

with bombings and beheadings, who dreams of inflicting massive violence on the American people.

These same enemies sent suicide bombers to murder innocent Jordanians only a few weeks ago. They despise freedom, and they are bending every effort to derail the democratic process.

But they will not succeed.

I am confident that America and her allies will prevail. I am confident that we will defeat the terrorist enemy and bury its twisted aims.

And all the while, we will continue to stand behind Iraq, Afghanistan and all champions of freedom as they work to secure the blessings of liberty.

---

#### RETIREMENT OF MR. ROBERT J. SHUE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Robert J. Shue, a senior official in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, who in early January, 2006, will retire from a distinguished career spanning 37 years of exemplary service to America.

Mr. Shue began his career serving over 13 years in the Bureau of Economic Analysis in the Department of Commerce. He joined the Department of Defense in 1982 and quickly became a highly valuable member of the Secretary of Defense's staff.

During his 23 years in the Comptroller's office, Mr. Shue was a highly respected leader and expert on the Defense Department budget and a wide range of related matters. He played a critical role in the formulation, approval, and execution of defense budgets that produced a much-needed strengthening of America's defense posture and enabled our military to fulfill its many demanding commitments.

Mr. Shue developed and led a diverse staff of analysts and liaison officers and made his office the Defense Department's primary leader in tracking and resolving high-level budget issues. He meticulously tracked numerous and complex actions affecting the funding available to the Department. He was a pivotal leader in presenting and justifying each new budget to the Congress and the American public.

Mr. Shue was vital to the Department's analysis of congressional action on Defense Department funding and to devising strategies to influence that action. He skillfully led staff in achieving and sustaining a highly productive relationship with congressional oversight committees. This resulted in accurate and constructive information flow between Congress and the Department, helping each meet its responsibilities more successfully.

Mr. Shue produced substantial top-quality analysis on complex economic, fiscal, and budget topics for the Secretary of Defense and other senior DoD leaders. He also improved support for these leaders by initiating important management reforms that saved staff

time and improved the quality of decision making data.

For his extraordinary achievements, Mr. Shue received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service. He earned the deep respect of leaders throughout the Department of Defense, in the Office of Management and Budget, and with Congress's defense oversight committees. These leaders benefited enormously from his exceptional knowledge and dedication. Mr. Shue's service has substantially helped our Nation's leaders make the wisest possible allocation of its defense resources in order to ensure America's future security.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Shue has had the resolute support of his wife, Suzi, and his three children. He has earned the deep gratitude of the American people. I wish Mr. Shue and his family all the best in the coming years.

---

#### GIVE OUR VETERANS THE CARE THEY'VE EARNED

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, it has been 3 weeks since President Bush signed into law the 2006 spending bill providing funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Unfortunately, his signature was accompanied by a glaring asterisk. Instead of approving the full amount of funding that Congress provided for veterans health care, the President bottled up \$1.2 billion in emergency funding that the VA urgently needs to make ends meet.

Congress added the emergency money to the bill after discovering that the President's 2006 budget request for the VA was woefully inadequate, compounding a series of errors in funding assumptions by the administration that led to a massive shortfall in VA funding in fiscal year 2005.

The \$1.2 billion in emergency funding was not some kind of optional Christmas bonus for America's veterans. It is money that the VA needs to cover the baseline cost of veterans health care programs. But that money cannot be released to the VA until the President signs on the dotted line and designates it as an emergency. Unless and until the President acts, the money will simply languish in the Treasury, benefiting nobody while jeopardizing the VA's ability to meet the needs of veterans. Make no mistake about it: without this money, the VA will experience another shortfall in funding in 2006, and veterans will suffer the consequences of diminished services and longer waiting times for health care.

So why is the President sitting on this money? When Congress passed the VA funding bill, I wrote to the President urging him to release the emergency funding at the same time, thus assuring veterans that health care services will continue uninterrupted for the next year. But for some reason, the President has chosen not to release the emergency money. Instead of sending the VA the full amount of funding

that Congress appropriated for veterans health care in 2006—a total of \$22.5 billion—the President has chosen to hold \$1.2 billion hostage at the White House.

What possible reason could the President have for refusing to relinquish this money to the VA? Does he expect America's veterans to beg for the money? Could he possibly fail to understand the importance of fully funding the VA health care program? Or could he have somehow forgotten the chaos last summer when the VA revealed that it had at least a \$1 billion shortfall in health care funding for 2005, and was facing another gaping shortfall in 2006?

What kind of a signal does this send to our Nation's veterans, and to our men and women fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Congress has worked diligently over the past 6 months to clean up the budget mess in the VA. As a result of amendments that I spearheaded in the Appropriations Committee and on the floor, the Senate seized the initiative to provide emergency funding to cover the shortfall that occurred in 2005 and to head off another shortfall in 2006. The administration, by contrast, had to be dragged to the table and only grudgingly owned up to the catastrophic consequences of its sloppy and inept budget estimates.

Congress has acted. Now the ball is in the President's court, and the clock is ticking. Mr. President, I again call on the President to immediately release the \$1.2 billion in emergency funding for veterans' health care that Congress has provided.

---

#### MILITARY AID TO INDONESIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, just 1 month ago, this Congress approved the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, of 2006. President Bush signed the bill into law on November 14. The act contains strong language concerning the political and military situation in Indonesia.

Congress requested from the administration evidence of genuine progress in military reform, the protection of human rights, and accountability for crimes against humanity. It asked for such evidence before the administration made available to Indonesia any funds appropriated under the Foreign Appropriations Act for the Foreign Military Financing Program and before it issued any licenses for the export of lethal defense articles for the Indonesian Armed Forces.

Congress also gave the administration the authority to waive these conditions when it is in the interests of national security to do so, as it usually does when placing these kinds of conditions on this or any administration.

To measure the desired improvements in military reform, we asked the State Department to certify that, No. 1, the Indonesian Government is prosecuting and punishing, in a manner