

SECOND LIEUTENANT SCOTT B. LUNDELL, UANG

Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to a true American hero, 2LT Scott B. Lundell. Such a description is appropriate to describe Lieutenant Lundell, who was killed in an ambush while training an Afghan Army patrol in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Lundell was by all accounts a first-rate officer. He had risen through the ranks, first enlisting in 2004 at the age of 32 in the Utah National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group and then graduating from Officer Candidate School.

Lieutenant Lundell truly felt a calling to serve, especially after the events of September 11, 2001. I have read that his wife Jeanine remembers that he was not satisfied supporting the war from home but wanted to make a difference overseas, so much so that he did not wait for the next deployment of his unit. Instead he volunteered for his final assignment, training the Afghan military. Upon learning of his passing, Lieutenant Lundell's brother-in-law said, "He did not die doing what he loved—he died doing what he felt passionately about."

Lieutenant Lundell believed in the righteousness of cause so much that when the youngest of his four children was born he named her Liberty.

I am humbled that I had the honor to represent such a patriot in this august body.

MAJOR MARTA MALTBY, USAR

Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to MAJ Marta Maltby, who died of natural causes during her deployment with the 328th Combat Support Hospital at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

This was the second time this intensive care nurse had deployed overseas during a time of war to care for our Nation's wounded. Major Maltby also deployed with the 328th during Operation Desert Storm. Accordingly, she was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Recently, I was able to spend some time with Major Maltby's mother, during an Army Reserve ceremony that, in part, honored the major. I deeply appreciated this opportunity because I was able to learn just how caring and remarkable a person Marta was, as a daughter, wife, and as mother to two grown children.

As I said at that ceremony, Major Maltby, and the rest of her unit, took a glimmer of hope and made survival and recovery a reality for hundreds of our servicemembers. These are also words that describe a true hero.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Maltby family during their time of grieving. May they find solace in knowing that the country appreciates the selfless dedication of their wife, daughter and mother, MAJ Marta Maltby.

#### RECONCILIATION PROGRAMS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in fiscal year 2004 I initiated a new fund in the

Foreign Operations Appropriations Act entitled "Reconciliation Programs." This fund is managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation. In fiscal year 2006 it was funded at \$15 million, and its purpose is to support reconciliation programs and activities "which bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious and political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict and war." Our intent is to support initiatives of organizations representing groups of people who have been in conflict with each other to promote better understanding and reconciliation.

This is a global program, and the funds have been allocated to support activities in countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. For reasons that should be obvious, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the focus of many organizations in that region that seek to bring representatives of both peoples together to build trust, improve understanding, and find common solutions to the roots of the conflict.

There are dozens of conflicts in the world, and \$15 million is too little money to support all the meritorious reconciliation proposals. This is particularly true in the Middle East. USAID has funded several organizations that bring together Israelis and Palestinians, but funding constraints make it impossible to support every deserving organization. This unmet need is the subject of a recent op-ed in the Palestine Times which poses some important questions. I ask unanimous consent that the article by Rabbi Michael Cohen, who has done extraordinary work in this area, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Palestine Times, Dec. 5, 2006]

PALESTINIAN PERMITS AND NGOS  
(Rabbi Michael M. Cohen)

The day after Israel observed the 11th anniversary of the murder of Yitzhak Rabin Haaretz summed up the Arab-Israeli conflict, "After more than six years of continuous fighting, neither side appears to have given up the basic assumption that the beginning of the Intafada. The Palestinians and the Israelis are both still convinced the other side understands only force."

The latest cease-fire in Gaza, shaky at best with Qassam Rockets still being fired into Israel, is a move in the right direction to quell the use of force by both sides. The truth is that for the past year we have not been moving closer to peace between Israel and the Palestinians. King Abdullah has said more than once that unless there is tangible movement towards peace in the upcoming months this conflict will be cursed to go on for decades.

The Talmud teaches a very profound lesson about the use of force and power. In separate moments the prophets Daniel and Jeremiah question how mighty is God. The Talmud responds with equal audacity by stating that God's might can also be found and experienced when God decides to withhold his might and power! This is a lesson too often lost in this holy corner of the world.

There are scores of NGOs across Israel and the Palestinian Authority working together that understand that force will never translate peace into reality. In the ebb and flow of diplomacy these NGOs provide the only ongoing constant to strengthen the majority of Israelis and Palestinians who desire peace. At one time these organizations could apply for Wye River and Israel Arab Peace Partners Program grants from the US government. These have been cut from the US Budget so, for example, organizations of the Alliance for Peace in the Middle East (ALLMEP) are limited where they can find funds.

When attempts are made by ALLMEP to create a separate fund for NGOs working to end the Arab-Israeli conflict they are told by Congress that countries like Israel, Jordan, Egypt, etc. already get billions in US aid, while other areas of conflict get much less. The only way to create such a fund would be to reduce aid, much of it military, to those countries. One question that was not asked recently of Prime Minister Olmert when he was in Washington was, "Would you be willing to have a few million dollars that Israel receives shifted to support organizations that work towards reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians?" At present the United States is spending \$200 million a day for the war in Iraq. Give these NGOs in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict a few hours worth of that spending, and we would see the Palestinian-Israeli conflict end in less than a year.

One of the key ingredients to reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians is the ability to meet each other. For years now the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, the premier teaching and research program in the Middle East where future Arab and Jewish leaders are prepared to cooperatively solve the region's environmental challenges, has been unable to get permits for Palestinian students outside of East Jerusalem to study on its campus. This includes students who wish to, "learn to use the environment as an approach to peace-building between Palestinians and Israelis."

At present the Arava Institute has put together a coalition that includes the office of U.S. Ambassador Richard Jones, USAID, Members of the Knesset Orit Noked and Ami Ayalon, the Middle East Division of the Israel Foreign Ministry, and Gisha: the Center for the Legal Protection of Freedom of Movement. This coalition is working to challenge the Israeli policy of not issuing any new study permits for Palestinians, who have security clearance, and who wish to study in Israel. This policy flies in the face of the Agreement on Movement and Access that was signed last year by the United States, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority. Another question not asked of Prime Minister Olmert, "Are you willing to end this blanket policy of no new study permits for Palestinians to study in Israel?"

The author David Grossman, who lost his son Uri during the war this past summer, poignantly addressed 100,000 Israelis who gathered on the anniversary of Rabin's murder in Rabin Square. Turning to Prime Minister Olmert he said, "We have no choice and they have no choice. And a peace of no choice should be approached with the same determination and creativity as one approaches a war of no choice. And those who believe we do have a choice, or that time is on our side do not comprehend the deeply dangerous process already in motion."

Prime Minister Olmert reached out to Palestinians a few days ago when he spoke at the grave of Ben-Gurion and reiterated his call for the establishment of a Palestinian State next to Israel. We have had enough of words. What we need is peaceful action to

back up such words by both Palestinians and Israelis. An affirmative answer by Prime Minister Olmert to the questions raised above would signal a tangible seriousness about moving the peace process forward, and would show a determination and creativity that is so desperately needed. Similar action will also need to come from the Palestinian side so that both Israeli and Palestinians can move the peace process forward and not backward.

Rabbi Michael M. Cohen is the Director of Special Projects for the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and can be reached at rabbimichael@arava.org.

#### DARFUR

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, the crisis in Darfur demands a more robust response. In July 2004, more than 2 years ago, the United States Senate declared genocide in Darfur. As the crisis has continued, as the death toll has mounted, it was hard to believe that the situation on the ground could deteriorate further. Unfortunately, it has, and the realities today are even worse than they were in July 2004.

As many as 4 million civilians have been uprooted from their homes, and by some accounts 400,000 people have been killed. Countless women and young girls are being violently and sexually abused. Escalating violence is forcing the evacuation of many vital relief workers. These realities are well documented. We have United Nations, U.N., reports, State Department reports, reports from our colleagues who have traveled to the region, and countless other reports that tell us what has happened, what is happening, and who may be responsible.

In the face of this crisis, the response of many citizens, officials, relief workers, and journalists has been impressive and inspiring. Their courageous efforts are testimony to the great work that can be done by individuals who act on their moral duty to end atrocities.

The Senate also has taken important steps. We have provided funding to African Union peacekeepers and to humanitarian workers; we have urged NATO assistance; we have encouraged the establishment of a no-fly zone; we have supported sanctions against the perpetrators of violence; we have established Presidential accountability by requiring regular reports on Darfur; and we have demanded the appointment of a Presidential Envoy to Sudan. We must continue to shine a spotlight and to take action wherever possible.

But like many of my constituents, I am disturbed that the killings and rapes and violence continue. I fear that our efforts and those of many Americans are not being complemented by equal efforts from our President. I again urge the administration to be more proactive and to turn the tables on Khartoum.

Khartoum repeatedly has committed to disarm the Jingawit. In fact, the Government of Sudan committed to do so long ago, in the summer of 2004. To

date, this promise remains unfulfilled. And this Spring, Sudanese officials said that U.N. peacekeepers would be allowed into Darfur once a peace deal was agreed. This commitment has been broken also. These abandoned promises may not be surprising in light of Khartoum's long history of intransigence. What is astonishing is that Khartoum has faced few consequences for these massive failures, and worse, that Khartoum still is being allowed to dictate the terms of peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts in Darfur.

I implore the administration to learn from this grim history, and to get one step ahead of the leaders in Khartoum. We must prepare for all scenarios, not just those we seek.

Going forward, our agreements with Khartoum must include some "teeth" to incentivize compliance. We should remind Khartoum that we already have good records of the crimes committed in Darfur and of the suspected perpetrators. We also should pursue without delay all points of pressure that have been authorized by the U.N. Security Council. We must demonstrate to Khartoum that continued intransigence will be more painful than cooperation.

As we pursue these measures with Khartoum, we should remind rebel groups that they will be held accountable for violations of international law. In addition, we should work urgently with partners to stabilize eastern Chad and the Central African Republic.

I suspect that history will pass exacting judgment on all parties who have acted insufficiently to end the suffering in Darfur. But history is a long way off for the people of Darfur, and I will continue to work urgently with colleagues towards peace in Sudan and the region. I urge the President to work more proactively to end this unconscionable crisis.

#### TRIBUTE TO JASON LEE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a member of my staff, Jason Christopher Lee, who has been recalled to active Federal service as a member of the United States Army Reserve and will deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jason joined my staff in February 2005, where he has done a tremendous job serving Virginians out of my Norfolk office. In addition, Jason is attending college at Old Dominion University, where he is maintaining an excellent grade point average while studying communications.

I believe much of Jason's success is due to his distinguished service in the U.S. Army, where he has attained the rank of corporal and is responsible for leading fellow soldiers into battle. This is not the first time Jason has answered the call of duty in support of our country. He has previously served in both Kosovo and Iraq, where he earned the Army Commendation Medal and was recognized as an outstanding

soldier. Indeed, Jason was originally scheduled to be discharged from the Army prior to his Iraq tour, but he answered his country's call to arms and was deployed to some of the most dangerous locations in Iraq in 2003 and 2004. Following this period, Jason was honorably discharged from the Army and was placed in the inactive reserve.

Though generals and admirals may be the public face of this war, it is servicemembers, such as Jason, who fill the ranks of our formations, who carry out our Nation's policy on the deadly streets of Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. They do not complain about the hazardous conditions they face, but go on with the knowledge that this Nation relies on them to fulfill their duty under all conditions. We owe them all a tremendous debt of gratitude for their selfless service.

Jason, I salute your courage and your unending personal sacrifice on behalf of this country. I join your family and friends in wishing you a swift and safe return.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, as the time for my departure from the Senate draws near, on behalf of the greatest blessings in my life, my wife Susan, and my children, Tyler, Forrest, and Brooke, I wish to thank my colleagues for their many courtesies and friendships forged during these past 6 years, and offer a few concluding reflections on our time here together, and the future of our Republic.

Our foremost senior statesman in Virginia, one who served with particular distinction in this body—Harry Byrd Jr.—has observed that, with the exception of the Presidencies of Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt, no time in our Nation's history has been witness to more problems and challenges of great magnitude than these past 6 years.

When I arrived here in January 2001, America was at peace—or so we thought. And then on the bright, blue sky morning of September 11, the skies suddenly darkened with clouds of smoke from the Pentagon, and the horrific collapse of the World Trade Center Towers. And our world changed forever.

When I arrived in this body, accompanying a change of Presidential administrations, our challenges were mostly economic—or so we thought. Our prosperity was already slipping, but most forecasts were for a mild downturn in the economy. That changed on September 11 as well.

A cascade of other great challenges soon followed in rapid succession—issues foreign and domestic, challenges locally and nationally, threats man-made and disasters decreed by nature.

Through all of these unprecedented storms, it was our responsibility to make careful, prayerful decisions for the safety, security and prosperity of the people of our country.