and Surveillance System aircraft. Most recently, the State of Nevada has contributed to a new intelligence mission by providing soldiers working as Aerial Electronic Sensor Operators to perform their newest intelligence mission.

I thank the courageous men and women in DET 45 OSAA for their contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. Their service to our country and their bravery and dedication to their families and community will earn all of these heroes a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing and thanking these heroes for their selfless service both at home and abroad. May they have another successful mission and a safe return home.

RECOGNIZING SQUADBAY

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize a veterans volunteer program within Las Vegas known as Squadbay for their continued dedication to help their fellow service members transition back from the battlefield to their communities. This unique program comprised of Marine Corps combat veterans provides recently discharged veterans with a mission, which uses newly acquired battlefield skills and provides housing and other resources.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women who lay down their lives for our freedoms, but the founders and volunteers at Squadbay have developed a way to assist our Nation's veterans in need by affording them various ways to use their training to benefit others. I commend this organization's continued dedication to serving Marine combat veterans needing to address their traumatic experiences while simultaneously affecting a positive change in the lives of those in need of humanitarian assistance. Squadbay was founded by Lu Lobbello, a brave veteran living in Las Vegas who realized the importance of having a mission after returning home from combat in Baghdad. Lu serves as a shining example of putting one's community before oneself.

With its first mission in 2013 to the Philippines after Typhoon Yolanda, Squadbay's service extends far beyond our Nation's borders. By allowing veterans the ability to continue using their combat training in a new environment, with a new mission that mirrors the values of their military experience, Squadbay is working to create a seamless transition to civilian life for our veterans. By providing a safe and social space for combat veterans to come together and the opportunity to embark on humanitarian aid missions, they give these brave men and women an opportunity to work through any issues brought on by experiencing combat.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the struggles that our veterans face after returning home from the battlefield. Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals but to ensure that they have earned and deserve. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service organizations such as Squadbay are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Squadbay, an organization whose mission is both noble and charitable. Their commitment to helping rehabilitate our veterans by giving them an outlet to embark on humanitarian aid missions in a positive life-changing scenario is admirable, and I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL GEORGE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, on June 24, my hometown of Detroit and the State of Michigan lost a great friend and public servant. Indeed, the loss of Michael George at the age of 81 was a tremendous loss for all those who admired his hard work, dedication, generosity, and commitment to making the world a better place.

The son of immigrants, Mike was best known to many through his successful business. He built a small, family-owned dairy business into Melody Farms, one of the largest and most successful dairy producers and distributors in the country.

Had that been his only endeavor, we would have called Mike’s life well-lived. But Mike was more than a businessman. He became a leader in Detroit’s Chaldean community. Chaldeans—Catholics originating mainly from Iraq—settled in large numbers in Detroit with other immigrants from the Middle East. Mike was deeply proud of his Chaldean heritage. He helped found the Chaldean Iraqi Association of Michigan, and chaired the Chaldean Federation of America. Mike helped hundreds of Chaldean-owned businesses to grow. And as religious minorities came under increasing persecution in the Middle East, he helped in helping endangered Iraqi Christians in the United States.

Mike didn’t just serve the Chaldean community. He was passionately committed to Detroit and its rebirth. He served on countless charitable foundation boards and supported a host of worthy causes.

Mike George was a walking, talking personification of the American Dream. He was a friend to the city of Detroit. He was a friend to me. Barbara and I join Mike’s legion of friends in Michigan and around the country extending our condolences to his wife Najat, and his family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROY BAHR

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the service of a patriot and decorated Soldier, COL Roy W. Bahr. Roy joined the U.S. Army in 1950 after the onset of the Korean War. Shortly after graduating from Officer Candidate School, he deployed to Korea and served as an infantry platoon leader. Following his deployment, Colonel Bahr volunteered for U.S. Army Special Forces and went on to serve with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Vietnam.

Colonel Bahr was tasked with conducting highly classified operations throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. This highly decorated unit was responsible for gathering critical intelligence throughout the conflict and was so effective that the North Vietnamese had to divert tens of thousands of troops in an attempt to counter MACVSOG operations. Consequently, MACVSOG’s casualty rates were higher than any American unit since the American Civil War.

Only the best and most highly skilled commanders were involved with MACVSOG. During Colonel Bahr’s time with MACVSOG, he commanded forward operating bases at Phu Bai, Kontum, and Khe Sanh. Colonel Bahr was responsible for dozens of reconnaissance teams and special reaction forces that often worked clandestinely in enemy occupied territory with limited support. It is difficult to fully articulate the risk incurred by Colonel Bahr and his men, or the difficulty of their missions, as they heroically served our Nation.

Colonel Bahr commanded MACVSOG, FOB–3 during the height of the siege at Khe Sanh in 1968. Under bombardment, Colonel Bahr’s reconnaissance teams were given full authority to operate outside the compound during what would become one of the largest battles of the Vietnam war. Colonel Bahr’s unit, in concert with a large contingent of U.S. Marines, fought to prevent the North Vietnamese units from overrunning the combat base at Khe Sanh.

Later in the conflict, Colonel Bahr ordered and led a force to relieve an American operating base at Da Nang after it came under assault by North Vietnamese sappers on August 22 and 23, 1968. The North Vietnamese attack on Da Nang was the single deadliest day for U.S. Army Special Forces during the war. Colonel Bahr’s bound effort and subsequent pursuit of remaining enemy personnel was critical in gaining full control of the base and saving American lives.

In early 1961, while visiting Fort Bragg, President Kennedy stated, “The Green Beret is a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom.” COL