

should be invited to join NATO as soon as they meet Alliance requirements. Each has expressed a strong desire to join the Alliance, and each is capable of making important contributions. While I am disappointed that invitations will not be extended here at Riga, we must increase the tempo of cooperation between the Alliance and those states.

NATO should also invite Georgia to join the Alliance. Tbilisi is a young democratic government, resisting pressure from break-away republics backed by Moscow and Russian troops on Georgian soil. Georgia has been a superb role model for the region, and it is host to critical segments of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the Southern Caucasus natural gas pipeline. Two months ago, the NATO Secretary General announced that the Alliance had launched an Intensified Dialogue with Georgia. While this is an important step, NATO must grant a Membership Action Plan as soon as possible.

After recovering from recent political instability, Ukraine has indicated that it wants to move more slowly toward NATO membership. I am pleased that Kiev has acknowledged the important work needed to accurately convey to its population what NATO membership would mean. While I hope this process might move more quickly, I urge the Alliance, when all applicable criteria are satisfied, to support efforts for Ukraine to join NATO.

The Alliance must also continue to encourage Belgrade to meet its international obligations, which include full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. With additional progress on war criminals and other important reforms, Serbia would be a valuable member of the Alliance.

#### CONCLUSION

By their nature, alliances require constant study and revision if they are to be resilient and relevant. They must examine the needs of their members and determine how the alliance can safeguard the freedom, prosperity, and security of each member. NATO has survived and prospered because it has been able to do this repeatedly. We have met the threat of Soviet aggression, expanded the zone of peace and security across Europe, guarded against the risks posed by terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and improved our ability to project power over long distances. We are meeting threats in Afghanistan, the African continent, and other locations outside Europe. But if we fail to reorient the Alliance to address energy security, we will be ignoring the dynamic that is most likely to spur conflict and threaten the well-being of alliance members.

I understand that adopting energy security as a mission is a major advancement from NATO's origins. But it represents an historic opportunity to change the circumstances of geopolitics to the benefit of all members. At this summit, we should engage in a broad, strategic debate on how we can ensure progress in Afghanistan, strengthen NATO through new members, and face the energy security threats of the 21st century together. Although Riga may not produce definitive answers to these questions, it must be the summit that starts the crucial discussion that will lead to consensus.

The stakes are such that if we wait even a few years, we are likely to find that our alliance is in jeopardy. We will look back at this point in time and see it as a critical juncture that required bold vision and leadership. I look forward to working together with each of you to provide this leadership.

Thank you.

#### CAMERON GULBRANSEN KIDS AND CARS SAFETY ACT

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I submit to the RECORD my disappointment that the Senate failed to consider S. 1948, The Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act to improve the child safety features in new vehicles.

Nearly every other day, a child dies in the United States from a completely preventable tragedy—backed over by a driver who could not see behind their vehicle, strangled in a power window, or killed when an automobile inadvertently shifts into gear. The average age of victims in these cases is just 1 year old. In 70 percent of cases, a parent, relative, or close friend is behind the wheel.

Safety is something every family deserves, and it is not a partisan issue. I have been proud to work with Senator SUNUNU of New Hampshire as my partner on this legislation. We have met with families from our States and listened to parents share their heart-wrenching experience of losing a child.

The Gulbransens are one such family. Two-year-old Cameron was killed when he slipped outside unnoticed by his mother and babysitter and toddled behind the SUV his father was backing into the driveway. It is in memory of Cameron and the hundreds of children like him that we introduced bipartisan legislation to take steps we know can reduce these accidents. The Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act will help to ensure that America's cars are properly equipped to prevent these tragedies from happening to others.

While the auto manufacturing industry has tried to make some changes to address these issues, this bill is timely and urgently needed. As parents, we do all we can to keep our children safe. As legislators, we should do the same to protect our Nation's children.

I am committed to reintroducing the Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act in the 110th Congress and will work vigorously to ensure that safer cars mean safer kids across America.

#### RETIREMENT OF LINDA L. STOLL

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service of Linda L. Stoll, who has been an employee of the Federal Government for nearly 34 years, including 21 years with the National Park Service. Since July 2000, Ms. Stoll has been the superintendent of Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota. Wind Cave is the fourth longest cave in the world.

Ms. Stoll began her career with the Government in the 1970s with the General Services Administration in Denver. Over the course of 12 years in the agency, she held several positions, starting as a clerk stenographer and ultimately becoming personnel management specialist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Miami, FL.

In 1985, she accepted a position with the National Park Service as supervisory personnel management specialist at Everglades National Park. It was the first of what were to be many posts in an extensive and highly regarded career. In 1988, she became superintendent of what is now Pecos National Historical Park. Also prior to coming to Wind Cave, she was assistant regional director for program review in the Intermountain Regional Office of National Park Service.

As the superintendent of Wind Cave for 6 years, Ms. Stoll took the lead in shepherding the park through 10 environmental assessments and one environmental impact statement. The purpose of these exercises was both to be sure park resources were being protected, and to ensure the safety of those visiting the park. The results of this work were an array of construction projects and new wildlife management plans. Her ingenuity helped to preserve the wonderful Wind Cave system and the mixed-grass prairie that is also under her jurisdiction.

Ms. Stoll will be retiring on January 3, 2007 and intends to stay in the Hot Springs area. Though her day-to-day presence at the park will be greatly missed, her years of hard work are appreciated by the visitors of Wind Cave and all those who care about protecting this national treasure. I applaud Ms. Stoll's service and thank her for her time and efforts.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARK KEENUM

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to bring to the attention of the Senate that my long-time staff member and current chief of staff, Mark Keenum, who has served my office and the Senate so well for the past 17 years in a manner which reflects great credit on the Senate, has been nominated by President Bush to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

His confirmation by the Senate will give him an opportunity for continued public service that will benefit all Americans. I do not know of another person who would bring any better qualifications to this job than Mark Keenum. He has an agriculture economics undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University and also received graduate degrees from that university, including a Ph.D. After completing his studies, Mark served on the faculty at Mississippi State as an instructor and was actively engaged in research in emerging agriculture and aquaculture areas of interest in our State.

In 1989 Mark joined my staff here in Washington as a specialist in agriculture and agriculture economics. He has been an outstanding member of my staff, both in helping to develop policy initiatives and in monitoring all the legislation affecting the Department of Agriculture. In my duties as a member and later Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, he provided very