

For these and many other reasons, I cannot support the so-called FREEDOM Act. While I would prefer to pass a long-term extension of our current authorities, I will support a short-term extension to facilitate the search for a long-term solution. I urge my colleagues in both Houses to support this effort.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. BULLOCK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to an honored Kentuckian, Mr. Charles E. Bullock. Mr. Bullock is a veteran of World War II who enlisted in the Army after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. But Mr. Bullock was a student at the old Hazel Green High School at the time. He missed his senior year because he was stationed in Europe fighting the Nazis. Mr. Bullock had gone from studying history to making it.

More than 70 years after putting on his country's uniform, Mr. Bullock received his high school diploma at long last from the Laurel County Board of Education at a meeting of that organization. This proud veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star received a warm, heartfelt round of applause from the assembled audience twice—once upon receiving his diploma, and again as he left the room.

I want to congratulate Mr. Bullock, 88, on receiving his diploma, and I thank him for his service to our Nation in uniform. This country owes him a debt that can never be truly repaid, for his valiant fight against the Axis Powers during World War II. It is appropriate as we approach Memorial Day that every American reflect on the freedoms we cherish and that Mr. Bullock fought to defend. I know my colleagues join me when I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Charles E. Bullock in praise of his service.

An article detailing Mr. Bullock's receipt of his high school diploma appeared in the area newspaper the Sentinel-Echo. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

WORLD WAR II VETERAN RECEIVES HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA—BULLOCK JOINED ARMY IN WAKE OF PEARL HARBOR ATTACK

(By R. Scott Belzer)

Charles E. Bullock, 88, didn't know he would not finish his senior year of high school at Hazel Green in 1942. He also didn't know he would have to wait more than 70 years to receive his high school diploma.

Bullock—a World War II veteran—was honored on Monday at the bi-weekly meeting of the Laurel County Board of Education with an official Laurel County high school diploma, 73 years after enlistment and deployment cut his high school career short.

"After the attack on December 7, 1941, many young men enlisted in the armed services to soldier on behalf of their country," said Dr. Doug Bennett, superintendent of

Laurel County Schools. "Some of the young men were high school students aged 17 or 18 who left their high school studies before graduation in order to enlist. We're pleased to have one of those young men with us this evening."

Bennett went on to laud Bullock's choice to leave Hazel Green High School to fight in World War II, stating that Bullock chose to be a part of history rather than study it.

"He was called to fight and protect the freedoms we enjoy today," Bennett said. "No longer was he reading about history but became part of making history on the front lines."

Bennett said that Bullock represented the best and highest ideals of Laurel County and was glad to be a part of his formal recognition.

"I appreciate what you men have done," Bullock said. "They took me out my senior year of Hazel Green High School because I wasn't in my second semester. They took six of us out of the high school and put us in the army. Three months later we were fighting in Belgium, France and Germany."

Bullock said he stayed in the army until the war was over in 1945. He was awarded a Bronze Star, a medal awarded for acts of heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service within a combat zone. The medal, unfortunately, was another thing he had to wait for.

"I never got it when I came out," said Bullock. "The dischargers said 'You can wait and get your medals, it'll only take 15 days,' and I said, 'I'm going home.' About 70 years later I got so mad about some things going on and went before Congressman Hal Rogers and he said he'd help me and he did."

School board member Joe Schenkenfelder quoted Ronald Reagan in 1983 to end the presentation.

"I've been thinking about this all day and I finally found a quote—so often we don't know why we recognize our veterans or why we send men and women out to fight for our country," said Schenkenfelder. "I thought this was very fitting: 'Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed down for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.'"

RECOGNIZING THE ADVOCATE-MESSENGER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, one of my home State's great newspapers, the Advocate-Messenger, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and I want to congratulate the staff and publishers of this venerable institution that is published out of Danville, Ky.

The newspaper that would become the Advocate-Messenger was first published on June 24, 1865, as The Kentucky Advocate. Created by James L. Marrs, it was guided to considerable success by a trio of editors: G.W. Doneghy, W. Vernon Richardson, and W.O. McIntyre. The paper became a daily in 1911 and a member of the Associated Press in 1914.

In the meantime, a local merchant named Hubert McGoodwin founded the Danville Messenger in 1910 as a competitor of the Kentucky Advocate. This paper was purchased in 1918 by J. Curtis Alcock, an experienced editor and

publisher, and he guided The Danville Messenger to considerable success in the ensuing decades while also serving as secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Press Association from 1911 to 1942.

In 1940, the two newspapers merged to become the Advocate-Messenger and published Monday through Friday under that name. The Kentucky Advocate became a Saturday afternoon paper for a decade before switching to a Sunday-only paper in 1950, continuing to this day.

Many able hands have steered the ship of the Advocate-Messenger over the years. Enos Swain, formerly the director of Centre College's public relations, became the Advocate-Messenger's editor in 1944 and served the longest tenure of any editor, 34 years. In 1977 current owner Schurz Communications bought the paper, and Mary Schurz became the editor and publisher in 1978 upon Enos Swain's retirement.

From 2006 to 2014, Scott Schurz, Jr., served as editor and publisher, and in July 2014, Larry Hensley was named president and publisher, posts he continues to fill today. John Nelson is the executive editor.

Under the supervision of Mr. Hensley, the Advocate-Messenger enjoys a healthy circulation throughout southcentral Kentucky, with distribution primarily in Boyle, Lincoln, Casey, Mercer, and Garrard counties. Danville benefits from being recognized by Time magazine as one of 10 successful Main Street communities in the country and is the home of Centre College, one of the top liberal arts colleges in the region. I can attest to my colleagues that Danville is a wonderful place, and I believe the Advocate-Messenger truly has its finger on the pulse of the region.

A strong and vigorous free press being vital to the freedoms of our country, I wish to recognize the Advocate-Messenger as a newspaper that takes its dedication to journalism and to serving the people of its community seriously. One hundred and fifty years in publication is quite an accomplishment that few newspapers can claim, and I know my colleagues join me when I say congratulations to the Advocate-Messenger on the occasion of its sesquicentennial and best wishes for many more years of publication to come. And congratulations to the newspaper's president and publisher, Larry Hensley, and its executive editor, John Nelson.

FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week I was pleased to be joined by my Republican colleague from Louisiana, Senator BILL CASSIDY, to introduce the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act.

I appreciate Senator CASSIDY's leadership on this issue and his willingness to work across the aisle. We were joined across the Capitol by Representatives MICHAEL BURGESS and ELIJAH