

shooting of a State judge in Nevada provides another terrible reminder of the vulnerable position of our State and Federal judges. Unfortunately, this is not the only recent reminder. Last May, the Judiciary Committee heard the courageous testimony of Judge Joan Lefkow of Chicago, the federal judge whose mother and husband were murdered in their home. We must protect judges where they work and where they and their families live.

The amendment now incorporated into the bill which I cosponsored with Senator REID, Chairman SPECTER, and Senator DURBIN, would enact provisions from the Court Security Improvement Act of 2005, CSIA, S. 1968, which Chairman SPECTER and I introduced last November. Our bill and this amendment authorize additional resources to improve security for State and local court systems. We also respond to requests by the Federal judiciary for a greater voice in working with the U.S. Marshals Service to determine their security needs. This amendment provides criminal penalties for the misuse of restricted personal information to seriously harm or threaten to seriously harm Federal judges, their families or other individuals performing official duties. It provides criminal penalties for threatening Federal judges and Federal law enforcement officials by the malicious filing of false liens, and provides increased protections for witnesses. It also includes an extension of life insurance benefits to bankruptcy, magistrate and territorial judges, and provides health insurance for surviving spouses and families of Federal judges, both of which are provisions that I suggested be included.

Finally, this amendment contains provisions which have passed the Senate several times extending and expanding to family members the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact certain information from a Federal judge's mandatory financial disclosure. This redaction authority is intended to be used in circumstances in which the release of the information could endanger the filer or the filer's family. I hope that the House of Representatives finally takes up and passes this extension and expansion of redaction authority.

#### U.S. MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, the motto of the U.S. Marine Corps is *Semper Fidelis*. Translated, it means, "Always Faithful," but among members of the Marine Corps the motto holds a deeper meaning. *Semper Fidelis* represents our Nation's shared commitment to those who dedicate their lives to protect us. As a Navy veteran, I know we must always honor the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families for the sacrifices they make for our Nation everyday.

Lately, I am afraid Congress has not fulfilled its commitment to our men

and women in the military, and this is especially evident in the lack of support for our military veterans and their families. Our lack of assistance for those exposed to the highly contaminated drinking water at U.S. Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina is one of the best examples of this body's shortcomings.

Camp Lejeune is the site of one of the largest drinking water catastrophes in our Nation's history. Between 1980 and 1985, Camp Lejeune drinking water samples conducted by the Marine Corps found high levels of volatile organic compounds used by the Marines in solvents for industrial degreasing. The contaminated wells were closed in 1985; however, the contamination itself may date back until the late 1950s. To put the contamination in perspective, the current EPA health standard for these chemicals is 5 parts per billion. The tap water samples taken at homes and the elementary school between 1980 and 1985 reached levels as high as 1,400 parts per billion.

While the health effects of exposure to the contaminants at Camp Lejeune are still being studied, the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances, ATSDR, has documented at least 100 babies exposed in utero to the contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune have birth defects and cancers, including spina bifida, leukemia, and cleft palates. This is at least twice the rate found in the general population.

For the last 20 years, the calls for assistance from those affected by this contamination have gone unanswered. The Department of Defense's cooperation has been slow, and the political will in Congress has been lacking. I will offer a modest amendment to answer the call for help.

Senator DOLE's amendment would do two things. First, it would provide veterans' health care benefits to those exposed in utero while at Camp Lejeune. The in utero exposures to Camp Lejeune's contaminated water happened under the Marine Corps watch, and it is our responsibility to assist those who were harmed. Medical assistance is a modest step to help restore faith among our veterans and their family members in the Government's commitment to them.

Second, it requires the Marine Corps to notify those who may have been exposed to the water contamination upon the completion of the ATSDR's study on the human exposures to drinking water. To date, the Marine Corps has issued targeted press releases, but information has not been sent to all who may have been exposed. The ATSDR's modeling of the contaminated water will make it possible to notify exposed segments of the Camp Lejeune population, without creating undue worry among the greater population that resided on base. This amendment will require the Marines to provide notice to those who may have been exposed, to outline the events leading to the exposures, to describe the potential adverse

health effects, and to give the affected people resources they can use to obtain more information.

I thank Senator DOLE for her leadership on this issue. Without her, this tragic situation would not have gotten the attention it deserves.

Nevertheless, concerns have been raised about this amendment. The people exposed to the highly contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune have waited for decades for answers. Congress needs to take steps now and not delay for years debating this issue.

For this reason, I have worked with Senator DOLE on a second, compromise Dole-Jeffords amendment. This amendment would require a comprehensive National Academy of Sciences study to be completed within 18 months to evaluate the strength of the link between TCE and PCE exposure and adverse health impacts for prenatal, childhood, and adult exposures at Camp Lejeune.

It also requires the Navy to notify those potentially affected by the water contamination at Camp Lejeune so they can learn what happened, how it may have affected them, and what steps they may want to consider taking now to minimize the potential health impacts. While I am told by the Defense Department that individual notification by letter to each person affected is impractical, under this compromise amendment, the Navy would carry out a media blitz and place a letter on its Web page providing the information that those affected deserve to have.

Again, I thank Senator DOLE for taking a bipartisan approach to this issue and for pushing to make constructive progress. We have a moral responsibility to support our troops and their families, and any failure to do so, is a failure to fulfill our commitment embodied in the Marine's motto *Semper Fidelis*. I urge my colleagues to approve this compromise amendment.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FATHER'S DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few moments we will be closing for the week. Before we leave, I want to take just a few moments to reflect on a very special holiday coming up this weekend, and that is Father's Day.

On Sunday, families all across America will celebrate their dads with dinners and lunches and gifts and, if my