

ZIMBABWE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, with skyrocketing inflation and unemployment, riots over land reform and food shortages, and streams of economic and political refugees fleeing into neighboring countries, the primary constant in Zimbabwe over the last 30 years has been the increasingly despotic and disastrous rule of President Robert Mugabe. A decade ago, high interest rates and inflation galvanized public support for the Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Unions led by Morgan Tsvangirai, who was chosen in 1999 to lead a new opposition party—the Movement for Democratic Change, or MDC. In 2002 and 2005, President Mugabe's ruling ZANU–PF party rigged Presidential and Parliamentary elections to maintain its grip on power, and while he tried to do it again on March 29 of this year, the MDC and the people of Zimbabwe refused to be intimidated or outmaneuvered.

Despite the Zimbabwean Government's best efforts to limit the access of international monitors and journalists, most observers concur that the general elections conducted this past March were fraught with rigging, mainly to favor the ruling ZANU–PF. Even so, these efforts failed to silence the people of Zimbabwe's call for change. After significant and unexplained delays, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission announced that the MDC had won a majority in Parliament and that Mr. Tsvangirai won more votes for the Presidency, but not enough to avoid a runoff.

For more than 6 weeks now, Zimbabwe has been in a state of increasing political uncertainty and violence. With each passing day, there are new reports of state-sponsored intimidation and detention of opposition leaders and supporters, human rights activists, trade union leaders, lawyers and journalists. The delay in announcing and now in setting a date for the Presidential runoff election has allowed the ruling party to mobilize traditional state security services as well as youth militias and bands of military veterans to weaken the opposition. Mr. Tsvangirai has agreed to participate in a run-off election, but he is reluctant to return to Zimbabwe, much less to campaign, unless the government will guarantee his security and cease its assault on his supporters. Facing the prospect of another three months in political limbo and social upheaval, Zimbabwe risks plunging into even greater uncertainty and instability.

Mr. President, we can not stand by while this disaster unfolds. President Mugabe has been losing legitimacy, both at home and abroad, for years, isolating himself and his country to the detriment of Zimbabwe's citizens. The people of Zimbabwe are calling for change, but it will take engagement from external actors to help them es-

cape the devastating status quo. The recent decision by dock workers across southern Africa to refuse to unload a Chinese ship carrying Zimbabwe-bound ammunition sent a strong message, one that the international community should echo. Public statements condemning the situation in Zimbabwe by the newly elected President of Botswana followed on the heels of these protests and resulted in the denial of a port at which the Chinese ship could dock. Decisions by other leaders in the region to welcome Mr. Tsvangirai for a visit have been equally important signs of this growing political will but they are not enough.

The MDC's runoff conditions are more than reasonable, and should be supported in any way possible by regional and international governments. Given the tense environment and high potential for politically motivated violence, a commitment to ending impunity for human rights violations and stopping the attacks must be a top priority. Yesterday, the United Nations representative in Zimbabwe reported "indications that the level of violence is escalating . . . and could reach crisis levels." I urge the U.N. to immediately send a team to investigate these human rights abuses so that the perpetrators will be held accountable and future violations might be deterred. Similarly, I welcome the African Union's willingness to send additional monitors for the runoff election, and I encourage the AU or SADC to draw together resources for a short-term peacekeeping mission to maintain order and protect civilians in Zimbabwe during this uncertain time.

In addition to an immediate cessation of violence, I fully support demands by the United States Government and others that the Zimbabwe Government permit unfettered access for international media and observers during the campaign and conduct of the run-off polls and guarantee Mr. Tsvangirai's safety. South Africa's President Mbeki and other leaders of the Southern African Development Community should join this forthright call. President Mugabe and his top brass must respect fundamental human and political rights and allow for a fair, nonviolent, and independently monitored runoff election that can bring to power a legitimate government capable of bringing stability and growth to this embattled nation.

HONORING AMERICA'S FINEST

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week, 358 new names were inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, representing officers from across the country over the course of many years. We often take for granted the thousands of brave officers who dedicate their lives to protecting our streets and our communities every day

across Maryland and across America. But this week, during National Police Week, we all should take a moment to thank these brave men and women—America's finest—who risk their lives on our behalf. We especially must honor the fallen law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that the rest of us could enjoy our families and go about our daily business with a common sense of peace and security.

Nationally, 187 law enforcement officers gave their lives in the line of duty during 2007. More than one-third succumbed to gunfire. On average, they were nearly 11-year veterans of their respective departments. The average age was just 39 years young. Seven of these brave officers were women. Most importantly, these were sons and daughters, husbands and wives, sisters, brothers, and true role models for those who knew them well or saw them on the street proudly wearing their uniform or badge. So our thoughts, during this special commemoration, also are with their families and the communities they touched by their presence.

Four of Maryland's finest gave their lives for our safety in 2007 and one more recently on New Year's Day, January 1, 2008. I would like to take a moment to tell you about these brave law enforcement officers.

Troy Lamont Chesley, Sr., was a detective with the Baltimore City Police Department. At age 34, he was a 13-year veteran. On January 9, 2007, shortly after Detective Chesley got off duty at a public housing unit, a suspect attempted to rob him. Despite being shot and mortally wounded, Detective Chesley was able to take police action and return fire. The robber was arrested later in the day and charged in connection with Detective Chesley's murder. A widower himself, Detective Chesley is survived by his three daughters, two sons, parents, and brother.

On April 25, 2007, Police Officer Luke Hoffman had been with the Montgomery County Police Department just 1 year when he was struck by a car while involved in a foot pursuit of a suspected drunk driver. The driver had fled on foot after a slow-speed pursuit in the Aspen Hill area early that morning. Officer Hoffman was struck after chasing the suspect across Old Georgia Avenue in an area with very low lighting conditions. Another patrol car struck Officer Hoffman when his patrol car went down an embankment and struck a tree. The officer in the patrol car was injured. Officer Hoffman was flown to a local hospital where he later died.

Corporal Scott Wheeler of the Howard County Police Department was struck by a speeding vehicle he was attempting to flag down on Route 32. He had stepped into the roadway in an attempt to stop the car for speeding

while working an enforcement detail. He was flown to Maryland Shock Trauma Center where he died on June 18, 2007, 2 days after the accident. Corporal Wheeler had served with the Howard County Police Department for 6½ years. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of corporal. He is survived by his wife, parents, and brother.

Another brave Marylander who lost his life far too early was 25-year-old Police Officer Christopher Nicholson of the Smithsburg Police Department. Officer Nicholson was shot and killed while responding to assist members of the Washington County Sheriff's Office at a call involving reports that a man had just murdered his girlfriend during a domestic disturbance. As he waited in his patrol car a short distance away from the home for additional units to arrive, the suspect drove toward Officer Nicholson's patrol car and opened fire as he pulled even with the officer's door. A rifle slug struck him in the chest, penetrating his vest. The suspect fled into a nearby cemetery, where he engaged members of the Special Response Team in a shootout. The man was wounded and taken into custody. Officer Nicholson was flown to a local hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. Officer Nicholson had previously served with the Maryland Division of Correction but spent only 1½ years with the Smithsburg Police Department before his death. He is survived by his mother, father, and girlfriend.

Finally, another auto accident claimed the life of Corporal Courtney G. Brooks of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Department. He was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver on I-95 in Baltimore City at approximately 11:30 pm on New Year's Eve 2007. A 13-year veteran of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Department, Corporal Brooks was setting out cones at the interchange of I-95 and I-395 to keep commercial vehicles out of downtown Baltimore during New Year's celebrations when he was hit. The driver fled in his vehicle but was apprehended early the next morning. Corporal Brooks was transported to Maryland Shock Trauma Center where he succumbed to his injuries shortly after midnight on New Year's Day, January 1, 2008. Lost at the age of 40, Corporal Brooks is survived by three children and a fiancée.

I mentioned earlier that gunfire accounted for more than a third of the law enforcement deaths nationwide. This was the single-biggest cause of death. Perhaps after hearing about Police Officer Hoffman, Corporal Wheeler and Corporal Brooks, it is no surprise that automobile accidents fall second on that list, claiming the lives of over 25 percent of law enforcement officers who died nationwide last year.

During this commemoration, let me also offer thanks to The Officer Down

Memorial Page, a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring America's fallen law enforcement heroes every day of the year by telling the stories and preserving the memories of each of these officers at www.odmp.org. I also offer my tribute and respect to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, which generates increased public support for law enforcement as a profession, promotes law enforcement safety, and leads our Nation in remembering the fallen 365 days a year but especially during National Police Week.

I am humbled by the sacrifice these law enforcement officers have given for their fellow Marylanders. I would hope that they represent the last of our Nation's finest law officers who would sacrifice themselves for the greater good of safety and security.

Unfortunately, we know that is not likely. That is why, as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee I am working with my colleagues to improve the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program to make it easier for States to qualify for grants under this program. While not a guarantee, bulletproof vests do save lives and allow more men and women in law enforcement to return home to their families at the end of their shift.

We held a hearing in the Judiciary Committee earlier this week, during which we heard from Detective David Azur, an ATF agent from Baltimore, MD. He testified about how, in 2000, while working as part of the Regional Auto Theft Task Force, he was shot in the line of duty and survived only because of his bulletproof vest. He was subsequently awarded the Medal of Valor for his actions that day.

I also recognize that strong partnerships between first responders, like police officers, and the cities and States they serve are vital to public safety. I firmly believe that all of our Nation's first responders deserve the right to be treated with respect. But far too many first responders across the country do not have basic workplace protections.

As we debate the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, I pledge to work to ensure all first responders receive the respect they deserve with the same protections enjoyed by so many other workers across the country. I have cosponsored this important bill. In honor of the 187 law enforcement officers who gave their lives last year and the more than 18,000 who have done likewise, I urge the Senate to pass this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO LEO KELLY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is always sad when a World War II veteran leaves us. These men and women served our country with immense courage, skill, and dedication, and came home from war to make immense con-

tributions to our society. They have rightly been called "the greatest generation," and we mourn the loss of each and every one of them.

On February 18, another member of the "greatest generation" died. Navy veteran Leo Kelly was 87 and lived in Burlington Township in New Jersey with his wife of 58 years, Claire. Leo was the father of six daughters and a son, and I came to know him because his daughter Beth is married to my nephew Joe Kennedy, a son of Robert Kennedy and a former Congressman from Massachusetts in the House of Representatives.

It is Leo Kelly's extraordinary career in the Navy that I want to call to the attention of my colleagues in Congress. Leo Kelly answered the Nation's call soon after World War II began. He enlisted in the Navy in 1942 at the age of 21 and retired in 1964 with the rank of lieutenant commander.

He became a Navy fighter pilot and earned numerous awards and medals for valor and bravery under fire during the war. He served on the USS *Langley*, which was named for the great American scientist and aviation pioneer Samuel Pierpont Langley. The ship was on the front lines during the critical final years of the war in the Pacific, and the crew as a whole was cited in glowing terms by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal for their outstanding heroism in action that contributed so much to our Nation's victory.

Leo Kelly himself was awarded both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his special heroism on January 12, 1945 in an attack on Japanese shipping in Camranh Bay in French Indo-China, which is now Vietnam. As the citation by President Roosevelt stated.

Kelly fearlessly dove his plane through a heavy curtain of powerful anti-aircraft fire to score two direct hits with his rockets and contribute to the damaging of an enemy merchant vessel. Then, joining in an attack against a group of hostile seaplanes on the water, he executed a series of strafing runs and, striking furiously at his target, personally destroyed one of the enemy aircraft.

Courage like that is what made Leo Kelly a true American hero, and the Nation owes him a debt we can never fully repay.

After the war, Leo Kelly continued his career in the Navy for nearly two decades. From 1953 to 1955 he was assigned to a Naval ROTC unit in Philadelphia and earned his bachelor's degree in political science and attended the Navy's postgraduate school. He retired from the Navy in 1964 and went to work for Tenneco Plastics Company in Burlington, where he and Claire raised their wonderful family.

He had many interests. He was an excellent golfer, and had played for various Navy teams early in his career. He loved classical music, especially playing the violin. He had a profound faith