

who serve in a covert capacity. But the CIA keeps scores of classified material—including videotapes—while protecting the identities of its agents. This raises serious questions about whether the tapes were destroyed to protect the nature of the interrogation, rather than the identity of the interrogator.

This incident deserves further congressional oversight and inquiry—neither the CIA nor this interrogation program is immune to our laws. This is yet another chapter in a dark period in our constitutional history. Now, it is time to turn the page. That is why I was heartened to learn that the House and Senate Intelligence Committees have reached agreement on including a requirement in the Intelligence authorization bill that subjects CIA interrogators to the guidelines on interrogation included in the U.S. Army Field Manual. It would be a grave disappointment—though not surprising—if this important step forward were subject to a veto threat from the President. That must not deter the Congress from moving forward. We have a responsibility to act.

We should not have a separate interrogation program whose methods are so abhorrent that they cannot stand up to scrutiny. We should not have to find ways of ignoring or averting our own laws to defend our country. Torture does not work. Torture violates our laws. And torture sets back the standing and moral leadership that America needs to triumph in this global struggle. Our values and laws are not inconvenient obstacles to the defense of our national security—they can and must be a guiding force in our response to terrorism.

Today is Pearl Harbor day—a date when our Nation was subjected to a terrible surprise attack, and when a generation of Americans answered the call to defend our security and extend the cause of freedom. More than 6 years after 9/11, we are still struggling to define our own response to our generation's terrible surprise attack. As we defend America, let us learn the painful lessons of these last few years, and enlist our values and our Constitution in this first great struggle of the 21st century.

NATIONAL STEM SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joining my colleagues from Illinois and Minnesota, Senators OBAMA, DURBIN, and COLEMAN, in introducing the National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, STEM, Scholarship Database Act of 2007, which is intended to address one of the obstacles that students experience in pursuing undergraduate and postbaccalaureate studies in STEM fields.

There is growing concern that the United States is not preparing a sufficient number of students, teachers, and

practitioners in STEM fields. An important aspect of U.S. efforts to maintain and improve economic competitiveness is the existence of a capable scientific and technological workforce.

The change from a labor-based manufacturing to a knowledge-based manufacturing and service economy demands certain skills of our citizenry. The National Science Foundation, NSF, projects that in the increasingly changing context for science and technology, a workforce trained in the sciences and engineering is necessary for continued economic growth. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that science and engineering occupations are projected to grow by 21.4 percent from 2004 to 2014, compared to a growth of 13 percent in all occupations during the same time period. Furthermore, the current scientific and engineering workforce is aging. The NSF reports that the number reaching retirement age will increase dramatically over the next two decades.

A May 2007 report of the Department of Education states that: There is increasing concern about U.S. economic competitiveness, particularly the future ability of the nation's education institutions to produce citizens literate in STEM concepts and to produce future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and technologists. Such experts are needed to maintain U.S. pre-eminence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. While other countries around the world strive to improve their own education systems and to expand their economies, the U.S. will have to work even harder in the coming years to maintain its competitive edge.

In addition to these statistics, we have anecdotal evidence from universities across the country and in my home State of Maine. Faculty from the University of Southern Maine and across the State point to decreasing undergraduate enrollments in STEM fields and an even greater decrease in the number of bachelor and master's degrees conferred in these fields. For many students, the obstacle is not a lack of interest but rather a lack of financial resources.

On August 9, 2007, President Bush signed into law Public Law 110-69, The America COMPETES Act, H.R. 2272. The legislation is directed at increasing research investment, improving economic competitiveness, developing an innovation infrastructure, and strengthening and expanding science and mathematics programs at all points on the educational pipeline. The America COMPETES Act authorizes \$33.6 billion for fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2010 for science, mathematics, engineering, and technology programs across the Federal Government. This Federal effort, while laudable, is essentially unknown to the average student interested in pursuing a degree in a STEM field. Moreover, it does little to help a rising college freshman today enter a degree program

in aerospace engineering, veterinary medicine, or computer information systems.

A major challenge facing many high school graduates and their families is how to afford college. Helping students locate financial aid might well increase the number of students entering STEM fields. For many first-generation college students, financial assistance may be available but the student may be unaware of the opportunities. As a result of Federal efforts in this area, there is a large array of financial aid opportunities available in the STEM fields; however, there is no simple way for potential applicants to explore them.

The database created in this bill will have a complete list of STEM scholarships, fellowships, and other programs of financial assistance from all public and private sources for postsecondary and postgraduate study. The American Chemical Society and the National Science Teachers Association believe this measure will expand and strengthen the STEM education pipeline and help keep our nation competitive in the global economy by aiding capable students who are interested in STEM careers in their search for the right scholarship opportunity to support their studies.

With less than 6 percent of the world's population, the United States cannot expect to dominate science and technology in the future as it did during the second half of the last century when we enjoyed a massively disproportionate share of the world's STEM resources. We must invest more in the resources we do have, encourage those resources to produce economically useful innovations, and organize the STEM enterprise by working to make sure that innovations developed here produce prosperity and progress for all.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BETH EL IN MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to Temple Beth El on its 50th anniversary, which will continue to be celebrated throughout the year. This small but vibrant Jewish congregation has made an important contribution to the Midland community.

Since the 1890s, when the first Jewish family settled in this area, there has been a strong Jewish community. By 1955, the Jewish community in Midland totaled nearly 50 families. The following year, after having commuted to other cities for religious instruction and observance for many years, the decision was made to establish a local place of worship. After much discussion and with guidance from Rabbi Katz of Saginaw and the leadership of Ralph Cutler and Leonard Bernstein, the congregation's founding families provided the financial and material support necessary to design and secure a location

for both the temple and for a permanent rabbinical residence.

On December 29, 1957, Temple Beth El formally opened its doors at a dedication ceremony led by the congregation's first spiritual leader, Rabbi Marc Samuels, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a Holocaust survivor. In attendance were the 52 original member families, the congregation's officers, and many other community leaders. At its inception the congregation chose to affiliate itself with the conservative Jewish movement. In 2000, in response to the wishes of its members, the Temple decided to become a reform congregation.

I am sure that my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating the leadership, congregants, and the greater Midland community as they continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Temple Beth El. Their rich history and commitment to service has greatly impacted the small, close-knit Jewish community in Midland. We all look forward to at least 50 more years of spiritual guidance and leadership.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS STRANGE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a man who is a close personal friend of mine but more importantly is admired by fans of the sport of golf around the world.

I wish to highlight the career of professional golfer Curtis Strange, who on November 12, 2007, was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

I first met Curtis as an undergraduate student-athlete at Wake Forest University where he earned the prestigious Arnold Palmer Scholarship to play golf.

Curtis's college career was nothing short of remarkable. Many even consider the team that Curtis played on at Wake Forest to be the best collegiate golf team in U.S. history. In fact, Golf World called the 1975 Wake Forest team that featured Curtis Strange, Jay Haas, Bob Byman, and David Thore as "the greatest of all-time."

In 1974, Curtis won the Fred Haskins Award that goes to the Nation's top collegiate golfer and was awarded 1st Team All-American honors three years in a row.

In 1974 and 1975, Curtis led the Demon Deacon golf team to two, back-to-back NCAA titles and earned the individual collegiate title in 1974, the same year he won the World Amateur Cup.

Curtis turned professional after his junior year in 1976. Throughout his professional career and particularly in the 1980s, Curtis impressed PGA fans with his unmatched skills proving how excellent a golfer he really is, achieving feats that very few other golfers can say they have achieved. For instance, he posted 17 PGA Tour victories including back-to-back U.S. Open Championships in 1988 and 1989, becoming the first to do that since Ben Hogan in 1950-1951. He has been a member of five

Ryder Cup Teams—1983, 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1995—and in 2002, he was captain of the Ryder Cup team. And Curtis Strange's impressive career has not ended. He currently plays on the senior PGA Tour.

But perhaps one of the most honorable achievements of Curtis Strange was his gracious gift to Wake Forest University. He recently very generously established a golf scholarship fund at Wake Forest. This gesture should not go unnoticed. It shows that Curtis is the type of man who wants to give back to the community that helped him get to where he is today. He wants others to benefit from his success.

Curtis Strange is a good man with a good heart.

I congratulate Curtis on his induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame, I commend him for his outstanding achievements as an athlete, and I honor him as a person.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, last night, after months of political posturing, the Senate voted to prevent a massive tax burden from falling on 21 million Americans. Without last night's action, millions of middle-class Americans would have been impacted by the alternative minimum tax, a tax meant to impact only the wealthiest individuals. And while I believe the legislation we passed was not perfect, I would have preferred that we adhere to the pay-go rules that I voted for—it was a compromise I supported.

I must express my disappointment at what it took to get us here. There was no disagreement over whether we should prevent middle-class families from being hit by the AMT. So why would it take months to get this legislation passed? Sadly, the debate surrounded whether or not we should pass the burden of paying for this fix onto the next generation. Republicans wanted to borrow money to pay for this tax cut, while Democrats argued that we should be more responsible and not leave our children with the bill.

In addition to not offsetting the cost of the AMT fix, the Senate failed to pass a tax extenders package. In October, the House passed fully offset legislation that would both fix the AMT and extend certain tax provisions that will expire at the end of the year. These provisions—such as the research and development credit, the tuition deduction, and the deduction for teachers' classroom expenses—are vital to millions of Americans. The Senate had an opportunity to renew these credits and deductions in a fiscally responsible manner. I hope my colleagues will reconsider in the coming weeks and will pass a tax extenders package before we adjourn for the year.

Despite all this, we did the right thing in passing an AMT fix. The AMT was originally intended to prevent the wealthiest Americans from avoiding

paying any income tax. But due to inflation and various changes in tax law, the AMT had morphed and grown—without last night's action, nearly two and a half million families making less than \$75,000 would have to pay the AMT. That is well beyond the scope of what Congress intended when the AMT was put in place, and I am glad we could take the necessary step to prevent that from happening.

I hope my colleagues on the House side will move quickly to get this legislation passed. It is not perfect. Things around here rarely are. And while this bill is fiscally irresponsible, it is equally irresponsible to allow millions of Americans to be hit by a tax that was never intended for them.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE HENRY HYDE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of Representative Henry Hyde, who, as we all know, passed away last Thursday. I believe all those who knew Henry will remember him for his sincere moral convictions and his dedication to the country.

Representative Hyde was born in Chicago in 1924. He graduated from Georgetown University, where he was a standout on the basketball team that made it all the way to the 1943 National Championship game. He went on to obtain a law degree from Loyola University.

Henry was in the Navy during World War II, serving in combat in the Philippines. After the war, he served for more than 20 years in the Naval Reserve, eventually obtaining the rank of commander.

In 1974, he was elected to the House of Representatives where he would represent the citizens of the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois for 22 years. During his time in the House, he became known as a steadfast proponent of the rights of the unborn, authoring the Hyde Amendment, which, to this day, ensures that Federal taxpayer funds are not used in the performance of abortions. He was also a stalwart supporter of our Nation's military and firm believer in the need to uphold the rule of law.

Henry and I had the distinct privilege of having our chairmanships of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees overlap for a substantial period of time. We worked together on numerous pieces of legislation and I always enjoyed the passion and energy he brought to every issue. Henry was a very capable legislator and a man of deep convictions. Last month, President Bush honored Representative Hyde by awarding him our Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. During the ceremony, which Henry could not attend due to his declining health, the President described Henry as a "powerful defender of life, a leading advocate for