

development and energy technology research. Therefore, our Nation benefits three times from the fruits of these investments: once by improving our national defense capabilities, a second time by supporting jobs in the energy research and development sector, and again because these innovations can be applied in the marketplace benefiting all Americans. It is a smart investment to keep our military strong and develop 21st century energy solutions that we can use here and export abroad. Therefore, I support my colleagues' amendments to strike sections 313 and 2823 from the NDAA.

Lastly, we must take care of the military families who continue to sacrifice without complaint. As chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, I studied the economic effects that the military lifestyle has on the earnings of military spouses. In 2010, the unemployment rate for military wives was 15.0 percent compared to 7.3 percent for civilian wives. One cause of this disparity may have to do with the numerous relocations military families undergo. In this same time period, 24.1 percent of military wives moved across State lines, compared with only 2.4 percent of civilian wives. Frequent moves coupled with military spouses holding jobs that require State-level relicensing create barriers that spouses must overcome when seeking employment. Therefore, I introduced S. 697, the Military Spouse Job Continuity Act, which would provide a \$500 tax credit for military spouses who need to renew or transfer their professional licenses or certifications due to military relocations. While this specific bill cannot be taken up today for procedural reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in a sense-of-the-Senate amendment recognizing that we must work with the Pentagon and State and local governments to reduce the employment barriers for military spouses, without whom we would not have the superb military we have today.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting these important amendments.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer for his patience and long period of time in the chair today. We, obviously, have a couple of members in the media who have no other lives.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank Senator MCCAIN. He very humorously, with his great, good nature, kind of joshes himself comparing his patience to mine. My standard is not the one that anybody wants to follow around here; We will never get anything done.

He is more than patient, and I am very grateful that he is standing there in that ranking position and sitting right in that ranking position. I hope he stays in that ranking position in some committee at least for many, many, many years—in the ranking position.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank our distinguished chairman. Obviously, you have been here a long time.

I also appreciate our staffs who, again, show that work-release programs are quite successful in the Senate. Thank you very much.

Mr. LEVIN. I join in that too.

Now, we have to close. I don't know if we have the closing. We do.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING GEORGE MCGOVERN

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate the life of Senator George McGovern, a man that many in this body called a friend, and an inspiration.

Senator McGovern was more than an elected official, although his 22-year career in the Senate and House of Representatives serving the great people of South Dakota left a lasting legacy filled with numerous accomplishments and achievements. Senator McGovern inspired me and many others into public service.

Like my mother, Senator McGovern was a PK, a preacher's kid, and I recall from my mother's memories that this was not easy. Senator McGovern often talked about growing up not only as a Methodist PK who couldn't attend movies, but also as a child of the Depression, living in a small parsonage that shared the little they had with those in the congregation who had even less.

His Methodist background provided the foundation for his deep sense of morality and social justice. It was the force that led him to be a lifelong advocate for feeding the hungry, for serving his country as a bomber pilot during World War II, and then returning home to work for peaceful solutions to international conflicts.

Each chapter of Senator McGovern's life was as riveting and spellbinding as the chapters of the many books he penned over the years. Numerous honors were bestowed upon him, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the World Food Prize, and the Air Medal.

From his heroic military service where he flew 35 missions as a B-24 Liberator pilot and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for making a hazardous emergency landing of his damaged plane and saving his crew; his tenacious advocacy in fighting world hunger and working to provide school meals for millions of children in dozens of countries; to his unwavering and passionate support of various social programs, his strongly stated political views, and his wisdom on a spectrum of contemporary political and world issues, Senator McGovern's life has had a profound impact on our nation and world.

He traveled the world to advocate for better nutrition programs and establish efforts to fight hunger. He was the first U.N. Global Ambassador on World Hunger. He was the first director of the Food for Peace Program under President John F. Kennedy. He developed the "McGovern Report", which led to a new set of nutritional standards and guidelines for Americans. He joined longtime friend Senator Bob Dole in establishing the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program that provided school meals to millions of children. He served 3 years as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

Yet Senator McGovern never forgot the people of South Dakota, residing many months out of the year in his hometown of Mitchell, location of the George and Eleanor McGovern Library and Museum. George would often take his dog, Dakota, on daily walks on the campus of Dakota Wesleyan University, sometimes stopping to eat at the university cafeteria and visit with students.

Senator McGovern once said that "politics is an act of faith," meaning that you need faith that the people can make good and moral decisions. He had that faith, and his life of moral and intellectual leadership has made it easier for all of us to carry that faith forward.

One of the characteristics that I most admired in Senator McGovern was that his belief in good and moral decisions extended to leaders in both parties, and led to his lifelong friendships with statesmen like the aforementioned Senator Dole, with whom he formed a deep friendship as they worked on hunger issues, and William Buckley, with whom he delighted in debating the issues whether in public, on "Firing Line", or over a drink as they traveled together debating their opposing views.

Senator McGovern knew and valued what so many have forgotten today; that America needs a strong two-party system built on respect and cooperation if we are to survive as a democracy.

He also found time to write 14 books on political issues and philosophy. And he found time to check off a few items from his personal bucket list. In his late eighties, he parachuted from an airplane. He drove a stock car at a local speedway. Even this past summer, as he was to observe his 90th birthday, he had hoped to fly a B-1 aircraft.

With all of his accomplishments, perhaps his greatest was his marriage to Eleanor. I will never forget the opening of the McGovern library in Mitchell, SD, which Eleanor was too weak to attend, and how affectionately he touched the newly unveiled statue of her standing with him, as they had stood together throughout their lives.

We can rejoice today that they are now reunited and with their children Terry and Steve. They lived the lives

that John Wesley admonished them to live when he said:

Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.

#### ALAN GROSS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, Monday, December 3, will mark the third anniversary of the imprisonment of Alan Gross by Cuba as a political prisoner.

In 2009, Mr. Gross went to Cuba on a USAID contract to assist the Jewish community in improving access to the internet by installing wireless equipment. He was arrested by the Cuban government and held for 14 months before being charged as a spy. After a sham trial, Mr. Gross was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Alan Gross a Maryland native, is a former social worker who spent a quarter of a decade working in international development—helping people around the world. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Mr. Gross has lived in Potomac, MD for many years. I've met his wife on numerous occasions and her continued strength and focus inspires me. While her husband has been held in a Cuban prison, she has held down the fort and held the pressure on the Cuban government for its poor treatment of her husband.

Despite facing severe health problems and complications caused by his imprisonment, Alan Gross has remained strong. He has developed a daily routine to maintain his strength. Yet he has lost more than 100 pounds, has difficulty walking, and has a large mass behind his shoulder that has gone untreated. The information shared by the Cuban government about Mr. Gross's medical condition is incomplete and raises new concerns for his family.

Mr. Gross's family has also encountered substantial health problems of their own over the past 3 years and they are facing significant financial hardship. His mother has inoperable lung cancer and the family is concerned they will not have a chance to be together to say goodbye. The family's contact with Mr. Gross remains extremely limited.

I have been hopeful that America and Cuba could move closer together—in trade, in community connections, and for the individual families that have been separated. Yet, concern over the detention of Alan Gross has put a hold on efforts to improve relations and the case shows that Cuba is not serious about moving forward and has stalled any effort in the Senate to move towards normalizing our relationship.

President Obama has stated that until Cuba's current government improves human rights and freedoms, the embargo against Cuba remains in our Nation's national interests. What had become a yearly effort to modify the

embargo was halted in the Senate this year because of the continued detention of Alan Gross. The Cuban government needs to heed what it has heard from Senators and now hears from me: if you unjustly imprison our citizens, we cannot and will not improve the relationship between our countries.

In a recent letter to the Cuban government, I and several of my Senate colleagues called for the release of Mr. Gross on humanitarian grounds. The government's response has called our request illegitimate. This is not the way to move forward. That is why I will join with Senators CARDIN and MORAN to submit a resolution that will apply additional pressure on Cuba to let Alan come home. I want to close by sending my continued thoughts and prayers to Mr. Gross, his wife Judy, and their family. I think of the challenges you are facing daily and I remain hopeful that you will all be reunited soon. Your strength and determination inspire me as you face difficult challenges.

I urge the government of Cuba to release Alan Gross immediately. I promise I will continue standing up for Alan and calling for his return home to Maryland.

#### SALUTE TO ADAM MERCHANT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, so much of the news we hear today is riddled in tragedy, but every so often a story of joy and hope transcends the negativity and warms our hearts. I would like to share such a story and salute a constituent of mine, fifteen-year-old Adam Merchant of Barre, VT.

Adam is in remission after battling Burkitt lymphoma, a cancer that attacks the lymphatic system. Through the kindness of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Adam received his wish: to see his favorite team play, the defending Super Bowl champions New York Giants. Not only did he see his Giants defeat the Green Bay Packers on Sunday night, but Adam also delivered an impromptu, pregame motivating speech to the Giants, which many of the team's players cited as an inspiration to their 38-to-10 victory over the mighty Packers. Adam described the night as a "dream," but it is the rest of us who should be moved by Adam's bravery and persistence battling lymphoma. The Make-A-Wish Foundation brightens so many young lives, and I thank them and the New York Giants for helping make Adam's dream come true.

I ask unanimous consent that Christian Red's article in the November 27, 2012, edition of the New York Daily News, "Young Adam Merchant, teenager fight cancer, gives NY Giants inspired pep talk before rout of Green Bay Packers," be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Daily News, Nov. 27, 2012]

YOUNG ADAM MERCHANT, TEENAGER FIGHTING CANCER, GIVES NY GIANTS INSPIRED PEP TALK BEFORE ROUT OF GREEN BAY PACKERS  
(By Christian Red)

Adam Merchant says he was "a little bit" fatigued Monday afternoon, which was understandable given the dizzying schedule the 15-year-old native of tiny Barre, Vt., has kept since Thursday, the best four-day stretch of his young life.

"I'm feeling pretty good," Merchant told the Daily News on Monday.

Merchant flew down to the New York area on Thursday, gave an unrehearsed rallying speech to Giants players Friday and then watched Big Blue's romp over Green Bay Sunday night. He also had the luxury of roaming the home team's sideline after the first quarter, and then got a choice seat next to Justin Tuck after the game. Not a bad way to spend a few days in the Big Apple.

"That's the happiest I've seen him in a long time, Heather Merchant said of her son. "Actually, that is the happiest I've ever seen him."

The unique experience came together through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Adam Merchant was diagnosed with Stage 3 Burkitt lymphoma, a cancer that attacks the lymphatic system, in March. Although Adam's cancer is in remission after chemotherapy, he had to have his gall bladder removed during the course of his treatment.

While he was hospitalized, his mother began researching Make-A-Wish, calling the Vermont chapter, which in turn worked with the New York/New Jersey chapters to put together Adam's dream scenario.

Soon a "wish granter" visited the Merchants with a special announcement. Originally, the Merchants were supposed to come to the Nov. 4 game against the Steelers, but their travel plans were postponed in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

Instead of watching a deflating loss to Pittsburgh, the Merchants got to take in a pummeling of the powerhouse Packers. "They're definitely no slouch team," Adam said of Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay.

Heather Merchant, a supervisor at Stowe ski resort, says her son has always been a Giants fan, despite living in Patriot country. Adam and his father, Adam Sr., a licensed nurse's aide, have stood their ground in enemy territory, surrounded by Tom Brady fans. Those two Super Bowl victories over Brady and Co. don't hurt.

"He's a walking encyclopedia, especially about football," Heather Merchant, who has two other children, says of Adam.

Despite his penchant for stats and football history, nothing could have prepared Adam for his big moment Friday, when he was called into the Giants' huddle after practice and had to make an impromptu speech.

He spoke barely above a whisper.

"I thought about it a little bit before I spoke," Adam said. "It came to me that the only thing that needed to be said was what I said—I told them, 'Go out and play, show them why we're world champs.'"

"He was getting really emotional," said Heather Merchant, who added that her son is back in school and "getting back on track" after his treatment.

Every player, from Eli Manning to Tuck to Adam's favorite, Jason Pierre-Paul, spoke about how the speech inspired them to get the victory. Adam, for one, thinks the team has turned the corner and has another Super Bowl run in the making.

"Oh, definitely. We've come through so much adversity in the past that I think we can do anything," said Adam Merchant, who might as well have been speaking for himself as well as the Giants.