

already has a workforce of 3,000 men and women dedicated to serving their country.

The Nevada National Security Site is not only breaking ground on new ways to keep us safe from weapons; it is also breaking ground on developing clean energy technologies that will make us energy independent. The former nuclear weapons proving ground will soon be a proving ground for advanced solar energy technologies. Last August, I joined Energy Secretary Chu and Interior Secretary Salazar to designate a 17,000 acre portion of N2S2 as the Nation's solar demonstration zone for testing the most innovative and promising solar technologies in an area with almost perpetual sun shine.

When Nevadans and all Americans look at the N2S2, they will see opportunities embodying the core values of innovation, leadership and security. I ask all my colleagues to join with me and the people of Nevada in recognizing the Nevada National Security Site's 60th anniversary, its rich history and bright future.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH BRACHMAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Sarah Brachman, who has received the 2011 Advocate of the Year Award from the National Down Syndrome Society.

Throughout her life, Sarah has been dedicated to the important cause of raising awareness and increasing public understanding of Down syndrome. She has been instrumental in the growth of the Congressional Down Syndrome caucus and has assisted in pushing their initiatives through legislation, all the while helping their membership increase. As a result of her efforts, more than 30 Members of Congress have now joined the caucus.

I am proud of all that Sarah has accomplished, and all she will continue to achieve. Along with the National Down Syndrome Society, I congratulate Sarah Brachman for her concerted effort and dedicated service.

REMEMBERING WILLARD "BILL" LOWERY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of Mr. Willard "Bill" Lowery, who passed away on December 20, 2010. He was 80 years old. As a beloved member of his community in Burnside, KY, Bill was a prime example of a man who poured his heart into serving and protecting his family, his community, and his country.

Born in Pulaski County, KY, Bill not only served his community selflessly, but touched the lives of all who had the pleasure of meeting him. He courageously served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and continued his public service as a Burnside police officer. It is no wonder that Bill's friendly demeanor and dedication earned him the position of chief of police, which he held for 6 years.

Bill continued to serve his community as an employee at the Pulaski County Detention Center, a member of Blue John Baptist Church, the American Legion Post 38, and, even more impressively, as a 50-year member of the Burnside Masonic Lodge. It is evident that the people in this close-knit community respected and valued Bill's tireless dedication, when more than 50 residents, including fellow police officers, lined the streets of Burnside following his funeral procession to pay their respects.

I could surely continue to praise the works and accomplishments of this hard-working and humble man, but I would simply ask that my colleagues join me in remembering this unsung hero, who showed incredible character and relentless dedication in service to his community, his country, and the Commonwealth. My thoughts go out to his beloved wife Wanda, his son Eugene, his two daughters, Alice and Penny Jo, 6 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren, and many other beloved friends and family members.

The Commonwealth Journal in Somerset, KY, recently published a story about Bill Lowery. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

CITIZENS HONOR LATE POLICE CHIEF LOWERY
ALONG U.S. 27
(By Chris Harris)

Anyone who saw dozens of individuals lining U.S. 27 last Thursday and holding signs might have wondered what was going on. If one looked at the signs closely enough, the answer would be evident.

The life and career of Willard "Bill" Lowery, who passed away Monday, Dec. 20 at the age of 80, was honored last week by friends and Burnside neighbors.

It was a fitting way to begin the mayoral career of Ron Jones as well. Jones, who was chosen as mayor of Burnside in the November elections, played a role in making the tribute reality, and his wife Emma Lou is credited with being one of the primary organizers of it.

"Ms. Emma Lou arranged for everybody to make signs," said Penny Johnson, one of Lowery's daughters. Lowery had three children—son Eugene and daughters Alice and Penny.

The funeral was held last Thursday at Lake Cumberland Funeral Home. Two Burnside police cars followed the funeral procession, led by Chief Craig Whitaker—one car in front, one in the back—to the Blue John Cemetery, where Lowery was buried. The Burnside police officers stopped at the intersection of the Ky. 914 bypass and U.S. 27 and halted traffic for a salute to Lowery.

Starting near Guthrie's River House restaurant in Burnside, the highway was lined all the way into downtown Burnside with individuals holding signs to remember Lowery. Johnson estimated about 50 people took part in the tribute.

"Lowery was a dedicated police officer for our community for a long time," said Ron Jones. "We felt like he should be given some recognition, and recognition to his family."

When Jones moved to Burnside in the mid-1970s, Lowery was one of the first people Jones met. They maintained a friendship throughout the years.

"Back then, they were just a one-man team," said Jones of the Burnside Police Force in Lowery's day. "Things sure have (changed). It's not such a sleepy little town anymore."

Lowery was Chief of Police in Burnside from 1969 to 1975. He was also retired from the Pulaski County Detention Center, and was a 50-year member of the Burnside Masonic Lodge #634, a member of the American Legion Post 38, a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, and attended the Blue John Baptist Church.

"It touched my heart," said Johnson of the tribute to her father. "I don't even know what the words are to say. It's unbelievable what the community did for him so that his legend lives on forever. It was just overwhelming."

DATA PRIVACY DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I join privacy advocates, industry leaders and government officials from across our Nation in celebrating Data Privacy Day 2011—a day to raise awareness about data privacy practices and rights.

Today, Americans from all walks of life reap the countless benefits of the Internet and the latest technological advances. But, with these many rewards, comes growing uncertainty and unease about how sensitive personal information is collected, shared and stored.

In the digital age, our Nation faces the difficult challenge of protecting our computer networks from cyber threats. At the same time, we must encourage American innovation and respect privacy rights.

Data Privacy Day provides an important opportunity to remind all Americans about how essential privacy is to our daily lives. This day is also a time for us in Congress to remember the important work that we must complete to better protect digital privacy rights. As the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I will continue to do my part.

This year, I will continue—and hopefully complete—work on bipartisan data privacy legislation that will better protect Americans' sensitive personal data and reduce the risk of data security breaches. The Senate Judiciary Committee has favorably reported my Personal Data Privacy and Security Act three times. We must finish this pressing work during the 112th Congress and finally enact comprehensive data privacy legislation.

I will also continue the important work that the Judiciary Committee began during the last Congress to update the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, ECPA, so that our digital privacy laws keep pace with the information age. When I first wrote ECPA in the mid-1980s, no one could have imagined the technological advances and threats to digital privacy that we see today. Updating this law to reflect the realities of our time is essential to keeping us safe from cyber threats and critical to ensuring that our Federal privacy laws keep pace with advancing

technologies. The year ahead will also present opportunities to study emerging privacy issues, such as the use of full body scanners at our airports and threats to online privacy.

The 112th Congress affords all of us in Congress an opportunity to make sure that this universal right to be left alone remains viable in the digital age.

I commend the many stakeholders and leaders from across the Nation who are holding events to commemorate Data Privacy Day. I look forward to working with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, and in both Chambers, on legislation to better protect the privacy rights of all Americans.

STATE OF THE UNION SEATING GESTURE

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, on Tuesday we made history in a small but significant way here in Congress. When we filed into the House Chamber for the President's annual State of the Union Address, many of us cast aside a long-held custom and crossed the aisle—literally—and sat together rather than divided by party. In some cases, as with my colleagues from my home State of Colorado, we sat by State delegation, Republicans and Democrats together.

I advocated for that change as a symbolic gesture. It was something I have done since I served in the Colorado State House.

In the days leading up to Tuesday's speech, folks here, and in the media, had a lot of fun comparing our plans to finding a date to a high school dance. They started speculating on what was next—trust falls? A ropes course? I am an old mountaineer—I have been joking that the aisle has become a mountain to climb.

And while those jokes have been entertaining for us inside the beltway, I think the media's interest in the drama highlights part of the problem that led me to call for a change in the way we sit during the State of the Union.

My staff did quite a bit of research on the history of the State of the Union Address, and they couldn't find any historical reason for divided seating. It seems to have developed along with the evolution of broadcast journalism.

So it appears that the media's hunger for drama—and our own need to use the media to project fierce party unity to the audience at home—has made the State of the Union like a pep rally—or a kind of sideshow to the main event. We've lost our focus on the content of the speech in an effort to get a moment of air time or a good headline.

I will be the first to admit that Tuesday's new seating arrangements aren't going to suddenly change the atmosphere here in Congress. But I hope it was the start of a new tradition. It certainly was a step in the right direction. Coloradans and Americans overwhelmingly supported the idea. It is some-

thing Americans are hungering for—I was just the messenger. There is no question it got us talking to people outside our comfort zones. I think the result was a more respectful—and less divided—State of the Union Address.

And I bring this up today—2 days after the State of the Union—because I don't want this to be an anomaly—a brief moment of half-hearted kumbaya before we slip back into our old habits. There was an even more serious reason for bringing us all together. We are not just divided during the President's State of the Union Address—it is nearly every day—in Washington and on the campaign trail.

If you go out and talk to citizens—as I do when I am in Colorado—the vast majority of people say they are frustrated with the bickering in Washington, and they believe it is hurting our Nation. The words used by politicians and commentators on the right and the left have become over the top—even violent.

After the horrific events of January 9, it is only natural that we ask whether there is a connection between the fact that Congresswoman GIFFORDS was the subject of violent gun metaphors on the campaign trail and the attack by a disturbed gunman only a few months later.

I, personally, think it would be simplistic to believe that one was the sole—or even a part—cause of the other. But it is incontrovertible that the level of violence and vitriol in our political language has been escalating year after year to a point where the space between rhetoric and reality has grown from a gap into a chasm.

To quote Jon Stewart of the "Daily Show" during his rally to restore sanity in politics: "We live now in hard times, not end times." Yet you wouldn't know it by listening to the 24-hour media spin cycle.

I know GABBY well. She represents the district my father represented for 30 years. I grew up in Tucson, and a piece of me will always be rooted in its sandy soil. It is a border district, full of independent westerners whose ancestors made a good living there, despite harsh conditions and punishing temperatures. Its people include moderates as well as staunch liberals and strong-minded conservatives. In order to represent the area well, you really have to be outside politics, willing to hear everyone's point of view and to bring them together regardless of party. That is GABBY in a nutshell.

It would be a huge disservice to GABBY, Judge Roll, Christina Greene, and all of the other victims of the Tucson shooting if we didn't seize this moment to reflect on how to rein in the rhetoric—to become more civil to each other—and—as our President said eloquently—live up to their ideals for our democracy.

So sitting together was only a small step. I hope we can follow it up with more efforts to work together—perhaps bipartisan retreats—or, as was sug-

gested by a few of my colleagues—doing away with the aisle altogether.

I want to thank my co-leaders in this effort—Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska, and Representatives HEATH SHULER and PAUL GOSAR. I look forward to working with them and any others in ways that will eventually help us solve the big challenges that confront us—because if we cannot sit together, we are kidding ourselves if we think we can win the global economic race, pay down our debt, develop a 21st century energy policy, fix our broken immigration system—or address any of the myriad other problems facing our country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY THE BRAVE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to reflect on the courage and strength of Johnny Ties or as most people know him, Johnny the Brave.

Johnny lives in Gravette, AR, with his family who supports him with their faith and love. While he enjoys playing soccer, off the field he is a true warrior and champion who is setting a great example for us all.

Johnny is bravely battling an illness. I join his family, friends and community in showing just how proud we are of this amazing 8-year-old whose optimism and zest for life is something we can all learn from.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Johnny the Brave. •

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, 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. 359. An act to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 366. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. BRADY of Texas, Chairman, Mr. BURGESS of Texas, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. DUFFY of Wisconsin, Mr. AMASH of Michigan, and Mr. MULVANEY of South Carolina.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of