

appears that all elements worked remarkably well. Although it was not a primary objective for the data collection flight test, an intercept of the target warhead was achieved.

The test marked the first time an operational interceptor was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base while the target flew from Alaska. It was conducted by crews who were manning operational fire control systems in Colorado Springs. It also marked the first use of the early warning radar at Beale Air Force Base in California.

I congratulate the head of the Missile Defense Agency, General Obering, and especially all the dedicated men and women of the MDA who helped make this test a success.

General Obering stated that the test is about as close as we can come to an end-to-end test of our long-range missile defense system. This success only builds upon a long record of missile defense intercepts and, more importantly, it is the fourth intercept in the last 90 days that used hit-to-kill technology.

In June, we launched a sea-based AEGIS interceptor that was successful in intercepting a separating warhead. In July, we launched a land-based terminal-phase interceptor, Terminal High Altitude Air Defense—or the THAAD—interceptor, successfully intercepting the target. Very recently, we had a successful Patriot-3 intercept that was conducted by the U.S. Army in collaboration with the Missile Defense Agency.

There have been many naysayers and doubters on missile defense, but I am proud to have supported the Missile Defense Agency over the past several years as it has grappled in an intensive effort to track down and eliminate or minimize risks that have contributed to setbacks in the past. There is an emphasis on quality that is paying off, as witnessed by our most recent tests. We learn from our mistakes, and we now see the fruit of the combined efforts of a wide range of dedicated military, civilian, and contractor personnel.

Testing will continue. We will encounter difficulties, but the program will move forward. We are succeeding in building an integrated and layered ballistic missile defense system. Our defenses will continue to improve, and our citizens will be increasingly protected and grateful.

While I am pleased that we have a limited missile defense capability, I believe our missile defense system needs to be challenged even further. We need more testing so that we can better understand the task at hand and discover the errors that must be corrected. I am confident that the Missile Defense Agency is on the right path. I look forward to supporting the Agency testing plan in the future. I do not expect perfection. In fact, I expect some failures. But in the context of several missile

defense intercept tests per year, one or two failures only means that we are pushing to find out the real capabilities of the system.

We all know hit-to-kill technology works. We now need to further develop the midcourse system and introduce greater capability to that system. I look forward to assisting the Missile Defense Agency in its future programs so our Nation can rest assured that we are protected from rogue nations that wish to do us harm.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter addressed to me dated September 8, 2006.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2006.

HON. TED STEVENS,
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Select Committee on Intelligence, we submit the following unclassified reports, together with additional and minority views, for filing with the Senate: (1) Postwar Findings about Iraq's WMD Programs and Links to Terrorism, and How they Compare with Pre-war Assessments and (2) The Use by the Intelligence Community of Information Provided by the Iraqi National Congress.

Senate Resolution 400 of the 94th Congress (1976) charges the Committee with the duty to oversee and make continuing studies of the intelligence activities and programs of the United States Government, and to report to the Senate concerning those activities and programs. Pursuant to its responsibilities under Senate Resolution 400, the Committee has undertaken an in-depth examination of the matters described in the reports.

Both reports have been approved by the Committee in both classified and unclassified form. The classified reports are available to Members for reading at the Committee. The classified reports will also be provided to appropriately cleared officials of the Executive branch.

The unclassified versions of the reports, which are hereby transmitted for printing, are intended to provide the Senate, and through it, the American public, a substantial factual record upon which to consider the issues covered by the reports.

Sincerely,

PAT ROBERTS,
Chairman.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV,
Vice Chairman.

COMBATING GUN TRAFFICKING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have long supported law enforcement's efforts to combat gun trafficking. Earlier this summer, 11 people were charged with purchasing firearms in gun shops in Virginia and illegally dumping them on the streets of New York City between 2004 and 2005. These arrests bring attention to the need to vigorously enforce our gun laws in order to stem the flow of guns to the black market.

These individuals have been charged with making straw purchases of hand-

guns at various gun shops in Norfolk and Portsmouth, VA, and transporting them to New York City, where they were allegedly sold on the streets at a significant markup. Straw purchases are transactions that violate Federal law in which one individual submits to the required Federal background check for a gun that is clearly intended for use by someone else. Such purchasers play a crucial role in the illegal trafficking of guns by purchasing with the intention of reselling them to prohibited buyers. The alleged conspiracy, which took place from September 2004 through June 2005, was first uncovered in 2004 when New York City police officers began making undercover purchases of firearms from this organization on the streets. The guns were traced back to gun shops in Virginia where the original straw purchases are said to have taken place. More than 50 guns were involved.

Gun trafficking has also been a problem in my home State of Michigan. According to an Americans for Gun Safety analysis of ATF trace data from 1996–1999, over 40 percent of the guns traced to crimes committed in Michigan in 1998 and 1999 originated in other States, a much higher rate than the national average. The largest number of out of State suppliers of guns to Michigan during that period were in Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia, and Alabama.

These statistics demonstrate the length to which criminals are willing to go to circumvent our gun laws. This kind of activity can be stopped by vigorously enforcing our gun laws, providing law enforcement with stronger tools to crack down on gun trafficking, on corrupt gun dealers and other armed criminals, and by passing sensible gun safety legislation.

I commend the hard work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and other Federal, State and local law enforcement officers. Vigorous law enforcement is an integral part of reducing gun violence.

IN MEMORIAM OF CONGRESSMAN BOB MATHIAS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the life of Congressman Robert "Bob" Mathias, Olympian, Congressman, and San Joaquin Valley son. Congressman Bob Mathias passed away on September 2, 2006.

Bob Mathias was born in Tulare, CA, on November 17, 1930. Mr. Mathias attended and graduated from Tulare Union High School in 1948. In 1953, he graduated with his bachelor of arts degree from Stanford University, and in 1954 he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he rose to the rank of second lieutenant. In 1966, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the 18th Congressional District that also included his hometown of Tulare, and continued his service until 1974.

By all accounts such impressive accomplishments would be considered aspects of a fruitful life. However, Mr. Mathias was also a gifted athlete. Mr. Mathias' athletic career was laden with accomplishments, including consecutive gold medals in the Olympic decathlons, four national Amateur Athletic Union—AAU—championships, and three world records in the decathlon. Seventeen-year-old Bob Mathias first competed in the 1948 London Summer Olympics, only months after picking up the sport. He became the youngest Olympic gold medalist, winning the decathlon. His meteoric rise in 1948 led to his depiction on the cover of LIFE magazine and the Sullivan Award for Athlete of the Year from the AAU. At the 1952 Helsinki games, Mr. Mathias again won the gold medal in the decathlon, and continued to make history as the first person to ever win consecutive Olympic decathlons. That same year Bob Mathias was named the Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year recognition of his feats on the track and on the football field. Mr. Mathias was also a member of the 1952 Stanford football team, playing an integral part of that team that went on to the 1952 Rose Bowl.

His athleticism and accomplishments earned him a place in the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame, as well as the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. He also went on to guide younger generations of athletes as the Director of the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, the National Fitness Foundation, and the American Kids Sports Association.

Throughout his life, Congressman Mathias remained a humble man, true to his roots, dedicated to his family and his country, unfazed by fame. As a young child, Mr. Mathias battled anemia and other illnesses. His perseverance in athletics and academics despite these problems no doubt prepared him for his work later in life. After his athletic career and service in the Marine Corps, Bob Mathias served as a goodwill ambassador for youth programs on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. His service to his country continued in his dedication to the constituents of the 18th Congressional District.

Congressman Mathias is survived by his wife Gwen; his 4 daughters, Romel, Megan, Marissa, and Alyse; his son Reiner; his 10 grandchildren; his sister Patricia; and his two brothers, Jim and Eugene. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

Congressman Mathias will be missed by his family, his friends, his fans and all those whose lives he touched. May his kindness, humility and hard work remain an inspiration to us all.

FASD AWARENESS DAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, tomorrow is the ninth day of the ninth

month, a day designated as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Awareness Day. I rise today to state that it is imperative that we continue to spread the word that no amount of alcohol is safe to consume during the 9 months of pregnancy. By continuing to raise awareness, we can hopefully minimize the harm that drinking during pregnancy causes our most vulnerable population—our children.

In February of 1999, a small group of parents, raising children afflicted with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, set out to change the world. That small group started a support group which quickly became a worldwide grassroots movement to observe September 9 as International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. This year, for the eighth consecutive year, events are occurring in cities and towns not just across the country but around the world.

In my State of Alaska, I am proud that events are occurring in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. Citizens from my State are raising awareness about the dangers of drinking during pregnancy through a variety of events, such as passing out brochures with preventative messages to physicians' offices, delivering cocktail napkins to area bars with a message stamped on them that reminds pregnant women to not drink, and conducting high school assemblies which teach students about the dangers of alcohol on the developing fetus.

As we all know, FASD is 100 percent preventable, yet it remains a leading cause of nonhereditary mental retardation in the United States. Many children affected by maternal drinking during pregnancy have irreversible conditions—including severe brain damage—that cause permanent, lifelong disability.

Every year in America, an estimated 1 in every 100 babies is born with FASD—that is 40,000 infants. FASD affects more children than Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida and muscular dystrophy combined.

In Alaska, we sadly continue to have the highest rate of FASD in the Nation. Approximately 163 Alaskan babies are born each year affected by maternal alcohol use during pregnancy. Among our Native communities, the rate of FASD can be 15 times higher than non-Native areas in the State.

Despite these troubling figures, FASD is still widely under diagnosed, misdiagnosed, or not diagnosed at all. Diagnosis is critical because many persons with FASD can overcome learning and behavioral problems and succeed but only with appropriate health, social, and educational resources.

The cost of FASD is high—more than \$3 billion each year in direct health care costs. The indirect financial and social costs are also great—including the cost of specialized health care, edu-

cation, job training, and general support services.

That is why prevention is so imperative. Prevention of FASD is seven times more cost effective than treating the disorder. But more importantly, abstaining from alcohol during pregnancy will save a family a lifetime of heartache and will prevent the greatest loss of all that of human potential.

Senator TIM JOHNSON and I have introduced the Advancing FASD Research, Prevention, and Services Act. Our bill will develop targeted State and community-based outreach programs and will improve current support services for families who are living with FASD. It will also improve coordination among Federal agencies involved in FASD treatment and research by establishing stronger communication with these programs. Lastly, it will strengthen educational outreach efforts to doctors, teachers, judges, and others whose work puts them in contact with people with FASD. I ask my colleagues to support the Advancing FASD, Research, Prevention and Services Act.

Mr. President, tomorrow, on Fetal Alcohol Awareness Day, let us pause to remember the innocent babies inflicted with this disorder and then let us imagine the potential that these babies could have attained but for the damage done by alcohol.

CONGRESS MUST STRENGTHEN WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as a conferee to the fiscal year 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, I urge my fellow conferees to retain the Senate's strong whistleblower protections for federal employees. The Senate bill includes an amendment I offered with Senator COLLINS that mirrors our bipartisan measure, S. 494, the Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act. S. 494 and the amendment have strong bipartisan support in the Senate. In the House, Representatives TOM DAVIS and HENRY WAXMAN, the chairman and ranking member of the House Government Reform Committee, and Representative TODD PLATTS, the sponsor of companion legislation to S. 494, have asked Representative DUNCAN HUNTER, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, to include strong whistleblower protections in the final defense authorization bill.

The Senate action was a significant step forward for Federal whistleblowers and the American taxpayer. Congress must assert its original intent of the Whistleblower Protection Act, WPA, which protects Federal employees who disclose any waste, fraud, and abuse. Congress encourages such disclosures, which save lives and taxpayer dollars, and has repeatedly said that the courts should not erect barriers to disclosures which limit the flow of information