

dams to fully accommodate the increased demand is not possible. Relying solely on fossil fuels to make up the difference is environmentally irresponsible, and with the price of natural gas increasing dramatically, less economically appealing. Nuclear energy is the most environmentally sound technology capable of adequately meeting such increased demand. But even simply maintaining the current share of electricity generation provided by nuclear energy will require constructing many new nuclear powerplants in this country.

So should we continue to push for opening Yucca Mountain to begin accepting waste as soon as possible? The answer is clearly yes. Electric utilities demand confidence that spent fuel will be managed responsibly if they are going to continue to build new nuclear power plants in the U.S.

But can we build many more Yucca Mountains to accommodate the additional waste? I think the answer is clearly no.

Still, new nuclear powerplants are being planned—and not only in this country, which has not ordered a new nuclear plant in 30 years, but around the world. China, Russia, several European countries, and others are planning—or building—new nuclear powerplants. Somewhere between 100 and 150 new nuclear plants are likely to be built in the next 20 years or so. In fact, the U.S., despite having pioneered nuclear power, risks falling far behind in this home-grown technology.

Furthermore, the growth in nuclear power worldwide, while avoiding the potential environmental impact of a similar number of fossil-fuel powerplants, raises serious concerns about nuclear proliferation. An increasing number of countries are interested in developing nuclear power, and in some cases, developing or acquiring technologies that could lead to their ability to produce nuclear weapons. North Korea and Iran constantly remind us of the potential danger.

Therefore, the U.S. and other responsible nuclear-capable countries need to work together to help developing countries acquire clean, affordable energy, but not the means to develop nuclear weapons.

And this is another farsighted goal of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. Through GNEP, this administration proposes to work with international partners to help developing nations deploy proliferation-resistant and emission-free nuclear energy by developing international fuel services and small-scale modular reactors.

Finally, if this country is to eventually wean itself off its dependence on foreign oil and gas, we need to develop a clean-burning fuel for transportation. In fact, even if nuclear power replaced all the fossil-fueled powerplants in this country, it would make little impact on our oil use. We would still need to import about 70 percent of our oil for transportation.

This need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, in addition to reducing carbon emissions, was the impetus for President Bush to propose his Hydrogen Initiative in the 2001 State of the Union, and he has restated his convictions in all subsequent State of the Union addresses.

Consistent with President Bush's vision, we must continue our efforts to make the transition to a hydrogen-based economy, and we need to generate that hydrogen by using environmentally responsible technologies. Nuclear energy provides one such technology with high-temperature reactors such as the Next Generation Nuclear Plant that will be able to produce market-competitive hydrogen.

Nuclear power has the potential to provide clean, affordable, and emission-free electricity to an increasingly energy-hungry world, and the next generation of nuclear plants will produce fuel for transportation in an increasingly oil-starved world.

Access to affordable energy is crucial for improved quality of life and overall economic prosperity. The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership promises to increase energy security, both here in the United States and abroad. It will encourage environmentally responsible energy development around the world, and will provide that energy with minimal impact on the environment. I congratulate our President for his vision and commitment to helping make all this possible.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### CORETTA SCOTT KING

• Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, earlier this week, our Nation mourned the passing and celebrated the life of one of the civil rights era's greatest leaders. Coretta Scott King was the wife of civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr., and an incredible leader in her own right.

Mrs. King's death came just days after the Nation commemorated the contributions her late husband made to our country and only a few months after the passing of Rosa Parks and Constance Baker Motley, two pillars of our country's civil rights movement.

I spent Martin Luther King Day with my family. As we discussed the progress our great country has made in its quest to be a more inclusive America, I was reminded of the personal sacrifices of so many in the struggle for equality and dignity.

Coretta Scott King was not troubled by these sacrifices. Years later, she reflected "I understood when I married Martin that I did not just marry a man. I married a vision. I married a destiny." Upon his untimely passing, Mrs. King carried on this vision, sharing his message with other generations and even other continents.

Coretta Scott King was exposed to the injustice of segregation at an early

age. She grew up poor, in segregated Alabama, where she helped support her family by working in the cotton fields. She graduated first in her high school class, and she and her sister became the first two African-American graduates of Antioch college in Ohio. She studied education and music. After graduation she enrolled at the New England Conservatory of Music. Through the course of her life, she received over 60 honorary doctorates from colleges and universities.

After her husband's assassination, Mrs. King continued raising her 4 children while her presence as a civil rights leader was growing. Only four days after his death, she led a march of 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis. The following year, she took her late husband's place in the Poor People's Campaign at the Lincoln Memorial in June of 1968.

But she did not simply represent her late husband. A unique role evolved over time for Mrs. King.

She made her own contributions through many venues, including more than 30 Freedom Concerts during the 1960s. At these Freedom Concerts, Mrs. King lectured, read poetry and sang to raise awareness and money for the civil rights movement. In her lifetime she authored three books, and helped found dozens of organizations including the National Black Coalition for Voter Participation and the Black Leadership Roundtable.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. King began gathering support for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change in 1969. She devoted herself tirelessly to the establishment of a national holiday to honor her late husband.

In 1983, she brought together more than 800 human rights organizations to form the Coalition of Conscience.

In 1985, Mrs. King and three of her children were arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington, DC for protesting apartheid. She stood with Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg when he became South Africa's first democratically elected president.

In 1987, she helped lead a national Mobilization Against Fear and Intimidation in the Forsyth March on Washington.

In preparation for the Reagan-Gorbachev talks, in 1988, she served as head of the U.S. delegation of Women for a Meaningful Summit in Athens, Greece.

In 1993, Mrs. King was invited by President Clinton to witness the historic handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Chairman Yassir Arafat at the signing of the Middle East Peace Accords.

She further lent her support to democracy movements worldwide and served as a consultant to many world leaders.

In the later years of her life she struggled tirelessly fighting for women's rights and working to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Mrs. King fulfilled

one of her life's major goals and Dr. King's birthday is now celebrated annually in over 100 nations.

I wish to commemorate the incredible message of this woman. Recent celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* and the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Voting Rights Act, remind us of just how far our country has come.

Mrs. King once remarked, "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won—you earn it and win it in every generation." Our country has lost a giant who took on the struggle for freedom. If we truly wish to honor her, we must all assume the responsibility to fight injustice and inequality.

I thank Mrs. King for her incredible contributions to this country and to the world. Her family will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. While she will be deeply missed, her message will never be forgotten.●

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING PHILIP A. FRANCIS, JR.

● Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I want to honor Philip A. Francis, Jr., on his promotion as superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and his departure from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Since 1994, Philip A. Francis, Jr., has served as assistant superintendent of America's busiest national park. For more than 11 years, Phil did an exemplary job of keeping the Smokies on track and moving forward during a very dynamic period of the park's history. Phil served under a succession of three different Smokies superintendents and acted as superintendent himself for well over 2 years of his tenure. His leadership provided an essential element of stability to the park's operations and to improving its relationships with its many partners and surrounding gateway communities.

In recognition of his organizational management talents and his ability to work with numerous and diverse stakeholders, Phil has recently been chosen to become superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway. With over 9 million annual visitors, the Smokies is the most visited national park in the country. But the 470 mile-long Blue Ridge Parkway, with nearly 19 million travelers a year, is the National Park Service's busiest management unit.

While at the Smokies, Phil provided oversight and continuity to National Park Service managers at all levels as they negotiated through the complexities of making far-reaching decisions regarding the future of the immensely controversial Cades Cove and Elkmont Historic Districts in the Tennessee portions of the park. And he has played a key role in striving for a resolution to a 60 year-long debate over a proposed

new road through the Smokies in North Carolina. Despite the often heated debate among the parties to these contentious discussions, Phil has gained a reputation for his willingness to listen to the concerns of all sides and to look for solutions that recognize their needs while still protecting the park's natural and cultural resources.

Phil has also been an influential proponent for the Smokies in communities outside the park's boundaries and in working with its ever-expanding circle of support groups. Since their founding in 1993, the Friends of the Smokies has raised in excess of \$15.5 million in support for improvements at the Smokies. By combining Friends support with assistance from the Great Smoky Mountains Association, the park has been able to broaden its educational programs, undertake the world's first all species biodiversity inventory, and expand environmental education opportunities. Phil has been a key participant in helping develop those new programs, and in creating new nonprofit organizations to manage them.

In 2002, the National Park Service faced a challenge in finding a new superintendent for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For those who care about the Smokies, as I do, there was lots of interest in who would be selected. Director Fran Mainella made a great choice when she appointed Dale Ditmanson, and we have grown to appreciate Dale's abilities and passion over the last few years. One of the reasons for Dale's strong start is the help he has gotten from Phil, and I look forward to working with Dale to preserve and carry on Phil's legacy in the Smokies.

I join the park's many neighbors and friends in thanking Phil for his hard work and professionalism while at the Smokies. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Phil on his new assignment at the Blue Ridge Parkway.●

##### RETIREMENT OF DALLAS L. HAYDEN

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, on December 24, 2005, Dallas L. Hayden, a native son of Kansas retired from Federal service with 26 years with the Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General. Mr. Hayden retired as the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Great Plains Region of which Kansas is included.

Mr. Hayden exemplified all that a Federal law enforcement agent should: integrity, loyalty, and above all, the belief that the laws of the land are paramount. Politics never played a part in any investigation under his control. Only the facts mattered.

I want to publicly commend Mr. Hayden for his service and wish only the best for him and his family in the years to come.●

##### SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY—GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on February 3, 2006, the University Of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry hosted "Give Kids A Smile Day/National Children's Dental Access Day." This event is part of a national initiative by the American Dental Association to focus attention on the epidemic of untreated oral disease among disadvantaged children. As part of this program, 40,000 dental professionals and volunteers provided free educational, preventive, and restorative dental services to children from low-income families at 2,000 locations across the country. In Mississippi, more than 1,200 children from elementary schools in Jackson, MS, and the Mississippi Delta visited the dental school and the School of Nursing Mobile Dental Van for dental services. The event was co-sponsored by the Mississippi Dental Association, the Medical Center School of Health Related Professions, the Medical Center School of Nursing, the School of Dentistry's ACT Center, and the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation. Events such as this raise public awareness of dental disease and highlight the ongoing challenges faced by disadvantaged children in accessing dental care.

I applaud the efforts of the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry, the Mississippi Dental Association, and other supporting organizations for their efforts to combat childhood dental disease in Mississippi.●

##### ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on January 12-15, 2006, the State of Mississippi hosted the Alpha Kappa Alpha, AKA, Sorority's 98th National Founders Day Weekend which celebrates the founding of the first Greek-letter organization of African-American college women in 1908. AKA was created to encourage high scholastic and ethical standards and to enrich the social and intellectual aspects of college life for African American women. AKA is now a 17,000 member organization with a broad mission to improve conditions in communities through volunteer service. AKA has made great strides in helping individuals and communities develop and maintain constructive relationships with others. National Founders Day Weekend also serves to recognize and commemorate the Mississippi Health Project.

The Mississippi Health Project, sponsored by AKA, brought primary medical care to the rural Black population across the state of Mississippi for 2 to 6 weeks every summer from 1935 to 1942. During the 98th National Founders Day Weekend, a historic landmark was dedicated in Mound Bayou in the Mississippi Delta to commemorate the success of the Mississippi Health Project and to serve as a reminder of AKA's continuing commitment to provide health services to families across the world.