

good grades in school and you will succeed in life.

H.R. 2272 contains provisions that will encourage better alignment of elementary and secondary curricula with the knowledge and skills required by colleges and universities, 21st century employers, and the Armed Forces. There are critical measures that will improve teacher recruitment and training, develop partnerships between schools and laboratories, and encourage internship programs. These provisions will increase students' exposure to inspirational teaching, talented scientists, and real-world experience so that high school graduates students are better prepared to succeed in today's global economy.

But it is not enough to improve science and math education. Those students who choose to pursue high-tech careers require federal funding to conduct research. H.R. 2272 will significantly increase America's investment in research, doubling funding for the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy's Office of Science over the next 4 years and authorizing a significant increase in funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The legislation goes further toward encouraging scientific and technological discovery by targeting more funds to young researchers and high-risk frontier research.

Today, we face enormous challenges from halting global climate change to curing devastating diseases. This legislation takes critical steps to ensure we arm ourselves with the skills and resources to tackle these problems so that our children and grandchildren may inherit a better world rich with economic opportunities

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM R. FRITSCHÉ

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of the brave staff sergeant from Martinsville, IN. William Fritsche, 23 years old, died on July 29, 2007 from injuries sustained on July 27 near Kamu, Afghanistan, when his dismounted patrol received rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire. With an optimistic future before him, William risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

William joined the Army at the age of 17 after graduating from Martinsville High School. After being deployed in Africa in 2004 and receiving several commendations, he was promoted to sergeant in April of 2005. He was chosen to serve in the Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery, which is the oldest active-duty infantry unit. He was also selected in 2005 to be part of President Bush's inaugural procession in Washington, DC. It was during his most recent assignment to the 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, based out of Vicenza,

Italy, that he was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Today, I join William's family and friends in mourning his death. Although he was extremely proud of serving his country through military service, he prided himself most on his family. He was a devoted husband to Brandi and the loving son of Volitta, a detective in the Morgan County Sheriff's Department.

Martinsville High School administrators, faculty, and students referred to William as having a quiet intensity while being mature, focused, and determined with the ability to succeed at anything he tried. His high school's athletic director spoke highly of the former basketball player saying, "He was one of those players, that if you were a coach, you loved to have on your team because of his work ethic and obviously as an athletic director, he was one of those kids that you love in your program, because he was such a good kid. He just represented you the way you wanted to be represented."

William's final act was one of leadership and bravery. While other soldiers lay dead and wounded, he led a nine man patrol into battle, and according to the Army, his efforts saved other troops. Today and always, William will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of William, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring William's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of William's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of William R. Fritsche in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that William's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with William Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, another month has passed, and more American troops lost their lives overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is only right that we take a few moments in the U.S. Senate to honor them. Outside my office here in Washington, we have a tribute called "Faces of the Fallen." Visitors to the Senate from across the country have stopped by the memorial. I encourage my colleagues to come see this tribute on the third floor of the Hart Building.

Since the end of June, the Pentagon has announced the deaths of 88 troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten. So today, I will read their names into the RECORD:

SGT Stephen R. Maddies of Elizabethton, TN;
CPL Jason M. Kessler of Mount Vernon, WA;
1LT Benjamin J. Hall, VA;
SPC Camy Florexil of Philadelphia, PA;
CPL Sean A. Stokes of Auburn, CA;
SSG Wilberto Suliveras of Humacao, Puerto Rico;
MAJ Thomas G. Bostick Junior of Llano, TX;
SSG William R. Fritsche of Martinsville, IN;
PFC Cody C. Grater of Spring Hill, FL;
SPC Daniel A. Leckel of Medford, OR;
PVT Michael A. Baloga of Everett, WA;
SGT William R. Howdeshell of Norfolk, VA;
SPC Charles E. Bilbrey Junior of Owego, NY;
SPC Jaime Rodriguez Junior of Oxnard, CA;
PFC Juan S. Restrepo of Pembroke Pines, FL;
SGT Courtney D. Finch of Leavenworth, KS;
SSG Joshua P. Matteredo of San Diego, CA;
LCpl Robert A. Lynch of Louisville, KY;
CPL James H. McRae of Springtown, TX;
CPL Matthew R. Zindars of Watertown, WI;
1SG Michael S. Curry Junior of Dania Beach, FL;
SGT Travon T. Johnson of Palmdale, CA;
PFC Adam J. Davis of Twin Falls, ID;
PFC Jessy S. Rogers of Copper Center, AK;
Hospitalman Daniel S. Noble of Whittier, CA;
PFC Zachary R. Endsley of Spring, TX;
LCpl Bobby L. Twitty of Bedias, TX;
SGT Shawn G. Adams of Dixon, CA;
CPL Christopher G. Scherer of East Northport, NY;
SGT Jacob S. Schmuecker of Atkinson, NE;
SFC Luis E. Gutierrez-Rosales of Bakersfield, CA;
SPC Zachary R. Clouser of Dover, PA;
SPC Richard Gilmore the Third of Jasper, AL;
SPC Daniel E. Gomez of Warner Robbins, GA;
CPL Rhett A. Butler of Fort Worth, TX;
PFC Brandon M. Craig of Earleville, MD;
SGT Ronald L. Coffelt of Fair Oaks, CA;
PFC James J. Harrelson of Dadeville, AL;
PFC Ron J. Joshua Junior of Austin, TX;
PFC Brandon K. Bobb of Orlando, FL;
SGT Nathan S. Barnes of American Fork, UT;
CPO Patrick L. Wade of Key West, FL;
PO1 Class Jeffrey L. Chaney of Omaha, NE;
SPC Eric M. Holke of Crestline, CA;

LCpl Shawn V. Starkovich of Arlington, WA;
 SGT John R. Massey of Judsonia, AR;
 PFC Benjamin B. Bartlett Junior of Manchester, GA;
 SPC Robert D. Varga of Monroe City, MO;
 PFC Christopher D. Kube of Sterling Heights, MI;
 SGT Allen A. Greka of Alpena, MI;
 SGT Courtney T. Johnson of Garner, NC;
 1SG Jeffrey R. McKinney of Garland, TX;
 CAPT Maria I. Ortiz of Bayamon, Puerto Rico;
 SGT Eric A. Lill of Chicago, IL;
 MSG Randy J. Gillespie of Coaldale, CO;
 CPL Kory D. Wiens of Independence, OR;
 PFC Bruce C. Salazar Junior of Tracy, CA;
 SGT Gene L. Lamie of Homerville, GA;
 PFC Le Ron A. Wilson of Queens, NY;
 CPL Jeremy D. Allbaugh of Luther, OK;
 LCpl Steven A. Stacy of Coos Bay, OR;
 LCpl Angel R. Ramirez of Brooklyn, NY;
 COL Jon M. Lockey of Fredericksburg, VA;
 SFC Sean K. Mitchell of Monterey, CA;
 PFC Jason E. Dore of Moscow, ME;
 SPC Jeremy L. Stacey of Bismarck, AR;
 SPC Anthony M.K. Vinnedge of Okeana, OH;
 SPC Roberto J. Causor Junior, of San Jose, CA;
 SPC Michelle R. Ring, of Martin, TN;
 MAJ James M. Ahearn, CA;
 SGT Keith A. Kline of Oak Harbor, OH;
 SPC Christopher S. Honaker of Cleveland, NC;
 PFC Joseph A. Miracle of Ortonville, MI;
 SGT Thomas P. McGee of Hawthorne, CA;
 PO1 Jason Dale Lewis of Brookfield, CT;
 PO1 Robert Richard McRill of Lake Placid, FL;
 PO1 Steven Phillip Daugherty of Barstow, Ca;
 CWO Scott A.M. Oswell, WA;
 PFC Andrew T. Engstrom of Slaton, TX;
 PFC Steven A. Davis of Woodbridge, VA;
 1LT Christopher N. Rutherford of Newport, OH;
 LCpl William C. Chambers of Ringgold, GA;
 LCpl Jeremy L. Tinnel of Mechanicsville, VA;
 LCpl Juan M. Garcia Schill of Grants Pass, OR;
 SFC Raymond R. Buchan of Johnstown, PA;
 SSG Michael L. Ruoff Junior of Yosemite, CA;
 SPC Victor A. Garcia of Rialto, CA;
 PFC Jonathan M. Rossi of Safety Harbor, FL.

To date, more than 3,600 American men and women have lost their lives in Iraq. And more than 400 have lost their lives in Afghanistan. We will not forget them and the Nation will not forget their sacrifice.

COURT SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the first actions I took this year was to reintroduce the Court Security Improvement Act of 2007, S. 378, on January 24, 2007. This bipartisan bill has a dozen cosponsors here in the Senate. In February we held a Judiciary Committee hearing at which we heard from Justice Anthony Kennedy. In March the Judiciary Committee considered and then reported the bill by unanimous consent.

I thank the majority leader and the assistant majority leader for their in-

terest in these matters. Each has witnessed violence against judges in their home States. With their leadership, in April the Senate was called upon to consider the measure. I was amazed when it took a cloture motion to proceed to consideration of court security. Cloture on the motion to proceed was obtained by a vote of 93 to 3. Thereafter, this important measure was considered and passed by the Senate on April 19 by a unanimous vote of 97 to 0. Not a single Senator voted against it, not even those Senators who objected to proceeding to the bill initially or the three Senators who voted against cloture on the motion to proceed.

A companion bill was considered by the House of Representatives and passed on a voice vote. To resolve the remaining difference between the Senate-passed measure and the House-passed measure we sought to substitute the Senate-passed text into the House bill and to request a House-Senate conference. This is hardly a novel procedure. It is a standard way to resolve differences and to complete action on legislation. This routine request has cleared the Democratic side of the aisle here in the Senate. No Democratic Senator has objected to proceeding. But, once again, an anonymous objection on the Republican side is thwarting progress. Just as Republican Senators objected to proceeding to consider legislation to bolster court security in April, now, an anonymous Republican objection is preventing the Senate from acting, requesting a conference and moving forward to resolve the differences and enact this long overdue legislation. Despite the broad bipartisan support for both the Senate bill and for the House bill, we are being blocked from going to conference to resolve the minor differences between them by an anonymous Republican Senator.

This obstruction delays the useful provisions in these bills and threatens important safety measures for our Federal judges and their families. For our justice system to function, our judges must be able to dispense justice. They and their families must be free from the fear of retaliation. Witnesses who come forward must be protected, and the courthouses where our laws are enforced must be secure. We are in danger of letting this chance to improve the security of our Federal courts slip through our fingers. I am disappointed and troubled that we will not be improving the security for our Federal judges and courthouses around the Nation before we go into recess.

I hope that the Republican Senator who has placed this anonymous objection would remove it, to let us go to conference, and to let us improve the security that our Federal courts need.

BRIDGE DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to enter into a brief colloquy with my colleague on the Environment and

Public Works Committee regarding his understanding of congressional intent for monies authorized in the pending Minnesota, bridge disaster relief bill.

I want to clarify that this authorization comes from the general fund rather than the Highway Trust Fund. Is that your understanding?

Mr. INHOFE. If the chairman will yield, I concur completely with your understanding. As I read the language, it clearly comes from the general fund and not the Highway Trust Fund. Given the precarious situation with Highway Trust Fund finances, it would be a mistake to place further burdens on it, and as per SAFETEA-LU, all additional emergency repairs come from the general fund.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank my colleague for his concurrence.

ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, after the overthrow of Ethiopia's brutal former Prime Minister Mengistu, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi ushered in a period of hope and optimism. On May 15, 2005, Ethiopia held its first open multiparty elections. The international community praised the people of Ethiopia for an astounding 90 percent voter participation rate, an encouraging beginning to a new political process. The Ethiopian people deserve a democratic process in which opposition parties can organize and participate, and journalists can publish freely, without fear of arrest or retribution. Unfortunately, as it turned out, the 2005 election was not the turning point many had hoped for.

Early polls suggested the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party would make gains in the Ethiopian Parliament that could threaten the control of Prime Minister Meles' ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. These reports were followed by credible allegations of manipulation of the vote-counting process. When the government finally announced results that assured its continued hold on power, thousands of people took to the streets in protest. The police arrested over 30,000 people and some 193 people were killed. Although most of the protesters were released soon after their arrest, 70 opposition leaders and journalists remained in prison.

Following these events, I wrote to Ethiopia's Ambassador Kassahun Ayele and officials at the State Department to express my concern with the imprisonment of the Ethiopian politicians. Human rights organizations and other international figures condemned the detentions and urged Prime Minister Meles to release them. These efforts were to no avail.

Some detainees remained in jail for over 2 years before being brought to trial in a manner that was incompatible with international standards of justice. Last month, they were convicted of such vague charges as "outrage against the constitution" and "inciting armed opposition." They were