

United States and help propel our Nation to victory in World War II.

Mr. President, I wish to honor the New Hampshire Pearl Harbor Survivors on the occasion of their 25th anniversary. They are our American heroes and we applaud them for defending our country. I also wish to commend these brave men for touring New Hampshire schools and talking to our young Americans in an effort to keep Pearl Harbor memories and history alive. Those who fought in the war and were victims of the Pearl Harbor attack deserve a special place in our history books.

My father was a Navy pilot who died in a war-related incident during World War II. I have a special place in my heart for these courageous men.

When United States Army and Navy commanders in the Pacific area had received a final war warning on the 27th of November 1941, Hawaii was not mentioned and American authorities thought that the Philippines or Malaysia would be the possible target. Any potential attack on Pearl Harbor was therefore interpreted as a form of sabotage and no effective security patrol was established. Antiaircraft batteries around the harbor consequently had no ready ammunition and USAAF aircraft on the ground were easy targets as they were unarmed and grouped together on airfields for easier protection against saboteurs.

On Saturday, December 6, 1941, many Army and Navy personnel were on the usual weekend shore leave when the destroyer *Ward* radioed that it had sunk a submarine early Sunday morning. The information, though, was delayed in reaching the high command and consequently the harbor gate had not been closed.

At 7:55 a.m., on December 7, 1941 the first Japanese bombers attacked United States airfields and the fleet. Virtually the entire U.S. fleet of 94 vessels, including 8 battleships, was concentrated at Pearl Harbor and the disposition of troops, airplanes, and anti-aircraft guns made effective defense almost impossible. When the last attack had ended about 2 hours later, the Japanese won a significant tactical victory since they had been practically unopposed. Within 2 hours, 2,403 American servicemen and civilians were killed and 1,178 wounded. When the news of the attack reached the people of the United States, our country went into shock. Japanese capabilities had been underestimated and information about the fast-moving developments had been relayed too slow to the commanders in Hawaii.

Pearl Harbor is a very poignant chapter in our history. We must seek to remember the grave sacrifice so many Americans made there. As a veteran, I am very proud to honor the outstanding patriotism of the New Hampshire Pearl Harbor Survivors on their 25th anniversary.●

REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA DAY

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am honored to join again with nearly 1 million Lithuanian Americans in commemorating the 79th anniversary of the proclamation of an independent Lithuania, especially at a time when the Lithuanian people are rebuilding their democracy.

After more than seven centuries of struggle, the Lithuanians have finally succeeded in reestablishing an independent republic. While their hopes were realized once before in this century, their freedom was abruptly revoked in 1940, after 22 years of democratic governance.

Throughout this long and difficult period, the people of Lithuania and the other Baltic nations never wavered from their beliefs in democratic values and their desires for liberty and freedom. In keeping with such a strong commitment, their independence after so many years is not only something to celebrate, it is an incentive for us all to rededicate ourselves to the democratic principles commemorated by this anniversary.

Since 1990, when Lithuania rejoined the international community of democratic nations, the country has recognized the importance of meaningful political and economic reforms. Most significantly, Lithuania recently experienced another peaceful transfer of civilian rule, demonstrating the increasing stability of its democracy.

Lithuania's commitment to continue along the path of economic reforms also promises greater prosperity in the years to come. A number of indicators suggest the possibility of a brighter future for the Lithuanian economy, despite the difficult period of transition that has resulted from the collapse of the Soviet Union. Gross domestic product is expected to rise this year, and continue to do so the next. Inflation is expected to decline. Industrial production is also on the rise.

In addition, Lithuania has reached out to its neighbors, both those in the Baltic region and those further to the west. The Baltic Economic Cooperation Agreement and Lithuania's decision to join the Council of Europe are examples of this young democracy's determination to remain economically and politically engaged with the rest of the world.

At this time of year, our thoughts also turn to those Lithuanians who suffered under the brutality of the Nazi and Soviet occupations. Many risked and lost their lives for the rights and freedoms that Lithuanians today are privileged to enjoy. Their steadfast determination and courage eventually prevailed, providing hope for all people who dream someday to be free.

The writer Vincent Boris has observed that Lithuanian "statehood was reestablished within a continuum of nationhood." Indeed, the Lithuanian people have drawn their strength from a very real sense that nationhood can never be oppressed. That sense of na-

tionhood has been most evident here in the United States, where we have witnessed the unyielding dedication of Lithuanian Americans to the freedom of their native land. Their perseverance encouraged many of us to stand in this body over the last several decades and proclaim our support for a Lithuanian republic.

We in Maryland, and our Nation, are particularly fortunate to have such an active Lithuanian-American community. Its longstanding traditions of self-help and voluntarism and its dedication to the democratic ideals that have prevailed in Lithuania have truly enriched the history of this country. In areas ranging from business, to academia, to the arts, Lithuanian-Americans consistently make significant contributions across the Nation.

Mr. President, recently, Lithuanians gathered in their capital, Vilnius, to commemorate this anniversary. I am proud that we in the United States have continued to stand with them on this occasion, both in years when there was much to celebrate and in years when there were only memories and dreams of a better future. It is my sincere hope that we can celebrate this anniversary with the same optimism that we do this year for many years to come.●

WHAT AL SHANKER TAUGHT US

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of a great man and a very good friend, Al Shanker. His contributions to education and society at large are too great to enumerate so I respectfully ask that E.D. Hirsch, Jr.'s column from the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

The column follows:

WHAT AL SHANKER TAUGHT US

In the course of the past two decades, Al-bert Shanker made himself the most important figure in American education. In the wake of his untimely death on Feb. 22, the movement toward rigorous academic standards in public schools must still go on. But his death leaves a void, and the standards movement will have less force and focus than it had before.

No other high official in education spoke home truths so consistently, or with more clarity, or to greater effect. No one contributed more to the change in attitude among teachers and the general public toward universally high academic standards. If a single person could be said to be responsible for the shift in sentiment that prompted the President to call, in his State of the Union address, for national educational standards in the public school—a proposal that would have been unthinkable a few years back—it would be Al Shanker.

We teachers, like the rest of humankind, are creatures of habit and tradition who follow the ideas we were taught. Our leaders are inclined to preserve their popularity by telling us what we are comforted to hear. Al Shanker was different. His loyalty was to the wellbeing of public education as a whole. Only a rare and great leader risks the disfavor of his followers and brings them to a new understanding of uncomfortable new realities.

Long before his colleagues, Shanker had the insight to perceive and the courage to