

Indeed women continue to make great progress. As we highlight their accomplishments in history this month, I believe it is also important to educate present and future generations about gender discrimination so that we do not repeat past mistakes. During my service in Congress, I have strongly supported efforts to address women's issues and eradicate gender discrimination and inequality. These include cosponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act, and continually supporting an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. I am proud of these efforts and I will continue my commitment to bring fuller equality to all women. I am confident that the women of America will continue to excel while continuing their role as advocates for those values and ideals which are at the heart of a decent, caring and fair society.

#### NEXT STEPS: MA AND PA METHAMPHETAMINE LABS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today after hearing several reports of the continued problem of methamphetamine production in rural America. Law enforcement must dedicate more and more resources to the small, "ma and pa" meth labs. These small labs pose a threat not only because of the drugs they produce, but also the serious health and environmental risk caused by the production process.

In years past, methamphetamine production was controlled by skilled chemists or well-educated individuals who were paid significant amounts of money to manufacture the narcotic. Methamphetamine production at times took an entire day to produce. Today, with modern technology and the help of information readily available over the Internet, methamphetamine production can be accomplished within a very few hours. Production no longer takes a highly skilled individual or chemist. Recipes for producing meth can be downloaded off the Internet, complete with step-by-step instructions anyone can follow. These recipes use products available at any number of local retail outlets as ingredients, first reducing them to the needed chemical components and then recombining them to produce meth.

Small cooks, often producing only enough meth for themselves and a few friends, dominate the concerns of rural law enforcement organizations. Several of the narcotics task forces in Iowa report that while they believe over 80 percent of the meth within their jurisdiction comes from outside the State, they spend 80 percent of their time and resources on these small cooks. If we are going to get ahead of this problem, we must change this ratio.

Several years ago we took some important steps in limiting access to many of the precursors needed for meth production. These were good steps, and have proven somewhat effective. But more needs to be done.

Officers from the Southeast Iowa Task Force will tell you stories of suspects they have followed all over the county, stopping at each convenience store, supermarket, and drug store they passed to pick up as much cold medicine as they could. Not because they were sick, but because they needed the ephedrine in these drugs to cook meth. Sometimes it is purchased, but just as often it is stolen. These suspects were followed back to apartments, farm houses, motel rooms, or even deserted areas of gravel roads where the cold medicines were combined with other chemicals like starter fluid, anhydrous ammonia, and drain cleaner solvents for a "cook" of methamphetamine. This is all too common anyplace we find meth being cooked by amateurs using recipes off the Internet.

There are several different recipes for cooking meth. In rural areas, many of the small cooks use a receipt calling for anhydrous ammonia, which is a fertilizer readily available wherever farming occurs. Other recipes call for the use of red phosphorous, the common ingredient in emergency road flares. But all of these recipes need some form of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, a common ingredient in cold medicine.

If we make it more difficult for meth cooks to acquire ephedrine, then it will be more difficult for them to manufacture this poison. Several proposals have been put forth by the DEA and others which would help control access to ephedrine products. Many of these have merit, and I hope we will continue to pursue these proposals.

One method that could be very effective would be to put products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine behind the counter, such as is currently done with cigarettes. Other proposals would increase the penalties for possession of excessive amounts of precursor chemicals for meth. Some quarters have suggested collecting names or even social security numbers for everyone who purchases products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Clearly, each of these proposed solutions brings its own set of challenges.

But new steps need to be taken. Spending 80 percent of the time on 20 percent of the problem is not a way to get ahead. Increasing the difficulty of getting the products needed to do a small "cook" of meth decreases the likelihood these "cooks" will take place at all. While none of these proposals will stop all of the ma and pa meth operations, the status quo is not acceptable. Our cops are being overwhelmed, and our kids are dying—we cannot remain silent.

#### SUPPORT FOR NATO EXPANSION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, on March 26, NATO signed the Protocols on the Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Romania. This is an important step toward the full membership in

NATO for these countries. Soon, the Senate will debate whether to approve admission for these seven new and vibrant democracies. These countries have thrown off the shackles of communism. They are pressing forward, and I am confident their admission to NATO will only make that great alliance stronger and more robust.

The enlargement process presents a historic opportunity for NATO to strengthen security and peace, as well as a significant step toward fulfilling the vision of a Europe whole and free. The new members have proved willing and capable of adding value to NATO's missions, and they strongly reinforce the importance of a trans-Atlantic link.

The aspirant members have long contributed to NATO and allied missions, and they will bolster similar NATO and allied operations in the future. They have provided logistical support and troops in combat or peace support missions in Western Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Romania, for example, currently has over 1,300 troops engaged in allied missions, including a combat battalion that carries out operations shoulder to shoulder with U.S. forces in Afghanistan, and a NBC unit in Iraq. Additionally, the Romanian Government will shelter up to 1,500 war refugees from Iraq if needed. Romania and Bulgaria are currently providing host nation support at the Black Sea airbase and seaport bases. Moreover, Slovakia and the Baltic countries have provided peacekeeping troops, air surveillance support, as well as NBC specialists.

I look forward to the debate in the U.S. Senate on ratification of the protocols for NATO expansion. NATO expansion will prove beneficial to those countries seeking entrance to NATO and the those countries already in the alliance.

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WALLACE M. GREENE, JR.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the passing on March 8, 2003, of GEN Wallace M. Greene, Jr., of Waterbury, VT. General Greene served with distinction as Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1964 until he retired in 1967.

General Greene was born on December 27, 1907, in Waterbury, a small city in central Vermont. He began his academic career at the University of Vermont, and after one year he entered the armed forces at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, graduating in 1930, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

After Annapolis, General Greene first assignment was the Philadelphia Navy Yard and from there, his career took him to Portsmouth, NH; San Diego, CA; on board the battleship USS *Tennessee*; Quantico, VA; and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During World War II, General Greene took part in planning the invasion of the Marshall Islands in 1943