

NATO countries in attacking the forces of Slobodan Milosevic in Yugoslavia. I had hoped that recent diplomatic efforts by the United States and others would have led instead to a peace agreement in the Balkans. However, Slobodan Milosevic's continued aggression toward Kosovar Albanians and his unwillingness to seek a lasting peace could no longer go unchecked.

My wife and I know first hand what thousands of American families are feeling today, seeing their husbands, wives, sons, or daughters in the military travel overseas to face combat. My son, Brooks, recently returned from a tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Bosnia where he was part of the multi-national effort to maintain peace in that war-torn country. The decision to commit U.S. troops overseas is never easy, nor should it be done without a clear understanding of our country's interests and goals. In the case of Kosovo, our country's interests are clear and warrant the current military action. A lasting peace is directly linked with stability in Europe, and it is our duty to participate in a multi-national effort to prevent the ethnic cleansing currently occurring in Kosovo.

This century's major wars started in the Balkans. Hundreds of thousands of Americans and millions of others around the world died as a result of conflict in this region. Slobodan Milosevic directly threatens the current political and economic stability of Europe, and today's military action against Milosevic is necessary to prevent an inevitable escalation of violence. The fighting in Kosovo could easily spread to neighboring Montenegro, Macedonia, and Albania, and has already destabilized the region. A sea of ethnic Albanian refugees have attempted to flee Kosovo, only to be denied entry in some countries while further straining age-old tensions in others. There is an undeniable possibility for widespread conflict among Kosovo's neighbors, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Greece, and it is in our national strategic interest to prevent a fourth Balkan war.

The United States and NATO have an opportunity to stop the cold blooded murders of thousands of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Since Slobodan Milosevic began his reign of terror against Albanians in Kosovo, over 250,000 people—10 percent of the population—have been forced from their homes. Another 170,000 have fled the Yugoslav province in the past year. Milosevic's police forces and military have burned homes, preventing the return of entire villages. The reports of atrocities by Milosevic against the ethnic Albanians are sickening and invoke images of Bosnia and Nazi Germany. Since the first massacre of ethnic Albanians at Drenica, last year, thousands more ethnic Albanians have been killed

by Serb paramilitary units and the Yugoslav Army, including the January 16 discovery of 45 slaughtered ethnic Albanians in the Kosovo village of Racak.

While I support air strikes now to prevent further bloodshed, I will continue to promote diplomatic efforts to ultimately resolve this crisis in Kosovo. This multi-national military action will illustrate to Slobodan Milosevic the resolve of all democratic nations in the world to reject oppression, and it is my hope that Slobodan Milosevic will bring the people of Yugoslavia back from the brink of one man's madness.

My thoughts and prayers are with our men and women overseas and their families here at home. I fully support their efforts to bring peace and stability to the region and wish them all a quick and safe return home.●

RECOGNITION OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 414

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Knights of Columbus Council 414, of Bay City, Michigan. Council 414 is celebrating its 100th anniversary on April 16, 1999.

The history of the Knights of Columbus stretches back 117 years, when Father Michael J. McGivney founded the fraternal order in 1882. Since the order's founding, Knights of Columbus have promoted the Catholic faith and have practiced the principles of charity, unity and fraternity. When Father McGivney passed away in 1890, there were 5,000 Knights of Columbus located in 57 councils in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Just 15 years after his death, the Knights of Columbus was established in every state of the Union, as well as in Canada, Mexico and the Philippines.

Bay City Council 414, known then as Valley Council 414, was established in 1899, 17 years after the founding of the order by Father McGivney. It is the third oldest Knights of Columbus council in the State of Michigan. The driving force behind the founding of Council 414 was Edward J. Schreiber. He and 48 other men were responsible for establishing Council 414's charter, which was issued on April 16, 1899.

Since its chartering, Council 414 has helped to establish other Knights of Columbus councils in the area, and has participated in the many community service activities for which the Knights of Columbus are renowned. Perhaps most notably, Council 414's members raise money each year in "Tootsie Roll Drives" to support organizations like Special Olympics, the Bay Arenac School District and special education programs.

Mr. President, the members of the Knights of Columbus Council 414 of Bay City, Michigan, are truly deserving of recognition for their century-long dedi-

cation to promoting the teachings of the Catholic Church, and for living those teachings by serving those in need in their community. I hope my colleagues will join me in offering congratulations to Council 414's members on its 100th anniversary, and in wishing them continued success in their next 100 years.●

TRIBUTE TO THE MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAMS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SEASONS

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the men's and women's ice hockey teams of Middlebury College. This small school nestled in the heart of the Green Mountains boasts not only extremely talented and motivated students, but some of the finest winter athletes in the country. On behalf of the Vermonters who are proud to call Middlebury College their own, I wish to congratulate both the men's and women's ice hockey teams for a most outstanding season.

This year, the top-ranked Middlebury College women's ice hockey team finished the season with a record of 23-2-1, won their fourth straight Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship and set the school record for most wins in one season.

The men's ice hockey team, with a record of 21-5-1, won their fifth straight NCAA Division III National Championship, an accomplishment never before achieved in college hockey at any level.

Mr. President, again I wish to honor these outstanding student athletes who have devoted themselves to excellence in play, sportsmanship, and academics. I also commend those who have supported them on and off the ice: men's coach Bill Beaney, women's coach Bill Mandigo, and their many friends and family.●

NEW YORK YANKEE MANAGER JOE TORRE'S BATTLE WITH PROSTATE CANCER

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last year the New York Yankees set a new baseball record—125 wins in a single season, the most ever in major league history. Today, I want to speak about another—sadder and more tragic—legacy that has befallen current and former members of this great baseball team. That legacy is cancer.

We remember that the house that Ruth built lost its founder, the great Bambino, "the sultan of swat," to cancer. During last year's season, Darryl Strawberry was stricken with colon cancer. Former General Manager Bob Watson is battling prostate cancer. Earlier this month, Joe DiMaggio lost his life to lung cancer. And recently we learned that Yankee manager, Joe