Wiedemann’s tenure in Rangoon: wrote to me to share their views of Mr. Burmese forum supporting U.S. policy his entire tenure, he could not provide of Aung San Suu Kyi to office. During to restore the legitimate government Burma which support the U.S. policy Mr. Wiedemann gave while serving in Foreign Relations Committee to request on the ground to help strengthen single action or activity that he under-ported Burmese democracy activists. cite specific instance where he sup-office a few months ago, I asked him to cause of democracy in Burma where he has been Charge in Rangoon for the 11092 The arrival of Mr. Wiedemann... has not changed much in respect to our democracy movement. The arrival of Mr. Wiedemann... has not changed much in respect to our democracy movement. The arrival of Mr. Wiedemann... has not changed much in respect to our democracy movement. Mr. M CCONNELL. Mr. President, I would make clear my expectations of Mr. Wiedemann will court CPP \[the Cambodian Peo-ple’s Party\] strongman Hun Sen—at the expense of the democratic opposition—in an attempt to win him over. This particular nomination sends the wrong message at the wrong time to a government characterized by lawlessness and corruption. Mr. Wiedemann may lack the credentials to effectively promote American interests in Cambodia. He is not known as a vocal supporter of democracy in Southeast Asia. Despite my strong beliefs and the legitimate fears of those who would be most affected by Mr. Wiedemann’s appointment, it is clear that he will be confirmed by the Senate. Therefore, let me make clear my expectations of Mr. Wiedemann once he receives his creden-tials in Phnom Penh. I expect him to meet regularly and publicly with opposition political party leaders as well as democracy and human rights activists. I expect him to openly embrace and actively encourage the rule of law in Cambodia, even if this causes tensions with Prime Min-isiter Hun Sen and the ruling CPP party. I expect him to support inter-national and local nongovernmental organizations in Phnom Penh com-mitted to legal and political reforms. And, I expect that he will not shirk the awesome responsibilities as the American people’s representative to Cambodia, a task that President Ronald Reagan described in February 1983:
The task that has fallen to us as Americans is to move the conscience of the world, to keep alive the hope and dream of freedom. For if we fail or falter, there’ll be no place for the world’s oppressed to flee to. This is not the role we sought. We preach no manifest destiny. But like the Americans who brought a new nation into the world 200 years ago, history has asked much of us in our time. (February 18, 1983)
Mr. President, it is my hope that Mr. Wiedemann will do worthy work in this job in Cambodia supporting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law than his lackluster performance in Burma. I will be following his tenure in Cam-bodia to ensure that he does. I do not think one Senator should thwart the nomination process. So, I leave it to my colleagues to allow his nomination to move forward. I, for one, vote no.
Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to say that we in the Senate tend to look at these nominations as mere numbers. Because we deal with so many nominations in this body, we tend to forget that the numbers stand for real people whose lives and dreams we are de-ciding upon. I would like to talk in particular about one of these numbers, number 77. He is someone who, in a way, represents all of these numbers.
Number 77—otherwise known as Dr. Ikram Khan—is a resident of the State of Nevada, and one of the most important citizens we have in Nevada. He has served on the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners. He has been in-volved in many, many charitable ac-tivities over the course of the past two decades. He is a skilled physician, an outstanding surgeon. He comes from a very substantial family, a family that is highly regarded in the State of Nev-a-ada. Mr. Wiedemann remained inactive and igno-rant to our vital problems, human rights, de-mocracy and refugee, and made no efforts at seeking cooperation with our NGOs who had extensive experience in these regards. We were left in the cold. [There was] no coordination or effort on the part of the embassy, to help the democrac-y movement of the exiles * * *. Apart from regular meetings with Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, we knew of no efforts by Mr. Wiedemann. These are not my words; they are those of courageous Burmese men and women who stand for principles and justice. Yet, less than one month after the passing of Aung San Suu Kyi’s husband, I understand that Mr. Wiedemann again requested a letter from her in support of his nomination. He seems more interested in personal and career promotion than advancing the cause of freedom in Burma. Second, Mr. Wiedemann is simply the wrong American representative to send to Cambodia at this difficult time. My colleagues and I know that in March, I visited that war-raged country and was not encouraged by what I saw and heard. From Khmer Rouge trials to narcotics trafficking by the Cambodian military to rampant corruption and pervasive lawlessness, the next U.S. Ambassador must be a vocal advocate of human rights and the rule of law. When Mr. Wiedemann’s nomination was being considered last year, Prince Norodom Ranariddh—then the First Prime Minister who had been ousted in July 1997—and Sam Rainsy—an opposition leader who has survived two assassina-tion attempts since March 1997—ex-pressed their grave concerns: We urge you not to replace Ambassador Kenneth Quinn after his term expires in Phnom Penh, and certainly not with Kent Wiedemann who we believe may be less than supportive of the cause of democracy in Cambodia. Other Cambodian democracy activ-ists have since joined the chorus of concern with his nomination. Again, in their own words: [We are] deeply concerned that Mr. Wiedemann will court CPP \[the Cambodian Peo-ple’s Party\] strongman Hun Sen—at the ex pense of the democratic opposition—in an attempt to win him over. This particular nomination sends the wrong message at the wrong time to a government characterized by lawlessness and corruption. Mr. Wiedemann may lack the credentials to effectively promote American interests in Cambodia. He is not known as a vocal supporter of democracy in Southeast Asia. Despite my strong beliefs and the legitimate fears of those who would be most affected by Mr. Wiedemann’s appointment, it is clear that he will be confirmed by the Senate. Therefore, let me make clear my expectations of Mr. Wiedemann once he receives his credentials in Phnom Penh. I expect him to meet regularly and publicly with opposition political party leaders as well as democracy and human rights activists. I expect him to openly embrace and actively encourage the rule of law in Cambodia, even if this causes tensions with Prime Min-isiter Hun Sen and the ruling CPP party. I expect him to support inter-national and local nongovernmental organizations in Phnom Penh com-mitted to legal and political reforms. And, I expect that he will not shirk the awesome responsibilities as the American people’s representative to Cam-bodia, a task that President Ronald Reagan described in February 1983:
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Mr. GRASSLEY. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1999

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 27. I further ask that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day. I further ask consent that the Senate then resume the Department of Defense authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill at 9:30 a.m. By a previous order, the Senate will immediately begin debate on the Allard amendment regarding the Civil Air Patrol. Further, a vote will occur in relation to the Allard amendment at 10 a.m. It is the intention of the bill managers to table this bill early in the day tomorrow, and therefore cooperation of all Senators is appreciated.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following some remarks I am going to make.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Older Americans Month is drawing to a close. Before it ends, I would like to describe another Iowan whose accomplishments reflect an ageless spirit.

MARGARET SWANSON

Margaret Swanson of Des Moines has been called the city’s “best known and most beloved volunteer.” Approaching age 80, she has completed 50 years of volunteer service. Despite her pledge to slow down, she still maintains a heavy schedule. She estimates that she volunteers 20 hours to 25 hours a week. Sometimes, she has four or five board meetings in a single day.

New causes present themselves, and Mrs. Swanson is not of a mind to say no. Her varied interests have included the Iowa Lutheran Hospital, the American Red Cross, the Girl Scouts, the East Des Moines Chamber of Commerce and the Iowa Caregivers Foundation. She identifies a need, immerses herself in the task and produces the desired result.

When her church needed an elevator, she raised money to buy one. When a used car center tried to open in her neighborhood, she fought for a day care center instead. When a home for children had an out-of-tune piano, she found an inexpensive tuner. No challenge appears too large or too small for her attention.

Mrs. Swanson’s volunteer work has earned her such esteem that other community activists clear their ideas with her before proceeding. Her fellow volunteers prize her knowledge and judgment.

Age doesn’t seem to play a role in Mrs. Swanson’s approach to volunteerism. She is an outstanding volunteer, rather than an outstanding senior volunteer. Growing older means only that she brings more experience and more wisdom to her work. In volunteerism, as in so many other aspects of life, maturity is an asset, certainly not a liability.

During Older Americans Month, I want to thank Mrs. Swanson for her limitless gifts of time and energy to the citizens of Des Moines. By setting high standards of altruism, and by inspiring new generations of volunteers, Mrs. Swanson perfectly illustrates the theme of Older Americans Month, “Honor the Past, Imagine the Future: Toward a Society for All Ages.”

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is a saying that success is the repetition of meaningful acts day after day. The most successful individuals identify a single purpose and work toward that cause in any capacity they can find.

An Iowan named Ed Johnston perfectly fits this definition of success. Mr. Johnston, of Humboldt, Iowa, tirelessly devotes his days to helping people with disabilities. He serves on the Governor’s Developmental Disabilities Council, a position he earned after immersing himself in learning about the agencies that serve those with disabilities.

Several days a week, he volunteers at the Humboldt County Courthouse to help people with special needs in five surrounding counties. He interacts with legislators about the importance of providing proper job training to persons with disabilities. He offers his expertise when someone seeks a wheelchair ramp or assistive technology to accommodate a physical need.

Mr. Johnston brings the invaluable insight to his work of someone who has lived the life of the people he seeks to help. He himself has a physical disability, although no one would consider him limited in any way.

Those familiar with his work admire his compassion and persistence. He is able to navigate the layers of government agencies that sometimes appear impenetrable to those who need services.

Another impressive element of Mr. Johnston’s advocacy work is that it is his second career. In the early 1990s, he retired after 38 years of running his own shoe repair business and devoted himself to his current vocation.

The Humboldt Independent newspaper called Mr. Johnston “a man on the move.” The description is accurate. He moves government agencies, legislators and his community to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities.

At age 64, Mr. Johnston is the youngest of the Iowans I have honored during Older Americans Month. I wish him many more years of his priceless work.

FRED AND FERN ROBB

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Fairfield Ledger of Fairfield, IA, printed a photo of a newly married couple earlier this month. The groom is wearing a stylish suit and a wide smile. The equally resplendent bride has eyes only for her new husband.

The couple is picture-perfect, just like any other couple starting a new life together. Unlike any other couple, the groom in this case is age 102.