

service of Admiral Johnson and Admiral Clark, attributes that are reflected in their actions to support the men and women under their command.

The greatness of our destiny rests in the hands of every man and woman blessed to call America home. That's why Admiral Johnson has taken so seriously his responsibilities to his sailors. He knew that together they shared equally in the honor of defending a great nation. Admiral, you will be the first to direct all praise to the men and women under your command. But I know that they would direct it back to you—the man at the helm.

Jay, you have served your Navy and your nation well. I want to thank you and Garland for your many years of exemplary service to America, and bid you fair winds and following seas, for I know we will see you again. I know you will find new ways to serve the Navy and America, and I will always rely on your wise counsel.

Admiral Clark and Connie, congratulations and welcome. I am confident that you will both distinguish the noble tradition you inherit today. Admiral, I look forward to working with you as you lead the Navy toward its always magnificent destiny.

I would like to close by speaking directly to the women and men of the U.S. Navy. As we stand here this morning, our sailors are risking their lives above, on, and below the ocean.

But this risk is not without reward—the reward of serving a cause greater than one's own self-interest. I commend your service in the Navy. I hold the Navy closer to my heart than any other human institution that I have ever been a part of—save my family. The Navy for many years was the only world I knew. It is still the world I know best and love most.

I trust in your willingness and ability to uphold the honor of your Navy and your country, for I have seen the best of America in my travels over the last year and know that America deeply appreciates your service. I recognize that we still have many miles to sail to ensure that you are properly rewarded for your continued sacrifice and service to our nation.

Make the most of these days, for you will never forget the honor of your service in this Navy. Nor will your country forget the honor you gave her in seas where so many Americans, like Admiral Burke and Admiral Johnson, fought for the love of their country. Admiral Johnson, I thank you for the honor of inviting me to return to a place I love so well. Admiral Clark, I offer my best wishes and look forward to working with you. Thank you.

#### GUN DEATHS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week we received some positive news from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. According to newly released statistics, firearm deaths among young people decreased in 1998.

The new report shows that firearm deaths among children and adolescents under 20 dropped 10 percent—from 4,223 in 1997 to 3,792 in 1998. Perhaps even more significant, in 1998, deaths among young people were down 35 percent since 1994, when firearms led to the deaths of 5,833 young people.

It is no coincidence that firearm casualties have been reduced by 35 percent since 1994, the year the Brady Law went into effect. The Brady Law, which requires licensed firearms sellers to conduct criminal background checks on prospective gun purchasers, has successfully kept guns out of the hands of hundreds of thousands of criminals and youths.

Although we can rejoice that fewer youths are subject to the danger of guns, we should still be dismayed that 10 of our young people (on average) die from guns every day. 10 children and adolescents as well as 74 adult Americans suffered gun-related deaths daily in 1998, and that is far too many.

Congress must do more to protect our children and loved ones from these gun tragedies. We can start by strengthening the Brady Law by closing the gun show loophole. That loophole allows perpetrators of violent crimes to buy guns from non-licensed or private sellers, who are not required to conduct criminal background checks. This loophole undermines the successes of Brady by arming those who would otherwise not be permitted to purchase firearms. In May of 1999, the Senate passed legislation to close this loophole by extending criminal background checks to guns sold at gun shows and pawn shops, but opponents of this common sense provision have kept it from becoming law.

It is disheartening to know that Congress has not yet passed sensible gun laws—laws designed to protect American lives. Without addressing this issue, America will continue to lose 10 young people a day to guns, and that is 10 too many.

#### A COMPILATION OF INFORMATION ON ETHANOL ETHERS

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I would like to note the release of a recent publication that all members of Congress should read. This new publication was produced by the Clean Fuels Development Coalition and it includes a presentation of facts about ethanol-based ethers.

As we attempt to deal with the water contamination problems resulting from leaking underground storage tanks, much of the debate is focusing on methanol-based ethers, i.e. MTBE. While MTBE has played an important role in reducing ozone throughout the U.S., the problems of water contamination have led many to advocate limiting or even banning this product. During this debate a few of our colleagues have expressed confusion about the technical characteristics of ethanol-based ethers, like ETBE. Some have assumed that ethanol-based ethers have characteristics identical to MTBE. As both the Senate and House examine this issue, it is important to be aware of the significant differences between the two products.

For example, ethanol is a renewable, biodegradable product. When converted into ether, ETBE has many favorable characteristics in terms of the way it reacts in soil, water, and air, when compared to MTBE. In the event ETBE escapes into the atmosphere or our water supplies, it can be cleaned up much more efficiently than MTBE. ETBE is far less persistent than MTBE and remediation technologies have shown to be very effective.

Understanding the attributes of ETBE is also important at a time when every citizen is painfully aware of our dependence on imported petroleum and the relationship of supply and price. It may be possible to use ETBE in volumes up to 22 percent in gasoline. This addition of a clean, domestic fuel could significantly impact our gasoline supply situation, particularly in our most heavily populated and polluted urban areas.

I have long been a supporter of ETBE and while there are a number of technical and market challenges remaining before this fuel reaches full commercialization, its promise is undeniable. The petroleum industry, environmental groups, ethanol producers, and the auto industry have long recognized the superior qualities of ETBE. For that promise to be realized we need to ensure that ETBE is not included in any ban or limitation of fuels that result from leaking underground storage tank problems. I commend the Clean Fuels Development Coalition for their continued support of this important fuel as well as my own state of Nebraska which has more than a decade of experience in ETBE development.

Mr. President, at this time I would ask unanimous consent that a copy of the Clean Fuels Development Coalition fact book on ETBE be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### ETBE FACT BOOK

The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration projects U.S. Oil imports could grow to nearly 60-70 percent of total U.S. Oil consumption by the year 2010 if new U.S. Policies are not adopted to reverse current trends or if world crude oil prices decline. According to the American Petroleum Institute, the U.S. is currently dependent of foreign oil for 51.8 percent of its energy needs. Currently, 46.7 percent of the imports come from OPEC countries, with 19.1 percent originating from the Persian Gulf region.

Historically, market prices have been the primary argument driving the dependence on cheap crude oil imports and the perceived aversion to the alternative fuels. The market price of crude oil can be very misleading because it excludes external costs associated with its use, such as environmental and military costs. The actual cost of oil, including external costs, is estimated to be over \$100 per barrel or about \$3-\$5 per gallon of gasoline, according to the U.S. General Accounting Office.

R. James Woolsey, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, believes that the world's dependence on oil from the Middle East and the Caspian Basin is one of the