

the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan as predominantly ground engagements, our Navy is there too. Twelve hundred Navy personnel are on the ground in Iraq (200 of these are Reservists), with a total of 21,800 deployed to the region aboard ships at sea, on bases, and air stations in the region supporting Iraq operations. Forty-six hundred sailors and officers are on the ground in Afghanistan and a total of 7,700 are deployed aboard ships at sea, on bases, and air stations in the region supporting Afghanistan operations (Operation Enduring Freedom). One thousand four hundred and thirteen Navy personnel have been killed in action in these conflicts, 576 in Operation Enduring Freedom, 820 in Operation Iraqi Freedom and 17 in Operation New Dawn as the Pentagon now refers to the Iraq war.

This year marks not only the 236th Navy birthday, but also the 100th anniversary of naval aviation. On May 8, 1911, Cpt Washington Irving Chambers, USN, Officer-in-Charge of Aviation, prepared the requisition for the Navy's first aircraft to be purchased from aviator and inventor Glenn H. Curtiss. The Navy is commemorating that historic event throughout the year at its "Navy Weeks," one of which was held in Indianapolis in August.

The 20 Navy Weeks conducted annually across the Nation exemplify the respect and proud heritage that the U.S. Navy commands. Navy Week gives the Navy a chance to show off its heritage and hardware and allows Americans to learn more about their Navy and its heroes.

No matter the cause, location or magnitude of future conflicts, the Nation can rely on its Navy to produce well-trained, well-led, and highly motivated sailors to carry out the missions entrusted to them.

As a Navy veteran myself, I speak with no small measure of pride in calling attention to the significance of the 236th birthday of the U.S. Navy and expressing the appreciation of the people of the United States to the Navy and its men and women who have dedicated 236 years of service. The honor, courage, commitment, and sacrifice that generations of Americans have made throughout the history of the Navy and the sacrifices shared by the extended Navy family of civilians, family members, and loved ones who have served for the past 236 years are extensive and greatly appreciated.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. BRIAN SCHMIDT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I speak today in honor of Brian Schmidt, one of three individuals who were awarded the Nobel Prize for physics this week. Dr. Schmidt, of the Australian National University, along with Dr. Adam Reiss, of Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Saul Perlmutter, of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, completed groundbreaking work on the expansion of the universe. The

scientific achievement of these three men deserves to be recognized. I am pleased to acknowledge that the scientific career of Dr. Schmidt was encouraged through his tenure in high school in Alaska.

Dr. Schmidt, originally from Montana, moved to Alaska in 1981, where he attended Bartlett High School in Anchorage, AK, graduating in 1985. At Bartlett, many teachers took note of his academic achievements and strong work ethic, and encouraged him to excel in his studies. Dr. Schmidt has remarked on the great experience he had attending school in Alaska, crediting his high school teachers for helping him cultivate an interest in science that has brought him to where he is today.

After leaving Alaska, Dr. Schmidt attended the University of Arizona, receiving a bachelors of science in both physics and astronomy, before continuing on to receive his doctorate in astronomy at Harvard University. He has since relocated to Australia with his wife Jennie and is a researcher at the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Australian National University.

Dr. Schmidt, Dr. Reiss, and Dr. Perlmutter are receiving the Nobel Prize for a discovery that has greatly changed the field of astrophysics and made great furloughs into the understanding of dark matter, the term for the force that is driving the universe apart. Conventional understanding was that rate of expansion of the universe has slowed. However, these three scientists turned this theory on its head by proving that, in fact, the rate of expansion is actually accelerating. This change in understanding affects predictions regarding the conditions of future galaxies, and the discovery has been lauded by some as one of the greatest discoveries in science.

Those who knew Dr. Schmidt in Alaska were not surprised to learn of his accomplishment. His teachers at Bartlett knew his intellect and passion for science would take him far. I, along with many others in my State, am proud to recognize this Alaskan who has made valuable contributions to our understanding of the universe.

I offer warm congratulations to Dr. Schmidt, Dr. Reiss, and Dr. Perlmutter on their Nobel Prize and scientific achievements.

#### REMEMBERING THOMAS P. FOY

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, last Saturday, Thomas P. Foy died at his home in Bayard, NM, a few weeks shy of his 97th birthday. A native of Grant County, he lived most of his outstanding life there, except for the years he spent as a prisoner of war in Japan including the Bataan Death March. It was a life largely devoted to public service and completely devoted to the public good.

The word "survivor" is used rather freely these days, but he and his com-

rades, many of them fellow New Mexicans who managed to live through the horrors of years of internment, deserve the title if anyone does. But Tommy didn't just survive, he triumphed and prospered in a life well-lived.

He had graduated from Notre Dame, and received a law degree from there a year before he joined the New Mexico National Guard in 1940. Assigned to the Philippines, the 200th Coast Artillery Battery surrendered after holding out for 5 months against the Japanese and began their gruesome forced march to prison. In 1945, the war was ended and he was rescued.

His postwar life was full of accomplishment and service. Practicing law, marrying, running for—and winning—public office, founding a bank and raising five children with his wife Joan, and doing it all with a stout, cheerful heart brought him admiration and affection from all quarters. He served in the New Mexico State Legislature for 28 years.

For many of us from Grant County, this is the loss of a beloved family member. My parents, now deceased, and my wife Anne and I certainly share that view. A stalwart figure, he was true to his faith, his family, our country and Notre Dame, and deeply loved and respected in return. He is already greatly missed.

#### REMEMBERING MAJOR THOMAS E. CLARK

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Air Force Major Thomas E. Clark, from Emporium, PA, whose aircraft was shot down during a combat mission over Laos in 1969.

Thomas graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1963. He served with the 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 37th Tactical Flight Wing.

He was the beloved son of Otto and Josephine Schager Clark. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Kathleen Mottern of Emporium.

On February, 8, 1969, Major Clark was flying an F-100D aircraft from Phu Cat Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, in a flight of four on a combat mission over Laos. The flight engaged a 23mm anti-aircraft artillery battery and his aircraft was hit, burst into flames and crashed. No parachute was observed. Visual and electronic searches detected no sign of life. Subsequent to the incident the U.S. Air Force determined Major Clark to be Killed in Action, Body Not Recovered.

In his career, Major Clark was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Air Medal with Two Oakleaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with One Bronze Service Star.

On October 14-20, 2009, a joint U.S./Laotian team investigated the crash site for the fourth time and recovered a human tooth which was later identified as the remains of Major Clark.

During a ceremony at Emporium, PA, on October 22, 2011, his remains