

Today, she observes that lunch is just not made like it used to be with instant boxed potatoes, nutritional charts to follow and new regulations. Bowling reminisced about the days she spent at Colony Elementary School with fellow cooks, Ada Clay and Thelma Lincks, and soon after, Opal Nicholson and Maggie Wilkerson, rolling out dough for yeast rolls, mixing cornmeal and flour for cornbread and putting their own personal touch on recipes.

Working at Colony in western Laurel County was ideal for Bowling, being a short distance away from her home while her three children were enrolled in classrooms just down the hall from the lunchroom.

Over the years, Bowling became close to the school staff and to the teachers especially. Her time was not always spent with her hands in the dough; she kept records of payroll, processed the free lunch forms and ensured that the cafeteria ran smoothly in her position as lunchroom manager.

"People who weren't in the lunchroom had no idea the bookwork involved," she said.

Children at the school who could not afford to pay for their lunch would be hired as help for the cafeteria, Bowling said, to help serve food, and, on occasion, wash dishes in exchange for payment.

Bowling made only \$25 a week to help with the bills, while her husband, Oscar, was out on the road driving a truck to help support the four. Her youngest son at the time, Larry, had not started school yet and so \$10 of her pay was handed to a babysitter.

Being involved with the school was very important to Bowling. As an avid PTO volunteer and member, she rarely missed a meeting. School involvement is still something she continues to value, even now that her children have graduated and have children of their own.

"My oldest, Charlotte, is 60 years old," she noted.

Bowling continues to volunteer at Colony Elementary's annual Thanksgiving celebration. Bowling assists in the lunchroom preparations for the traditional turkey and stuffing feast, although she's still adjusting to the new way of doing things which usually involves using up-to-date machines for mass meal production.

"The equipment is so new and different," she commented.

Instead of children dropping pocket change and crumpled dollar bills for the lunchroom staff to count and pencil in, computers are now used to calculate change and handle payments.

"The last year I was there they started using computers," Bowling said. She retired in 1997.

Even though the old homestyle recipes are no longer prepared at the school's cafeteria, Bowling still keeps the recipes alive in her own kitchen. Every Sunday, Bowling cooks for her family.

"I love to cook if people like to eat."

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CALEB A. NELSON

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true American hero, PO Caleb Nelson of Nebraska, who was tragically killed on October 1, 2011, in Zabul Province, Afghanistan.

Caleb graduated from Navy boot camp 6 years ago to become a machinist's mate. However, he aspired to be the best-of-the-best and, in November 2006, graduated from SEAL qualification training and became a member of

Naval Special Warfare Group Two. Caleb has been described by his commander as a cherished teammate and a gifted SEAL operator. This is certainly illustrated by the numerous awards and decorations he amassed during his short time in the service, including the Bronze Star with Valor, Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Expert Rifle ribbon and Expert Pistol ribbon. Before deploying to Afghanistan this past March, Caleb had deployed to Iraq in 2009.

Not only was Caleb a dedicated combat veteran, he was a loving husband, father, and son. His father, Reverend Larry Nelson, remembers his son as a go-getter and a truly good person. His friends and neighbors tell a similar tale. Karen Wagner, Caleb's neighbor, remembers him as a wonderful kid who was always willing to help out, even if it came down to mundane things such as cleaning out the gutters.

Caleb Nelson's life came to a cruel end when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while his SEAL team was conducting mounted combat reconnaissance patrols. I pray that Caleb's family and friends find strength during this trying time and my condolences go out to them. Caleb's service and sacrifice, his heroism and selflessness will remain an inspiration for all of us.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Taiwan as it prepares to celebrate its National Day on Monday. Double Ten Day, as it is known, marks the anniversary of the uprising on October 10, 1911, that led to the collapse of imperial rule in China. This year's commemoration takes on special meaning as Taiwan celebrates the 100th anniversary of this historic day.

Over the years, we have seen Taiwan make a successful transition to democracy, holding elections and peacefully transferring power. As we look back on the achievements of the past century, we also look forward to a bright future for Taiwan. Taiwan is a valued ally of the United States. The United States has enjoyed a close friendship with Taiwan for many years, and I will continue working to strengthen this relationship.

I wish the people of Taiwan sincere congratulations and best wishes on the 100th anniversary of their National Day.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to draw the attention of my colleagues to the approach of a very special day in the history of our friend and partner, the Republic of China—ROC—on Taiwan. On October 10, 1911—precisely 100 years ago—the Republic of China was founded, and since then has celebrated October 10 as its National Day.

Over the course of this century, the Republic of China has been a firm friend of the United States—from World War II to the Cold War, up to the

present day. More recently, the ROC on Taiwan has emerged as one of the great success stories of the past century—a free market democracy that is a model for the entire region.

I believe that it is especially appropriate to note this anniversary on the Senate floor because of the unique and important role that the U.S. Congress has played in supporting the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, by virtue of the Taiwan Relations Act. Unique among all of our international partnerships, the TRA established in law America's commitment to support the people of Taiwan as they seek a safe and secure place in the world.

I am grateful for the opportunity to wish the people of Taiwan my congratulations on this auspicious anniversary, and hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating a very special National Day.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to continue the discussion that I began Monday with the majority leader, Senator REID, on the need to bring the national defense authorization bill to the floor of the Senate.

Since our colloquy Monday, Senator REID has sent a letter to the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Senator CARL LEVIN, and me. I would like to have a copy of the letter printed in the RECORD.

In the letter, Senator REID lays out his concerns about some of the detainee provisions that were included in the Defense authorization bill as a result of a bipartisan compromise between Chairman LEVIN, myself, and Senator GRAHAM, and cosponsored by a large, bipartisan group of members of the Armed Services Committee. In fact, this compromise was so bipartisan that after extensive debate on many amendments and a number of votes during markup by the committee using the regular order of the Senate, the resulting package of detainee provisions was adopted and made part of the bill by an overwhelming vote of 25 to 1.

Now, I understand that the White House has some objections to these detainee provisions that were adopted by the Armed Services Committee, and Senator REID has essentially endorsed the White House position. In doing so, he is blocking the Defense authorization bill from coming to the floor, using his authority as majority leader to control the business of the Senate.

As I said Monday, I do not think that opposition to this particular provision outweighs the importance of this legislation to our national security mission, our troops, and their families. I stated on the floor Monday that I would work with Senator LEVIN and the administration to try to resolve their concerns about the detainee provisions in the bill. I stand by that commitment. But for the record, I want to address some of the issues raised by the majority leader.