

General. He and his allies are doing everything they can to maintain their historic patronage system and power structures. Moreover, security forces are largely still operating as instruments of Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, condoning land takeovers and harassing MDC and civil society activists. According to Human Rights Watch, the police and army continue to use brutal force to control access to the diamond fields of Marange district in eastern Zimbabwe.

Until we see an end to these abuses and real, irreversible progress on implementation of the Global Political Agreement, I see no reason for the United States to repeal sanctions. All of us at the hearing I chaired seemed to be in agreement on that. The European Union has taken the same position after a high-level delegation visited Harare last month. Together, we need to keep the spotlight and the pressure on those who are obstructing implementation of the Global Political Agreement and continuing to perpetrate abuses. And if nothing changes, we should look for ways to ramp up that pressure.

However, keeping the pressure on Mugabe and hardliners is not a sufficient strategy in and of itself to move Zimbabwe's transition forward. We also need to take steps—both symbolic and substantive—to engage with and empower reformers within the transitional government. I am glad that the United States is already providing support to the Office of the Prime Minister, and we should look at ways we can provide technical assistance to other ministries that demonstrate a commitment to reform, especially the Ministry of Finance. In addition, shifting our humanitarian assistance in Zimbabwe to lay the groundwork for social and economic recovery can help advance the political transition. We should also consider working with like-minded donors to develop a plan and dedicated resources for Zimbabwe's economic recovery that could be leveraged for genuine democratic reform.

Mr. President, the reality is that the United States is already doing and spending a lot in Zimbabwe, but we need to better target our diplomacy and our resources toward advancing this transition. Over the last few years, our diplomats have been on the frontlines of speaking out against repression and pushing for democratic change in Zimbabwe. With the formation of the transitional government, the playing field has changed. But that does not mean we should retreat to the sidelines and stop trying to proactively advance our goals. We need to keep working with all Zimbabweans who are committed to a peaceful, democratic future to push this transition forward. In the coming months, I look forward to working with the administration to do just that.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ICBM FORCE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 20th Air Force as the U.S. Air Force celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first nuclear-tipped inter-continental ballistic missile on alert. I join my colleague Senator KENT CONRAD from North Dakota as co-chair of the Senate ICBM Coalition to pay special tribute to a force that succeeds daily in its mission of providing safety and security for our great Nation.

My first contact with F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming as an ICBM base was when I was in Boy Scouts. Our rocket troop visited an Atlas missile site near Cheyenne and we learned about the deterrent effect of this high technology. Even then, we knew this force was magnificent.

From the first ICBM placed on alert in 1959 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, our Nation's force has grown and adapted the delivery systems leading to today's force with three Missile Wings. Today's ICBM force has missile fields in Wyoming, North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and Nebraska. The force partners with Hill Air Force Base in Utah and its command structure will soon transfer to Air Force Global Strike Command in Louisiana. We have a force whose direct domestic impact spans across seven States.

America's dispersed and alert Minuteman III ICBM force is a critical element of the nuclear triad and represents our country's most responsive, stabilizing, and cost-effective strategic force. The strategic nuclear forces that deterred Soviet aggression and kept the limited conflicts of the Cold War era from escalating continue to play a critical role in deterring aggression and dissuading new near-peer competitors.

The element that has unchanged in the last 50 years is the dedication of the men and women of the Air Force to safeguard and carry out this mission. This force of weapons and personnel has been deployed every hour of every day for the last 50 years. The hours on alert, being on patrol and maintaining and upgrading the missile systems are abundant.

The 20th Air Force is home to the most powerful force in our entire military. The mission of safeguarding the Nation's ICBM force has been entrusted to the best military in existence. The mission has been successful and will continue to be.

I know all Members of the Senate will join me in thanking the current and former members of the Air Force who have served in the missile fields over the last 50 years. I also thank my colleague, Senator CONRAD, for his work on behalf of on the coalition and recognizing this historic anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO DIANE WOLK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, many of us have been touched by a family mem-

ber or friend who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. In fact, more than 5.3 million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's, which translates into a new case every 70 seconds. As our Nation ages, more and more cases will develop each year and an estimated million new cases will be diagnosed annually by 2050. I am proud to be a cosponsor of S. 1492, the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2009 which helps fund Alzheimer's disease research, gives assistance to caregivers, and increases public education about prevention of Alzheimer's.

It is not just the elderly who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's. My good friend Diane Wolk of Castleton, VT, in her early fifties was diagnosed about a year and a half ago with early onset Alzheimer's. Instead of hiding her diagnosis or giving up hope, Diane now travels the State and the country sharing her experience with others. Through promoting education and early intervention, Diane helps patients and their family members recognize their symptoms and seek diagnosis and treatment. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a story from the Burlington Free Press about Diane's courage and perseverance in the face of an overwhelming diagnosis.

Marcelle and I are so proud of her, and of the inspiration she gives to Alzheimer's patients in Vermont and nationwide. She is a true hero.

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

[From the Burlington FreePress.com]

LESSONS FROM ALZHEIMER'S

(By Sally Pollak)

Diane Wolk spent her adult life as an educator, a teacher or principal in Vermont public schools. One day this summer, Wolk said she had another lesson she'd like to share with people—perhaps her most important.

Wolk's teaching moment came in a lounge at Fletcher Allen Health Care. She was in Burlington with her husband, Dave Wolk, to undergo an experimental treatment for Alzheimer's disease, a degenerative brain disorder Wolk was diagnosed with two years ago.

Diane Wolk wanted to tell people that in the face of confusing symptoms and diagnosis with a "scary" illness, it is both possible and important to approach the situation in an honest, upbeat and life-affirming way.

"You have to take the fear out of the diagnosis," Wolk, 58, said. "It's not a death sentence. You can curl up and die or you can do something. I'm always the teacher, and if I can help someone else, I will."

Wolk is hopeful that talking about her experience with Alzheimer's, which she developed at an unusually early age, might help others recognize symptoms, seek medical care, find courage and summon an upbeat attitude.

"I have a very easy life," she said in the hospital. "I have a wonderful husband. This is a little setback, but things are good. Very few people get out of this life unscathed. I try to stay active and upbeat. People deal with all kinds of difficult situations, and this one—it's really just bad luck."

Wolk is married to Dave Wolk, 56, the president of Castleton State College and