

overseas bases will irrevocably damage our ability to defend against threats at home and abroad.

This bill will delay this round of domestic base closures until the recommendations offered by the Overseas Basing Commission report has been reviewed by the Department of Defense. In addition, the bill would prohibit this round of base closures from commencing until combat units currently deployed to Iraq have returned home and the Pentagon completes the quadrennial defense review. I firmly believe that these are reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure we do not irreversibly impair our national defense.

The entire State of South Dakota is proud of Ellsworth and the men and women stationed there for their role in keeping America safe. We are confident that the commission will see the military value of Ellsworth and will support removing it from the base closure list.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly commend two American Legion Auxiliary units in South Dakota for the wonderful services they provide to their communities. I point to Unit 230 Pike-Huska American Legion Auxiliary Post of Aurora, and Unit 74 of Brookings as fine units whose efforts are worthy of recognition.

In April of 2005, Unit 230 in Aurora sponsored an Election Forum designed to introduce voters to the four candidates running for Aurora City Council. The meeting enabled the community to not only meet the candidates, but also learn about their positions on various issues.

Additionally, Aurora Unit 230 joined with Brookings Unit 74 to fulfill "The Dictionary Project." Since Aurora school children are bussed to the three schools in the Brookings School District, the two units collaborated by purchasing and hand delivering 206 dictionaries, one to each third grade student in the Brookings district. Upon receiving the dictionary, each student signed it, thus establishing it as his or hers to keep. "The Dictionary Project" was so successful that the Auxiliary plans to continue this generous program each year.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 230 and Unit 74 for their outstanding service. Their commitment to encouraging voter awareness and helping our young people in their pursuit of knowledge is admirable. I strongly commend their hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that their efforts are being publicly recognized and celebrated. It is with great honor that I share their impressive commitment to civic duty with my colleagues.●

CIVIC EDUCATION IN ACTION

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of a group of young Idahoans from Madison High School in Rexburg, ID. These young men and women came to Washington, D.C., to represent my State in the national finals of the "We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution" program. They represented Idaho well and are a tribute to our State's youth.

The national finals include a mock congressional hearing which gives the students the opportunity to translate their specialized learning in history, social studies, government and civics into action. As they use their newly-gained knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to examine, counter and defend issues facing America today, they come to appreciate the timeless nature of this great document. This experience gives students the opportunity to apply civic values to real-life challenges and will serve them in whatever they choose to do after they graduate from high school.

Idaho can be proud of the growth of civic virtue in these young people. As they look beyond themselves to the realm of the public good, Idaho and America will benefit as these individuals develop into responsible, intelligent citizens who practice discernment in judgment in matters of concern to our State and Nation. In the future, these student citizens will be more inclined to exhibit leadership faithful to the ideals upon which our country was built and consonant with the notions of liberty, freedom, justice and rule of law.●

CONGRATULATING STEVE SINTON

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Steve Sinton of Shandon, CA, on winning the American Farmland Trust's 2005 Steward of the Land Award. This award recognizes Steve for his lifelong commitment to conservation and sound stewardship practices. He is the ninth American farmer to win this award, and I am pleased to praise his efforts and achievements today.

Created in 1997 in honor of farmer and conservationist Peggy McGrath Rockefeller, the American Farmland Trust gives the Steward of the Land Award each year to a farmer or farm family in the United States who has shown outstanding leadership at the national, State, and local levels in protecting farmland and caring for the environment. This award recognizes ranchers such as Steve and helps raise awareness about the public benefits of good stewardship and the importance of conserving land for future generations.

Through his work on his own land and throughout the State of California, Steve Sinton has epitomized the spirit of this award through his dedication to protecting our country's farmlands and

ranchlands, understanding how critical they are to supporting our local communities, sustaining our Nation's food supply, and preserving clean water and wildlife habitat.

A fourth generation California rancher, Steve and his wife Jane manage 18,000 acres of ranchland and 125 acres of vineyards where they utilize a variety of innovative practices to promote sustainability and protect the environment. He effectively works with local governments to protect ranch and farmlands, and Steve and his family have also played an important role in providing habitat for the reintroduction of the California condor on their land, including essential nesting grounds.

But Steve's efforts go far beyond his own family's farm. Steve helped form the California Rangeland Trust in 1998 where he was elected to serve as the founding chairman. With his leadership, the Rangeland Trust has protected over 170,000 acres of ranchland. Steve has also served as vice-chairman of the California Cattlemen's Association Land Use Committee, where his dedication and leadership galvanized support among the ranching community for agricultural conservation and conservation practices.

A look at Steve's family history makes clear why he works so hard for farmland preservation and takes these efforts so seriously. Steve's family came to San Luis Obispo County in 1874 and bought the family farm the following year, meaning that Steve's family has been ranching in the county for 130 years. Steve grew up on the family ranch and attended my alma mater, Stanford University, before heading to the University of Colorado School of Law. After five years with the California Department of Water Resources in Sacramento, CA, Steve returned to San Luis Obispo County to help manage the family's ranches and continue his private water law practice. In addition to all this, Steve also has been active in his community, working with numerous organizations, coaching sports, and serving on the Shandon School Board for fifteen years.

As a U.S. Senator representing the State of California, I congratulate Steve on winning this award and thank him for his many years of service to our State. I wish to send my very best to Steve, his wife Jane, and their two children Julie and Daniel.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2360. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.