

WASP, secured my committee's approval and passed the Senate unanimously on May 20, 2009.

This bill, authored by Senators HUTCHISON and MIKULSKI, recognizes the brave actions of more than a thousand women who served our country so courageously during World War II. Their patriotism and sacrifice were essential to our war effort. Quite simply, they were responsible for transporting critical military aircraft throughout the United States. Ferrying over 12,000 aircraft, of nearly 80 different types, these groundbreaking women operated war machines, from the fabled B-29 Superfortress to the lethal P-51 Mustang fighter. The purpose of their missions was to prepare these aircraft for combat and ensure their readiness.

The WASPs were so effective that they logged over 50 percent of these kinds of missions for our Nation, flying more than 60 million miles over the course of the war. Their likes included Jacqueline Cochran, one of the greatest female pilots of all time, who was chosen to be the director of the WASPs flight training. Jacqueline set the women's U.S. high altitude and international speed records and was also the winner of the coveted Bendix trophy in 1938. During the famous air race, she earned an epic victory flying from Los Angeles to Cleveland in just over 8 hours. Jacqueline was further commended for her service during the war when she was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest decoration she could have received from the military without being recognized as an Active-Duty servicemember. When the war ended, Jacqueline's passion for flying would drive her to set new aviation records, becoming the first female pilot to fly a bomber across the Atlantic. Additionally, six WASPs are still living in my home State of Connecticut. One of them, Gloria Heath, flew a dangerous mission as a B-26 bomber pilot, flying at 6,000 feet while towing a banner that fighter pilots would use for target practice during live fire exercises. Now Gloria is nationally recognized as a leader in aviation safety, having served as a founding board member of the Flight Safety Foundation. She also established an international safety information dissemination service to provide a unified, global response to emergencies on the land, in the air, and on the sea. Her pioneering efforts to ensure the safety of pilots and travelers all over the world have undoubtedly saved lives. Throughout her endeavors, Gloria never lost sight of her lifelong commitment to flying. She would become the director of summer aviation programs at Connecticut College, helping young students discover their passion for flight, just as she did half a decade before.

But these women did more than just serve our country they were also pioneers for women's rights. They will forever have the honor of being the first female aviators in American military

history, serving as the forerunners to women's equality in the Armed Forces. In doing so, they paved the way for women's rights in the military and other workforces across the country. And although much still remains to be done to eradicate gender discrimination, women military combat pilots are now flying alongside their brothers in arms a true testament to the barriers broken down by the WASPs more than six decades ago.

These women often faced scorn and ridicule, but they refused to back down in their conviction that they could fly as proficiently as men. Ultimately, they were proven right and demonstrated that success should be measured in terms of merit and talent, not by gender.

Therefore it is with great pride and honor, Mr. President, that I support this bill. I commend Senators HUTCHISON and MIKULSKI for all their hard work and join them in their gratitude for the pioneering women of the WASP program.

INSPECTORS GENERAL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to the proceeding to H.R. 885, the Improved Financial and Commodity Markets Oversight and Accountability Act, and a similar Senate bill, S. 1354, dated July 29, 2009, for the following reasons."

I object to provisions regarding inspectors general in H.R. 885, and a similar Senate bill, S. 1354, based on my reading of the language in the Improved Financial and Commodity Markets Oversight and Accountability Act. The act is intended to require Presidential appointments and Senate confirmation for the following five inspectors general: Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC; the National Credit Union Administration, NCUA; the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, PBGC; the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, FRB; and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In essence, the act will change dramatically the historical and longstanding classification of these five organizations from "designated federal entities" DFE, under the original Inspector General Act of 1978, to Presidential appointees.

These IGs, who are all nonpartisan civil servants, oppose H.R. 885. I have come to agree with their conclusion that the act will neither improve the independence of the five IGs nor enhance their accountability to the American people. Requiring that these five IGs be made Presidential appointees introduces the potential for partisan politics where none currently exists. This is especially true because we have an administration that is not even a year old and three IGs have already been dismissed. I have not yet seen a consistent policy reason articulated for treating these five IGs dif-

ferently from other DFE IGs. If Congress wants to increase the independence and accountability of all inspectors general, there are numerous, more effective ways of doing so, and I would be eager to work toward that common goal. However, this legislation has not had a full and, complete hearing in the Senate, targets only five of the DFE inspectors general for reasons that are unclear, and does not appear to achieve its stated purpose.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I thank Senator KYL and Senator LEVIN for working out a second-degree amendment last week to Senator KYL's earlier amendment, No. 1760, to the National Defense Authorization Act relating to the post-START agreement that the United States is negotiating with the Russian Federation. In my view, the earlier amendment—and section 1239 of the House version of the NDAA, on which that amendment was based—would have undermined the constitutional role of the Senate as the body that considers treaties, as well as the President's role in negotiating treaties. The Senate decided wisely not to adopt the House approach of trying to bar U.S. compliance with a treaty before the treaty has even been negotiated. The substitute amendment we adopted last week was a good result.

The bill approved by the Senate, as amended by Senator KYL's modified amendment, would require the President to report to the Congress on his plan to enhance the safety, security and reliability of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, to modernize the nuclear weapons complex, and to maintain the delivery platforms. I would encourage the administration to see that requirement not as a burden, but as an opportunity. If U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty is to be approved by the Senate, Members will have to be convinced that the executive branch is prepared to sustain our nuclear deterrence by maintaining a stockpile of safe, secure, and reliable nuclear weapons, without resorting to nuclear testing. This report requirement underscores that concern and the need to address it forthrightly.

I believe that this administration has the will to maintain our nuclear stockpile, and the successes of stockpile stewardship over the last decade have been greater than even its proponents predicted when we last considered CTBT. The report required by this amendment would offer an opportunity to explain to the Senate how far we have come, where we are going next, and how we will fund stockpile stewardship to ensure that we will sustain our deterrent posture even as the United States works with other countries to reduce the numbers and importance of these weapons worldwide. It may be only a preliminary report, if

the National Defense Authorization Act is enacted well before the Nuclear Posture Review and the President's fiscal year 2011 budget request are completed, but it will still be an opportunity to educate the Senate.

The Kyl amendment as modified also states that the Senate urges the President to maintain his position that the post-START agreement will not contain limitations on ballistic missile defense systems, space capabilities, or advanced conventional weapons systems of the United States. I am absolutely confident, based on the Obama-Medvedev statements of April 1 and July 6, 2009, that their instructions to negotiators are not to include such limitations in the agreement.

For example, there will be "a provision on the interrelationship of strategic offensive and strategic defensive arms," but "a provision" does not mean a limitation on U.S. missile defense or space capabilities. Similarly, the existing START Treaty has "a provision" regarding antiballistic missile systems but does not limit those systems.

Regarding the Senate's desire to avoid limitations on "advanced conventional weapons," I would just emphasize that the adoption of this substitute amendment is not intended to be a backdoor way to oppose limitations on strategic delivery vehicles.

In short, I believe that the Kyl substitute amendment adopted last week should do no harm and that the administration can use it to begin the process of educating the Senate on a matter we will have to address in any event. Again, I commend Senators KYL and LEVIN for reaching this result.

NOMINATION OF THOMAS A. SHANNON, JR.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to note for the record that I will object to any unanimous consent request relating to the nomination of Thomas A. Shannon Jr., to be Ambassador to Brazil. On July 28, I wrote a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk asking for a clarification of the President's position regarding the U.S. ethanol tariff in light of Mr. Shannon's stated view on the tariff. I will continue to object to any unanimous consent request proffered with respect to Mr. Shannon's nomination until such time as the administration responds to my letter and I have an opportunity to review such response.

OIL SPILL PREVENTION ACT

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, the managers' amendment to S. 685, the Oil Spill Prevention Act, will eliminate the authorization of appropriations from the international seafarer protection provision, reduce a bi-annual Coast Guard reporting requirement to an annual reporting requirement, and remove an annual Coast

Guard reporting requirement that is no longer necessary or appropriate. These modifications to the committee-reported bill render it revenue neutral.

CONGRATULATING JOHN LECLAIR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate St. Albans VT, native John LeClair for being chosen as a 2009 inductee into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame.

John LeClair had a remarkable amateur and professional hockey career. The first American-born player to record three consecutive 50-goal seasons in the National Hockey League, LeClair played 16 years in the NHL—with stops in Montreal, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh—and he helped the Montreal Canadiens capture the Stanley Cup in 1993. He registered 406 goals and 413 assists for 819 points in 967 career games, which ranks him 13th on the NHL's alltime points list among American-born players. LeClair also was a 2-time Olympian, where he netted 34 career points, 22-12, 31 games in a Team USA uniform.

Most hockey fans remember LeClair for his dramatic two game-winning goals in overtime during the 1993 Stanley Cup Finals, for being a member of the dreaded "Legion of Doom" line with the Philadelphia Flyers, and for leading Team USA to a Silver Medal in the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Vermonters, though, go further back with their native son. After his high school graduation from Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans, the Montreal Canadiens drafted LeClair with the 33rd pick in the 1987 entry draft. Instead of immediately going to the NHL, LeClair chose to attend the University of Vermont, where he thrilled Catamount fans for four, exciting seasons. Less than a week after playing his final collegiate game, LeClair signed with Montreal and hit the ice with the Canadiens right away.

While LeClair quickly went on to stardom and fame in the NHL, he always enjoyed a loyal following back home. Many Vermonters are naturally Canadiens fans because Montreal is so close to Vermont, but it was amazing to see how many people converted to Flyer fans when LeClair moved to Philadelphia and Penguin fans when he moved to Pittsburgh. I remember that no matter whether it was hockey season or not, it seemed like you couldn't walk down the street in St. Albans or Burlington or Rutland without seeing someone wearing some sort of Flyers paraphernalia, which stood out because of the team's distinguishing orange and black colors.

Once again, I congratulate John LeClair on this high honor of being selected as a member of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame. I ask unanimous consent to have a copy of a July 29 article from the Burlington Free Press printed in the RECORD.

The material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, July 29, 2009]

LECLAIR TO ENTER U.S. HOCKEY HALL OF FAME—ST. ALBANS NATIVE IS AMONG CLASS OF '09

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.—Former University of Vermont and NHL star John LeClair of St. Albans, Vt., will be inducted into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame.

USA hockey's 2009 class was announced Tuesday, and it also includes former NHL players Tony Amonte and Tom Barrasso, the 1998 U.S. Olympic women's team and the late Frank Zamboni, inventor of the storied ice resurfacing machine.

The date of the induction ceremony will be announced in August.

During an NHL career that included five seasons with the Montreal Canadiens, 10 with the Philadelphia Flyers and two as a Pittsburgh Penguin, LeClair registered 406 goals and 413 assists for 819 points in 967 career games.

The winger helped Montreal win the Stanley Cup in 1993, was the first American-born player with three straight 50-goal seasons from 1995 to 1998, and was on USA's silver-medal team at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

LeClair is also a member of UVM's Hall of Fame. He netted 56 goals and 60 assists in four years as a Catamount.

Amonte scored the winning goal against Canada in the deciding game of the first World Cup of Hockey in 1996.

Barrasso won two Stanley Cups as a goalie for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The 1998 U.S. Olympic Women's team won the gold medal at the Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

75TH BIRTHDAY OF REUBEN K. HARPOLE, JR.

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I honor Reuben K. Harpole, Jr.—a man who has changed countless lives in Wisconsin through his selfless devotion to helping people.

Reuben developed an entrepreneurial spirit growing up in Milwaukee. His family worked at the family grocery store, sold their home-raised chickens in the front yard, and rented out bicycles. This work ethic went with him throughout his life. He went on to serve our Nation in Korea from 1957 to 1959. Then he came back home, earned his bachelor's degree, and began his professional life as a teacher and community activist.

With 31 years service to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and continued community activism, Reuben helped mold the future of Wisconsin. In the 1960s Reuben began working to direct youth away from gangs into fruitful career paths. When central Milwaukee's health services were shutting down in the 1970s, Reuben worked with local, county, and university officials to reinstate much needed assistance. He helped establish the Isaac Coggs Health Center and a coalition of neighborhood health organizations. Reuben also founded or developed the College Prep Program at Marquette University High School, the UWM Center for Urban Community Development, the