

I thank the Presiding Officer, yield the floor, and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

VENEZUELA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we are all painfully aware of the many resource rich countries whose leaders care far more about maintaining their grip on power and enriching themselves than addressing the needs of their people. The departed Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovich was a good example, and in this hemisphere Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez and his successor President Nicolas Maduro stand out.

President Chavez, a former army officer who was swept into power in a wave of popular discontent after decades of corrupt, elitist governments, mastered the art of deception. He was a cult personality and virulently anti-United States, who dished out favors to poor communities as he ruined the country's economy, destroyed any semblance of an independent judiciary, changed the constitution so he could hold onto power indefinitely, and used the police to intimidate the press.

In the year since Chavez' death, President Maduro has tried to fill his shoes. He has adopted Chavez' divisive, anti-U.S. rhetoric, but he lacks Chavez' charisma, and the prognosis for positive change in Venezuela is increasingly bleak.

Early last month a few student demonstrations quickly spiraled into the largest public protests against President Maduro since he came to power. Having been elected by a razor-thin margin, the smallest in nearly half a century, many Venezuelans hoped the stultifying reality of widespread unemployment and economic stagnation would inspire reforms. Regrettably, President Maduro did not heed the people's message.

Instead, inflation has skyrocketed in the oil-rich country and food shortages have plagued local markets. Additionally, the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report for

2013-2014 ranks Venezuela number three on its list of economies damaged by high crime rates and violence, contributing to the resolve of the thousands of Venezuelans who took to the streets in protest. From San Cristobal, to Maracaibo, to the capital city of Caracas, the demonstrations have attracted students, merchants, and middle-class professionals in a challenge to government repression and mismanagement.

For several weeks images of the protests trickled out of Venezuela through various social media platforms, offering a limited, unfiltered perspective amidst the state-run media's censorship of impartial coverage. Because of the fog caused by this lack of objective information, it took nearly 2 weeks for many major U.S. news sources to arrive in country to begin coverage.

The distorted, self-serving portrayal of the protestors as treasonous fascists by the Maduro administration and the state-run media has been compounded by the deaths of some 18 people and the arbitrary arrests of hundreds, and risks inciting a further crackdown against the opposition. Additionally, there have been reports that foreign journalists have been detained while trying to cover the protests, with up to 20 having been physically assaulted, according to a Colombian news source that has since been banned from Venezuela for covering the protests.

The U.S. State Department's recently released Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 describes the Maduro government's efforts to impede freedom of expression. The increasingly heavy-handed and violent actions over the last few weeks have exacerbated the situation.

As one of Venezuela's most important trading partners, and as a nation whose people take note of the well-being and basic rights of other peoples in our hemisphere and beyond, the United States has an interest in ensuring that human rights are not violated with impunity. I hope President Maduro will not continue to make the mistake of other messianic, autocratic leaders who demonize their opponents. In Venezuela they represent roughly half of the population. He would do far better to work with all Venezuelans to reduce tensions and find real solutions to the country's problems. The people of his country deserve nothing less.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF DOUG GILLESPIE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to honor Sheriff Doug Gillespie, of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, who was recently named the National Sheriffs' Association's 2014 Sheriff of the Year.

The Ferris E. Lucas Award for Sheriff of the Year is awarded to recognize an outstanding sheriff for contributions made to improve the office of sheriff at the local, State, and national levels, and for involvement in the com-

munity above and beyond the responsibilities required. By this measure, I can think of no one more deserving than Sheriff Gillespie. His tireless service as sheriff has made the Las Vegas metropolitan area a safer and better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Sheriff Gillespie has diligently served the Las Vegas community for 33 years as a metropolitan police officer, the last 7 as sheriff. Under Sheriff Gillespie's leadership, metro has become one of only 72 intelligence-gathering fusion centers in the country. It has won the Webber Seavey Award, given for quality in law enforcement by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, for an outreach effort to strengthen police relations in the Las Vegas area. Metro is also one of only 32 departments to achieve the highest standard of accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

In addition to his position as sheriff, he has served in many leadership roles in other law enforcement organizations, such as board director of the National Sheriff's Association Executive Committee, chair of the Homeland Security Committee for the Major City Chiefs Association, vice chair of the Nevada High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, finance committee chair for the Nevada Commission for Homeland Security, and president of the Major County Sheriff's Association.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I congratulate Sheriff Doug Gillespie on receiving the Ferris E. Lucas Award for Sheriff of the Year and look forward to the continuation of a career that has already made Nevada very proud.

SIMMONS COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of the oldest educational institutions in my home State of Kentucky. Recently, the Simmons College of Kentucky announced its accreditation from the Association of Biblical Higher Learning. It is the college's first national accreditation.

The story of Simmons College is one of success. After the Civil War came to an end in 1865, there was no place in my home State where African Americans could obtain a college degree. That changed in 1879 when the Kentucky Normal Theological Institute opened its doors on the corner of 8th and Kentucky Street in Louisville. The school's second president, Dr. W.J. Simmons, transformed the nascent school into a full-fledged university that offered a wide array of liberal arts and theological programs. Simmons increased the school's enrollment from 13 to over 200 during his 10-year tenure. In 1918, Charles Parrish assumed the role of president of the university and aptly renamed the school Simmons University.

Simmons flourished into the 1920s, when enrollment peaked at over 500 students, but this success could not

shield the school from the devastation that sprang out of the Great Depression. The school was forced to sell its property in 1930 and drastically scale back its academic offerings. Simmons was down, but in no way, shape, or form was it out. In 1935 its leaders obtained a new location at 1811 Dumesnil Street. At this location, Simmons continued to provide Christian education, and in 1982 the school was renamed Simmons Bible College in order to reflect this focused mission.

In 2007 the school, now bearing its current name of "Simmons College of Kentucky," returned to its old location at the corner of 8th and Kentucky. The property was purchased in 2005 by the Reverend Dr. Kevin W. Cosby—himself the grandson of a Simmons College alumnus. Dr. Cosby's immense respect for the history and mission of the school led him to launch a campaign to return Simmons to its original location. Dr. Cosby also took on the role of president of the university and worked to once again expand Simmons's educational offerings.

Dr. Cosby was helped in this endeavor by University of Louisville president James Ramsey. The two developed a friendship, and in 2010 they signed an agreement that made it easier to transfer credits between the schools. President Ramsey called the deal "historic" as well as a "testament to Reverend Cosby's persistence in seeking partnerships and opportunities for the less fortunate."

Simmons's recent accreditation by the Association for Biblical Higher Education is another enormous step forward for this venerable institution. The school continues to fulfill its mission of producing "productive citizens and agents of change in society."

Accreditation inherently brings increased credibility and prestige to the university, but it also provides more tangible benefits. With this formal recognition, Simmons is now eligible to receive government subsidies designated for historical Black colleges and universities. This money, coupled with a \$2-million private donation from the Gheens Foundation, will undoubtedly lead to even brighter days ahead for Simmons College. Cole states that the university has plans to increase their enrollment from 130 to 350 students, as well as expand the range of programs offered.

Through thick and thin, Simmons has weathered the storms of history to arrive at this moment stronger than ever. President Cosby believes that the school's past trials mustn't be forgotten but, rather, harnessed as source of strength to spur on future successes. I extend my gratitude and congratulations to the president of Simmons College, the Reverend Dr. Kevin W. Cosby, for his extraordinary success in leading the renaissance of this historic school.

Simmons College is a truly remarkable institution, and their recent accreditation serves as testament to its perseverance and the good it continues

to accomplish today. I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring President Cosby and this admirable school.

REMEMBERING PFC WILLIAM T. CARNEAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this April 25, PFC William T. Carneal will be laid to rest in his hometown of Paducah, KY. Private First Class Carneal made the ultimate sacrifice in giving his life in service of his country. I rise today to honor him and to share the remarkable story that culminates in his forthcoming burial—70 years after he was killed on the island of Saipan during the Second World War.

William T. Carneal, known to his family as "Teetum," was the youngest of Plummer and Johnnie Ella Hite Carneal's 10 children. Raised in McCracken County, KY, William's childhood was marked by tragedy and loss. His mother passed away when he was 18 months old and his father when he was 7, leaving the responsibility to raise William to his older sister, Ruth Anderson, and her husband, L.O.

William graduated from Heath High School in 1939 and, like so many members of the "greatest generation," answered his country's call of duty and joined the U.S. Army in 1941. In January of the following year he was sent to Hawaii in preparation for deployment into the Pacific theater.

On July 7, 1944, his company in the 105th infantry regiment, 27th infantry division was engaged in hostilities with Japanese forces on the island of Saipan. When the enemy counter-attacked, his company was forced to withdrawal—but William was never seen again. That day he was reported as missing in action, and a year later he was reported dead at the age of 24. Soon the war ended. Yet William's remains were never found—still buried somewhere in the Saipan soil.

His remains stayed lost for nearly 70 years—the chances of ever finding them no better than finding a needle in a haystack. In March of 2013, however, an unlikely source happened upon that needle. Keuntai, a Japanese nonprofit dedicated to finding the remains of Japanese soldiers killed during the war, was conducting an excavation on Saipan when they discovered the remains of five American soldiers—one of whom bore a 1939 Heath High School class ring. Carneal's dog tags were found, too, along with some loose change and a pocket-watch.

To confirm the identity of the remains, Keuntai passed them along to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command for DNA testing. On December 4 of last year, the tests confirmed what Carneal's surviving family members already knew—the class ring and the remains belonged to William T. Carneal.

William's family—nephews J.T. and Carlton, niece Mary Carneal Christian, great-nephew Jimmy Fields, and great nieces Carol Ann Fields Lindley and

Beverly Fields Swift—were given the option of a burial at Arlington Cemetery. But after 70 years they thought it was time for William to come home to Kentucky, where he will be buried next to his sister Ruth.

The military believes that a grenade blast, possibly part of a suicide attack, killed William and the four other soldiers he was found buried with under 3 feet of clay. On April 25 of this year, William's birthday, he will be laid to his final resting place. He will receive the full honors of a military burial, including a 21-gun salute and a flag ceremony. Military personnel from Fort Campbell will preside over the funeral, and local World War II veteran Edward "Earl" Gidcumb will play taps.

As of December 19, 2013, there remain 73,640 U.S. personnel whose bodies have not been recovered from the Second World War. Most never will. But in this story, Sandy Hart, curator of the Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum in Wickliffe, KY, finds solace for the families of all the missing. "When Teetum is brought home," she said, "a part of them are all going to be brought home."

I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring PFC William T. Carneal's service to this country and all those who played a role in the incredible story of returning his remains, at last, to his old Kentucky home.

Mr. President, the Paducah Sun recently published an article regarding the incredible discovery and return of William's remains. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Paducah Sun, Feb. 26, 2014]

FAMILY GETS WORLD WAR II CASUALTY'S BELONGINGS

(By Laurel Black)

Most people wouldn't choke up at the sight of a deteriorated poncho, a rust-eaten key or a decades-old pocket knife. But tears rose to the eyes of several members of Private First Class William T. Carneal's family on Tuesday as they perused the items found with the World War II veteran's remains.

The belongings, which included Carneal's dog tags, belt buckle and a 1939 class ring from Heath High School, were recovered on the Japanese island of Saipan, where Carneal was killed in July 1944. After nearly seven decades without news of their relative, Carneal's descendants had little reason to believe they'd ever recover his possessions or remains.

But Carneal's possessions finally crossed the ocean and arrived in his family's hands. During a brief presentation at Reidland Clothing Company, U.S. Army Sergeant Tyler Holt unpacked a brown cardboard box and returned the objects, one by one.

"We kind of feel like now he's home with us," nephew J.T. Carneal said after the presentation.

J.T. Carneal added that the family has also found closure because of a recent investigation that revealed the cause of his uncle's death. The military believes that William Carneal, whose body was found with four others under more than three feet of clay, was killed by a grenade blast during a suicide attack by enemy forces, his nephew said.