

Kids are beginning to drink earlier and earlier—at younger and younger ages—and they are doing so in ways that could negatively affect their bodies, their minds, and their futures. I urge swift passage of this legislation and look forward to seeing the good work that comes from it.

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL JAMES L. JONES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to GEN James Logan Jones, USMC, who is concluding his extraordinary career in the Marine Corps with his retirement as Commander, United States European Command and as the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO.

For 5 decades, Jim Jones and his family have faithfully served our Nation in peace and war. From 1965, when he led a platoon in the jungles of Vietnam, to 1999, when he became the 32nd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and subsequently led the Corps through 9/11 and the ensuing, turbulent years of the global war on terrorism, to the present day as he ensures that NATO—the world's preeminent security alliance—is ready for the 21st century, Jim Jones is the embodiment of what a modern American military leader should be—warrior, statesman, visionary.

My long association with General Jones began in 1972 when I was privileged to take the oath of office as Secretary of the Navy at the historic Marine Barracks in our Nation's Capital. Years before, in the winter of 1951 to 1952, I served in Korea, as a young Marine Corps ground officer with the 1st Marine Air Wing. That modest service, coupled with many years of reserve duty thereafter, prompted me to select the Marine Barracks when I became the first Secretary in history to be sworn in on those grounds. Ten years later, I learned that one of the Marine captains who commanded a company of marines that marched at the ceremony that day was CPT Jim Jones. Years later, we were reunited when he was specially selected to come to the Senate to serve as a Marine Corps liaison officer. Our first trip, with Senator John Tower, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee in the early 1980s, was to go to Lebanon to inspect the tragic site where the U.S. Marine barracks were blown up by suicidal terrorists.

Jim's service in the Corps is a lasting memory for me, and many other Members, to name a few: Senators HAGEL, INOUE, LEVIN, LUGAR, MCCAIN, ROBERTS, STEVENS, BURNS, and THOMAS, because of his professionalism and dedication to the Senate's constitutional obligation "to raise and support armies," and "to provide and maintain a navy."

As the years passed on, I have observed with great admiration as Jim Jones applied his talents and abilities to the numerous opportunities and

challenges he faced—from Vietnam to the halls of the Pentagon and Senate, to the deserts of the Middle East, to Eastern Europe and Africa. Our Nation has produced such a courageous, skilled and dynamic officer in Jim Jones.

Among his most challenging assignments was his last where he led the most aggressive transformation efforts in NATO's history—including a comprehensive headquarters realignment, developing NATO's global military capabilities, creating the NATO Response Force, bringing new members into NATO's military structure, and embracing the concept and practice of out-of-area missions for NATO. Under his guidance, NATO now has 30,000 troops deployed in locations across the globe and is leading the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Unlike his predecessors, Jim Jones would travel to any geographic location in his area of responsibility to personally brief traveling Members of Congress—using charts galore.

As a steadfast, life-long supporter of NATO for its unparalleled success in achieving peace through steadfast resolve, I was privileged to watch General Jones provide extraordinary leadership of NATO's military forces as NATO expanded its membership and began to embrace of out-of-area missions. I share his view that: "NATO has been, and needs to remain, a great Alliance: great Alliances do great things. It is possible, even probable, that NATO's most important days and most important missions lie ahead in the future." Thanks in no small measure to General Jones' contributions, I am confident that NATO is and will be always ready for those challenges.

For the years they have shared with him the burdens and joys of arduous public service, it is also important that we publicly thank his wife Diane, and their children, James, Jennifer, Kevin, and Greg. They, too, have sacrificed much for their country. How proud they are, and we are, that their son Greg is an active duty captain in the Marine Corps today. In keeping with the finest traditions of the Marine Corps throughout its 229-year history, General Jones and his family are grateful for their opportunity to serve, and our Nation is equally grateful for their contributions.

As GEN Jim Jones prepares to "hang up" his Marine Corps sword, our Armed Forces, the Congress, and our Nation owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his many years of commitment and service to this country.

General, sir, in the immortal words of the Navy-Marine Corps team, may you have fair winds and following seas as you embark on your next endeavor. Semper Fidelis.

IRAQ'S TOLL OF SLAIN JOURNALISTS CONTINUES TO RISE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Iraq is a dangerous and chaotic place for our

brave American soldiers there, for our coalition partners, and for Iraqi families who must struggle just to make it safely through each day. It is also a perilous place for the journalists who attempt to cover the situation on the ground. They are at the front of the front lines of this conflict, and the dispatches from Iraq produced by representatives of a free and independent press are a vital conduit of information that helps the American people—and their representatives in government—to make more informed decisions. These are print reporters, television correspondents, photo journalists and the other professionals who help journalists in gathering and transmitting the news.

We learned in recent days of the deaths of two more news professionals. Raad Jaafar Hamadi, a journalist with the daily Al Sabah, was shot dead in his car in the east of Baghdad on November 22. Fadhila Abdelkarim, an administrative staff worker of TV station Nainawa, was shot outside her home in Mosul on November 26.

American media professionals have been among the casualties. They are as well known to us as NBC correspondent David Bloom, and those who we will never know by their bylines or on our TV screens. Director General Koichiro Matsuura of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—UNESCO—this week noted that the number of media professionals killed in Iraq continues to grow unabated, and that "since January more than 35 journalists have paid with their lives for their determination to fulfill their mission."

According to Reporters without Borders—RSF—137 journalists and media assistants have been killed in Iraq since the start of the war in 2003, while 51 have been kidnapped. According to RSF, four of the kidnap victims are still being held hostage.

Some in the administration have chosen over the years to disparage the journalists serving in Iraq—for instance, labeling them "lazy" or unwilling to leave their bureaus or hotels.

The reality is far different. Day after day, journalists in Iraq face, and accept, incredible dangers just to do their jobs. As news professionals on one of the most challenging and important news beats on the planet, they deserve great credit for their courage and their commitment, and they deserve our appreciation.

A PLAN FOR IDAHO'S ROADLESS AREAS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on November 29, 2006, Idaho Governor James Risch presented Idaho's petition for our Roadless Areas to the Roadless Area National Advisory Committee here in Washington, DC. I strongly support this collaborative and comprehensive petition.

The Idaho Roadless process was of a thorough and collaborative nature.

Every effort was made to involve county commissioners, members of the public, and a diverse array of participants. Idaho leaders and agency representatives have done an excellent job of including everyone who wished to provide input.

In this case, we have had decades of uncertainty. This petition, as set forth by Governor Risch, has potential to resolve these disputed and difficult issues in a collaborative manner.

The petition is the result of thoughtful hard work intended to reach consensus on a very tough issue. Such decisions seldom provide any one group or individual with everything they had hoped or negotiated to achieve. In this case, it appears to be a fair petition and sets a path forward that will encourage all parties, including those who are in support and in opposition, to resolve their differences and establish Idaho's future road management policy. This is a beginning, not an end.

I commend Governor Risch and his team for their efforts and render my support in behalf of their earnest and diligent effort.

ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006, which was passed by the House of Representatives on September 27, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. This legislation reauthorizes the Native American Programs Act of 1974 through the year 2012 and provides a grant program to ensure the survival and vitality of Native-American languages through such programs as language nests, survival schools, and language restoration programs, in addition to programs currently funded by the ANA grants for language preservation. I am asking the Senate to pass the bill as passed by the House of Representatives. However, I understand that Dr. COBURN has a question about the intent of this bill in respect to a particular matter and would like to engage in a colloquy for the purpose of clarifying that intent.

Mr. COBURN. I rise for the purpose of engaging Senator MCCAIN, who is managing H.R. 4766, in a colloquy over a certain aspect of the bill. Senator MCCAIN, as the chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, to which this bill has been referred, and as the bill's manager in the Senate, I would like to know if it is the intent of this legislation that the Administration for native Americans, in administering the provisions of this bill, require that grants for Native language survival schools require parental permission for the student to participate in the program and also that the students participating in the program demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to grade level?

Mr. MCCAIN. The Senator from Oklahoma is correct. That is the intent of the bill.

ENDING THE TRADE IN CONFLICT DIAMONDS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this week marks the opening of a film that has already gotten a lot of attention, Warner Brothers' "Blood Diamond." Many will flock to theaters to see this Hollywood blockbuster, but I hope these audiences will remember more than the celebrities and action sequences.

So-called blood diamonds finance criminal activity that threatens the lives and environments of civilians, the stability of communities and countries, and national, regional, and international security. Innocent citizens, many of them children, are forced to mine the gems in hazardous conditions while rebel groups reap large profits, which are used to pay for weapons that breed brutal violence. In the past decade, the sale of blood diamonds fuelled civil wars resulting in over 4 million deaths and the displacement of millions of people in Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and now in Ivory Coast.

In 2003, Congress passed the Clean Diamond Trade Act, which sought to ensure that the United States does not participate in the conflict diamond trade by prohibiting the importation of diamonds from countries that fail to implement a clearly articulated system of controls on rough diamonds. It was designed to implement the multinational Kimberley Process scheme launched earlier that year by 70 governments and the global diamond industry, which requires governments to certify that diamond shipments through their countries are conflict-free. The scheme's objectives are to: (1) stem the flow of rough diamonds used by rebels to finance armed conflict; and (2) protect the legitimate diamond industry, upon which several African countries depend for their economic and social development.

A 3-year review of Kimberley Process implementation held earlier this month in Botswana revealed that while important progress has been made, serious loopholes remain and must be closed to stop diamonds from funding conflict in Africa and elsewhere. This meeting comes on the heels of a U.N. report which found that \$23 million in conflict diamonds from Ivory Coast are being sold around the world, and that diamonds continue to cause instability and brutal human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As the largest consumer of diamonds in the world and a strong advocate for transparency and human rights, the U.S. should be setting an example by ensuring that its domestic certification system is effective and by working to strengthen the Kimberley Process. Just 2 months ago, however, the U.S. Government Accountability Office re-

leased an in-depth study that revealed blood diamonds may be entering the United States due to poor enforcement of the Clean Diamond Trade Act and a failure by the U.S. diamond industry to abide by its promise to police itself in support of the Kimberley Process.

The 2003 Clean Diamond Act commissioned this GAO study to identify areas for improvement in domestic and international implementation of the Kimberley Process scheme, so it is now Congress's responsibility to ensure that the responsible government agencies and departments act upon the report's recommendations.

The GAO reports that the U.S. does not inspect rough diamond imports or exports and so must rely on importers to confirm the legality of their wares. Official statistics show an excess of diamond exports over imports of 300,000 carats last year that cannot be accounted for, suggesting that some diamonds are entering the U.S. through informal channels. Clearly, existing U.S. controls are not strong enough and are insufficiently enforced. Similarly, the GAO study finds that implementation of the Kimberley Process scheme in Africa is severely constrained by the limited capacity and resources of these countries and the need to harmonize diamond trade and certification policies among these and other countries in the region.

Both to discourage the mining and sale of blood diamonds and to promote legitimate diamond trade, the United States must initiate regular, independent, and systematic monitoring of diamond imports and exports. The American diamond industry must also adopt and enforce a credible system to make sure that companies are verifiably adhering to the scheme and responsibly sourcing diamonds. In addition to conducting oversight of these domestic activities, Congress needs to advocate and appropriate U.S. assistance for regional efforts to strengthen implementation of the Kimberley Process in Africa.

The release of the film "Blood Diamond" coincides with the holiday shopping season, and it should remind us all that much work remains to put an end to the illicit diamond trade that continues to fuel violence, finance criminals, and exploit innocent people and their environments. I remain committed to improving the Kimberley Process scheme at home and abroad and promoting active leadership by the U.S. government and the American diamond industry towards ensuring that diamond mining contributes to sustainable development in Africa, rather than fueling conflict by financing criminal activity.

CONDITIONS IN DARFUR

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I am grateful for the opportunity to join with my colleagues on the vitally important topic of Darfur and the entire humanitarian crisis facing that part of the world.