

IN HONOR OF THE MIRACLE
LEAGUE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the Miracle League, an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for all children to play baseball, regardless of their abilities.

In 1997, Coach Eddie Bagwell of the Rockdale Youth Baseball Association in Atlanta, GA, noticed a young boy in a wheelchair on the sidelines at all of the youth baseball team's practices and games. The enthusiasm and excitement that this boy had for baseball was inspiring and it was then that Coach Eddie realized that youth with disabilities ought to have the same opportunities as others to play ball.

In 1988, Coach Bagwell formed the Miracle League, a youth baseball league designed to allow children of all abilities to participate in our Nation's favorite pastime—baseball. The league started with 35 children. The following year, the number more than doubled, with 80 children clamoring to join a team. Since the Miracle League was breaking new ground, it came up with five rules to play by: every player bats once each inning; all base runners are safe; every player scores a run before the inning is over (last one up gets a home run); community volunteers serve as "buddies" to assist the players; and each team and each player wins every game.

As word spread quickly, Miracle League baseball teams were started across the country. In my home State of California, there are now four Miracle League teams: in Belmont, Westminster, Ventura County, and Visalia. Nationwide, there are more than 50 Miracle League teams.

I commend the Miracle League for its philosophy that "Every Child Deserves a Chance to Play Baseball." As the Miracle League begins its Spring 2005 season, I send my best wishes for a fun and exciting season. Play Ball!•

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
MCWHORTER COCHRANE

• Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, North Carolina lost a loyal son and a devoted public servant when William McWhorter Cochrane died in Charlotte at the end of December. Bill dearly loved his home State and was often referred to as "North Carolina's third Senator." He was a man of great knowledge from whom I learned so much over the span of many years, and I feel certain that folks who knew him agree that his kindness was abundant and his accomplishments were endless.

Bill attended the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, earning a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1938 and a law degree in 1941. Upon graduation, he served as the assistant director of the UNC Institute of Government. In 1941, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve

and in 1942, he was called to active duty and served aboard the minesweeper USS *Improve* off the Mediterranean coast. He then returned to the UNC Institute of Government. In 1950, he earned an advanced law degree from Yale University and became an associate research professor of public law and government at UNC.

In 1954, when Kerr Scott was elected to the Senate, Bill moved to Washington and served as Senator Scott's executive secretary and legal counsel until the Senator's death in 1957. Bill always insisted that he intended to return to North Carolina, having originally told Senator Scott that he would stay for only one year. But, B. Everett Jordan, appointed as Scott's successor, urged Bill to stay on in Washington. He did so and served as Senator Jordan's administrative assistant for the next 14 years.

Through the years, countless North Carolinians made their way to the Russell Building. Those seeking information, advice or a job, found Bill in his office piled high with documents, copies of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, mementos of presidential inaugurations, and thousands of index cards. At the service for Bill in Chapel Hill, many of those who spoke told of the wise counsel Bill provided and of his help in finding a position here in Washington. I count myself among those when, as a young woman, I first came to Washington and received Bill's advice and counsel.

During the summer of 1960, I worked in Senator Jordan's office as a summer employee. Knowing that first-hand historical experiences are much treasured by young people, Bill helped me get a front-row ticket to my first national campaign. Because of Bill, I was able to join onboard Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee Lyndon B. Johnson's whistle stop tour of the South.

Although my staunchly Republican father was concerned about my riding through the South, especially through my hometown on LBJ's train, I knew Bill was giving me, this political science major, an unmatched learning experience and I was right. I took in every single moment, watching and learning as the Johnson campaign rolled along all over the South and through my hometown of Salisbury, NC.

On the train I met both LBJ and his gracious wife, Lady Bird. Those exciting days on the LBJ express were a blur of cheering crowds, speeches and yellow roses that surely ignited my already burning interest in politics. I will forever be grateful to Bill for that experience.

Senator Jordan chaired the Senate Rules Committee for many years, but when he lost his Senate seat in 1972, Bill was appointed staff director and majority counsel of the committee. He held that position from 1972-80; from

1981-86 he was minority staff director to the committee, and from 1987 to 1994 he served as senior advisor. For 20 years he was staff director of the Joint Committee on Presidential Inaugurals, directing the inaugurations of Presidents Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan.

For 30 years he served on the staff of the Joint Committee on the Library, and in 1995, James Billington the Librarian of Congress, named Bill honorary historical consultant to the Library of Congress. Dr. Billington said of Bill's service to the library, "Bill Cochrane was one of the most knowledgeable, wise and devoted public servants I have had the pleasure of knowing. In a career that spanned three decades, as the senior staffer, institutional memory, and conscience of the Joint Committee on the Library and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Bill was involved in every major library initiative, including the construction of the Madison Building, the renovation of the Jefferson and Adams Buildings, and an architect of smooth transitions from one Librarian of Congress to the next. His affection for the library and his long record of support for its mission and programs were unparalleled and will be long remembered."

Bill's long and valued service to this body and to his home State speak to a remarkable dedication and devotion for which Bill was admired and respected by all those who knew him. It is fitting that at this time, we in the Senate recognize and remember his service. We will surely miss this wise and caring man, wearing his bow tie and smoking his pipe.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Shirley, and sons, William Daniel Cochrane and Thomas McWhorter Cochrane.●

NEW MEXICAN CONTRIBUTION TO
IED COUNTERMEASURES EQUIP-
MENT IN IRAQ

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I recognize and praise the outstanding contribution of Delta Group Electronics and Canberra Aquila of Albuquerque, NM, and New Mexico State University to ongoing efforts to protect our service men and women from improvised explosive devices, IEDs, in Iraq.

One of the greatest threats to our military personal deployed in the global war on terrorism is the IED. These devices used by terrorists and insurgents in Iraq are the single greatest cause of American casualties. These remote controlled bombs are used to attack American forces individually and as part of larger assaults on patrols and convoys.

While the up-armoring of military vehicles has provided a partial solution to the problem of combating IEDs, a better solution is to prevent IEDs from

exploding at all. The IED countermeasures equipment, ICE, being fielded by the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq is designed to accomplish this goal. ICE will jam the radio signal which is used to detonate many of these devices.

Delta Group Electronics and Canberra Aquila are an integral part of making ICE available to our soldiers in Iraq. Aquila Technologies Group Inc. has been located in New Mexico since 1971. Delta Group Electronics has been operating since 1987.

These companies have been instrumental in delivering ICE to our Armed Forces in Iraq at one-third the cost of previous IED countermeasure systems. I thank them for helping to insure that our brave soldiers fighting the global war on terror are safer from these kinds of attacks. I have no doubt that both of these companies in the future will continue to contribute significantly to the national security of our great Nation.●

RWANDAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today marks the 11th anniversary of the start of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Eleven years ago, a deliberate, centrally planned, and organized campaign of mass murder and rape was set in motion in Rwanda, and eventually it took the lives of some 800,000 men, women, and children. The victims were ethnic Tutsis and also moderate ethnic Hutus who believed in tolerance and resisted the call to participate in madness. In many ways, the entire country was victimized. Millions were displaced, and shattered state institutions are still recovering from the devastating loss of skilled personnel. Survivors have struggled to cope with their memories, and orphans have had to assume adult responsibilities in the wake of tragedy. The entire central African region has been violently unstable ever since.

As this horror unfolded, the international community, including the United States, failed the people of Rwanda, and failed to act in the face of true evil. The world had said "never again" to genocide. And then we abandoned the people of Rwanda to an unspeakable national nightmare.

Even as the world marks this solemn anniversary, we read ongoing reports of the crisis in Darfur, Sudan—a crisis that our President and this Congress has called a genocide. Once more, we confront a reality that exposes the inadequacy of our pledges of "never again." And many will seize the anniversary of the Rwandan tragedy to rally support for more effective action in Darfur, where the international response has too often been sluggish and inadequate.

In the case of Darfur, the United States has spoken boldly. Our humanitarian response, though slow to gear up, is significant and commendable.

The efforts of the African Union are laudable. But the bottom line is that neither the African Union nor the U.S. has taken effective action to protect the people of Darfur. While last week the United Nations Security Council made some progress on Darfur, much more remains to be done, and I do not believe that the United States has exerted adequate diplomatic and political effort on behalf of the people of Darfur. We ought to be able to do more—to be more forceful, more focused, more innovative, and more persuasive—to stop genocide.

So I applaud those who will work to refocus American attention on Darfur today, and I stand with them in their urgent call for a more effective response. But today, of all days, we must not forget Rwanda. We cannot pretend that Rwanda's struggles are simply in the past, or that the country exists simply to serve as a cautionary tale. The people of Rwanda still struggle today with efforts to rebuild their country, with the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic, with the need for justice and accountability, and broadly, with fear. And though it is true that even the most conscientious policy will never erase the failures of the past, it is also true that we only compound our mistakes when we ignore the realities of Rwanda today.

Frankly, some of these realities are deeply disturbing. Crushing poverty characterizes the economic situation of far too many Rwandans, and serious repression is a dominant feature of the country's political life. The most recent State Department Human Rights Report on Rwanda cites instances of political disappearances, arbitrary arrest of opposition supporters, and harassment of independent journalists. According to the report, last year the government of Rwanda "effectively dismantled independent human rights organizations" and the Government declined to use its considerable influence with the RCD-G faction in Eastern Congo to effectively curtail that group's practice of killing, raping, and robbing the people of Eastern Congo on a massive scale.

Of course the government of Rwanda and the Rwandan people value order and are extremely sensitive to ethnically divisive forces. Rwanda remains a traumatized society. But not all dissent is dangerous or divisive, and history teaches us that imposing order alone is not enough to guarantee stability and security. Over the long run, suppression and intimidation can undermine security rather than protecting it, forcing healthy debates into illicit channels, and casting doubt on the legitimacy of the prevailing order. We fail to be true friends to the people of Rwanda when we fail to be honest about these issues, and to raise our voices in support of the civil and political rights of the Rwandan people.

As we remember the past today, we should resolve to pay close attention to the present. The people of Rwanda deserve more than our regret. They deserve our support for their efforts to build a more just, more free, and more secure future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:14 p.m., a message from the House, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent resolution honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhanan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3. An act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1492. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Slovakia to the List of Countries Eligible to Export Meat Products to the United States" (Docket No. 99-018F) received on March 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1493. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thiophanate-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 7699-3) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.