

Today, dozens of Armenian soldiers are deployed to Iraq, carrying out humanitarian operations in Karbala and al-Hilla, working as truck drivers, bomb detonators, and doctors. Armenian soldiers are also serving in Kosovo, performing peace support operations. I believe their response of helping others in need is part of the healing process. These Armenians did not allow others to be left as helpless as they were generations ago.

As a Nation, we must respond to acts of oppression to ensure that victims of hatred and prejudice did not perish in vain. We must stand as witnesses to protect people from persecution for the simple reason they are different. Thus, we must be committed to properly remembering the Armenian Genocide.

Menk panav chenk mornar. (We will never forget.)

MONTANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. BAUCUS. The National Guard is proving to be the backbone of our efforts to protect America overseas, as they continue to play a pivotal role in homeland security. I saw this first hand 3 weeks ago when I spent a day working on the flight line with the 120th Fighter Wing of our Air National Guard in Great Falls, MT.

While doing pre-flight checks on F-16s and helping the ground crew with their maintenance tasks, I gained a new appreciation for the Guard's contribution to our communities.

Two-thirds of Montana's Air National Guard is made up of part-time citizen soldiers and their sacrifice is not going unnoticed. I am proud that I have the opportunity to reemphasize their contribution here today, in particular, since the Air Guard has recently made us very proud in Montana.

Under the leadership of Colonel Mark Meyer, our 120th Fighter Wing has been honored with three national awards for 2004—the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Outstanding Security Forces Squadron of the Year Award, and the Maintenance Group Effectiveness Award.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award recognizes the exemplary achievements of the entire 120th Fighter Wing. On short notice the Wing deployed more than 200 airmen to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and at home they activated 185 people to fight Montana's second largest wildfire season on record.

The Air Force also bestowed an award on the Wing's Security Forces squadron, under the direction of Squadron Commander Major Donald Mahoney. They were honored with the Air National Guard Security Forces Unit Award.

Among their standout achievements was the logistical support they provided to the South Dakota Air National Guard Security Forces while their members conducted field training exercises at Fort Harrison in Helena. And, once again, our guardsmen operated on short notice.

Their Combat Arms Specialists performed weapons qualifications for over 300 personnel in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They completed these tasks while protecting the Northern border between Montana and Canada and collaborating with Montana's local, civil, and military emergency services agencies.

Under the leadership of Maintenance Commander Lieutenant Colonel Kendall Switzer, the members of the 120th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group earned the Air National Guard's Maintenance Effectiveness Award for their extraordinary aircraft maintenance.

Their hard work and expertise supported three important missions: Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Alert Detachment at March Air Reserve base in California, and the Combat Air Patrol Missions of Operation Nobel Eagle.

I offer a tremendous "Well Done" to the Air National Guard. Thank you to your families, friends, employers and communities. The nation appreciates you and in Montana we are proud of our 120th Fighter Wing.

Congratulations!

EARTH DAY 2005

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, not many people can lay claim to a day, but Gaylord Nelson can. On April 22, 1970, Gaylord Nelson created a day to celebrate the glory of the Earth. Nelson biographer Bill Christofferson asks "Where did Nelson get his lifelong interest and dedication to the environment? By osmosis, [Nelson] would say, while growing up in Clear Lake Wisconsin."

It's true that Wisconsin has a tradition of great conservationists, Aldo Leopold, author of Sand County Almanac; Sigurd Olson, one of the founders of the Wilderness Society; and John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club. But because of Gaylord Nelson, Wisconsin can lay claim to the genesis of Earth Day, a day of national and international remembrance of the importance of our natural resources and a clean environment.

While these great leaders are well known for their conservation vision, Wisconsinites across the State do their part every day to make that vision a reality. From the backyards and parks of our cities and suburbs to our forests and farms, we take our stewardship of the land seriously. For example, our farmers continue to work with the support of Federal, State and local partnerships to prevent pollution, improve wildlife habitat, and protect wetlands and open spaces, investing millions of dollars in hundred of thousands of acres each year, all while ensuring the land is healthy enough to produce food and raw materials for generations to come.

I know that the people of Wisconsin, living in such a beautiful and ecologically diverse State, feel a special connection to our natural resources and share a long tradition of our State government achieving excellence in its conservation policies. Conservation is

part of our culture in Wisconsin, and the people in Wisconsin are very environmentally savvy. Every year I hold a town hall meeting in each one of Wisconsin's 72 counties, and protecting the environment is a top issue.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Nelson. He is a former member of this body, and I am privileged to hold his Senate seat. He is a distinguished former Governor of the State of Wisconsin, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and a personal hero of mine. I salute Gaylord Nelson for changing the consciousness of a Nation. He is the living embodiment of the principle that one person can truly change the world.

During his 18 years of service in the Senate, Gaylord Nelson brought about significant change for the "greener" in both our Nation's law and the institution of the Senate itself. He is the co-author of the Environmental Education Act, which he sponsored with the senior Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and he sponsored the amendment to give the St. Croix and the Namekagon Rivers scenic protection. In the wake of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, Gaylord Nelson, along with Senator Philip Hart of Michigan, directed national attention to the documented persistent bioaccumulative effects of organochlorine pesticides used in the Great Lakes by authoring the ban on DDT in 1972. He was the primary sponsor of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Act, protecting one of northern Wisconsin's most beautiful areas.

And Senator Nelson, of course, was the founder of Earth Day. Thanks to him, here we are 35 years later taking time out of our lives to think about conservation. An astonishing 20 million Americans, 10 percent of the U.S. population, participated in the first observance of Earth Day on April 22, 1970. American Heritage magazine described the event as "one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy." The day was marked by marches, rallies, teach-ins, and concerts. Fifth Avenue was closed for 2 hours and over 100,000 people celebrated Earth Day on Union Square in New York City.

Earth Day is an event that in addition to changing the environmental consciousness of the country literally stopped the Senate. Members of both bodies voted to adjourn their respective Houses in the middle of the legislative week to attend Earth Day events, an adjournment that would be extremely rare today. Twenty-two Senators participated by giving Earth Day speeches across the country. The National Education Association, NEA, estimated that 10 million school children celebrated in the first Earth Day. The States of New Jersey and New York created State environmental agencies that week.

Earth Day has become an important part of who we are. From Milwaukee,

WI, to Mumbai, India, millions of people across the world are taking Senator Nelson's legacy to heart. They are volunteering tomorrow and this weekend to conserve the environment whether it is in their backyard, local river, or park.

I hope that on this Earth Day 2005, the Congress will re-dedicate itself to achieving the bipartisan consensus on protecting the environment that existed for nearly 2 decades. The Clean Water Act, for example, passed the Senate in 1971 by a vote of 86-0. When President Nixon vetoed it, the Senate overrode his veto, 52-12. The Endangered Species Act, which is under such attack right now, was passed by the Senate on a 92-0 vote in 1973.

Unfortunately, in recent years we have faced numerous proposals to roll back the environmental and health and safety protections upon which Americans depend. From clean water to clean air, the list of environmental rollbacks is stunning and disturbing. We need to work together to protect the environment, not revert to the times when we saw the Cuyahoga River catch fire, when at least one of the Great Lakes was considered "ecologically dead," and when dumping of toxic wastes into rivers was standard operating procedure.

Gaylord Nelson stated on the 30th Anniversary of Earth Day:

We have finally come to understand that the real wealth of a nation is its air, water, soil, forests, rivers, lakes, oceans, scenic beauty, wildlife habitats, and biodiversity. Take this resource away, and all that is left is a wasteland. That's the whole economy. That is where the economic activity and all the jobs come from. These biological systems contain the sustaining wealth of the world.

As we continue to degrade them, we are consuming our capital. And in the process, we erode our living standards and compromise the quality of our habitat. We are veering down a dangerous path. We are not just toying with nature; we are compromising the capacity of natural systems to do what they need to do to preserve a livable world.

Last night, Senator Nelson issued a statement to mark the 35th anniversary of Earth Day and calling Earth Day 2005 "a wake up call." Senator Nelson said:

On environmental issues, our intelligence is reliable. Our scientists have the facts, if we will only listen. It is a "slam dunk" that we cannot continue on our present course. But without Presidential and Congressional leadership, even an enlightened public cannot cope with the greatest challenge of our time.

I agree with this assessment, and I ask unanimous consent that the full text of Senator Nelson's 35th anniversary of Earth Day statement be printed in the RECORD.

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

EARTH DAY ANNIVERSARY 2005—A WAKE UP CALL

The 35th anniversary of Earth Day is a sobering occasion. On previous anniversaries we have hailed this "new awakening" as mil-

lions around the world suddenly rose up and pledged their support for a new campaign to save the natural environment.

In 1993 American Heritage magazine called Earth Day "one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy." There has been progress, of course, particularly in public awareness of the critical role environment plays in our lives and in the education and training of new environmental leaders. Environment has become a major political issue. The public is prepared to support those measures necessary to forge a sustainable society, if the President and the Congress have the vision to lead us to that goal.

Unfortunately, the President and the Congress have not stepped up to the challenge of providing national and world leadership on the environmental crisis.

In fact, on some key issues, they are actually resisting or reversing progress made in the past 30 to 40 years. And without strong, sustained leadership from the President and Congress, the urgent challenge to protect the environment and create a sustainable society cannot succeed. Theodore Roosevelt made conservation a top priority for the Republican party, and many members of his party carried that torch over the years. Recently, however, the GOP leadership has abandoned this cause.

There are many serious environmental problems confronting us. But two current environmental issues dramatize this failure of leadership—energy conservation, and population control. Both are critical to the sustainability of our society. In each case, there is not only a lack of wise national leadership but an apparent determination to turn back the clock. The surrender to special interests on these two issues makes a mockery of any claim to environmental awareness.

Egged on by the President, the Senate on March 16 sneaked into the annual budget resolution a scheme to allow drilling for oil in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, protected in 1960 at the urging of great environmentalists such as Sigurd Olson, Justice William O. Douglas, and Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser. The bill was signed by President Eisenhower.

This is not just a sabotage of environmental policy. It also undermines any hope for a wise energy policy. When all the evidence calls for bold steps to conserve energy and develop alternative sources, this cynical action implies that we can burn all the oil we want and just move on to the next untapped source, no matter where it might be.

We are told it may be 10 years before a very modest amount of oil could be produced from this pristine refuge. And what would it cost in real terms?

For the President to call for oil drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge is like burning the furniture in the White House to keep the First Family comfortable.

Equally critical is the failure of the President and Congress to confront the issue of population control, in our own rapidly growing country and the rest of the world.

A "Rockefeller Report" in 1972, issued by the President's commission on population growth, urged the U.S. to move vigorously to stabilize our population at about 200 million as rapidly as possible. Since then our population has ballooned to 282 million, and is expected to reach 500 million between 2060 and 2070. We are heading into a century in which we will double and triple our population in a short time.

Worldwide population projections are equally chilling. A series of international conferences have called for bold action to control population growth.

Yet the United States in recent years has become an aggressive opponent of family planning programs in other countries, and

we are now facing efforts by some "new conservatives" to impose similar restrictions at home.

On previous Earth Days we have offered a solution: The President should set the standard by delivering a message to the Congress on the state of the environment, citing priorities that need to be addressed. Congress then should hold hearings on these issues. This would produce a "national dialogue" on the sustainability of our environment, and provide a roadmap to the future.

Without Presidential leadership and Congressional hearings, we cannot claim to be taking seriously the most compelling threats facing our society.

On environmental issues, our intelligence is reliable. Our scientists have the facts, if we will only listen. It is a "slam dunk" that we cannot continue on our present course. But without Presidential and Congressional leadership, even an enlightened public cannot cope with the greatest challenge of our time.—Gaylord Nelson, Washington, DC, April, 2005.

Mr. FEINGOLD. I hope that Wisconsinites and citizens across America take Senator NELSON's words to heart. I hope that they use this Earth Day to collect their thoughts and voice their opinions about the need to protect the environment and need for Congressional leadership on this issue.

Wisconsinites value a clean environment, not just for purely aesthetic or philosophical purposes, but because a clean environment ensures that Wisconsin and the United States as a whole remains a good place to raise a family, start a business, and buy a home. We understand that by protecting our environment we are protecting our economy. And, it is important on this Earth Day 2005 that we continue to fight for strong environmental laws, and we press for strong environmental leadership in Congress. Let's continue to move forward, not roll back.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, on Monday, April 18, 2005, I introduced S. 832, the Taxpayer Protection and Assistance Act of 2005.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD explanatory language to accompany that legislation.

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

ANALYSIS OF TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE ACT

(1) LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINICS

Present Law. The Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") provides that the Secretary is authorized to provide up to \$6 million per year in matching grants to certain low-income taxpayer clinics. Eligible clinics are those that charge no more than a nominal fee to either represent low-income taxpayers in controversies with the IRS or provide tax information to individuals for whom English is a second language ("controversy clinics"). No clinic can receive more than \$100,000 per year.

A "clinic" includes (1) a clinical program at an accredited law, business, or accounting