

compromise in the future, given the terms of the state they are seeking recognition for.

Israel will also find it more difficult to enter into future talks when the starting point is already an unacceptable result. Years of American efforts to foster peace will be set back and threats to security will increase once the Palestinians discover that votes in favor of their statehood have not changed any of the circumstances of their daily lives.

The Palestinian statehood bid will do nothing to bring Palestinians or Israel peace, for peace cannot be made by votes in the Security Council or the General Assembly. All parties involved stand to lose if President Abbas pursues statehood at the United Nations.

It is important the truth be told. Israel is not what stands in the way of a Palestinian state; neither is the United States standing in the way of a Palestinian state, for both the United States and Israel have endorsed the creation of that future state. What prevents the state's creation is the Palestinian refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish state with historical rights going back thousands of years, to the land and to Jerusalem.

The Palestinians must recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and must return to the negotiating table. Rejecting these terms and instead going to the United Nations will result in widespread repercussions. The Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people rely heavily upon international donors and support. Chief among those benefactors are the American taxpayer. Last year, Americans sent about \$550 million to the Palestinians.

In June, this Senate unanimously passed a resolution cosponsored by 90 Senators, including me. That resolution stated that the Senate intends to consider reductions and restrictions on aid to the Palestinian Authority should it continue its efforts to circumvent direct negotiations by turning to the United Nations.

My request this evening of my colleagues is that we should abide by this resolution. There might be consequences. Lasting peace requires it.

I yield the floor.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:54 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 8:21 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. SHAHEEN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning busi-

ness, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL ACT

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to add Senator MITCH MCCONNELL from Kentucky and Senator CORNYN from Texas as cosponsors on S. 1595, the Solidarity with Israel Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I encourage all Senators to get on board with that bill. It is time to send messages that the U.N. will understand.

Madam President, it appears the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, is going to request that the United Nations recognize Palestine as a member state. This action will create a major, unnecessary, and avoidable obstacle for peace. It is quite simply intolerable.

For that reason, yesterday I, along with 15 of my colleagues, including my colleague and friend from Kentucky, the Republican leader, introduced S. 1595, the Solidarity with Israel Act. Should the United Nations recognize a Palestinian state, this legislation would terminate the U.S. funding for the U.N.

I recognize that the consequences for recognizing a Palestinian state are severe, but they are appropriate.

Recognition of a Palestinian state at this point would undermine the peace process, and some have even questioned its legality. It would be a deeply irresponsible action that brings into further doubt the legitimacy of the United Nations as a good-faith actor in securing a more peaceful, more free, and more democratic world.

As I, and many of my colleagues have repeatedly stated on the floor of the Senate, the sole means to create a lasting and enduring peace between Israel and the Palestinians is through direct negotiations. By attempting an end run around these negotiations—and make no mistake, that is the aspiration of this Palestinian endeavor—the only result would be to delay the critical decisions which must be made to obtain a durable peace.

What is required is leadership—real leadership—to impress upon the Palestinians and the world community that if the United Nations capitulates and changes Palestine's status before a comprehensive peace agreement is reached, there will be consequences. Unfortunately, President Obama, in his speech to the United Nations yesterday, failed to provide that leadership and to take control of this quickly deteriorating situation.

Accordingly, yesterday, I and my colleagues introduced the Solidarity with Israel Act. The United States can and should exercise its Security Council veto if the Palestinians make good on their threat to attempt to change their U.N. status. However, the use of our

veto power might not be enough to stop this subterfuge.

There are two methods by which the Palestinians could attempt to change their United Nations status. The first is to have the Security Council recommend to the General Assembly that Palestine become a member nation of the United Nations. But in the Security Council, the United States can veto a proposed change. However, the Palestinians also have another means to alter their status. They could petition the General Assembly directly—where the United States does not have a veto—and seek an upgrade from their current position as a permanent observer entity to a nonobserver state. If this occurs, the Palestinians will be in a much better position to manipulate U.N.-affiliated agencies, such as the International Criminal Court.

It should go without saying, but I will remind this body that the prospect of Palestinians bringing actions against Israel's leaders and military forces for defending our sovereign ally's right to exist is completely unacceptable.

We should expect more from the United Nations, but in spite of its sweeping statements in support of individual rights and peace, it has a mixed record at best when it comes to the treatment of Israel, a liberal democracy. The low point of its long and tarnished history on this subject was the General Assembly's contemptible 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism. A General Assembly upgrade of the Palestinians to nonobserver statehood status would be another in a long line of hostile acts toward Israel and another hindrance to the peace prospect and process.

Deterring this outcome is the primary objective of the Solidarity with Israel Act. Israel is a friend and ally of the United States. It is a beacon of democracy and liberality in a part of the world that is too frequently lacking in both. Although the Palestinians have officially recognized Israel's right to exist, their rhetoric continues to bring the strength of this commitment into question.

Therefore, we cannot sit passively while the United Nations undermines Israel. Simply put, if the United Nations votes to harm our trusted ally by changing Palestine's U.N. status, this legislation would require termination of U.S. funding of the United Nations until a comprehensive peace agreement is reached with Israel.

The message of our legislation is also simple. The time for these types of games has ended. We will not stand by and allow a political spectacle to be created which only maligns our ally. The Solidarity with Israel Act seeks to deter those who would engage in false charades and redirect the international community toward promoting the only means to truly achieve a lasting peace: direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

It is my earnest hope that even greater numbers of Members will join us in this cause. I think this is an important issue, and I hope we can get every Member of this community, of this Senate, to join with us in this particular cause.

TRIBUTE TO IRA JACKSON "RED" CORNETT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a very successful and hard-working Kentuckian, Mr. Ira Jackson Cornett. Ira—known to his friends as "Red"—celebrated his 95th birthday September 12 and is the proud founder and owner of the internationally known engine rebuilding firm, Cornett Machine Shop. Red is extremely proud of his God-given ability to rebuild all types of engines and claims if you can break it, then he can certainly fix it.

Red was born in London, KY, and moved to Oregon with his family when he was young. He later returned to Somerset where in 1948, he bought land and established Cornett Machine Shop, which specializes in the rebuilding of racing engines from all over the world. Over the years, Red's unique skills have been crucial to his success and helped him gain international recognition. Red once sold an engine to Tiger Woods' caddy and shipped it to New Zealand. Another time, Red had the opportunity to rebuild a V-12 airplane engine like the one flown by Eddie Rickenbacker, a famous American fighter ace in World War I. Currently, Cornett Machine Shop is rebuilding a Jones car that was made in Kansas in 1917—a car he feels very few these days realize were ever made.

Red's Cornett Machine Shop has been a successful and reputable business for decades. Now located on a hilltop on the west side of south U.S. 27, the business is still running full tilt and Red has faith the tradition will continue as he has passed along his talents to his sons, David and Jack. However, until then, Red says he plans to keep on going, as he still has a lot of work to do.

Mr. Ira Jackson "Red" Cornett continues to exemplify the character and success that define generation after generation of Kentuckians; I ask unanimous consent that a recent article published in Kentucky's Pulaski County-area Commonwealth Journal that highlights Red's lifelong achievements be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Commonwealth Journal, Sept. 22, 2011]

RED CORNETT: ENGINE BUILDER GOING STRONG AT 95

(By Bill Mardis, Editor Emeritus)

"The Lord gave everybody a talent to make a living and a person ought to enjoy doing it."

Ira Jackson Cornett—his friends and everybody call him "Red"—has been using his

God-given talent longer than most people live. He passed his 95th birthday September 12. That's correct. He has been living for nine decades and a half and just keeps on going. "Red" Cornett shows up for work every day at his beloved Cornett Machine Shop.

"I go home for lunch," Cornett reflected. His wife, Mary Elizabeth, is in poor health and he goes home to see about her. They've been married 70 years.

"I've still got a lot of work to do," said Cornett, grinning and guiding his power chair among sophisticated machinery in the sprawling Cornett Machine Shop on South U.S. 27.

Cornett loves to talk about his business. He relaxes in his chair, stopping a moment as he and a visitor toured the plant.

Someone spoke, calling him "Red." He rubbed a hand through a headful of gray hair. "My hair used to be bright red," he laughed. "My whiskers still are . . . and they're thick too."

Cornett Machine Shop is his baby. He loves it. It is part of his life. The internationally known engine rebuilding firm rebuilds engines, all kinds of engines; racing engines; engines from all over the world. "Red" Cornett knows how it works.

"The Lord gave me a talent . . . if you can break it I can fix it," said Cornett. "If nobody else wants to tackle it, I'll do it." He has passed his talents along to son, David, who manages the machine shop, and to Jack, who is in charge of the Racing Division.

"We sold (golfer) Tiger Woods' caddy an engine last week," noted Cornett. "We shipped it to New Zealand. We sent an engine to Bend, Oregon, yesterday."

Recently, Cornett Machine Shop rebuilt a V-12 airplane engine like the one flown by Eddie Rickenbacker, an American fighter ace in World War I. "We built parts for it," Cornett said.

Cornett Machine Shop currently is rebuilding a Jones car made in Kansas in 1917.

"Very few people know there was a Jones car," Cornett laughed. "They were making them back in 1902 and 1903." Nearby was a flathead Ford engine circa 1939-40.

Currently, Cornett Machine Shop has 16 employees. "One fellow has been here for 55 years," Cornett said. "At one time I had about 30 employees," he related. Each employee has his own private air-conditioned room in which to work.

Age has not tempered Cornett's strong opinions. "Young people don't have the same work ethics we have," he declared. "They don't love their work like we do."

Cornett didn't reveal his political persuasion, but he isn't too impressed with the current administration in Washington. "Obama sure has been a disappointment," he offered.

About the economy, Cornett has an unusual perspective. "Things are no higher than they ever were. Money is junk . . . it's getting more worthless."

"I started out on my own in 1948," he recalls. His first machine shop was located on South Main Street. " . . . The telephone company and we were in the same block," he said.

Next, Cornett Machine Shop moved to U.S. 27 where the Tradewind shopping center is now located. "(U.S. 27) was a single lane (each way) then," he remembers. "Finley's (Drive-in) was the next thing that built out there."

"I bought that lot (Tradewind location) for \$2,000," Cornett remembers. "I went to Pope Walker at First and Farmers Bank and he told me I could borrow all the money I needed." Cornett Machine Shop has since located on a hilltop farther south on the west side of U.S. 27, now a six-lane boulevard.

Cornett was born in nearby London but his family moved to Oregon. They later returned to Somerset.

"I worked for the forest service in Idaho for \$7.50 an hour," Cornett recalls. His love for the outdoors has lingered throughout his life. His hobbies are shooting, and big-game hunting. "I've killed moose, elk, deer, antelope and millions of prairie dogs in South Dakota and Montana."

In addition to David and Jack, the Cornett's have two daughters, Mary Ann Bingham who lives in Alabama, and Arlene Warner of Somerset.

Cornett is not letting 95 years stand in his way. "I plan to keep on going. That's my talent; that's what God said for me to do. If you enjoy it, why not?"

TRIBUTE TO JIM MOORE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a proud and grateful Kentucky veteran. Mr. Jim Moore was born and raised in Laurel County, KY, and takes pride in the many changes he has witnessed over the past 80 years. One of 12 children, Jim grew up on a small farm on McWhorter Road and recalls the tears and triumphs of growing up in Laurel County.

Jim's parents, John and Lillie, provided food from the family farm as well as occasionally peddled on Main Street to make ends meet. Jim's parents set up a booth every year at the Laurel County Fair and sold everything from corn stalks and tobacco to canned goods and bakery products.

Jim, along with his siblings, attended school in a one-room schoolhouse where one teacher taught all subjects to 60-70 students at a time. Jim recalls being expelled from the school on his very first day; Jim's teacher wrote a note to his mother after he deliberately disobeyed the teacher's orders to not leave school grounds. Jim returned to school the next year and began first grade.

Jim also remembers the time when one of the first cars appeared in Laurel County. Jim was in school one afternoon when everyone heard the unfamiliar sound of a car coming down the road. Everyone, including the teacher, ran outside to get a glimpse of it as it drove by. To Jim's surprise, the car was in his driveway when he returned home after school—Jim's Uncle Leslie was the proud owner of the vehicle and had driven it all the way from Oregon. Jim reminisces how his family thought that his uncle was rich because he would make multiple trips to get all 16 members of the family to the Reda movie theater and paid 10 cents per person to get everyone in.

Jim eventually joined the U.S. Army and served for several years before being discharged. Once out of the military, Jim drove a freight truck for 35 years before eventually retiring. Like countless other Kentuckians, Jim cherishes his childhood memories and is very fond of his deep roots in our great Commonwealth.

Madam President, the Laurel County Sentinel Echo recently published an article highlighting Mr. Jim Moore's life and memories. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.