

my senior staff on behalf of active servicemembers, veterans and their families. He is also an active member of the American Legion and the Catholic War Veterans Organization, where he volunteers in assisting wounded veterans and their families. And as if that is not enough, all the while he has also been working toward an undergraduate degree at UMass Boston.

This spring, Joe completed his degree's requirements. During the university's commencement ceremony, UMass Boston Chancellor J. Keith Motley cited Joe as an inspiration to all his classmates. "Joseph Bykowski served our country for eight years, from Ground Zero, to Iraq, before he joined us to major in history and political science," Chancellor Motley said. "He is a leader in veterans' affairs on campus and at the State House, where he's testified before the legislature, interned for Senator JOHN KERRY, and helped found the nation's first program dedicated to our veterans' mental health. Joe has overcome tremendous personal obstacles to get where he is, and he lifts others up with him."

I couldn't agree more. I have known Joe for 5 years, and I have been impressed all along by his dedication to public service and his devotion to his fellow veterans. It was Joe's idea to organize a "Welcome Home Cruise" to honor wounded Massachusetts vets who had just returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Joe worked with my office and leveraged his ties to Massachusetts Vets organizations, working together to invite hundreds of vets and their families to join us for an evening on the water in Boston. I was honored to have the chance to present several of our wounded heroes with Purple Hearts on that boat—a memory I treasure, and one I don't think would have been possible without Joe's creativity and initiative.

Joe is still reaching out to veterans. Just this month, Joe helped us arrange an honorary GED for Vietnam veteran Ron Estrella, a longtime patient at the Brockton VA spinal care unit who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. To earn the GED, Ron worked with UMass-Boston's Upward Bound, a program that helps students finish high school—no surprise, it is just one more program where Joe himself is an active leader and member.

President Kennedy once said that "the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." He would have recognized that quality in Joe Bykowski. Joe has lived—and continues to live—a life devoted to service to country, in many forms. Whether he's serving on the other side of the world on the frontlines in Iraq, or down the street at the New England Center for Homeless Veterans serving a spaghetti dinner, there's one constant: Joe lives for service.

I have no doubt that he will put his UMass-Boston degree to the same great use.

I congratulate Joe Bykowski on his graduation, thank him for his service

these last years in my office, and salute all that he's accomplished. We can't wait to see what he does next.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL E. LEITER

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Michael Leiter, the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center and a good friend of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. This is Mike's last week and I want to thank him for his service and wish him the very best in the next steps in his career.

Director Leiter has been at the National Counterterrorism Center, or NCTC, for most of its existence. He was the principal deputy director from February 2007 to November of that year when he became the acting director. President Bush nominated him to be the Director on March 31, 2008, and he was confirmed by the Senate on June 10, 2008.

Mike has served in both the Bush and Obama administrations which speaks to his bipartisan and professional approach to the Nation's security, and the support that he has earned from the Congress and within the executive branch.

His leadership at the NCTC has brought stability and continuity to our Nation's counterterrorism efforts, and he should take pride in the fact that under his tenure, there have been no successful attacks against the United States homeland by foreign terrorists. In this threat environment, that is an impressive accomplishment indeed.

As is often the nature of the intelligence business, much of the successes of the National Counterterrorism Center go unrecognized. Terrorists plotting and carrying out attacks are captured through good intelligence and law enforcement work, and through strong cooperation with allies and partners around the world. Often, terrorist plots fail to proceed because of the barriers to recruit, travel, raise funds, get training, or gain access to destructive materials that have been erected through the efforts of the United States and other nations.

Even in counterterrorism victories that become known, such as the cases of Najibullah Zazi in the United States or the identification of Usama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, the National Counterterrorism Center's important—sometimes absolutely critical role—is often not well known.

So I am pleased today to be able to recognize Mike Leiter for his work in keeping our Nation safe for the past 4½ years.

As a member, and now as chair of the Intelligence Committee, I have come to rely on Mike's analysis and judgment. He has been willing to admit that at times our counterterrorism policies or practices haven't been what they should be.

He has appeared regularly before the committee and has been very accessible for the committee's staff as well.

In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings we hold, I have received secure calls from Mike often, apprising me on new threats and the status of investigations. He is, without fail, available to provide updates and assessments, and I appreciate the importance he has placed on keeping the committee, and me personally, fully informed.

Director Leiter has also worked tirelessly to achieve the goals set out for the National Counterterrorism Center in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. The NCTC was established to bring together information and officers from across the intelligence community and from other parts of the government involved in the spectrum of counterterrorism, including counter-radicalization, detection, and prevention of attacks.

Even after the experiences of 9/11 and the findings of the 9/11 Commission, it was a difficult and enormously frustrating challenge to truly integrate the Nation's counterterrorism efforts. It speaks to Director Leiter's energy and dedication that he was, eventually, able to bring together analysts from the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, and military services to share the threat streams that each one collected and assessed.

The result has been the ability to better connect the intelligence information that points to suspicious activity, to develop the case when a terrorist or a terror plot is identified, and to take coordinated action to disrupt that plot.

The NCTC now produces, on a daily basis, its own counterterrorism analysis that provides Intelligence Community-wide assessments and warning. Analysts at the NCTC are among the finest we have, and Director Leiter has fostered a productive environment through analytical roundtables and weekly forums in which analysts share information, provide briefings, and develop improved analytic tradecraft.

In fact, I recently learned that as the CIA was developing its assessment that Usama bin Laden was in the Abbottabad compound, it turned to NCTC analysts to "red-team" the intelligence case and give their assessments. And Director Leiter was involved in the briefings and discussions with the President that led to the decision to carry out the operation.

Director Leiter has demonstrated leadership in hard times, as well. After the failed terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner on December 25, 2009, investigations uncovered significant failures and shortcomings in our counterterrorism efforts. The Senate Intelligence Committee's review found 14 specific "points of failure" across the government that enabled Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab to come so close to carrying out a major attack.

While several of our conclusions and recommendations fell to other agencies, Director Leiter moved quickly to implement the changes that we and others suggested. Since early 2010, the NCTC has vastly improved its methods for screening counterterrorism data and watchlisting individuals who pose a threat to our Nation.

In response to the finding that no agency in the government was ensuring that all terrorist leads were pursued, Mike implemented "Pursuit Groups" at NCTC, teams of highly skilled analysts who sift through massive amounts of data to identify disparate pieces of intelligence and find linkages that identify terrorists, their plans, and their networks before they reach the point of plot execution.

In addition to his service at the National Counterterrorism Center, Mr. Leiter helped establish the Office of the Director of National Intelligence as its deputy chief of staff, having previously served as the deputy general counsel and assistant director of the very well-regarded WMD Commission led by Senator Chuck Robb and Judge Laurence Silberman.

From 2002 to 2005, he was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, one of the most active jurisdictions for national security cases. He clerked for Justice Stephen Breyer and for Chief Judge Michael Boudin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Most people do not know that Mike was also a naval aviator, flying EA-6B Prowlers with action in operations in the former Yugoslavia and in Iraq.

In short, he has served the Nation in a wide variety of capacities over the past 20 years.

I thank Mike for his exemplary service in keeping this Nation safe and for his very positive relationship with the Intelligence Committee as we have carried out our oversight duties.

I expect that this will not be Mike's last service to the Nation, and I wish him all the best.

REMEMBERING SECOND LIEUTENANT ROBERT EMERSON

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor 2LT Robert S. Emerson who is coming home to Maine more than 60 years after he served his country during World War II. Lieutenant Emerson perished when the B-24 aircraft he was flying in crashed in the Philippines on April 3, 1945.

His body was recovered in 1947, and he was buried in Leyte, Philippines. In 1949, his remains were moved from his resting place in the Philippines to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, MO. In 2008, his remains were exhumed and transferred to the jurisdiction of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii, bringing him one step and thousands of miles closer to his home State of Maine. Thanks to the persistent efforts of the relatives of Lieutenant Emerson's family and the

other airmen that served with him on his B-24, the Department of Defense was able to guarantee the return home of this fallen service member.

Lieutenant Emerson's long and remarkable journey home is finally coming to an end. On Saturday, July 9, 2011, he will finally be brought to home, to rest alongside his mother and father in Norway, ME. After more than 66 years since he first left home, it is a privilege to welcome home, and honor, a fallen warrior who gave his life in World War II in defense of our Nation.

While no words of mine can console the grief that Lieutenant Emerson's family has felt for too long, I know Mainers and the American people are profoundly grateful for his service. Like so many throughout our history, Lieutenant Emerson left the comfort and safety of home to answer the call of duty to our country. He is now among that valiant legion that has journeyed through the darkest valley to a place of quiet waters and now able to rest at home.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this year marks the 75th anniversary of Catoctin Mountain Park, one of Maryland's most spectacular national parks. Located in northern Frederick County in western Maryland, Catoctin, MD, is a popular wilderness refuge just a few hours away from the bustling urban centers of Baltimore and Washington, DC. People of all walks of life visit Catoctin Mountain, whether it is working Maryland and Pennsylvania families taking a weekend camping trip to Misty Mount or U.S. Presidents taking a weekend retreat to Camp David to work or relax without the distractions of Washington. I am proud to celebrate the diamond anniversary of this wonderful natural treasure in my home State.

Catoctin Mountain Park is 5,810 acres of wilderness in the foothills of Maryland's Blue Ridge Mountains. The name Catoctin is what the Algonquians, the predominant Native American tribe of the Mid-Atlantic region prior to European settlement, called the region where Catoctin Mountain Park is located. The Algonquians were known to use rhyolite rocks found throughout the rocky terrain for spearheads and European settlers and Algonquians alike would fish for trout in mountain streams that also supplied water for early agricultural settlements in the valleys around the mountain.

The growth of the settler population in Maryland during colonialism and postrevolutionary America, gave rise to agriculture and industry in western Maryland. The growing industrial age changed the ecological and social condition of the wilderness of the eastern United States and western Maryland

was no exception. Logging activities for ship and structural building, iron ore extraction and the arrival of the Western Maryland Railroad drastically changed the culture and natural state of Catoctin.

The Great Depression of the 1930s slowed economic progress and thwarted industrial growth across the country. The extractive industries of the Mid-Atlantic suffered greatly. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal ushered in sweeping public works programs to help get Americans back to work building America's infrastructure and renewing the stewardship of our Nation's great resources. Catoctin Mountain Park is a testament to the success of the New Deal's Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In May of 1933 the Federal Emergency Relief Administration was appropriated \$300,000,000 to be spent on public works projects designed to provide work for struggling Americans. In 1934 a land planning committee established under the Federal Emergency Relief Act was examining how to put fallow land to better use. Conrad L. Wirth, Assistant Director to the Chief Branch of Planning of the National Park Service served on the land planning committee. Based on the findings in a 1928 report of the Joint Committee on Recreational Survey of Federal Lands, Wirth decided one of the answers to the report's "urgent need" to "provide quality outdoor recreation facilities at the lowest cost for the benefit of people of lower and middle incomes" on natural areas near urban areas was to establish a recreational area in western Maryland proximate to Baltimore and Washington.

By 1934, years of agricultural, logging and resource extraction activities had taken its toll on the economic value of the land comprising Catoctin. With \$25 million transferred to Public Works Administration the Department of the Interior was able to purchase the "sub-marginal" lands that now make up Catoctin Mountain Park. Catoctin was officially placed into the program in January of 1935 and within a year and a half, and hundreds of man hours of work, Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area was officially opened on August 8, 1936.

In the years immediately following Catoctin's official placement under the National Park Service's jurisdiction, The Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps provided work for hundreds of men looking to learn a trade, earn a wage and develop leadership skills. These programs are responsible for providing some of the base training these men needed before going off to fight in World War II. The programs themselves reforested the park and restored its natural beauty. The CCC planted thousands of Maples, Pine and Oak trees in the park. The CCC also helped restore mountain streams and create suitable habitat for native fish and wildlife to