Gentry, Jennafer Newman, and Ellen Gentry, his parents George and Brenda Sue Gentry, brother Sanford Gentry, and sister Carolyn Hodges.

Lieutenant Colonel Gentry was a brave man who put his soldiers before himself, both on and off the field of battle. Today and always, he will be remembered by family and friends, fellow soldiers and all Hoosiers as a true American hero. We cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of LTC James Gentry in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace.

AMINATOU HAIDAR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, last week I spoke about the situation of Aminatou Haidar, a Sahrawi human rights activist who has been on a hunger strike since shortly after November 13 when her passport was confiscated by Moroccan authorities and she was deported to the Canary Islands. She is now in the third week of her hunger strike, and her health has seriously declined. An agreement between the Spanish and Moroccan governments was reportedly reached on Friday, but it fell through at the last minute and Ms. Haidar remains at the Lanzarote Airport.

Given this dire situation and the damage it is causing to efforts to resume good-faith negotiations on the future status of the Western Sahara, I want to repeat my appeal to the Moroccan authorities to reinstate Ms. Haidar's passport and allow her to return home to her family.

Morocco and the United States are friends and allies. The denial of citizenship and forcible exile of Ms. Haidar is inconsistent with international human rights norms to which Morocco is a signatory and will accomplish nothing positive. It also raises the question, as do the recent arrests of other Sahrawi activists, of whether the United Nations' mandate in Western Sahara should be expanded to include human rights monitoring. I believe the State Department should seriously review this issue when the UN mission's term comes up for extension in the Security Council in April.

There is still time, but it is running out, to resolve this issue in a manner that serves Morocco's interests and protects Ms. Haidar's rights.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING MITCH DEMIENTIEFF

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of a much respected and accomplished resident from my home State of Alaska, Mr. Mitch Demientieff of Nenana. Mitch passed away on December 1, 2009. He was 57.

Mr. Demientieff not only held many important positions in the Native community, he was an ardent preserver of his Athabascan culture and a true family man. While a student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, he accomplished something truly amazing: at age 19, he was elected president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, a post he held again years later. One year before his election as president, he broke into the local political scene as mayor of Nenana.

His legacy at the Chiefs included the modernization of the tribal health programs and working to provide education to the youth in the Native community. His personal legacy revolves around his dedication to preserving Native culture. Mitch was committed to making sure the traditions of Alaska Natives and his people were not lost. His interests included the stories he heard and passed on, traditional songs and dances, how clans were run and the practices of traditional medicine.

His achievements later in life included service on the Federal Subsistence Board where he was a strong advocate for subsistence rights for Natives. At the time of his passing, he was serving on the Nenana City Council and was the Nenana tribal chief.

In his personal life Mitch was an avid sports fan and coach who was loved by his family and community. He and his wife Kathleen, married for 24 years, have a blended family of six children and 14 grandchildren. Mitch was both beloved and respected in their community and throughout interior Alaska. Everywhere Mitch went, he made friends.

Mitch Demientieff will be missed by his family, friends, and all of the people he touched in the State of Alaska.•

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES A. (DOLPH) NORTON

• Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate a distinguished American public administrator, Dr. James A. (Dolph) Norton, who is being awarded the 2009 George Graham Award for Exceptional Service by the National Academy of Public Administration, NAPA. NAPA is a congressionally chartered national institution created to help governments serve the public better and achieve excellence. Dr. Norton's career in public service stands as a shining example and testament to the high ideals of public administration that NAPA represents. His diverse and numerous accomplishments serve as an inspiration to those who may also aspire to careers in public administration.

During the course of his outstanding career, Dr. Norton earned degrees from both Louisiana State University and Harvard University. He served with distinction on the faculties at Florida State University, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Virginia. He went on to become the chief executive officer of several organizations during times of notable achievement. He directed a comprehensive research study on urban governance for the city of Cleveland, served as director of the Greater Cleveland Associated Foundation and director of the Cleveland Foundation, the Nation's oldest and then-largest community foundation, and as chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents as the State innovated funding for centers of excellence at universities.

In retirement he answered the call to serve from several institutions of higher education throughout the Nation by providing the unique skills necessary to manage their transition from one generation of leadership to another. He served with distinction as interim chancellor of the University of Maryland System, interim president of Hiram College in Ohio, interim president of Adelphi University in New York, interim president of Bryant College in Rhode Island, interim chancellor of Lamar University System in Texas, and interim president of Central Washington University.

I commend Dr. Norton for his lifelong dedication to public service and outstanding leadership, and congratulate him on his award.•

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3900. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Transactions Between Member Banks and Their Affiliates: Exemption for Certain Purchases of Asset-Backed Commercial Paper by a Member Bank from an Affiliate'' (Regulation W; Docket No. R–1331) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3901. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Transactions Between Member Banks and Their Affiliates: Exemption for Certain Securities Financing Transactions Between a Member Bank and an Affiliate'' (Regulation W; Docket No. R–1330) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3902. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Risk-Based Capital Guidelines; Leverage Capital Guidelines'' (Regulations H and Y; Docket No. R–1332) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3903. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to using private contributions to acquire land adjacent to a designated wilderness area in Lassen Volcanic National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3904. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of