

SEC. 274. REPORT ON EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS.

Not later than 180 days after the entry into force of the Additional Protocol, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) measures that have been or should be taken to achieve the adoption of additional protocols to existing safeguards agreements signed by non-nuclear-weapon State Parties; and

(2) assistance provided by the United States to the IAEA in order to promote the effective implementation of additional protocols to existing safeguards agreements signed by non-nuclear-weapon State Parties and the verification of the compliance of such parties with IAEA obligations.

SEC. 275. NOTICE OF IAEA NOTIFICATIONS.

The President shall notify Congress of any notifications issued by the IAEA to the United States under Article 10 of the Additional Protocol.

Subtitle H—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 281. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendment and requests a conference with the House, and the Chair is authorized to appoint conferees. S. 3709 is returned to the calendar.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the Senate has taken a historic step in approving the United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act. This is critically important. Passage of the bill takes one more important step toward a vibrant and exciting relationship between our two great democracies. I thank all Senators for their cooperation in completing the Senate's consideration in such a short period of time. I thank especially Senator BIDEN for his strong support and cooperation. This has been truly a bipartisan effort from the beginning until final passage. We are committed to continuing this effort through the conference process.

Before yielding the floor, let me publicly thank Tom Moore of the majority staff and Ed Levine of the minority staff. They have become experts on the United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy and Cooperation Act. They have assisted the committee professionally and skillfully in helping craft the bill.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to make some brief comments congratulating the chairman and ranking member.

I think this is a big deal. I think it will be seen as a big deal. I think it is

an enormously positive step forward on our relationships.

I commend the chairman and ranking member and the leader for bringing up this topic. I believe this is going to help us cement the relationship back and forth with us and India. It is important that we do this. It will help environmentally and help energy-wise but, more importantly, I believe it will be a very important strategic relationship. This is a key movement forward. I hope we can move it forward through the conference committee. I hope we can get it to the President in short order and show India and the rest of the world this budding, growing, strengthening relationship back and forth.

I commend Chairman LUGAR for such insightful and supportive leadership on such an important topic.

I suggest the absence of quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT LEE "BOBBY" HOLLAR, JR.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, it is my honor and privilege today to pay tribute to Sergeant First Class Robert Lee "Bobby" Hollar, Jr. Sergeant Hollar served his country as a civilian and soldier and ultimately gave his life to protect our Nation. Sergeant Hollar served in E Troop, 108th Cavalry, 48th Brigade of the Georgia National Guard, and was deployed to Iraq in May 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On September 1, 2005, an improvised explosive device struck Sergeant Hollar's vehicle while he was on patrol outside of Baghdad, and he died of severe injuries later that day. Sergeant Hollar is survived by his wife Amanda and two sons.

Throughout Sergeant Hollar's 10 years of courageous service in the U.S. Air Force, and during his service in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, he was awarded numerous service and achievement medals. Also, Sergeant Hollar was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Sergeant Hollar's duties in Iraq went beyond the daily routine of a soldier. Sergeant Hollar was a pen pal with the fourth grade class at Crescent Middle School in Griffin, GA. To these students, Sergeant Hollar was a real-life "G.I. Joe," and his letters and visits with them have forever touched their lives.

When Sergeant Hollar wasn't on active duty, he lived with his family in Thomaston, GA, and was employed by the United States Postal Service as a postal carrier.

Sergeant Hollar made his community and Nation better through selfless dedication to his career in public service with the Georgia National Guard and the U.S. Post Office. I have been contacted by many members of his community, and I am proud to join in as part of their campaign to name the Thomaston Post Office in his honor, and to be an original cosponsor of S. 4050, a bill to designate the facility of the Postal Service located at 103 East Thompson Street in Thomaston, GA, as the "Sergeant First Class Robert Lee 'Bobby' Hollar, Jr. Post Office Building".

I believe this is a simple yet lasting, way to recognize Sergeant Hollar's service and sacrifice to our country.

(The remarks of Mr. CHAMBLISS pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 615 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

(The remarks of Mr. CHAMBLISS pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 617 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The majority leader.

MODIFICATION OF UNANIMOUS CONSENT ORDER

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask consent that the order with respect to the agriculture appropriations bill be modified to allow for the Senate to proceed at 2 o'clock on Tuesday, December 5, and for Senator CONRAD to be recognized following the statements of the two managers; further, that following the remarks of Senator CONRAD, Senator DORGAN be recognized to speak, and that following those comments, Senator LANDRIEU be recognized to speak for 10 minutes. It will be our intention to vote around 5 or 5:15 on that Tuesday and that will be the next vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for putting this together. It has been difficult. We understand that. I very much appreciate his steadfast effort to make this happen.

On a bipartisan basis, many Senators in this Chamber appreciate very much the opportunity to bring disaster assistance to the Senate and to get a vote next Tuesday.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT MARK T. SMYKOWSKI

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary young man who gave his life in

service to our Nation—Marine Sgt Mark T. Smykowski from Mentor, OH. On June 6, 2006, Sergeant Smykowski died when a roadside bomb exploded near his military vehicle in Fallujah, Iraq. He was 23-years-old.

Mark was an outstanding marine who had a true sense of compassion for others. He cared deeply for his family and friends, and they remember him as someone who struck a chord with everyone he met. Although Mark was only 23-years-old when he died, he unquestionably lived life to the fullest.

Mark grew up in Mentor, OH, graduating from Mentor High School in 2000. He was the oldest member of a group of young Marines known as the "Mentor Seven." The seven of them were a close and tight-knit group, and all but one had skated together on the Mentor High School hockey team. Mark inspired his fellow marines from Mentor, and they in turn inspired him.

Friend, Brian Halan describes Mark as someone who was simply "cut from a different cloth." He said:

I'll always remember that no matter what we were doing, Mark could make the best of anything.

According to Jack Smeltz, Mark's hockey coach at Mentor High School, Mark was "an example of what a young person should be, as far as appreciation of freedom and all it stands for."

Mark's father, Bert, recalls that when it came time to get things done, no one was more diligent and focused than Mark. As a marine, he took the toughest assignments—paratrooper school and sniper school. And, after enlisting for a second time, he began training with a reconnaissance unit. Reconnaissance is one of the most difficult jobs in the military, involving scout swimming, helicopter and submarine insertion and extraction techniques, and assault climbing. But for Mark, it was just another challenge—and another opportunity to serve his Nation.

Those who knew Mark all agree that he was the model of what a marine should be. Fittingly, that is what he actually became—after boot camp he was selected to be a poster model for the Marines Corps. Naturally, his younger brothers teased him ruthlessly about it.

According to his mom, Mark was good looking—and knew it. During a career fair in high school, Diana saw two Marines recruiters. "Couldn't you just see Mark in that uniform?" she asked her husband, Ken. Apparently, Mark could because by the time Diana and Ken reached the table, he had already signed up.

Mark was so much more, though, than an outstanding marine and a handsome face. His compassion for others was unparalleled. He was simply one of those people who cares deeply and passionately about the needs of those around him. His comrades in Iraq recall the special bond he formed with Iraqis—particularly the Iraqi children. He became something of an ambassador

and would distribute toys and clothes to the Iraqi children. His unit often joked that when it came time for the Iraqi elections, it would be Mark's name at the top of the ballot.

"Mark was one of those marines who cared about the impact he had on the people of Iraq," said 1LT Craig Q. Reese, Mark's platoon commander. "I cannot count the number of times when I was with him when an Iraqi would recognize him from his last deployment and smile. I saw first hand the influence he had on this culture. He was truly attempting to make a difference."

Mark's mother Diana has pictures of Mark with his arms around Iraqis, and one in which he is surrounded by almost 25 children. But, what she recalls most is a moment that she calls "life changing." Worried about Mark's safety, she had demanded to know "what the plan is over there?"

Mark's reply had been quiet and confident. "This mission is going to take us years, Mom," he'd said. "These people have been brutalized for years. We have to work with the children. We have to get the kids to trust us."

Mark's friends gave him many nicknames—"Tango" because he was tall and gangly and "Jacks" because he always wore a jacket of the Cleveland Lumberjacks, the city's International Hockey League team. But, perhaps the most meaningful name is the one given to him by the Iraqi children. To them, he was simply "Mr. Ski."

Throughout his time in Iraq, Mark was undoubtedly supported by his strong sense of faith. The last time Diana spoke with her son, she asked him if he were scared, and he said yes. She then asked, "Mark, are you OK with God?" He replied, "Mom, you don't have to worry. I'm good to go with God."

Mark will be missed by all who knew him. His friends and family repeatedly describe him as an extraordinary individual, who was so devoted to the Marines Corps. Pastor Tim Davis, speaking at Mark's memorial service, described him as "a gentleman who loved his country and really believed in what he did."

Mark's service to our Nation earned him many awards, such as the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. But, the highest honor he earned was the respect and admiration of those who knew him. Mark's life has truly been an inspiration for others. His younger brother, Darren, a Marine scout sniper, said, "I always did everything he did and went everywhere he went." And just this past summer, Mark's younger brother Kenny followed in his footsteps and also enlisted in the Marines.

Indeed the world is a better place because Mark Smykowski was in it, and I am honored that I was able to attend his burial service at Arlington National Cemetery. He will forever be

known for his sincere desire to help others, his willingness to act, and his dedication to his friends, family, community, and country.

I conclude with the words of Mark's close friend, Matthew Neath:

I know if he had to do it all over again, regardless of the outcome, he wouldn't change a thing.

My wife Fran and I will continue to keep Mark's family in our thoughts and in our prayers.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS TIMOTHY J. HINES, JR.

Mr. President, this evening I rise to remember a brave young man, who gave his life in service to our Nation—Army PFC Timothy J. Hines, Jr., from Fairfield, OH. Private First Class Hines was wounded on June 19, 2005. He was riding in a military vehicle when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy in Baghdad, Iraq. Severely injured, he was transferred to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, for treatment. Tragically, he passed away from his injuries a month later on July 14, 2005. He was 21 years of age at the time.

Growing up in Fairfield, Tim, as he was known by friends and family, came to love two things: basketball and Katy Wessel. He and Katy met while they were both high school freshmen at Cincinnati Christian School. Katy's father Jim remembers that when he first met Tim, he could immediately tell that the boy was "smitten" with his daughter. In Jim's words, that made Tim "public enemy number one."

But, that didn't stop Tim. Before long, he and Katy were high school sweethearts. And Jim, himself, came to view Tim as a friend and as a son.

Tim graduated from Cincinnati Christian School in 2002. Headmaster Wayne Beaver remembers that he was always positive—someone whose "classmates all liked him." Tim and Katy got married after graduation, and Tim then enlisted in the Army in 2003. He was assigned to the 720th Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, 64th Military Police Unit, based in Fort Worth, TX.

Tim's unit shipped out to Iraq in February 2005. Although he found it hard to leave his family and friends, he knew he was doing the right thing. According to Katy, "he knew the obligation he had to his country."

Indeed, Tim was a soldier devoted to his mission and to our Nation. But, he also joined the Army out of a desire to protect those whom he loved. In the words of a sergeant in Tim's unit:

I knew that I'd come upon a special soldier with great potential, whose character and values were rooted in his love of his family, god, and friends. I believe he wanted to go to Iraq not out of duty, but out of love for others.

Tim's twin sister, Jenni, remembers that he was a great brother and friend—someone who was always looking out for her. And that is also what Tim was doing as a soldier—looking out for his friends, his family, and his country. His service to our country

earned him the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

Those who knew Tim remember him as someone who always wanted to make others laugh. His wife Katy says that he packed a lot of love into his life and simply had a spark that drew people close to him. In photos, you can see he was always smiling or trying to make someone else smile.

Tim enjoyed playing basketball. It was a passion he shared with his best friend, Tim Hester. While in Iraq, Tim would e-mail Hester about the one-on-one games they would play when he returned. Hester describes Tim as someone who was funny, kind, and loving. He said:

Tim was always making people laugh. He was always joking around. That was one of my favorite parts about Tim. We could always just joke around. But, we also had serious times together. You know, when things were going wrong, we were there for each other.

Tim's father-in-law says it was a treat to watch Tim with the family he loved so much. He said:

Timothy James Hines, Jr. was a true hero. He's my hero. His faith in God, his dedication to his family, his love of life, his courage and strength, and his service to his country have profoundly and forever impacted me.

Even in Tim's darkest hour, he was thinking of his family first. His mother-in-law Kathi tells the story of when Tim was wounded in Iraq:

A buddy who stayed with him while they waited for help said all he talked about was [his wife] Katy, [his 2 year-old daughter] Lily, and the coming baby. He's very devoted to his family. He's the kind of young man any mother would want her daughter to marry.

Tragically, Tim died before the birth of his son, Noah.

As Ohioans have done so often in the past, the community has rallied around Tim's family, offering comfort and support. More than 400 mourners attended his funeral to pay their respects to this fallen soldier. And an anonymous donor gave a full scholarship to Cincinnati Christian School, Tim and Katy's alma mater, for the education of their children.

I would like to share with my colleagues the words of Army BG Patrick O'Reilly, who spoke at Tim's funeral. This is what he said:

It's soldiers like Timothy Hines who serve and guard our way of life. But, it's not just the soldier who pays the price for freedom. The families also give so much, and you too have sacrificed.

I would also like to share what Tim's wife Katy has said about her husband—truly the love of her life:

Tim was a fighter. He fought hard for his country, family, and ultimately, his life. He was a loyal husband and father and an incredible American. There is a price for freedom, and Tim paid the ultimate price. Now he is in the loving arms of God.

I am honored that I had the opportunity to attend Tim's funeral, where his family and friends talked about his

warmth, his humor, and his desire to protect those he loved. He was a man we all aspire to be—someone devoted to his family, his community, and his country. My wife Fran and I will continue to keep his family in our thoughts and in our prayers.

LANCE CORPORAL WILLIAM BRETT WIGHTMAN

Mr. President, this evening I rise to honor a fallen hero who gave his life during Operation Iraqi Freedom—LCpl William Brett Wightman, from Sabina, OH. He died on August 3, 2005, when a roadside bomb exploded under his military vehicle in Iraq. He was 22 years of age at the time.

Brett—as he was called by family and friends—was a true example of what it means to be a “hometown hero.” Sabina is a small village in Clinton County, OH, not too far from my home. The high school Brett attended—East Clinton High School—is carved out of surrounding fields, fields of farmland. Brett will never be forgotten there. He was prom king, a star on the basketball and track and field teams, and captain of the school's football team, the Astros. He played fullback. He wore No. 44.

Everyone who knew Brett agrees that he died doing what he wanted to do—serving our Nation. Becoming a member of the military had been his dream ever since he was a little boy. Brett's aunt Missy said that Brett “would play with those G.I. Joes and he'd say ‘I'm going to grow up and be one of those guys.’ All of his life, that's all he would talk about.”

Brett joined the Marines while he was still a junior in high school—young enough that he needed his parents to come with him to enlist and give their permission. The Reserves unit Brett served with was Lima Company—Marine Force Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, based in Columbus, OH. Their story, of course, is one that I have talked about on this Senate floor before and one that has touched hearts in Ohio and all across our country. On the day Brett died, 13 other men in his unit died alongside him. It was a tragedy felt by the entire State, and by our Nation.

Family members said Brett was proud of being a marine and was planning to reenlist. His goal was to rise to the very top of the service. As his step-sister Stephanie Finley said:

When I talked to him a month ago, he said he loved what he was doing. He said he would go back if he had to.

According to his mother, Pam, she received a letter from her son that she will cherish forever. In it, he described finding a child while searching Iraqi houses for material to make improvised explosive devices. The child was chained to the wall, and it was Brett and his fellow marines who rescued him. It was a day of the utmost importance for Brett, and this is how he described it:

One of the kids was chained up to a wall by his ankle with a dead lock. He looked like he had been there for months. If anyone tells

you we shouldn't be over here they should have seen how happy this kid was when I cut him loose.

After signing his letter, Brett wrote “P.S.—Hang in there.” This was typical of Brett, according to his family. Even while serving his country overseas, he was more concerned about others than himself. Brett's friends and former teammates describe him as a person who would do anything for you. His stepsister Stephanie said:

It didn't take Iraq for him to be a hero to me. He'll always be my hero.

Brett was committed to the Corps and the other marines in his unit. While serving in Iraq, he received the news that his grandmother had passed away. Although deeply saddened, Brett wrote that he would have to wait to take the time to grieve. In his words, he had “to watch out for my Marines.” According to his mother, this letter encapsulated everything that Brett was about. “He would do anything for anybody at any time,” she said.

Brett's father, Keith, agreed:

Things like that just make you feel that your child has grown up to be responsible,” he said. “He did what he had to do. Not many kids his age take on the responsibilities of the world. Every man and woman in the service is taking that on.

Brett's Aunt Missy said that Brett's life “was just beginning, with a lot of ambition and a lot of hope. Unfortunately, it's been cut short . . . [but] we know that he [was] happy, doing what he wanted to do all his life.”

Mr. President and Members of the Senate, Brett's death was truly a loss for the entire Sabina community, the entire Clinton County community. In a local bar named The Crow Bar, a lone can of beer stands on a shelf. “This beer is for Brett,” reads an attached sign.

Before his Reserve unit was activated, Brett was working as a carpenter for a local home construction company. He was close to his coworkers, one of whom was a fan of Michigan-Ohio State's football team. Before a Michigan/Ohio State game, Brett made a bet with him that the Buckeyes would win. They did win, and Brett enjoyed his winnings—the privilege of frying his friend's Michigan shirt on the grill.

Barb Howard is the mother of one of Brett's hometown friends. She remembers Brett and other neighborhood youngsters lounging around her house after their pee-wee sports games, eating food and watching movies. This group of boys remained friends while playing high school sports, and Brett became like a son to her. “It's like a piece of you is gone,” Barb reflected.

Justin Stewart plays football for the Astros. He said he had admired Brett ever since the third grade, when the older Brett would help him with his pee-wee football drills. “I am proud of him,” Justin said. “I am just happy he was over there fighting.”

As captain of the East Clinton football team, Brett was more than a supportive teammate—he was a leader

with responsibility. This focus on teamwork and this commitment to helping others explain Brett's desire to become a marine, and also explains what kind of marine he became.

Brett's funeral was on the football field at East Clinton High School, and over 1,000 mourners attended to salute the young marine. Rev. Carey Hilterbran, who had known Brett since he was a boy, assured the crowd that it was not a day for sorrow—Brett had died living his dream. “[Brett] wasn't afraid,” he said. “He had a good mindset, and he knew what he wanted to do.” While Reverend Hilterbran was speaking, the members of the Astros football team—wearing their red and white jerseys—stood silently at attention.

Schuyler Streber was one of Brett's football teammates. In his words, the world is going to be a lesser place without Brett Wightman in it. Standing on the East Clinton football field, Schuyler said that “sometimes you want to laugh because of some of the things we did out here together, and [sometimes] you want to cry because of the more emotional times. And to think I'm here right now and he's not—that's something that's hard to face. . . . We'll all miss him very much.”

Duane Richard is a young artist who did not personally know Brett Wightman. But he was so moved by the young Marine's sacrifice that he painted a 30-foot-wide mural of Brett on the side of Duane's parents' barn. He lined the image with 13 American flags—one for each of the Lima Marines killed during the roadside bombing. The barn is along Snow Hill road in Sabina, and people stop everyday to gaze at the mural and take pictures.

The artwork reflects Brett's honor and courage, as well as the great respect that his fellow Americans have for his sacrifice. In Duane's words, Brett was a “true American hero.”

Brett Wightman put his life on the line to preserve the freedoms that we Americans hold dear. He cherished hometown values and the importance of helping those around him. His family and friends will never forget him. “Brett will never be in the past,” as his mother Pam so beautifully said.

Indeed, Brett will never be forgotten. My wife, Fran, and I continue to keep Brett and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, those were three of the most beautiful tributes I have heard any of our colleagues give about the men and women who have died in service to this country. It was truly a testament to the strength of the Senator from Ohio, his caring and compassion for the people of Ohio that he and his team would take the time to compile such beautiful memories of these three young men and to share them with us in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as he did. I thank him for those beautiful tributes.

ROYALTY RELIEF

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to speak about amendment No. 5189 that is pending to the Agriculture Appropriations bill.

According to the unanimous consent agreement entered into a few moments ago, when we return in December we will take up an amendment by Senator CONRAD and I will have time after that amendment to speak again about this issue. It is an issue that I believe we have an opportunity to resolve before this Congress comes to an end. According to the schedule we are operating under, we only have a few more weeks to get our work done. There is a great deal of work that has to be done and a few things that can in fact be done on a bipartisan basis. This is one of them.

Both leaders have expressed their commitment to helping the Senate resolve the issue of expanded offshore drilling so we can provide more oil and gas for a country that is running short.

Four States—Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama, America's energy coast—have been proudly hosting this industry for over 60 years. We have contributed literally billions of barrels of oil, trillions of cubic feet of gas, and much money from the royalties paid has gone to the Treasury. But this is a problem we have to solve. It goes back to the 1998–1999 lease arrangements entered into by Minerals Management. This has been widely reported. It has also been the subject of several hearings in the Senate and the House.

Very simply, the Department made a series of mistakes. Those mistakes are being looked at to determine how and when and under what circumstances. But the fact is, although all the facts are not out yet, we do know that a serious mistake was made. When these contracts were entered into, there was no price threshold in them. When my predecessor Bennett Johnston wrote the Royalty Relief Act, which he did with some of his colleagues, it was always intended to be an incentive if the price of oil was low. At the time the bill was written, the price of oil was \$17 a barrel. We wish that were true today. But it was true back in the early to mid-1980s, when this bill was written.

As the process went on and these leases were entered into, the price threshold was left out. So now the price of oil is \$70 a barrel, or it has been recently, and what happened was, because the thresholds were not in there, the companies didn't have to pay royalties. The bottom line is, we have lost to date \$1.3 billion. It is estimated that we could lose as much as \$10 to \$12 billion; that is, the Federal Treasury.

My amendment has already been filed. If the Senate agrees to the amendment, it will fix that situation without violating contracts. We have established a way for Minerals Management to basically renegotiate the contracts. The taxpayers could then recover that money, and a portion of the money would then be used for the coastal restoration efforts so des-

perately needed in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama in the next few years. If this amendment is passed, coupled with the bill we have already passed, we will have some immediate funding to begin the project of saving our wetlands and securing the energy infrastructure that is a tremendous asset to the Nation. This isn't just about helping Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama. This is about protecting a great coastal wetland that came under tremendous challenge with Katrina and Rita and will come under challenges again. We most certainly can recover this money, \$11 billion, that does belong to the taxpayer. It was a mistake, a very bad mistake that was made. We can recover some of that money and most of it can go to deficit reduction. If anyone hasn't noticed lately, we have quite a deficit to tackle. Some of this money could go to deficit reduction, and some of it could go to the States under a program already authorized, already supported in a bipartisan way, already in the law, called the OCS Program where this money would be directed.

I thank my colleagues for allowing me to speak tonight. I have filed the amendment so Members could consider it on our break through the holiday and come back and try to restore this money to the Treasury, help take the deficit down, and let's get started saving these wetlands and protecting the coast which is so vital to the economic future of the Nation.

I thank my colleagues for their patience.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized as in morning business.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Louisiana. I hope the people of her home State are watching carefully. Senator LANDRIEU, even before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, worked very hard for her State. But since then, it has been nonstop. She is not the only one. There are many elected officials who are doing everything they can to help the families and businesses and others who were devastated. But I commend her to be here so late at night speaking up for her State again. I hope she is successful with her amendment which would bring resources to her State that are badly needed as post-Katrina construction continues.

SENATOR MIKE DeWINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a few moments ago, our colleague from the State of Ohio, Senator MIKE DeWINE, gave tribute to three Ohioans who lost their lives in Iraq. I listened to these carefully and I hope others did as well. They were beautiful life stories, beautifully written, beautifully spoken by