November 19, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

Recently, there has been discussion of the possibility of reworking our entire military force structure—which is present to provide the capacity to fight two simultaneous major regional conflicts—in order to enable us to commit US troops to an ever-growing number of multilateral “peacekeeping” missions. I am concerned that we may sacrifice our vital national security interests in order to be able to participate in peripheral endeavors. We should not be shortsighted. We should not lose sight of what we must do in order to accomplish what we can do. Our military should be used to protect our national security interests, not provide peacekeeping in areas without strategic significance.

That kind of distinction will never happen under the Clinton Administration. Saddam Hussein is more fluid than this the clarity of purpose of Ronald Reagan. No walls will be torn down. There is no Clinton Doctrine. There is only a half-hearted attempt to justify random acts under an artificial rubric and a series of slogans. And our country is not aligned. We should note the fall of the Berlin Wall symbolizes more than just a victory of liberty over totalitarianism. It shows that armed with a core philosophy, a coherent doctrine, and a lot of courage, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

ROMANIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF OSCE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, as we attempt to conclude our business for this session of Congress, I wanted to mention an important decision that has just occurred in Istanbul. Mr. President, as you know, Turkey is hosting the 19th Plenum of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Our President was in attendance, and from reports, this summit has been a robust forum for debate.

Given recent history, it is impossible to overstimate the importance that the OSCE might play in maintaining Europe’s peace and stability. It is the only forum available where all the nations of Europe meet to discuss European concerns. Clearly, the status of Europe Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Our President was in attendance, and from reports, this summit has been a robust forum for debate.

The 1997 Strategic Partnership, Our friendship has been formalized through the 1997 Strategic Partnership, as well as Romania’s vigorous participation in the Partnership for Peace.

Mr. President, Romanian chairmanship is a very positive harbinger for the future of Europe, and for the region of the Balkan Region. I congratulate the OSCE for their excellent choice. I wish Romania’s leadership the very best wishes upon assuming this very weighty responsibility. We look forward to another session of productive dialogue and meaningful diplomacy upon their accession to the chairmanship.

THE 1999 STATE PARKS GOLD MEDAL

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today, I rise with my colleague Senator MACK to take a moment to recognize our Florida state park system which recently received the prestigious 1999 National State Parks Gold Medal from the National Sports Foundation, Inc., a part of the 25,000-member National Sporting Goods Association. The State Parks Gold Medal is awarded every other year to the state park system considered America’s best. We are proud and honored that Florida’s state park system, which includes 151 diverse state parks throughout the state covering more than one-half million acres, received this recognition in October at the National Recreation and Park Association Annual Congress in Nashville, Tennessee.

Congratulations to Governor Jeb Bush, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Secretary David Struhs, and the Department’s Division of Recreation and Parks Director, Fran Malnella, on this achievement.

This nation’s state parks play a key role in our society—they provide much needed recreational opportunities to Americans while protecting key resources. These parks create the link between our national parks, dedicated specifically to protection of the resources for which the park was created, and our local parks, dedicated specifically to recreation. Without a strong state park system, our national parks will become stressed as people seek to fill unmet recreational needs. We are proud that the state of Florida recognizes this connection, and works to maintain a strong state park system.

In honor of “Florida’s State Parks—Voted America’s Best,” Governor Bush and the Florida Cabinet have designated Saturday, November 20 as a “free day” when admission charges to Florida state parks will be waived for all visitors. We invite all of our colleagues to a free day in one or more of America’s best state parks that day.

Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to recognize these outstanding natural areas, preserved forever for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH E. BRENNAN

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, last Wednesday, the Senate confirmed Governor Joseph E. Brennan as a commissioneer on the Federal Maritime Commission, and this week Governor Brennan was sworn in for a term to expire in 2003.

Governor Brennan, who formerly served as a Member of Congress for four years, where he was a member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, and Governor of Maine for eight years prior to that, is eminently qualified to confront the challenges facing the maritime community. With his broad experience at the state and federal level, Governor Brennan is an outstanding choice to serve as a Commissioner on the FMC.

His service in Congress gave him first-hand knowledge of federal maritime issues as a member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, and of the FMC. His service as Governor of Maine for eight years prior to that, is eminently qualified to confront the challenges facing the maritime community. With his broad experience at the state and federal level, Governor Brennan is an outstanding choice to serve as a Commissioner on the FMC.

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The FMC’s jurisdiction encompasses many facets of the maritime industry. The Chairman and four Commissioners of the FMC are responsible for protecting shippers, carriers and others engaged in foreign commerce from restrictive rules and regulations of foreign governments and from the practices of foreign-flag carriers that have an adverse effect on shipping in U.S. trades. The FMC also reviews and monitors agreements under shipping law, reviews and approves or rejects tariff filings, issues licenses for ocean freight