CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Will Brown, United States Navy, as he retires upon completion of over 26 years of honorable and faithful service to our nation.

A native of Queens, New York, Captain Brown joined the Navy in 1975. A career Supply Officer, he began his service as the Sales Officer aboard USS GUAM, LPH-9, followed by a shore assignment at Naval Aviation Technical Training Center, Lakehurst, New Jersey. Captain Brown returned to sea as the Supply Officer aboard USS BARNEY, DDG-6, and then served as the Combat Systems Analyst at Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic. Following graduation, unfraternized from the Naval War College, he was the Director of Consumable Logistics Management on the Chief of Naval Operations Staff followed by an assignment as Director of Repairables at Naval Supply Systems Command, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Captain Brown was then selected for the prestigious position of Executive Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management in Washington, DC. Following a successful tour of duty, he next reported to the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs as Congressional Liaison for Readiness Programs.

Captain Brown was then chosen to serve as a senior Supply Officer onboard USS PUGET SOUND, AD-38. Recognized for his sustained outstanding leadership and organizational skills, Captain Brown was then selected to serve as the Senior Analyst on the Department of the Navy’s Organization, Management and Infrastructure Team.

Returning to a position working with our nation’s lawmakers, Captain Brown was handpicked to serve as Director of the Naval Programs Division, Navy Office of Legislative Affairs. In this capacity he was a major asset to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Congress and has been considered a valued advisor to the very top echelons of the Navy and Congress. His consummate leadership and integrity ensured that Naval programs were appropriate, understood, and well communicated. A role model and mentor to those who worked for and with him, he made his impact on people as well as programs. Through his brilliant insight and dedication, he directly contributed to the future readiness of the United States Navy and this nation.

Captain Brown’s distinguished awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Air Medal, the Army Commendation Ribbon, Battle “E” Ribbon, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Navy Unit Commendation.

The Department of the Navy, the Congress, and the American people have been defended and well served by this dedicated naval officer for over 26 years. Captain Will Brown will long be remembered for his leadership, service and dedication. He will be missed. We wish Will, and his lovely wife Phyllis, our very best as they begin a new chapter in their life together.

CERTIFICATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I extend my congratulations to President Vojislav Kostunica, Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on their courageous actions this past weekend in arresting former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. This important and encouraging development underscores Belgrade’s commitment to making real and significant progress on certification requirements as outlined in the fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act.

For Belgrade, arresting Milosevic was an important factor in their ability to achieve certification by the U.S. Therefore, I am pleased with the decision of President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell to grant certification to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, FRY. I share their view that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has met the requirements for certification outlined by Congress last year, and I fully believe they will continue to make progress in these areas well beyond March 31.

It is clear that the government in Belgrade has taken some difficult steps in recent weeks to further democratize. The presence of hundreds of pro-Milosevic demonstrators rallying outside of Milosevic’s villa over the weekend showed that opponents to democratic reform in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia still exist. Despite those who remain in opposition, it is critical that President Kostunica’s government stand strong in its efforts to promote democracy. To help in that regard, I believe that the United States should continue to support those in the FRY who are committed to a new era of peace, stability and democracy in the Balkans.

As one who has a lengthy personal history with southeastern Europe, I was pleased with the certification announcement by the State Department. To me, it was rivaled only by the excitement I felt at the final outcome of the presidential elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia last fall which brought Vojislav Kostunica to the presidency. For years, I had worked hard to bring about democratic changes in the FRY working with opposition leaders to Slobodan Milosevic in diaspora. Since coming to the Senate, I have made a handful of visits to the region to get first-hand perspectives on the situation in the Balkans and I have visited and remain in contact with a number of top political leaders including President Kostunica, Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic and U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, William Montgomery. I also have my “ear to the ground” via e-mail that I receive on a regular basis from a couple of retired members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol who are now serving as police officers in the United Nations’ international police forces. So, again I say, I pay attention to what is happening in the region.

To help support the new government of Dr. Kostunica, and as an incentive for Belgrade to make needed democratic changes, last October Congress approved $100 million in assistance for Serbia in the fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. To obtain these funds after March 31, and ensure access to international financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank, the fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations bill outlined three certification requirements on the part of President Kostunica’s new government: respect for the rule of law and human rights; implementation of the Dayton Accords; and cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

As I indicated to Secretary of State Colin Powell when I spoke with him last week, I believe the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has complied with the spirit of the law outlined by Congress last year. The recent record of the Kostunica/Djindjic government is very positive, and it is my view that they have made considerable progress in all three areas outlined in the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act.

Regarding the rule of law, governments at both the Federal and the Republic levels in the FRY have taken steps to uphold human rights for minorities, particularly in southern Serbia. Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia Nebojsa Covic has worked to give ethnic Albanians in Serbia more control over their local governments and municipalities. During visits to Capitol Hill 2 weeks ago, Prime Minister Djindjic indicated that the Serbian Government now includes minorities. U.S. Ambassador Montgomery has indicated in conversations we have had that President Kostunica and Deputy Prime Minister Djindjic will work together to make progress on this front, and the Ambassador has been encouraged by the results that he has seen.