

as other non-NATO countries. In the Export Administration Regulations (15 CFR 730 et seq.), the UAE is designated on Country Group D and thus is not eligible for certain license exceptions for items controlled for chemical biological and missile technology reasons. Reexports of U.S. origin goods from one foreign country to another subject to EAR are also controlled, and may require the reexporter regardless to nationality to obtain a license for reexport from BIS.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control maintains a comprehensive embargo on the export, re-export, sale or supply of any good, service or technology to Iran by persons of U.S. origin, including to persons in third countries with the knowledge that such goods are intended specifically for the supply, transshipment or re-exportation to Iran (Iranian Transaction Regulations, 31 CFR 560.204). Re-exportation of goods, technology and services by non-U.S. persons are also prohibited if undertaken with the knowledge or reason to know that the re-exportation is intended specifically for Iran. (31 CFR 560.205). In addition, BIS also maintains controls on exports and reexports for items on the Commerce Control List (EAR, 15 CFR 746.7).

The lack of an effective export control system in the UAE and the use of the emirates' ports as transshipment centers has been a concern to U.S. policymakers. To that end, BIS released an advanced notice of proposed

rule-making on February 26, 2007 that would have created a new control designation: "Country Group C: Destinations of Diversion Control." This designation would have established license requirements on exports and re-exports to countries that represent a diversion or transshipment risk for goods subject to the Export Administration Regulations. According to BIS, the Country C designation was designed "to strengthen the trade compliance and export control system of countries that are transshipment hubs." Designation on the Country Group C list could lead to tightened licensing requirements for designees. Although no countries were mentioned in the notice, it was widely considered to be directed at the United Arab Emirates.

Perhaps as a response to the possibility of becoming a 'Country C' designee, the UAE Federal Council passed the emirate's first ever export control statute in March 2007. That law, also created a control body known as the National Commission for Commodities Subject to Import, Export, and Re-export Controls and that law was signed on August 31, 2007 by Emirates President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Reportedly, the law's structure and control lists were modeled after the export control regime of Singapore, another prominent transshipment hub. It remains unclear, however, the extent to which the law is being en-

forced or whether resources are being devoted to preventing the diversion or illegal transshipment of controlled U.S. goods and technologies.

The United States has one export control officer (ECO) on the ground in the UAE to investigate violations of U.S. dual-use export control laws. This officer may be augmented by U.S. Foreign Commercial Officers in conducting end-use check and post-shipment verifications. A recent GAO report mentioned a "high-rate of unfavorable end-use checks for U.S. items exported to the UAE," but the report did not elaborate further.

The United States also has engaged in technical cooperation to assist the UAE in developing its export control regime. Officials from BIS and other agencies reportedly traveled to the UAE in June 2007 to discuss the proposed statute. In addition, the Department of State has also provided training through its Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) program. This program provides participating countries with licensing and legal regulatory workshops, detection equipment, on-site program and training advisers, and automated licensing programs. Since FY2001, UAE has received between \$172-\$350 thousand annually in this assistance. For FY2009, State has requested \$200 thousand for the UAE under this program.

RECENT U.S. AID TO UAE

	FY2007 and FY2006 (Combined)	FY2007	FY2008 (est.)	FY2009 (req)
NADR (Non-Proliferation, Anti-Terrorism, De-Mining, and Related) — Anti-Terrorism Programs (ATA)	\$1.094 million	\$1.581 million	\$300,000	\$925,000
NADR — Counter-Terrorism Financing	\$300,000 (FY2006 only)	\$580,000		\$725,000
NADR — Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance	\$250,000	\$172,000	\$300,000	\$200,000
International Military Education and Training (IMET)			\$14,000	\$15,000
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INCLE)			\$300,000	

Source: Department of State, FY2009 Budget Justification.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI STEPHEN BAARS

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to my friend Rabbi Stephen Baars, of Bethesda, MD, whom I had the honor of sponsoring as our guest Chaplain for this morning. Given all that Rabbi Baars has done to help others, it was fitting that he was picked to lead the Senate in prayer. No tribute would be complete, however, without giving Senators a greater understanding of his outstanding and unique accomplishments.

Born and raised in London, Rabbi Baars originally envisioned himself working in business or sales until, at age 19, he went on vacation to Israel and became enamored with Judaism. When he finally returned to London 6 months later, he had made up his mind to become a rabbi. Shortly thereafter, he moved back to Jerusalem, where he attended rabbinical school for 9 years through Aish HaTorah, a nonprofit network of Jewish educational centers.

After completing his studies, Rabbi Baars moved to Los Angeles to work for Aish HaTorah. It was in L.A. that he tried a second career as a stand-up comedian. On the advice of a friend, Rabbi Baars began taking comedy classes at UCLA and performing stand-up in clubs. In fact, he is the only rabbi to have performed at the famous L.A. Improv. Eventually, he would stop per-

forming because he found his spiritual work more rewarding. His comedic skills, however, would play a role in his future work, serving as means for him to get his message across to audiences.

In 1990, Rabbi Baars moved to the Washington, DC, region and began teaching Jewish studies classes throughout the DC area. Some of his students included Senators, Representatives, and top business leaders. In 1998, he established a Washington, DC, chapter of Aish HaTorah, and served as its executive director. It was there that he established his most ambitious and creative project yet. In 2002, troubled by America's high divorce rate, Rabbi Baars created BLISS, an innovative, nondenominational marriage seminar that mixes humor with advice taken from the Torah and Talmud. Always an optimist who sees the best in people, Rabbi Baars conducts these seminars and prepares his provocative "Think Again" e-mail newsletter with the belief that human beings all contain the skills and attributes they need to be good spouses and parents and that they just need to learn how to reach deep into themselves to utilize these abilities.

Rabbi Baars continues to operate BLISS, which has won rave reviews from many of its participants. Not too long ago, he was kind enough to demonstrate a sample presentation to my staff, who very much enjoyed it. He has

stated that his goal for BLISS is to help reduce the divorce rate in America to the single digits. Some may mock this goal as naive, but as Rabbi Baars says, "If you pick a goal that's reasonable to achieve, you didn't look high enough."

Of course, it should come as no surprise that someone as dedicated to helping families as Rabbi Baars is happily married. He and his wife Ruth have been together for 16 years and have been blessed with seven wonderful children. His wife and family are a constant source of strength and support for Rabbi Baars as he pursues his life's work.

Thank you, Rabbi Baars, for all you have done to bring families together. It was truly an honor to have you pray with us today.●

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, 2 years ago I sponsored a resolution designating the third Friday in May as Endangered Species Day. This resolution passed by unanimous consent. There were no objections. The resolution was nonpartisan and non-controversial.

The goal of Endangered Species Day was simple: to give students an opportunity to learn about the threats facing endangered and threatened species and the work being done to save them.

Last year, I introduced a similar resolution. Once again, it passed by unanimous consent and was noncontroversial. Over 60 events were held in cities across the country. It was used as an educational tool for teachers and a day for parents to take their children to the zoo.

This year the resolution was offered for a third time. It was thought it would pass quickly and without controversy. However, this was not the case. It was held up by an unknown Senator. We could not clear the hold, so we were unable to get unanimous consent to pass the resolution.

Now why is this important? The fact is that 90 events were scheduled in 28 States. Twenty events took place in California to commemorate the day. In my city of San Francisco, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Farralones National Marine Sanctuary led nature hikes in search of the endangered tidewater goby and explained to children what they can do to save them. The Antelope Valley Conservancy hosted its third annual Endangered Species Day Conference that brought together Federal, State, and local leaders to discuss their recovery efforts. Similarly, the San Diego Zoo held public lectures on the affects that global climate change will have on endangered species.

These events still went on as planned. Teachers continued to educate their students about what we need to do as a Nation and at the local level to protect our planet and endangered species.

We know that global climate change, habitat destruction, and the illegal trade and hunting of endangered species carry serious consequences for their future survival. These threats are ongoing. More effective wildlife management programs are needed like those to save the California condor, least Bell's vireo songbird and the California grey whale.

I am disappointed that this non-controversial resolution was prevented from passing. The goals of Endangered Species Day are simple and uncontroversial: to build awareness about the threats facing our planet's species. If we don't recognize these threats and act now to address them, our planet's endangered species may soon become our planet's extinct species. I am hopeful that all those who took part in last Friday's events came away knowing that more work needs to be done to protect our planet.

#### CONGRATULATING DAVID COOK

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I want to congratulate a Missourian who has accomplished something truly remarkable. We have known our share of champions in Missouri, like the 2006 St. Louis Cardinals and the Big 12 North winning University of Missouri football team. We have also had our share of great entertainers, like Josephine Baker, Scott Joplin, and Sheryl Crow.

But it is very rare that we have someone who is both. Last night, David Cook, a native of Blue Springs, MO, and a graduate of Central Missouri State University, achieved that rare combination when he was crowned winner of "American Idol."

David's victory was remarkable even by "American Idol's" standards. The show has become one of the greatest competitions the country has ever witnessed. It is ubiquitous. It is practically unavoidable. And with the eyes of the whole country watching, David Cook won "American Idol" by the incredible margin of 12 million votes out of a record 97.5 million votes cast. His performances, along with those of David Archuleta, the other worthy finalist, drew in more viewers than watched the season finale last year.

It is telling of the graciousness and humility of this superbly talented young man that David didn't even intend to try out for the show. The only reason he was at the audition was to support his brother. But while entering the contest may have been accidental, it is no accident that the country voted him the next "American Idol." His easy confidence and visible passion (not to mention that voice), made him the clear choice. He was also one of the nicest contestants ever to appear on the show—even notoriously grumpy Simon Cowell said so.

So I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Missouri's next superstar, David Cook. I wish you the best of luck in what I am sure will be a stellar career.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES S. HOLT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I pay tribute to Dr. James S. Holt, who passed away on April 28, 2008.

Dr. Holt was known to many Members of this Senate because of the outstanding contributions he made to developing sound Federal public policy related to agriculture, immigration, and employment. It was through his involvement in these issues before Congress that I got to know Jim and gained a tremendous respect for his wealth of knowledge and integrity—and especially his unwavering commitment to finding policy solutions that were correct, even if that meant they were also uncomfortable or difficult.

Jim Holt received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the Pennsylvania State University in 1965, and then served 16 years on the Penn State faculty as a professor of agricultural economics and farm management. From 1978 until the present, Dr. Holt headed his own consulting firm, as well as serving as senior economist to a Washington, DC, law firm, where his responsibilities included research, policy analysis, and government relations in matters related to labor, agriculture, immigration and animal welfare.

Dr. Holt authored more than 70 publications and served agricultural clients

in more than 30 States. Jim was a recognized expert with unique knowledge of the H-2A program and served as a consultant to national organizations such as the National Council of Agricultural Employers and the Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform during his involvement in the major immigration and H-2A reform efforts in Congress during the past 30 years.

I first became aware of Jim's expertise when he helped farmers in my own State of Idaho to establish the Snake River Farmers Association an organization that helps obtain legally authorized workers through the H-2A temporary and seasonal foreign agricultural worker program. Earlier this year in Idaho, at a meeting of the association, Jim and I teamed up again to address the grave labor situation facing Idaho farmers.

I had the pleasure of working with Jim in the development of the AgJOBS legislation that I coauthored with Senators Feinstein and Kennedy. As my colleagues know, this bill has enjoyed broad bipartisan support and even passed the Senate in 2006. Jim brought his unique knowledge to the process of developing this historic legislation that brought together farm worker advocates and growers in an effort to provide a legal and stable agricultural workforce. During the past decade, Dr. Holt testified numerous times in both Chambers of Congress before the Committees on Agriculture, Judiciary, and Education and Labor in an effort to educate members on the importance of reforming our farm labor system and the severe economic consequences if we fail to do so. When we succeed in enacting the AgJOBS legislation and I am convinced that will ultimately happen—it will be in no small part because of the immeasurable effort Dr. Holt devoted to that cause over the past decade.

On behalf of the policymakers who have worked with Jim Holt and benefited from his wise counsel over the years, I would like to express profound regret at his passing. He will be sorely missed. Let me extend my deepest sympathies to Jim's many friends and colleagues, and to the family he leaves behind.

#### HONORING ABIGAIL TAYLOR

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, last fall I came before the Senate to ask my colleagues to join me in passing the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act on behalf of an amazing little girl, Abigail Taylor, of Edina MN.

And in December of 2007, with Abigail as our inspiration, Congress answered the call. We not only passed the bill, but working with the Taylor family and child safety experts, we included provisions in the legislation to create tough new safety standards that require all existing public pools with single drains to install the latest drain safety technology. On December 19,