

In response to the Russian shelling of Pervomayskoye, Turkish nationalists sympathetic to the Chechen cause hijacked a Russia-bound ferry in the Black Sea. The hijackers threatened to kill the more than 200 passengers and blow up the ferry in the Straits of Bosphorus if the Chechens were not allowed to go free. After 3 days at sea, Turkish negotiators convinced the hijackers that they had gained the world's attention and nothing would be achieved by carrying out their threats. The hijackers then released their hostages and surrendered to Turkish authorities.

I applaud the Turkish Government for patiently working to find a peaceful solution to this crisis.

The United States Government is committed to promoting democracy in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union and is investing millions of taxpayer dollars to help the NIS on the path toward democracy. I strongly support this goal. But, the Russian military campaign against the Chechens, especially during the past month, demonstrates to the world that Russia's transition to democracy and human rights remains fragile and unpredictable, and that Russian nationalism is on the rise.

The war in Chechnya is far from over and a solution is not likely to be found in the near future unless both sides are willing to abide by a cease-fire and negotiate in good faith. President Yeltsin should not view the defeat of Raduyev's small force as a victory. All sides lost.●

TRIBUTE TO JERI MELLON

● Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Geraldine M. "Jeri" Mellon, who passed away on January 7, 1996 in Henderson, NV.

Jeri's courage and determination helped to convict Charles Keating, the former owner of Lincoln Savings and Loan, who was responsible for the Nation's worst savings and loan swindle in history. The innocent victims of the savings and loan collapse were mostly elderly bondholders who lost their life savings.

Jeri testified about the fraud before Los Angeles County Court in 1991, where she represented 23,000 bondholders. She moved the courtroom to applause with her emotional speech about the swindle. In 1993, Jeri also testified against Keating in Federal court, helping to secure his conviction.

Jeri's efforts to assist the victims of the S&L scandal went far beyond testifying in court. She helped organize and lead Lincoln-American Continental Corp. Bondholders Action Committee, a support group for the victims. Through the group, a lawsuit was filed against Keating and others that resulted in the bondholders' recovery of approximately 60 percent of the money they had lost.

I had the opportunity to meet this dedicated woman when she came to

Washington, DC to testify before Congress. Jeri recently helped me lead the fight against a bill in the Senate that would undermine investors' rights in cases of fraudulent investment schemes. Unfortunately, the legislation passed.

Before her retirement, Jeri was a registered nurse and also served in hospital administration. She was extremely active in her field and was a member of many health organizations. I am certain she was as successful and dedicated to her career as she was to her later endeavors.

Jeri will be remembered and missed by her many family and friends who loved her. She will also never be forgotten by the thousands of individuals she stood up for in a most difficult time. I am pleased to recognize Jeri Mellon for her life of service.●

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE A. SIMMONS

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a tribute to a real American hero and a dedicated public servant who recently passed away.

Gunner's mate first class Wayne A. Simmons, U.S. Navy retired, died on December 14 at the age of 72 at a hospital in Birmingham, AL, where he was undergoing treatment for a vascular ailment.

Mr. Simmons, who lived in College Park, MD, was born in Minnesota and moved to the Washington, DC area as a child. In 1940, he dropped out of McKinley High School in DC to enlist in the Canadian Army to serve in World War II. When it was discovered that he was underage, he was sent home. On his 17th birthday, with the permission of his parents, Wayne Simmons enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Simmons was stationed at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese force attacked the base and ushered the United States into World War II. He served in the Pacific during the war, including service aboard the light cruiser, *Reno*, and was recognized for his efforts in saving the ship from sinking after an enemy torpedo attack. Following the war, Mr. Simmons served on several more ships and stations until he was medically retired from active duty as a gunner's mate first class in 1953.

Following his Naval career, Mr. Simmons settled back in the Washington, DC area, and earned both a bachelor of science and master's degree in accounting from Benjamin Franklin University while working for Gateway Finance in Mount Rainier. He joined the Department of Agriculture in 1968, where he was a food program specialist until his retirement in 1982.

Mr. Simmons attended Berwyn Baptist Church in College Park, MD, for 40 years and served as a deacon in his church. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 33 in Washington, DC and the Birmingham Masonic Lodge in Beltsville, MD.

Mr. Simmons's family includes his lovely wife of 46 years, Patricia W.

Simmons of College Park, MD; two daughters, Patricia S. Bradshaw of Silver Spring, MD, and Peggy E. Wagner of Crownsville, MD; two sons, Wayne S. and Michael L. Simmons, both of Bowie, MD; and eight grandchildren.

Mr. President, Wayne Simmons's life was one of service and devotion—exemplary service to the U.S. Navy and this great Nation of ours and unwavering devotion and love for his wife, his family, and his church. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.●

SMILE WHEN YOU COMPARE US

● Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I suggest all Senators will be greatly interested in an article by Robert H. Pines, "Smile when you compare our countries," which appeared in the Toronto Globe and Mail several weeks ago.

While the United States and Canada share many common interests, including the longest undefended border in the world, they also differ in many ways. Bob Pines, who served with distinction as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Canadian Affairs in the Bush administration, eloquently identifies some of the differences between the United States and our neighbor to the North.

Mr. President, I ask that the text of this article be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Toronto Globe and Mail, Nov. 30, 1995]

SMILE WHEN YOU COMPARE OUR COUNTRIES (By Robert H. Pines)

Perhaps the holiday season is a good time to dissect a cliché.

Earlier this month I attended my fourth biennial conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS). About 40 percent of those in attendance were Canadians. Almost all the rest were Americans who make their living teaching about Canada. There were a few others like myself who have had a long love affair with your country in non-academic pursuits.

The Canadian contingent frequently launched into the familiar self-congratulatory litany of differences between the two countries. Heads wagged in reflexive agreement at mention of superior Canadian civility (undoubtedly true), the famed United Nations report about Canada being the world's best place to live (conceivably true if real meaning can be assigned to sociological statistics), and on and on through invidious comparisons of descending degrees of validity. Raymond Chrétien, Canada's ambassador to the U.S., orated that "we have a low crime rate and you have a high crime rate."

As noted, the American contingent numbered few of the Pat Buchanan stripe. One intrepid soul at a symposium was rewarded with icy stares when he diffidently mumbled something about southward emigration dwarfing that from the U.S. to Canada.

Another politically incorrect type daringly asked a question approximately along these lines: If your country is so great and ours so awful, how come you are on the verge of breaking up and we are not? (Actually, being an academic, he put it more politely.)

Therein lies the point of this essay. I submit to Canadian readers that the American political system (not necessarily American people or American society) holds one enormous advantage over that of Canada; that of decisiveness.