

with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST INDIA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I condemn the recent terrorist attack on the Indian Pathankot Air Force Station, which took the lives of seven Indian security force personnel, as well as the attack on the Indian Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. These deplorable acts of aggression threaten to undermine India's security and also its peaceful activities in Afghanistan, which are in the interests of both nations, as well as the United States.

It is my understanding that a Pakistan-based terrorist group is likely responsible for the attack, and it is imperative that these terrorists be brought to justice. The United States must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with India in facing this common security threat. As violent, Islamic extremism emanating from Pakistan continues to threaten the long-term stability of the region, it is increasingly important that Pakistan reject such aggression and do everything in its power to root out and eliminate these terrorists.

THE CONTINUING CHALLENGE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday Americans once again paused to remember a great and prophetic leader, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Chances are, you heard a snippet yesterday of Dr. King's immortal "I Have a Dream" speech.

Maybe you heard a tape of Dr. King dreaming of that day when "my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." That is the Martin Luther King, Jr., that we like to remember: the dreamer. But Dr. King did more than inspire us. He challenged us. And he challenges us still.

Dr. King told us about his dream for America in 1963. He was murdered in 1968. In the 5 years between the March on Washington and his death, Dr. King's mission—and his challenges to us—grew.

Like the prophet he was, in his final years, Dr. King spoke more and more frequently and forcefully about injustice. Many of the injustices that Dr. King spoke of remain with us today. Some are even greater today than when Dr. King died.

Three years after Dr. King's assassination, the writer Carl Wendell Hines penned a poem which he entitled, "A Dead Man's Dream." These are his words:

Now that he is safely dead let us praise him
Build monuments to his glory, sing hosannas
to his name.

Dead men make such convenient heroes.
They cannot rise to challenge the images we
would fashion from their lives.

And besides,

it is easier to build monuments

than to make a better world.

So now that he is safely dead

We, with eased consciences, can teach our
children that he was a great man,

Knowing that the cause for which he lived is
still a cause

And the dream for which he died is still a
dream

A dead man's dream.

So wrote the poet Carl Wendell Hines 45 years ago.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were two of the most important laws passed in the last century. Dr. King's leadership and the sacrifices of millions of other men and women of good faith who believed in his mission were indispensable to the passage of those two historic laws.

But Dr. King knew that civil rights and voting rights were only partial victories without economic justice. As he, himself, said of the now iconic Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins: "What good is having the right to sit at a lunch counter if you can't afford to buy a hamburger?"

At the end of his life, Dr. King was planning what he called the Poor People's Campaign. He was challenging America to offer greater economic justice and opportunity to poor people of all races and backgrounds. We have much more work to do if we are going to make that part of Dr. King's dream a reality.

The Great Recession ended officially in 2009. Economic growth has returned to America. But for African Americans and many other Americans, economic fairness is farther out of reach than it's been in decades.

Wall Street has regained all of the value it lost in the Great Recession and then some. But middle-class and working-class Americans haven't recovered from that economic disaster.

When you factor in inflation, the average American family hasn't had a raise since 1971, shortly after Dr. King's death. A recent survey shows that 62 percent of Americans have less than \$1,000 in their savings accounts—and a third of those undersavers have no savings account at all.

In 1965, the average CEO was paid 20 times as much as the average worker in his or her—usually his—company. Today the average CEO earns more than 295 times as much as the average worker.

The economic disparities are even greater when you factor in race. Think about this: African Americans are almost three times more likely to live in poverty today than White Americans. And the median net worth of White households is 13 times the level for Black households.

We have a long way to go to achieve Dr. King's dream of economic justice and fairness in America. We should strengthen the Wall Street reforms that Congress passed to prevent a repeat of the kind of recklessness that caused the Great Recession, not gut those reforms.

Dr. King was murdered in Memphis, TN, where he had gone to show support for striking sanitation workers. Two months earlier, two black sanitation workers in Memphis had been crushed to death by faulty equipment. The city's sanitation workers organized a strike for job safety, better pay, and the right to unionize; and Dr. King took on their cause.

For years now, the rights of working people to band together and unionize has been under attack—an attack financed by wealthy corporate interests.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers' Association*, which asks the Court to overrule decades of precedent protecting the ability of working people to win fair wages and working conditions through effective unionizing.

If we truly believe in the America Martin Luther King gave his life for, we should protect the right of workers to form and join unions, not work to diminish and destroy that right.

The words that Dr. King spoke at the 1963 March on Washington have become part of our American creed. But the 1963 March was not the first time that Martin Luther King had spoken to a large crowd in Washington.

In 1957, on the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that found segregated, "separate but equal" schools to be inherently unequal and unconstitutional, a 29-year-old Martin Luther King spoke in Washington at a rally billed as a Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom. For 3 years, Southern States had engaged in what they called "massive resistance" to the Supreme Court's ruling.

Martin Luther King titled his remarks at the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage Give Us the Ballot. His message was simple: If Congress and other elected officials will not enforce the law of the land, give African Americans the ballot, and "we will elect legislatures that will."

Eight years later, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act. For years, the Voting Rights Act was hailed by both parties as a great achievement. It was repeatedly reauthorized by large, bipartisan majorities in Congress.

In 2013, however, a slim conservative majority on the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in *Shelby County v. Holder* by striking down the provision that required certain jurisdictions to preclear any changes to their voting laws with the Department of Justice.

If we truly believe in Dr. King's dream for America, let's work together to restore the Voting Rights Act this year.

One year to the day before he died, Dr. King delivered a sermon at Riverside Church in New York City that cost him the support of many old political allies. It was a speech condemning America's actions in the war in Vietnam.

If Dr. King were alive today, I think he would be heartbroken, and he would challenge us to confront the tidal wave of guns that have turned so many American neighborhoods into combat zones.

Yes, the Second Amendment speaks of a right to bear arms. But children ought to have a right to play on school playgrounds without getting caught in gang crossfire.

Americans ought to be able to go to a movie or to a college lecture or a church Bible study class without risking being killed by someone who is too sick or too dangerous to have a gun but has one anyway.

Martin Luther King was taken from us by gun violence. If we truly believe in his dream, let's work together to find ways to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

"It is easier to build monuments than to make a better world." That is what the poet said. But people don't elect us to do the easy work. They expect us to do the hard work, the necessary work, of making America better, fairer, and more secure.

I ask my colleagues: Let's work together to advance economic justice, protect voting rights, and end the violence that is turning too many American neighborhoods into war zones. In short, let's work together to advance Dr. King's dream.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING AL WITTE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Albert Matthew Francis Witte, a University of Arkansas professor emeritus, former NCAA president, and World War II bombardier who recently passed away December 23, 2015, at the age of 92.

Witte, born in Pittsburgh, PA, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in November 1942 after graduating high school. His prominent military career included flying 35 missions with the 15th Air Force in Italy as a second lieutenant bombardier, and he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago, he went on to the University of Wisconsin School of Law, where he practiced law in Milwaukee. Witte spent the rest of his career at the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he officially retired in 1994, but continued teaching until the fall 2015 semester.

"He taught at the University of Arkansas School of Law for nearly six decades—that's almost two-thirds of the school's 91-year existence," Stacy Leeds, the dean of the University of Arkansas School of Law recently said of Witte.

His passion for law led to his involvement in many professional related projects, including member of the Fay-

etteville Planning Commission, member of the Arkansas Bar Association, a legal consultant to the Southern Governor's Conference, and a special assistant Arkansas attorney general, just to name a few.

Witte's experiences made him a trusted confidant and consult to many in the University of Arkansas's athletics department as well. Twenty years of service as the university's faculty athletic representative allowed him to work with the Southwest and Southeast Conferences, the College Football Association, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. His NCAA involvement included terms as Division I vice president and the association president in 1989.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Albert Matthew Francis Witte. As a member of the Greatest Generation, he lived a life of service. He leaves a lasting legacy through his brave military service, countless efforts on behalf of the University of Arkansas, and the knowledge he shared with several generations of attorneys across the Nation.●

RECOGNIZING HECLA MINING COMPANY

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of Hecla Mining Company, which is celebrating a remarkable milestone in its long and important history in the State of Idaho.

Hecla Mining Company was formed in October of 1891 for the purposes of acquiring and trading mining claims in what was then north Idaho's newly discovered Silver Valley. Mining played an integral role in the settlement of the West and, in particular, north Idaho. The resulting mining boom employed thousands of people living in the region. The Silver Valley has produced more than 1.2 billion ounces of silver. Hecla is now the last of the area's pioneer mining companies and the largest primary silver producer in the United States.

Hecla has not just weathered the storms of the last 125 years; rather, it has been shaped by them. The company and its workers' grit and resolve enabled their perseverance through the Panic of 1893, the Great Depression, and two World Wars; and they have had many achievements worthy of reflection. The minerals produced by Hecla played a key role in our Nation's defense and continue to play an integral role in the pursuit of alternative energy sources and other essential uses. Silver is a key ingredient for solar voltaic cells and is important for modern electronic and medical applications.

Hecla also advanced techniques that improved mine worker safety and works to deepen its connection with the communities in which it operates, while resolving legacy environmental issues. Additionally, Hecla is currently taking the Lucky Friday mine to 10,000

feet below the surface—opening up more than 20 years of additional resources.

The company and its approximately 1,300 workers provide tremendous economic and charitable benefits to communities and our Nation. Hecla's charitable foundation has provided more than \$1.5 million in the last 7 years alone in support of education, youth activities, community health, and infrastructure. The company estimates that its Lucky Friday Mine in north Idaho has provided more than \$1 billion to the local and State economy in the last 5 years. Hecla's employees support numerous community needs, including serving on school boards and other elected positions, as emergency medical technicians and firemen.

Congratulations, Hecla Mining Company and employees, on 125 years of accomplishments. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to strengthening our communities, Idaho, and Nation. I wish you all the best for continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO SHERADIA LINTON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Sheradia Linton, a teenager from Havre, MT, who recently used her Make-A-Wish request to support an orphanage for special needs children in India. Sheradia and her family visited the Save the Children India School in Mumbai, where they delivered school supplies and nearly \$3,000 that they had raised to the orphanage. During the trip, the family also met with Save Our Sisters girls, who had been rescued from sex trafficking, and participated in a sports day for the special-needs children at the orphanage.

Sheradia has Burkitt Lymphoma, a form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that affects her immune cells. But despite all she has been through, she still has a desire to help others in need. I commend Sheradia and her family for their work to help and support the children at the Save the Children India School. Sheradia's heart for service and her dedication to improving the lives of others is something that all Montanans can be proud of.●

TRIBUTE TO ROSS BRYANT

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ross Bryant, the director of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV, military and veteran services center. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Bryant who does so much for Nevada's veterans, active military members, and their families pursuing academic degrees.

Mr. Bryant served in the U.S. Army for 24 years before beginning his career to help fellow veterans and active servicemembers. He began working at UNLV 14 years ago, starting as commander of the UNLV Army ROTC program. He later took on the position of