as the Parliamentary Assembly’s Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, collaborated with OSCE PA Special Representative on Migration Kathleen Ferrier of the Netherlands on countering racism and xenophobia in Europe with measures to foster inclusion of affected communities. Hastings noted that 2011 has been designated the International Year for People of African Descent, the resolution included a focus on racial bias against citizens and migrants. He is calling for specific measures to be taken by OSCE institutions to address reported increases of racial and ethnic discrimination in the OSCE region. The resolution also emphasized the importance of integrating ethnic minorities into economic and political life through capacity building partnerships between the public and private sector. The resolution passed with widespread support.

Supported by Senator Shaheen, Co-Chairman Cardin covered several smaller and personal interests, such as one welcoming the arrest in Serbia of a large war crimes indicted Ratko Mladic, another urging Turkey to allow the reopening of the historic Hittite town of Hattusha’s Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay, and another supporting greater transparency in the energy sector. Working with a German delegate, Senator Cardin also succeeded in removing language from a Serbian resolution which politicized the OSCE’s use of investigative tools to investigate trafficking that originated in neighboring Kosovo during the 1999 conflict. Serbian officials lobbied the PA Assembly directly and individually, expressing concern about the United Nations’ call to the United Nations to conduct the investigation, contrary to the efforts being undertaken by the U.S. and EU to proceed with investigations, and the U.N. rule-of-law mission. The U.S.-supported amendment was successful in designating the EU entity and the republics of North Macedonia as responsible for the investigation. There was insufficient support, however, for a U.S.- amendment welcoming EU efforts thus far.

During the course of debate, Co-Chairman Cardin also suggested granting Mediterranean Partner countries a greater ability to participate in OSCE PA sessions through changes to Assembly rules. He also highlighted U.S. policy on cyber security in the vigorous debate of a resolution which in some respects diverged from the U.S. approach. In his capacity as Vice President, the Senator, as an urgent matter, also supported consideration of a resolution focused on the lack of transparency in the process for choosing the PA’s new Secretary General. Language on this matter was also included in the final declaration.

SELECTING THE OSCE PA LEADERSHIP FOR THE COMING YEAR

In addition to hearing closing comments from Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and adopting the final declaration, the parliamentarians attending the Annual Session voted to contestably Cardin’s leadership. President Efthymiou was unopposed, as was Treasurer Roberto Battelli of Slovenia, and both were re-elected by acclamation. The race for a Vice President position attracted three of the nine Vice President positions, Wolfgang Grosricks of Austria was re-elected, with Walburga Habsburg-Dubourg of Sweden and Tonino Picula of Italy also elected for the first time. Senator Cardin has one additional year in his term as Vice President and is not eligible for another re-election. Other officer committees engaged in dramatic changes, with only one officer retaining his position as committee chair. Others moved to higher positions within the committees or left their position as committee chair. Others moved to higher positions within the committees or left their positions.

SIDE EVENTS IN BELGRADE

In addition to the formal proceedings, OSCE PA meetings often offer the possibility for discussions to occur on issues needing additional attention. A lunch held 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 in Belarus, open door discussions on alleged trafficking in human organs in Kosovo and elsewhere, and one featuring a film on two Jewish sisters in Serbia who escaped the Holocaust. Senators Cardin, 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 Centropa, which prepared the -film. Delegation staff attended most of the 15 bilateral meetings with representatives of the countries visited by the congressional delegation, and their economic growth has been negatively affected not only by the larger international crisis but by poor governance. Particularly of note was the high degree of both promise and uncertainty, the reassurance of continued U.S. engagement was welcomed by government officials, civil society representatives, and the media which extensively covered the delegation’s activities.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to briefly address S. 1458, the Intelligence authorization bill for fiscal year 2012, which has now been reported by the Select Committee on Intelligence. I know that the chair and vice chair of the committee, Senator FEINSTEIN 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 2008 in this bill. It is my intention to oppose 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 notice in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

As most of my colleagues remember, 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 now section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act itself, specifically stated that it was intended to address foreigners outside the United States. Mr. President, I am concerned that the government is now required 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...