

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10, 2000, at 1:30 pm to hold a joint hearing with the House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House International Relations

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Thursday, February 10, 2000, at 2:00 p.m., in SD226.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent during the introduction of my bill, that congressional fellow Terry Ceravolo and intern Ernest White be allowed privileges of the floor.

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

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an intern in my office, Mr. Chris Polaszek, be allowed floor privileges during the introduction of S. 2058.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, it is a privilege for me to rise today to join with nearly 1 million Lithuanian-Americans in commemorating the 81st anniversary of an independent Lithuania. On February 16, it is customary for those of Lithuanian heritage, and their friends and supporters to celebrate the proclamation of a progressive and independent Republic of Lithuania, which was reestablished after more than seven centuries of struggle. Lithuania's democratic hopes were realized once before this century, yet freedom was abruptly revoked in 1940, after 22 years of democratic governance. While February 16th reminds us of Lithuania's long and difficult period, it also affords us the opportunity to commend the determination and courage of the citizens of Lithuania and other Baltic nations. Their strong commitment to democratic values serves as an incentive for us all to rededicate ourselves

to the principles for which this important day stands, liberty and freedom.

The history of this nation has been marked by constant struggle against aggressors. Through countless invasions, Lithuanian defenders have stood resolutely against their foes and have demonstrated their commitment to independence. After well over a century of domination, the people of Lithuania proclaimed their independence and reestablished their sovereignty as a nation on February 16, 1918. For more than two decades, this young nation prospered economically and lived at peace with its neighbors. The events of World War II brought this period to an end when, in 1940, Lithuania was occupied by Soviet Armed forces. Our thoughts must turn to those Lithuanians who suffered under the brutality of the Nazi and Soviet occupations. Many risked and lost their lives for the rights and freedoms that Lithuanians today are privileged to enjoy. Their steadfast determination and courage eventually prevailed, providing hope for all peoples who dreamt someday of being free.

In 1990, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Lithuania rejoined the international community of democratic nations and embraced political and economic reforms. Lithuania experienced a peaceful transfer of civilian rule, despite a difficult period of transition, and has committed to pursuing economic reforms which offer the possibility of greater prosperity, a bright future and sustainable growth for years to come. To this end, Lithuania has chosen to engage with its neighbors and other democracies by joining The Baltic Economic Cooperation Agreement and the Council of Europe and through their desire to join the European Union.

The Lithuanian people have drawn their strength from a sense of nationhood. This has been most evident here in the United States, where we have witnessed the dedication of Lithuanian Americans to the freedom of their native land. Their perseverance has encouraged many of us to stand in this body over the last several decades and proclaim our support for a Lithuanian republic.

We in Maryland, and our Nation, are particularly fortunate to have such an active Lithuanian-American community. Longstanding traditions of self-help, volunteerism and the dedication to democratic ideals that have prevailed in the community have truly enriched the history of our country. In areas ranging from business, to academia, to the arts, Lithuanian-Americans consistently make significant contributions across the Nation.

Every year Lithuanians gather in their capital, Vilnius, to commemorate this anniversary. I am proud that we in the United States have continued to stand with them on this occasion, both

in years when there was much to celebrate and in years when there were only dreams of a better future. I am confident that we will continue to celebrate this anniversary in the future with the same optimism that we do this year. •

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE 150TH FIGHTER WING

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President I rise today to salute the 150th Security Forces Squadron and the 150th Civil Engineering Squadron of the New Mexico Air National Guard.

Federally recognized on July 7, 1947 as the 188th Fighter Bomber Squadron, the "Tacos" have contributed significantly to U.S. military operations in Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Iraq, and are scheduled to deploy to Turkey next January as part of Operation Northern Watch. During their 52-year history, the Tacos were the first Air National Guard unit to be converted to the F-100 aircraft in 1958 and the A-7D aircraft in 1973. Since 1970, when the 150th Fighter Wing evolved into a joint support force, the Tacos have been utilized by every branch of our Armed Forces except for the Coast Guard.

The Tacos are characteristic of the many exceptional units that comprise our Nation's Reserve and National Guard, and I have no doubt that they will continue to ensure the success of our military missions both domestically and abroad. I would ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their dedicated service.

I recently received a letter from General A.C. Zinni, the U.S. Marine Corps Commander in Chief commending the Tacos for their distinguished service and the substantial role they played in the success of Operation Southern Watch. I ask that General A.C. Zinni's letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND,  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF,  
*MacDill Air Force Base, FL, January 20, 2000.*  
Hon. PETE V. DOMENICI,  
*U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR DOMENICI: I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the deployment this past year by members of the 150th Security Forces Squadron and the 150th Civil Engineering Squadron, New Mexico Air National Guard, to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. These units are but two of many outstanding Reserve and National Guard units to deploy to Central Command's area of responsibility and contribute to the success of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

The capability and enthusiasm demonstrated by the members of the 150th Security Forces Squadron and the 150th Civil Engineering Squadron reflected great credit on themselves and the professionalism of Reserve and National Guard units throughout the nation. The participation of units like these significantly contributes to our overall effort in support of Operation SOUTHERN

WATCH and allows the services to ensure a more responsible and efficient utilization of the total force.

Please convey my sincere appreciation and thanks to the airmen of these great organizations and their employers for their outstanding support and patriotism to the nation in this vital part of the world.

Respectfully,

A. C. ZINNI,  
General, U.S. Marine  
Corps, Commander  
in Chief.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, on January 17, 2000, I attended the dedication of a memorial monument to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Norfolk, Virginia. I want to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the remarks offered at the dedication by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Chairman, Community Relations Council, United Jewish Federation of Tidewater:

Our God of Blessings, My Cherished African American Sisters and Brothers, Dear Dignitaries and Friends,

Indeed, "This is the day the Lord has provided for us, let us rejoice in it." We have come together one family to give thanks for the life of a great son of America and humanity, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and for his legacy that will never die. With joy and pride we dedicate this towering monument to the lasting spirit it represents—to bring shalom's gift to the world through the non-violent means of hope, healing and harmony. On the threshold of a new decade, century and millennium, it is an essential guiding beacon of light and enlightenment, soothing pain and discovering promise.

Standing on the giant shoulders of our martyr for peace, we gratefully acknowledge the Biblical fountain of living truth spoken by Israel's prophets that nourished, sustained and inspired the prophetic conscience of Dr. King, a Nobel Prize laureate, teaching that human dignity is one and indivisible. No one is to pass by this sacred site untouched by it, for it is symbol of our collective mandate to transform the world—transcending limitations and breaking barriers that still divide us, keeping all children of Moses' God of Freedom from rightfully fulfilling their potential to be a blessing.

We are deeply moved by the extensive labor of love and faith finally giving birth to this grand accomplishment, now and forever gracing our beloved City of Norfolk and the Hampton Roads community. May the entire nation hearken anew to the compelling message of the Book of Deuteronomy, "Tzedek tzedek tirdof lemann tichye" (Justice, justice shall you pursue that you may live).

Dr. King, we pledge to you and one another to continue your most noble historical mission, rising to meet your high stature. We can do no less. We shall never give up marching to the Promised Land you so abundantly and sacrificially dreamed of, leaving behind slavery in all its manifestations. Together we shall yet overcome, O God Almighty, we shall yet overcome. Amen.●

#### NATIONAL POTATO LOVERS MONTH

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise to make a few remarks concerning National Potato Lovers Month.

It is whispered that February is the month for lovers. Well, Idahoans know that better than most Americans. You see, February is National Potato Lovers Month. That means that the "eyes" of the nation are upon the great state of Idaho.

Our spuds come in all shapes, sizes, and varieties, but they all have home-grown a-peel: Hot taters, big taters, little taters—even tater tots. Spuds all over the state of Idaho chip-in to put our best side up during National Potato Lovers Month.

Potatoes are truly an "all-American" food. In fact, instead of apple pie, it would be more accurate to say something is as "American" as the potato. Potatoes were first pulled from the ground in the New World, whereas apple pie originated in Europe. As early as 200 B.C., Inca Indians used potatoes to prevent indigestion and rheumatism, and used their growing cycles to measure time. During the 19th century, the American food was planted in Ireland, where its popularity surged. In fact, the Irish soon learned they couldn't live without potatoes. When Irish potato crops failed for three years, eight million people died.

Later in the 19th century, Irish immigrants popularized potatoes in America. They eventually discovered the promised land for potatoes—Idaho. Our state has the cool and moist climate that grows perfect spuds.

The only hiccup in America's steady consumption of potatoes came in the 1950's. First, instant convenience foods hit the market, and then a fad diet mistakenly identified potatoes as fattening. But when the tuber's true traits were told, potatoes joined the ranks of other processed foods.

Spuds have a long and cultivated history that includes the political stage. Politics and the potato met long ago, when Thomas Jefferson served spuds at White House dinners to special guests. And politics and the potato met again when Dan Quayle accidentally gave the country—and himself—a spelling lesson, making Dan Quayle a true "hot potato."

The potato continues its appetizing presence in the political arena. We here in the Senate might disagree, but we usually stop short of calling each other half-baked. And, because we know there is more than one way to skin a potato, we generally manage to unearth solutions.

To celebrate National Potato Lovers Month, I'll be sending each of my colleagues a sampling of the world's best spuds—Idaho potatoes.●

#### EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY OF VERMONTERS

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there was an article in one of our Vermont papers in the last few days about an extraordinary family of Vermonters. Marcelle and I have known Dick and Linda Butsch for many, many years and we have been especially pleased to watch their five children as they have grown. We have also watched Jen and Chris, and the triplets, Sarah, Patrick, and Gillian.

Sarah, Patrick, and Gillian were recently profiled because of their hockey activities. I will, at the end of my comments submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the entire story.

Dick and Linda are the best of Vermonters. Not only have they given a great deal of themselves to the community and to their families, but I have always remembered with fondness the many kindnesses they showed to my mother and father, while they were alive.

We are a small State, but it is people like the Butschs that make us a great State, and I congratulate all of them and continue to look with admiration as their children grow and develop.

Mr. President, I ask that the article entitled "Family Values" by Mike Donoghue be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press,  
Feb. 4, 2000]

#### FAMILY VALUES

HOCKEY HAS BEEN A CONSTANT FOR THE BUTSCH CLAN, INCLUDING TRIPLETS SARAH, PATRICK AND GILLIAN

(By Mike Donoghue)

In Central Vermont hockey, it's not unusual to see the name Butsch for scoring a goal.

From time to time you might have read a scoring summary indicating "Butsch goal with Butsch assist."

On a few rare occasions it might have said, "Butsch goal with Butsch and Butsch assists."

For years the Butsch family has been synonymous with Central Vermont hockey, especially at U-32 High School in East Montpelier. Now the family is getting more and more attention in all four corners of the state—for both boys and girls teams—and even spreading into colleges in the Northeast.

The latest bunch of Butsch stars are triplets—Sarah, Patrick and Gillian—the children of Dr. David "Dick" and Linda Butsch. The three were born almost as fast as a wing taking three slap shots.

"They came less than a minute apart," said Linda Butsch with a laugh as she recalled the birthday in late February 1984.

The triplets have followed each other to the ice rink almost as fast as their births. They were skating by 4 and playing hockey by 6. They worked their way up through Mites, Squirts, Pee-wee, and Bantams.

They also are following in the ice skates of two older siblings, Chris, a sophomore at Skidmore, where he is president of the college's club hockey team; and Jen, a freshman for the Providence College women's hockey team.