

the Bowling Green Daily Newspaper published a story about General Cherry and the remarkable story of his journey to Vietnam. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Bowling Green Daily News, Apr. 13, 2008]

VIETNAM VET REUNITES WITH PILOT HE SHOT DOWN IN '72

(By Jim Gaines)

BOWLING GREEN, KY.—On April 6, Dan Cherry and Nguyen Hong My were back in the air near Hanoi, capital of Vietnam.

Almost 36 years before—on April 16, 1972—Cherry shot down My's MiG-21 fighter in the same area.

My parachuted as his plane crashed, breaking his arms in the process; and now Cherry's plane, an F4D Phantom II, is restored to its wartime colors and parked in the Aviation Heritage Park on Three Springs Road.

Last week, the two men flew together past the scene of their earlier encounter, chatting in the comfortable seats of a jetliner on their way to My's home.

"It was, I guess, the most amazing experience I've ever had in my lifetime," Cherry said.

Cherry volunteered for combat duty in Southeast Asia in 1966, then for a second tour in 1971. He flew 295 missions, most of them over North Vietnam. He retired as a brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force and went on to a career in Kentucky state government and managing the Kentucky TriModal Transpark.

But, Cherry said, he often wondered what happened to the pilot he shot down. When the Aviation Heritage Park was in its planning stages 2½ years ago, one of its local backers half-jokingly suggested trying to find the MiG pilot.

Cherry worked through friends to contact a reunion show on Vietnamese TV, which worked through the Ministry of Defense to identify Nguyen Hung My.

In December, a producer of the show—called "As If We Never Parted"—e-mailed Cherry with the news and asked if he'd appear on the show.

After flying to Vietnam for his first visit since the war, he went to the TV studio April 5. According to Cherry, the show's host introduced him and told the audience about his life. After showing pictures of Cherry's family, she introduced My.

Cherry said he was nervous, wondering how he'd be received. But My smiled as he came out and shook Cherry's hand. Through an interpreter, My said he was glad to meet Cherry. The anchor told about My's life, his four years of flight training in the Soviet Union and his war service.

Thanh Nien News, a major newspaper in Ho Chi Minh City which publishes in Vietnamese and English, reported on the pilots' meeting. According to that story, My said he'd never thought about looking for the pilot who once shot him down. After the war, he studied English and finance, and worked for an insurance company, the paper said.

My flew for two more years after recovering from his bail-out injuries, speaks Chinese and Russian, has a great sense of humor, and is obviously highly respected by friends and family, Cherry said.

After the show, the two sat down backstage and talked about flying and their respective families.

"We hit it off really well," Cherry said.

Later, they and the TV staff went to a rooftop restaurant in downtown Ho Chi Minh

City. Over dinner, My asked if Cherry would visit his home in Hanoi. Cherry—already planning to go to Hanoi the next day as a tourist—thought My meant some indefinite time in the future; it turned out he meant the next day. When Cherry agreed, My changed his own travel schedule so they could be on the same flight.

My's house, it turned out, was within walking distance of Cherry's hotel. That night he and his friends Larry Bailey and John Fleck made their way to My's house along streets teeming with motor scooters, Cherry said.

They had dinner with My's family, and Cherry got to hold his former opponent's 1-year-old grandson, he said.

"It was just a tremendous experience to be welcomed so completely," Cherry said. "I've made a good friend in Mr. Hong My."

In return, he gave My a bottle of bourbon and invited him to visit Bowling Green, perhaps later this year, he said.

My offered to guide them around the city the next day, showing up at 8 a.m. in a car with his son-in-law and friend. He took them to one site after another, including a number of military museums that ordinary tourists wouldn't get to see, Cherry said. They saw past displays of Soviet-built fighter planes, including MiG-21s like the one My flew in 1972, he said.

Cherry also visited the "Hanoi Hilton"—the building made notorious as a prison for American pilots shot down over North Vietnam. It's now a museum. Most of the exhibits, though, are devoted to the Vietnamese who were held there during the decades of French rule, Cherry said; there's only one small room describing its time as a prison for Americans.

The overall impression he had of Vietnam is that what the Vietnamese call the "American War" has been put far behind them, he said.

"They're moving on to the future. They don't hold any grudges," Cherry said.

My also asked for help with one task: He shot down an American plane, too, but believes that pilot was killed, Cherry said. So he asked if Cherry could help him find that pilot's family. He would like to express his respect and condolences, Cherry said.

NATIONAL TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER AND SON TO WORK DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, April 24 is Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day, which is a great opportunity for people who are in a position to do so to give their kids a better idea of what they do for a living. In my office, we had a short social time this morning to allow the children of staff members to gather and talk about their experience. Participation in Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day can be fun for the parents and the children. But at its heart, this day is a part of a broad effort to reach pay equity for women.

On Tuesday, we marked Equal Pay Day, the point in 2008 when the average woman's wages finally catch up with what the average man earned in 2007. The numbers are sobering.

Equal pay has been the law since 1963. But today, 45 years later, women are still paid less than men—even when women have similar education, skills, and experience. While women's wages have risen in all States, in inflation-adjusted dollars, since 1989, the typical

full-time woman worker does not make as much as the typical man in any State. At the present rate of progress, it will take 50 years to close the wage gap nationwide.

In 2007, women were paid 77 cents for every dollar men received. That is \$23 less for every \$100 worth of work women do—\$23 less to spend on groceries, housing, child care, and other expenses. Nationwide, working families lose \$200 billion of income annually to the wage gap.

Over a lifetime of work, the 23 cents on the dollar women are losing adds up. The average 25-year-old working woman will lose more than \$523,000 to unequal pay during her working life. These figures are even worse for women of color. And because women are paid less now, they have less money to set aside for retirement, and they will earn lower pensions than men.

Part of the motivation behind Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day is to expose children of both genders to professional fields that historically have been dominated by men. This day is one of many initiatives developed to encourage girls and young women in their education and professional journeys. Professional and student organizations, such as the Society of Women Engineers, offer a support network for those young women who are making their mark in professions that historically have not seen many women.

Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day can help both girls and boys see the career opportunities that may be open to them if they stay in school, set goals, and study. I commend the employers and employees who are able to participate today. I would also like to congratulate and encourage the children who are sizing up options for their future careers. Let us keep in mind today that we need to keep working to enable every child to achieve his or her full potential, and we need to ensure that women are fully and fairly compensated for all the work they do.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise in honor of today's Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day when, over the past 15 years, individuals, families and workplaces have joined in expanding opportunities and transforming the lives of millions of girls and boys both nationally and internationally. I want to take this opportunity to discuss the importance of family in creating an active and resourceful citizenship and workforce for the future. As our Nation continues in its historical role as a melting pot, the importance of international adoption in the fabric of American families continues to grow. Mr. PAUL Hanly Furfey stated that "The first, the most fundamental right of childhood is the right to be loved. The child comes into the world alone, defenseless, without resource. Only love can stand between his helplessness and the savagery of a harsh world." Families created or expanded by international adoption are unique and special, open to cultural differences and

sharing in the common elements of mankind, compassion and love.

The United Nations Population Division gathered data from more than 100 countries and found that in a world of 2.2 billion children under the age of 18, fewer than 12 per 100,000 are being adopted. In other words, in a total global population of 6.5 billion, there are only about 260,000 adoptions of all kinds annually including those within countries, across borders and of step children. In the United States we have seen an upward trend in international adoptions from 7,083 in 1990 to 17,718 in 2000 and over 20,000 international adoptions in 2007.

I have received several letters of concern from many Arkansans inquiring as to what the U.S. Government is doing to help these children find their way to loving homes in Arkansas. In fact, the United States has taken several important steps to protect the rights of the child and to assist families in the international adoption process. From a global level, the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption—Hague Adoption Convention—a broad multilateral treaty, was signed by the United States in March of 1994. In 2000, the Senate and the House passed the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to implement the Convention. In 2006, the Department of State issued the final rule on the Accreditation and Approval of Agencies and Persons to implement the Convention and the Intercountry Adoption Act.

Legislation to help adoptive families pay for expenses associated with adoption procedures was signed by President Bill Clinton in 1996 to make improvements to the Internal Revenue Code to add a two-part adoption assistance tax relief program. The tax relief for adoption expenses has helped many families to be able to afford the financial costs of the actual adoption process. The Department of Homeland Security now issues immigrant visas to children entering the United States with adoptive parents who are U.S. citizens under the I-800 Visa Program, making them U.S. citizens when they reach U.S. soil.

On my part, I have signed several letters to international leaders concerning the importance of transparency in the adoption process in all countries, particularly in the signatories of the Hague Adoption Convention.

Our recognition of today's Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day provides us with a great opportunity to recognize the unique role and contributions of adoptive families in our country. Families created through adoption are special. They go through so much time and energy to find each other. We must celebrate these families who through perseverance and determination become whole and provide a loving environment for our next generation.

EXPANDED DNA COLLECTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was concerned to learn from the newspapers last week that the Federal Government is getting ready to publish a rule sanctioning the collection of DNA samples from all citizens arrested for Federal crimes and from many people detained as illegal immigrants. These samples may even be kept permanently as part of the Government's DNA database even if a person is ultimately exonerated.

I have long supported the analysis of DNA evidence to catch the guilty and exonerate the innocent. In 2000, I introduced the Innocence Protection Act, which included the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program for defendants. This program, where appropriate, gave defendants access to the postconviction DNA testing necessary to prove their innocence in those cases where the system got it grievously wrong. As a former prosecutor, I was acutely aware that DNA testing could help prevent both the conviction of innocent defendants, and the criminal justice nightmare of the real wrongdoer remaining undiscovered and possibly at large.

In 2004, Congress passed the Innocence Protection Act as an important part of the Justice for All Act. Congress recognized the need for important changes in criminal justice forensics despite resistance from the current administration. The Justice for All Act authorized several other important programs to encourage the use of DNA evidence, which I strongly supported, notably including the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program to eliminate the nationwide backlog of rape kits and other evidence awaiting DNA testing in crime labs around the country. That important program has helped law enforcement to find the perpetrators of terrible crimes throughout the country and to ease the ordeal that crime victims go through.

But DNA testing, like any powerful tool—and particularly any powerful tool in the hands of the government must be used carefully. If abused, it can infringe on the privacy and civil liberties of Americans while doing little to prevent crime. I am concerned that the policy just announced may do exactly that.

When Senator KYL proposed the legislation that formed the basis for this policy, I said that it raised serious privacy concerns. Right now, a person's DNA can be collected immediately upon arrest, and it can be used immediately to search the DNA indexes for a possible "hit." But it cannot be added to the Federal index unless and until the person has been formally charged with a crime. This new policy allows DNA to be entered for those who have been arrested but not charged.

This change adds little or no value for law enforcement, while intruding on the privacy rights of people who are, in our system, presumed innocent. It creates an incentive for pretextual ar-

rests and will likely have a disproportionate impact on minorities and the poor. This policy may also make it harder for innocent people to have their DNA expunged from government databases.

Since I first spoke out against this provision in 2005, we have only seen more examples of abuses of power by this administration, including the Justice Department's improper firing of prosecutors for political reasons and the FBI's abuse of national security letter power given in the PATRIOT Act. In this light, the added power to collect and keep DNA information from potentially innocent people gives even more cause for concern.

I will study the proposed rules and policy carefully, and the Judiciary Committee will perform careful oversight of its implementation. We must ensure that DNA evidence is used aggressively and efficiently to make us safer, but also that it is used in a careful and appropriate way that secures our rights and increases our confidence in our justice system.

NATIONAL CHILD CARE WORTHY WAGE DAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I strongly support a resolution by Senator MENENDEZ supporting National Child Care Worthy Wage Day. I hope that it will shine a brighter light on the many challenges facing the early childhood education and care community and the importance of attracting and retaining excellent childcare workers.

Across the country today, nearly two-thirds of children under the age of 5 are in some form of nonparental care while their parents are at work and more and more research emphasizes that learning begins at birth. The quality of early care that children receive has a profound impact on the rest of their lives.

Children in high-quality early care and education programs are 30 percent more likely to graduate from high school and twice as likely to go to college. They are also 40 percent less likely to be held back a grade or need expensive special education programs.

Childcare is particularly effective for at-risk students. Important studies, including the research of both Nobel Laureate Economist James Heckman and Chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke, show that quality early care and education can break the cycle of poverty and crime. Heckman's survey of at-risk boys who receive quality early education found that less than 10 percent of boys who participate will be convicted of a crime and less than 2 percent will end up on welfare—rates significantly lower than for those who do not receive such support.

The key to assuring quality early childhood education and care for our youth is access to a highly qualified educator or caregiver. Despite the obvious importance of their work, however,