

many of our Nation's legendary leaders: Generals Marshall, MacArthur, Patton, Eisenhower, Arnold, and Bradley. Today, the college continues to prepare a new generation of leaders who are tasked with protecting our country from threats here at home and abroad, around the world.

The 21st-century national security challenges we face are often complex and require the cooperation of several Federal agencies. It is not uncommon for officials from the Department of State to be working alongside the Department of Homeland Security or Department of Defense on the same project. From the provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan to responding to hurricanes or manmade disasters, the capability of agencies to work together is vital to the success of this mission. By working together and learning from previous mistakes, our government will become better prepared to keep our country safe and secure.

To improve coordination within agencies tasked with our national security, the Command and General Staff College Foundation, under the leadership of retired COL Bob Ulin, established the Arthur D. Simons Center for the Study of Interagency Cooperation at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. Thanks to a very generous financial gift from Ross Perot, the center was created last April and named after Mr. Perot's good friend, retired COL Arthur "Bull" Simons, who led a rescue mission of U.S. Special Forces to free American prisoners in Vietnam in 1970. The Simons Center focuses on generating solutions to challenges often encountered when government agencies must work together. By drawing on real-world experience, the Simons Center works to facilitate broader and more effective cooperation within our government at the operational and tactical levels through research, analysis, publications, and outreach.

The center is also actively engaged in working with Members of Congress. Most recently, the center has been working with the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, of which I am a member, and on legislation to help facilitate better communication and coordination among personnel in the national security and homeland security fields.

The Interagency Personnel Rotation Act is scheduled to be considered in committee tomorrow and would give security professionals the opportunity to work alongside one another in a different agency for a period of time. The bill reminds me of the old saying "Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes." By giving staff the opportunity to work within another agency—to walk within his shoes—I imagine perspective will change and cooperation will increase. If the legislation is approved by Congress, the Simons Center will play a role in implementing these policies.

In addition to offering policy recommendations, the center also part-

ners with several organizations to host conferences focused on how to improve interagency coordination. For example, the center recently cohosted a symposium on interagency transitions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond with the Combined Arms Center and the U.S. Institute of Peace. Conferences such as these help provide senior government officials a helpful forum to further analyze ongoing challenges and develop practical solutions.

I wish to thank the center's executive director, Ted Strickler, who joined the center after a 30-year career in the State Department, for his hard work over the past year to get the center up and running. I also wish to recognize retired COL Bob Ulin of the Command and General Staff College Foundation for his ongoing dedication to this important initiative. Under the colonel's leadership, the foundation has successfully supported our country's oldest and largest military staff college in its mission to educate the next generation of our military leaders.

Finally, I urge my colleagues to take a closer look at the valuable work taking place at the Simons Center. We all recognize the importance of improving our government's ability to harness the strength of its various agencies. By promoting interagency cooperation, the Simons Center is helping to strengthen our national security capabilities so that our country and its citizens are better prepared for their future.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, October 19, when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 2112, the vehicle for the Agriculture, CJS, and Transportation-HUD appropriations bills, the time until noon be equally divided between Senators MCCAIN and BOXER or their designees for debate on the McCain amendment No. 739; that at noon, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the McCain amendment No. 739; and that there be no amendments or points of order in order to that amendment prior to the vote other than budget points of order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DAVID A. TAPP

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Honor-

able Judge David A. Tapp, an exemplary Kentuckian and recent recipient of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, NADCP, prestigious "All Rise Leadership Award." Judge Tapp currently serves as a circuit court judge for Lincoln, Pulaski, and Rockcastle Counties in my home State of Kentucky.

Judge Tapp was honored at the NADCP Annual Training Conference that was held in July in Washington, DC. The annual conference is considered the world's largest on substance abuse and the criminal justice system. Chris Deutsch, director of communications for the NADCP, praised Judge Tapp for being an outstanding ambassador for drug courts both in Kentucky and around the world saying, "It is an honor for the NADCP to present Judge Tapp with this award." Judge Tapp was recognized alongside actors Martin Sheen, Matthew Perry, and Harry Lennix during the closing ceremony of the event.

Let me add here that I had the pleasure of seeing Judge Tapp here in Washington this past July when he attended the NADCP conference. I was honored to be presented with the NADCP's "All Rise Leadership Award," and one of those presenters was Judge Tapp himself. I am a longtime supporter of Kentucky's drug courts and was pleased to meet with Judge Tapp and his fellow Kentucky drug court judges on this important issue. He is truly an impressive fellow.

In addition to his regular duties as a circuit judge, Judge Tapp volunteers his time in presiding over the drug court for the three counties and has been doing so since 2005. The drug court is similar to some 2,700 others nationwide and serves seriously drug-addicted individuals through intense treatment and supervision, says Judge Tapp.

"I do drug court for the small moments," said Tapp. "At some point during the process you look at them and you see a new confidence. You see a gleam in their eye that wasn't there before, and you know that they get it. I take great pride in these efforts and applaud the hard work and dedication of all drug court staff members. These people volunteer their time and effort to do good deeds for thousands of people within the Commonwealth annually and they get almost no recognition for these efforts. They deserve a great amount of credit."

I would ask all of my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating the Honorable Judge David A. Tapp in receiving such a distinguished award for his efforts in rehabilitating drug offenders. Judge Tapp's work in drug court is commendable and he has served as a model for others in Kentucky and around the country. The Pulaski County Commonwealth Journal published an article in September highlighting Judge Tapp's accomplishments. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.