

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

Torre, is another victim of prostate cancer.

I join millions of New Yorkers—and millions of Americans—in wishing Joe Torre a continued recovery, who joins a team of almost 200,000 American men who will learn they have prostate cancer in 1999. It is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in this country. And, like other cancers, prostate cancer must be stopped. For, it will claim the lives of nearly 40,000 Americans this year. My own state, New York, has the third highest rate of diagnoses and deaths due to prostate cancer.

Unfortunately, this country invests only about one of every twenty cancer research dollars trying to stem the epidemic of prostate cancer, which accounts for about one in every six cancer cases. It is a disproportion that must be corrected, Mr. President. On behalf of Joe Torre, Bob Watson, Senator Bob Dole, General Norman Schwarzkopf, Andy Grove, Harry Belafonte—and millions of other men and their families whose lives have been affected by prostate cancer—now is the time to renew those efforts.

I am pleased that Congress established a prostate cancer research program in the Department of Defense in 1996. I supported the establishment of that program, just as I supported last year's increase in funding of the National Institutes of Health, with strong language to assure that \$175 million become dedicated to prostate cancer research in 1999.

We must continue to develop these critical research initiatives. I congratulate Senators STEVENS, INOUE and many others in the Senate for their championship of the important program at the Department of Defense, and I hope to work with you to help fully fund this program over the next three years. We must work collaboratively with NIH to accelerate their sponsorship of clinical prostate cancer research, and I look forward to reports, due next month, by the NCI and NIH directors about their five-year investment strategy for prostate cancer research. Even though this year promises some daunting budget challenges, we must not let our commitment to end the war on cancer waver.

One in six American men will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime. As frightening as that statistic may be for the general population, it is even more pointed in the African-American community. African-Americans have the highest rates of prostate cancer incidence and mortality in the world, with occurrences 35% higher than among Caucasians and death rates twice higher than white males.

The battle that Joe Torre faced gives testimony to the fact that prostate cancer does not affect men only in their retirement years. About 25% of cases occur in men younger than 65

years old, and, with the aging of our baby boom generation, we can fully expect both incidence and mortality to increase if the disease is unchecked.

Mr. President, I call on our membership to join with national organizations, like the National Prostate Cancer Coalition, CaP CURE, the American Cancer Society and 100 Black Men, and take action to end the toll prostate cancer takes on American men and their families.●

STRENGTHENING OUR FRONTLINES

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, earlier this week, Senator GRAHAM of Florida and I introduced a bill to revitalize and modernize our efforts to defend U.S. borders from drug traffickers. This bill, the "Comprehensive Border Protection Act", S. 689, is part of a bipartisan effort by Congress to provide the resources for this critical effort. Its goal is to stop dangerous drugs and other contraband from reaching our streets. Last year, we took an important step in this direction with increased funding for our counter-drug efforts in the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act. As needed as that funding was, we left something undone.

One of the critical frontline agencies in our counter-drug efforts in the U.S. Customs Service. Despite the fact that trade has increased exponentially in the last several years, we have not provided the resources to expand the ability of Customs to manage this increased volume. Every year, more than the total population of the United States crosses our borders. In practice, that means more than 400 million people annually coming into our airports, across our land borders, and into our seaports. Nearly 15 million containers enter our ports. Some 125 million privately owned vehicles come into the country. That is every year. To deal with this volume, Customs has fewer than 20,000 employees and equipment that is outdated.

Most of this traffic is legal. But criminal gangs, terrorists, and drug traffickers willfully and cynically seek to hide their illegal acts in this flow. They use every means that vast resources and ruthless intent puts into their hands to commit their crimes. And they have increasingly sophisticated means to conceal their illegal activities. Short of sealing our borders to all trade and financial transactions, we must depend upon agencies like Customs to secure our borders. We must, however, do this while facilitating the flow of people and legitimate trade. It is a daunting task.

Recognizing that our borders were under intense pressure from illegal alien smuggling, the Congress increased the resources to the Immigration Service. We almost doubled that

agency's capacity. The challenge facing Customs is far greater. Yet, we have not provided the resources, the technological improvements, or the support that is needed to get the job done.

We have not given our men and women who do this job the support that the task requires. And it is a demanding and dangerous job. It's not glamorous to spend hours a day at a major U.S. port of entry watching tens of thousands of vehicles and people cross the border. It's a lonely and risky livelihood to patrol long stretches of our border. The long hours spent in undercover investigations and in analyzing reams of information go largely unnoticed. But being out of sight should not put their efforts or why they are undertaken out of mind.

That is what the legislation that we are offering today aims to do—to remind us of what we must be doing and to give the tools and support needed to do the job to those we ask to do it. I have for the passed several years urged the Administration to provide Congress with a comprehensive plan. We know that drug thugs have no respect for national sovereignty, for the rule of law, or for international borders. These criminal gangs are ruthless and shrewd. And they are flexible. We have to be flexible also.

I have repeatedly noted that we need to develop a capacity to guard our borders with flexibility and forethought. Too often we simply react. We respond to a threat in one area only to find the traffickers have switched tactics. We need a comprehensive approach and a sustainable plan. Such a plan, however, has not been forthcoming. For too long, we have been merely reactive to the initiative of traffickers, moving resources around to meet their latest tactic. We need to be anticipating their efforts and we need to be comprehensive. That is why this legislation addresses both our northern and southern borders, our ports and airports and our coastlines. We need the intelligence and investigative resources to focus our efforts. And we need that consistency of purpose and sustained effort that characterizes resolve. We cannot afford to be less committed in our purpose than drug traffickers are in theirs. We must not be any less comprehensive.

While this bill is not the whole solution to our quest for a coherent and comprehensive approach, it is an important step. I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the House to join us in making this effort a reality.●

PENSION COVERAGE AND PORTABILITY ACT

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, most people my age have known the heartache of having to watch their parents grow old. It is a sad day in a person's