

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 Mike. Today and always, Mike will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow soldiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Mike'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 Mike's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of SGT Jon Michael Schoolcraft, III, 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 families like Mike's 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 Mike.

SMALL BUSINESS STIMULUS ACT

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, over the past few months, our country has experienced instability and volatility in its credit markets. This looming credit crisis is affecting virtually every sector of the economy, including small business financing.

Since its inception in 1953, the Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan guaranty program has become the largest single source of long-term capital for small businesses. However, in the wake of the credit crunch and a slowing U.S. economy, we are now noticing that this essential financing resource is not serving nearly as many small businesses as it should. For example, during the first quarter of the 2008 fiscal year, 7(a) lending was down by 12 percent compared with the same period last year. In addition, at his State of the Agency Address this past Tuesday, SBA Administrator Steven Preston acknowledged that SBA lending was down in its largest program.

The Small Business Stimulus Act of 2008 will help reverse this downward trend in small business lending. The

bill will temporarily reduce the fees collected from borrowers and lenders. This will immediately reduce the cost of capital for small businesses. With lower monthly loan payments, more money will be placed into the hands of small business owners money that will be quickly injected into the economy through purchases of inventory, real estate, and equipment. The fee reduction for lenders, coupled with the government guarantee, will give them an incentive to make 7(a) loans, as banks are scrambling for ways to salvage declining revenues and take on less risky loans. A similar stimulus was adopted after 9/11, and lending increased to businesses nationwide, pumping almost \$3 billion into local economies and creating or retaining more than 90,000 jobs.

The bill also provides additional funding for the SBA's microloan program. As its name implies, microloans are small-scale business loans, which provide an essential financing source to underserved members of the business population, including women and minorities. This bill provides \$12 million to expand the SBA's microloan program, including \$2 million that will help leverage nearly \$20 million in microloans.

The Small Business Stimulus Act of 2008 also includes two business tax incentives that will help small businesses that are feeling the impact of the economic downturn. The first provision would increase the amount that businesses can expense from \$125,000 to \$200,000 for 2008. This will help businesses immediately write off business purchases. The second provision increases the net operating carry back period for losses arising in taxable years ending in 2007 and 2008 from 2 years to 5 years. This provision will help business with cash flow. Expanding the carry back allows business owners to balance out net losses over years when the business has had a net operating gain.

I am confident that each of these targeted measures will provide timely, effective incentives to spur spending and encourage new investment and job growth in the hundreds of thousands of small businesses that drive this Nation's economy.

REMEMBERING THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I wish to remember the trials faced by the Ukrainian people and to pay tribute to their fortitude and love of freedom. At times in its history, Ukraine has been exploited and suffered greatly under repressive occupations. The Stalinist regime of the former Soviet Union sought to maintain control of the people and resources of the Ukraine through vicious oppression. The Ukrainian people have weathered many trials, but they have always fought for their freedom. It is my belief that as we embrace Ukraine's future, we must

always remember the hardships of its past.

The Ukrainian peasantry rebelled against the collectivization policies imposed on them by the Stalinist regime starting in 1925. It is documented that very few farmers voluntarily joined collectives until Soviet secret police and Bolshevik brigades were sent to crush the resistance. As agricultural production fell in 1932 due to drought and these Stalinist policies, the regime attempted to maintain its export level. To do this the regime brutally confiscated grain and foodstuffs from hunger-stricken villages. Trade and supplies of food and goods were banned from those villages which were considered to be "underperforming," while families who resisted were banished to central Asia. The totalitarian regime meted out harsh sentences, even the death penalty, against those who stole even small amounts of grain. We can never forget that over 2,000 innocent people, including children as young as 12 years old, were executed under this law.

In 1932, Stalin imposed barricades throughout the USSR to prevent peasants from fleeing those regions stricken by famine. It was a state-organized program of mass starvation against the nation of Ukraine as a whole and the revived Ukrainian nationalism. It had been inflicted on them deliberately to punish Ukraine and destroy the basis of its nationhood. The famine-genocide of the Holodomor resulted in the tragic and unforgettable loss of millions of Ukrainian lives. Nevertheless, the Stalinist regime denied reports of mass deaths and forbade travel to the area to deter foreign journalists from reporting on these terrible crimes. In fact, these horrible crimes remained largely unknown to the broader world for decades as a result of the denials and coverups of the Soviet authorities and their refusal of offers of international aid.

Through its determination to remember the victims of the famine and Soviet oppression, the Ukrainian American community has helped to bring these events to light. Their efforts have helped to give a voice to the millions of people who suffered, starved, and died as a result of a flawed policy and authoritarian regime.

On the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian famine-genocide, we must continue the important work of the Ukrainian American community by remembering the cruel injustices suffered by the Ukrainian people during that part of history. By so doing, we are not only honoring the millions of victims of this oppression, but we are helping to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again in the future.

CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN KENYA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, just over 1 month ago, in the days before the December 27 president election, I