

than previous military juntas. Additionally, this coup could have negative consequences for Thailand's simmering human rights problems and the insurgency in the south. The coup leaders have already stated that they will focus on quelling a separatist insurgency in southern Thailand. This is worrisome if the military council relies on a strictly military approach to the unrest.

The coup is also bad for the region. Events in Thailand are sending the wrong message to democracies throughout the region that are dealing with legacies of military coups. Secretary Rice has dismissed the notion that this could have a contagion effect throughout the region. While I hope this is true, we should not ignore the fact that a number of countries in Southeast Asia are still dealing with the legacies of military dictatorships. Indonesia is recovering from years of dictatorial military rule, and the Republic of the Philippines is still working to strengthen its democratic institutions and repair its recent history of military intervention. The coup is also, significantly, going to have a direct impact on Thailand's ability to serve as a broker between Burma and the rest of the world.

Finally, it will have an impact on U.S. interests in the region. Thailand is a critical strategic partner of the United States, and some may be tempted to maintain warm relations with the Thai military. Our close political and military relationship goes back decades and is a vital component of U.S. national security policies in the region. But this friendship must take into consideration the dangerous behavior of those who led this coup. We must resist the temptation to give the leaders of this coup a free pass. Instead, we must take strong action.

We need to signal a real sense of urgency to restoring legitimacy to the democratic institutions within Thailand. It is imperative that the Thai military restore the authority of democratic institutions in Thailand expeditiously. President Bush needs to weigh in decisively. The U.S. Government must signal that it will not accept this new interim authority as the status quo and that the Thais must take immediate actions to restore democracy to Thailand. There are four specific things that must occur.

First, the United States must pressure the military council to schedule national elections immediately. General Sonthi has promised elections by October 2007. This is insufficient. Elections should be held at the earliest possible date, understanding the logistical requirements involved in preparing to hold a national election. This is essential and is the only way the military council can prove that it does intend to reintroduce democracy to Thailand.

Second, the administration must immediately put into place sanctions that are required under U.S. law. This means cutting off military assistance

now. As we learned in Indonesia, this in itself will send a powerful message to the Thai military that usurping democracy does not pay. The administration would do itself a favor by making the conditions for reinstating military-to-military relations clear from the outset. Still, this must be a clean break and must be leveraged in the future to help restore democracy.

Third, the United States must work vigorously with other key players in the region to create a united front of disapproval for the coup. The United States can't be alone in its criticisms or in applying pressure on the Thai junta. Secretary Rice's use of the phrase "U-Turn" doesn't cut it. We need a strong message that recognizes the grave nature of these developments. ASEAN members, in particular, have a strong role to play. Thailand's neighbors and regional partners must speak out about this coup in strong ways and must use their economic, political, and social leverage to help reinstall democracy in Thailand.

Finally, and until national elections can be carried out, the military council must lift all restrictions on democratic parties, the press, and political leaders. This includes Thaksin supporters. Those who broke the law under the Thaksin Government should be held accountable in the courts of law, not a military junta. Political opposition parties must be allowed to convene, and press freedoms must be established.

Mr. President, I close by reiterating the concern I laid out at the beginning of this statement. The military's end-run of the country's democratic institutions will undermine Thailand's important role throughout the region and the world and will therefore harm our own country's national security interests in the region. Thailand is a critical partner in the region and in the broader fight against terrorist networks. We need a strong, democratic Thailand to serve as our partner. We can't do this if this new military dictatorship derails a democratic government. The United States and international community must urge the Thai military to take the necessary action to restore Thailand's democracy.

#### NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise again this year to remind my colleagues that October 1 to 7 is Nuclear Medicine Week. Nuclear Medicine Week is the first week in October every year and is an annual celebration initiated by the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Each year, Nuclear Medicine Week is celebrated internationally at hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, educational institutions, corporations, and more.

I am particularly proud to note that the Society of Nuclear Medicine is headquartered in Reston, VA. The Society of Nuclear Medicine is an international scientific and professional or-

ganization of more than 16,000 members dedicated to promoting the science, technology, and practical applications of nuclear medicine. I commend the society staff and its professional members for their outstanding work in the field of nuclear medicine and for their dedication to caring for people with cancer and other serious and life-threatening illnesses.

Some of the more frequently performed nuclear medicine procedures include bone scans to examine orthopedic injuries, fractures, tumors or unexplained bone pain; heart scans to identify normal or abnormal blood flow to the heart muscle, to measure heart function or to determine the existence or extent of damage to the heart muscle after a heart attack; breast scans that are used in conjunction with mammograms to detect and locate cancerous tissue in the breasts; liver and gallbladder scans to evaluate liver and gallbladder function; cancer imaging to detect tumors; treatment of thyroid diseases and certain types of cancer; brain imaging to investigate problems within the brain itself or in blood circulation to the brain; and renal imaging in children to examine kidney function.

I thank all of those who serve in this very important medical field and join them in celebrating Nuclear Medicine Week during the first week of October.

#### TRIBUTE TO PARK B. SMITH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the exceptional generosity and work of Park B. Smith and his wife, Linda Johnson Smith.

Park and I met through our mutual involvement in The Marine Corps—Law Enforcement Foundation, an organization that believes in and supports the potential of our youth. They provide scholarship bonds for children of active-duty Marines and Federal law enforcement personnel killed in the line of duty. Park has become a good friend and someone whom I admire.

Park, an alumnus of the College of the Holy Cross, and Linda have a strong belief in the value of education and have exemplified this dedication. Through their generosity, the College of the Holy Cross has been able to continue to grow and build its community. It is for this reason that I would like to ask unanimous consent to have an article about Park and Linda Smith from The Wall Street Journal printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Wall Street Journal, Friday, Sept. 15, 2006]

GIVING BACK—DONOR TO TURN WINE INTO BREAD

(By Kelly Crow)

Park B. Smith has written his share of million-dollar checks to benefit his alma mater. Now, he has decided to donate by turning over part of his prized wine collection to a major auctioneer.

On Nov. 18, Sotheby's in New York will auction the equivalent of 14,000 bottles from Mr. Smith's private collection—including 50 cases of coveted 1982 Mouton Rothschild—in a sale estimated to bring in up to \$4.8 million. His proceeds will go to build new athletic facilities at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. He's also planning a \$25,000-a-plate dinner at his New York restaurant, Veritas, to benefit Holy Cross.

The Sotheby's auction represents a rare mix of beneficence and big auctioneer. In a more typical charity wine auction, non-profits enlist local auctioneers to sell bottles donated by wineries or collectors. This season brings a range of such events: In Chicago, Hart Davis Hart Wine Co. is holding a Sept. 28 auction at Tru restaurant (\$1,500 a plate) to help children with spina bifida. In Harrisburg, Pa., 600 people will bid to benefit the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. In California, Napa Valley winemaker John Schwartz, of Amuse Bouche, says he gets 25 letters a week from charities requesting wine. Mr. Schwartz is organizing his own Oct. 27 wine auction, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to benefit a Cambodian orphanage.

Mr. Smith, known in the home-furnishings industry for his namesake line of draperies and bedspreads, says he hopes to capitalize on the marketing muscle of Sotheby's to reach top connoisseurs. He also moved the auction date up a year to take advantage of the strong wine and art market. Mr. Smith is betting a high-profile sale will bring high prices, but by going with a big auctioneer he is also subject to its seller's commission rates (20 percent is standard, though Sotheby's says it will charge less because it's for a good cause). And he'll have to pay higher capital-gains taxes, as much as 28 percent, because the wine will be sold rather than given outright.

Mr. Smith started drinking wine while serving in the Marines (an early favorite was 89-cent bottles of Beaujolais) and has since gained a reputation for collecting top wines. One reason he isn't donating cash: His 65,000-bottle Connecticut cellar is at capacity. "I'm raising money for Holy Cross but I'm also making more room," he says.

Mr. Smith, a 1954 graduate and trustee of the Jesuit liberal-arts college, has given the school \$20 million over the years. Now he wants to fix its "disgraceful" field house. Father Michael McFarland, college president, says he's awed by Mr. Smith's generosity—and relieved he can accept auction proceeds rather than thousands of bottles: "We don't even have a wine cellar—just a couple cases stuffed under a sink."

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, in early August, I was unable to be in Washington for the cloture vote on the so-called trifecta bill, which so insidiously tried to hold hostage a necessary increase in the minimum wage and necessary extensions of tax credits important to American families and business to an excessive and unjustifiable reduction in the estate tax paid by the richest families in our country. I want to make clear that I would not have voted to allow this bill to proceed and that my inability to cast a vote in no way undercut the effort to stop this outrageous legislation. Since it was necessary for proponents of the legislation to find 60 votes irrespective of the number of votes against cloture cast by those of us in opposition, the very act of not voting for the cloture motion

was, in effect, a vote against the motion.

At the time of the vote, I issued a press statement expressing my disappointment over the Senate's failure to enact a minimum wage hike and my dismay at the Republican proponents' tactic of linking the wage hike to an estate tax giveaway that would have increased an already out-of-control Federal budget deficit. In that statement, I rejected the Republicans' hollow claim to favor a minimum wage increase. In fact, they have actively opposed a minimum wage increase for years; in this trifecta bill, they were using the wage hike only as a cynical ploy to attract votes for the estate tax rollback.

In my statement, I noted that the failure of the trifecta bill, though a victory for fiscal sanity, was no cause for rejoicing. An inappropriately low national minimum wage has been a big part of the problem of working-family poverty for many years. It is a problem for workers in Connecticut where the State minimum wage is higher, since a low national minimum wage creates pressure for companies to move Connecticut jobs to low wage States. The minimum wage was last raised almost 10 years ago. We need to act this year to pass a minimum wage increase—without tying it to an excessive cut in the estate tax. It is also essential that we pass the tax "extenders" which will support families paying college tuition, promote work opportunities for low-income Americans, and give incentives to businesses pursuing important research and development. These and other important tax extenders were also taken hostage by the Republicans' irresponsible estate tax scheme.

I have cosponsored a separate bill that would raise the minimum wage and extend these important tax incentives for middle-class families and businesses. I will continue to work with my colleagues to accomplish these goals without paying the high cost of excessive estate tax cuts to the wealthiest sliver of the population.

Mr. President, I also wish to express my support for the pension reform legislation which passed the Senate on August 2. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of the conference report.

While we all recognize that the legislation that passed was not perfect, it marked the end of a long and difficult legislative process that necessarily involved a great deal of compromise on all sides. It represents a success in terms of bipartisan cooperation in the Senate, something we need to see much more of in the future so we can truly begin to address many of the serious and complex problems our nation faces.

Senate passage of the pension reform bill was the culmination of more than a year of work by lawmakers concerned about record unfunded liabilities at the PBGC—which is supposed to be the bulwark against pension collapse—as well as what had become a widespread epi-

demic of chronic underfunding of pension plans.

The legislation as passed by the House and Senate, and now signed by the President, would require companies to fund 100 percent of their plan liabilities, up from 90 percent under current law. Those with funding shortfalls generally would have 7 years to make up the difference. Companies at risk of default would be subject to other restrictions and would have to make accelerated contributions.

The legislation provides specific relief for financially troubled airlines, giving up to 17 years to fully fund their plans. Some airlines were given more relief than others, so there may be an effort to pass a technical corrections bill to address this issue.

Also included in the legislation are provisions aimed at encouraging workers to make contributions to retirement savings plans, including allowing companies to automatically enroll employees in a 401(k). This will accomplish a relatively simple but tremendously effective change to ensure that more Americans are saving for their retirement.

The legislation also contains many other improvements and protections to the necessarily complex system we have constructed to address the retirement security of tens of millions of our citizens. The bill would provide needed reforms to both single employer and multiemployer plans; to defined benefit as well as defined contribution plans; and to hybrid "cash balance" plans. It also provides greater security to spouses with respect to their share of a spouse's retirement plan after death or divorce.

Further, the bill includes tax incentives for charitable giving. Many of these incentives were in the CARE Act which I have sponsored in this as well as previous congresses.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE GLEN MORGAN WILLIAMS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a wonderful gentleman and a respected judge who has served our country with distinction and also helped start my legal career, which has ultimately led to where I stand today: Judge Glen Morgan Williams.

As a newly minted graduate fresh out of the University of Virginia Law School, I had the honor of serving as a clerk to Judge Williams, an experience that had a profound affect on me. I was privileged to see first hand how Judge Williams' legal knowledge and fairness—as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia—has served the people of Virginia and America. I also had the unique privilege of hearing his stories of life, his commonsense wisdom and special humor and laughs.

Prior to serving as a Federal judge, Glen Williams served with distinction in the U.S. Navy during World War II.