

role in the accountability process. I understand that there are many in the Sri Lankan military who seek to clear the military's name so that the institution can move forward. They should deliver on that commitment.

Fourth, the U.S. should continue and expand programs that strengthen civil society voices in Sri Lanka. The country now has a parliament which is more disposed towards incorporating civil society into the policymaking process. These advocates will be critical moving forward on this as well as broader reconciliation efforts.

Finally, the U.S. should make clear that any accountability process must include addressing violations committed by all sides in the conflict: LTTE, the Sri Lankan military, and pro-government paramilitary groups.

The goal of accountability is not revenge. The goal is to conduct a process where all sides are provided a measure of justice that leads to durable reconciliation and a marked departure from armed conflict. The previous government's policies were a dangerous cocktail that were slowly sliding Sri Lanka back into ethnic and religious strife. Today, Sri Lanka's leaders have an important opportunity to move beyond this divisive past. They say they want it and they have a plan on paper. Now is the time to act. And I am prepared to support the efforts of President Sirisena, Prime Minister Wickramasinghe, Opposition Leader Sampanthan, and all Sri Lankans towards that end.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said the credibility of the U.N. Human Rights Council is on the line in Sri Lanka. I agree and would say that the same goes for the United States. Our country has an important responsibility to finish the work of diplomats in recent years and promote the strongest accountability mechanism in Sri Lanka. Our credibility on human rights issues around the world is at stake and will be watched closely by human rights defenders and violators alike.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base and the surrounding communities for their steadfast support, spirit of service, and faithful dedication to the defense of our Nation.

In 1951, community leaders in Jack-sonville, AR, and the surrounding region began petitioning Congress for the creation of a local air base. The needed support was unattainable in the post-World War II environment, so supporters took it upon themselves to raise the money and purchase the land

required for the base. In only 32 days, these air base advocates raised more than \$800,000, and with the combination of purchased and donated land, 6,359 acres were gifted to the U.S. Government for the establishment of Little Rock Air Force Base.

On October 9, 1955, the base officially opened. Since that day, it has served as a strategic operating location for numerous mission sets. From reconnaissance and bomber alert missions to the ever-present readiness of Titan II missile crews, Little Rock Air Force Base stood ready. With their cargo aircraft and selfless airmen, the base has responded to numerous natural disasters and humanitarian missions. Most recently, with the C-130 Hercules, Little Rock airmen have had a continuous global presence. From training members of three U.S. services and 20 foreign nations to supporting operations on five of the seven continents, they embody their motto as "The Home of Combat Airlift."

Over the past 60 years, the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base have employed weapons systems covering every key tenant of air power. Currently, the base seamlessly blends Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve command personnel into a singular fighting machine, taking airmen from initial qualification through graduate-level training.

From its inception, Little Rock Air Force Base has been uniquely suited to fulfill any mission it is presented. The support of the community provides an unmatched strength that cannot be countered by any weapon system. The people of central Arkansas have opened their hearts and homes for six decades to welcome the men and women of the United States military.

I am proud to represent the men and women of Little Rock Air Force Base and the communities who support them. I am grateful for their service and dedication and look forward to a future of continued success and cooperation.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MARTIN L. SIMS

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to pay special tribute to COL Martin L. Sims on the occasion of his retirement from a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Army.

Colonel Sims began his military career through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at Vanderbilt University where he was a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1987, was branched as an armor officer, and was granted an educational delay to attend law school at the University of Tennessee where he served as the managing editor of the Tennessee Law Review and graduated with honors in 1990.

After being assessed into the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, he entered into active duty as a first lieutenant, less than 2 months after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. For the next

25 years, Colonel Sims served faithfully as a judge advocate during which time he was stationed overseas four times and deployed on numerous occasions to Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Kuwait, and Iraq in support of various contingency operations.

A dedicated and talented soldier-lawyer, Colonel Sims held numerous positions of significant responsibility, culminating in his selection as the special assistant for strategy, plans, and capabilities within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. Some of the many other key positions Colonel Sims held prior to his final assignment include service as the staff judge advocate for the 25th Infantry Division in Iraq; the staff judge advocate for Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 in Afghanistan; legal advisor to the inspector general of the Army, and deputy chief of the international and operational law branch at the office of the Judge Advocate General of the Army. A recognized master military justice practitioner, COL Sims also served the Army and the Department of Defense as a distinguished jurist, sitting as a senior judge on the United States Army Court of Criminal Appeals and as an associate judge on the United States Court of Military Commission Review.

I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Colonel Sims' many friends in saluting this distinguished officer's many contributions and sacrifices in the defense of our great Nation. It is fitting that the Senate today publicly recognizes his service and wishes him; his wife, Stacy; and their daughters, Heather and Rachel, health, happiness, and success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING EDGEWOOD CORPORATE PLAZA BUILDING

• Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an historic milestone in the city of Grand Forks, ND, the 100th anniversary of the Edgewood Corporate Plaza Building.

The Edgewood Corporate Plaza Building, located on the corner of Fourth Street and DeMers Avenue in downtown Grand Forks, is a fixture in this city. Formerly known as the First National Bank Building, it is an impressive classical revival style structure of brick and stone on a sturdy polished granite base that covers two of its five stories.

When the building opened in 1915, it was home to the Scandinavian American Bank. It changed the face of downtown Grand Forks and helped spur westward growth toward the University of North Dakota. The bank, later known as First National Bank, and its building remained an anchor of the downtown area. It was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and is unofficially loved as the only building in the city with an escalator.