years ago, the Prime Minister-elect renewed his commitment to the Peace Process Prime Minister Rabin courageously began. It was a fitting tribute to Israel's fallen leader.

Making peace is not an easy endeavor. Indeed, it is often more difficult to make peace than to wage war. As Prime Minister Rabin often said, one does not make peace with one's friends, one makes peace with one's enemies. Barak, like Rabin, has proven himself a great general on the battlefield. Now he must prove himself worthy of the even more exalted title of peacemaker. I am confident that Ehud Barak will indeed earn that title, making Israel's second fifty-years devoid of the wars which characterized its first fifty years.

Mr. President, the United States is one of Israel's closest allies. Under the stewardship of Mr. Barak, I am confident that relationship will only grow stronger. I look forward to a close collaboration between our two nations on issues ranging from security to trade. Most importantly, however, is the struggle to bring peace to a region which has seen far too many wars.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I received a very touching letter from a Vietnam Veteran from my state, who was recently awarded the Silver Star for his bravery during the Vietnam Conflict.

Helping Al Myers get that Silver Star and the recognition he deserved for so long was a very rewarding experience. Al sent me this letter. It is a fictional remembrance of a soldier who's name is on the Vietnam Memorial.

The letter defines the importance of paying tribute to our nation's honored soldiers who have fought for, won, and kept our freedom, whether that tribute comes in the form of our nation building a great ''Black Granite Wall,'' or simply a family member putting flowers on a beloved white tombstone at a veteran's cemetery. It exemplifies the strength, dedication, and sacrifice our nation's military men and women, and their families, make. We are forever indebted to them, and it fills me with great pride and humility to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our way of life as Americans.

I thought it was very important to read it in honor of the Memorial Day Observance on Monday. It touched my heart and I wanted to share it here on the Floor today. It is called ''The Wall from the Other Side.''

THE WALL FROM THE OTHER SIDE

(Pat Camunes)

At first there was no place for us to go until someone put up that ''Black Granite Wall.'' Now, every day and night, my Brothers and Sisters wait to see the many people from places afar file in front of this ''Wall.'' Many people stopping briefly and many for hours and some that come on a regular basis. It was hard at first, not that it's gotten any easier, but it seems that many of the attitudes towards that Vietnam War we were involved in have changed. I can only pray that the ones on the other side have learned something, and more ''Walls'' as this one, needn't be built.

Several members of my unit, and many that I did not recognize, have called me to The Wall by touching my name engraved upon it. The tears aren't necessary, but are hard even for me to hold back. Don't feel guilty for not being with me, my Brothers. This was my destiny as it is yours to be on that side of The Wall. Touch The Wall, my Brothers, so that I can share in the memories that we had. I have learned to put the bad memories aside and remember only the pleasant times that we had together. Tell our other Brothers out there to come and visit me, not to say Good-bye but to say Hello and be together again . . . even for a short time . . . and to ease that pain of loss that we all still share.

Today, an irresistible and loving call summons me to The Wall. As I approach, I can see an elderly lady . . . and as I get closer, I recognize her—It's Momma! As much as I have looked forward to this day, I have also dreaded it, because I didn't know what reaction I would have.

Next to her, I suddenly see my wife and immediately think how hard it must have been for her to come to this place, and my mind floods with the pleasant memories of 30 years past. There's a young man in a military uniform standing with his arm around her—My God!—he has to be my son! Look at him trying to be the man without a tear in his eye. I yearn to tell him how proud I am, seeing him stand tall, straight and proud in his uniform.

Momma comes closer and touches The Wall, and I feel the soft and gentle touch I had not felt in so many years. Dad has crossed to this side of The Wall, and through our touch, I try to convince her that Dad is doing fine and is no longer suffering or feeling pain. I see my wife's courage building as she sees Momma touch The Wall and she approaches and lays her hand on my waiting hand. All the emotions, feelings and memories of three decades past flash between our touch and I tell her that . . . it's all right . . . carry on with your life and don't worry about me . . . I can see as I look into her eyes that she hears and a big burden has been lifted from her on wings of understanding.

I watch as they lay flowers and other memories of my past. My lucky charm that was taken from me and sent to her by my CO . . . a tattered and worn teddy bear that I can barely remember having as I grew up as a child . . . and several medals that I had earned and were presented to my wife. One is the Combat Infantry badge that I am very proud of, and I notice that my son is also wearing this medal. I had earned mine in the jungles of Vietnam and he had probably earned his in the deserts of Iraq.

I can tell that they are preparing to leave, and I try to take a mental picture of them together, because I don't know when I will see them again. I wouldn't blame them if they were not to return, and can only thank them that I was not forgotten. My wife and Momma near The Wall for one final touch, and so many years of indecision, fear and sorrow are let go. As they turn to leave, I feel my tears that had not flowed for so many years, form as if dew drops on the other side of The Wall.

They slowly move away with only a glance over their shoulders. My son suddenly stops and slowly returns. He stands straight and proud in front of me and snaps a salute. Something draws him near The Wall and he puts his hand upon the etched stone and touches my tears that had formed as dew drops on the face of The Wall . . . and I can tell that he senses my presence and the pride and love that I have for him. He falls to his knees and the tears flow from his eyes and I try my best to reassure him that it's all right, and the tears do not make him any less of a man. As he moves back wiping the tears from his eyes, he silently mouths, ''God Bless you, Dad . . .''

God Bless You, Son . . . we Will meet someday, but in the meanwhile go on your way . . . there is no hurry at all.

As I see them walk off in the distance, I yell loud to Them and Everyone there today, as loud as I can: Thank You For Remembering. . . . Thank You All For Remembering . . . and as others on this side of The Wall join in, I notice the U.S. Flag, Old Glory, that so proudly flies in front of us everyday, is flapping and standing proudly straight out in the wind from our gathering numbers this day . . . and I shout again, and . . . again . . . and again . . .

Thanks for Remembering!
Thanks for Remembering!
Thanks for Remembering!

THE CONTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, with Memorial Day soon upon us, I wanted to share with my colleagues some of the testimony from yesterday's Senate Immigration Subcommittee hearing on ''The Contribution of Immigrants to America's Armed Forces.'' It featured some dramatic testimony from both immigrants and native-born individuals.

Let me begin by quoting the testimony of Elmer Compton, a native of Indiana who served in Vietnam.

When I look at my wife, son and daughter, I cannot keep from thinking of one particular immigrant by the name of Al Rascon and the contribution he made to me and my family on March 16, 1966. The heroic and gallant actions of Al Rascon on that day, I believe saved my life, as well as other members of my team.

On March 16, 1966, Al Rascon was with the Recon Platoon on a search and destroy mission known as Operation Silver City. My team had engaged a well-armed enemy force. The enemy force had fire superiority that immediately pinned down the entire point squad with heavy machine gun fire and numerous hand grenades. Through the intense fire of automatic weapons and grenades, Rascon made his way to point where my squad was pinned down and could not move in any direction. Wounded himself, Rascon continued to work his way to my position, attending to wounded as he did.

After reaching my position I could see that he was in great pain. He began to patch me up. As I was placing M16 fire in the direction of the enemy, two or three hand grenades were thrown in the direction of Rascon and myself, landing no more than a few feet away. Without hesitation, Rascon jumped on me, taking me to the ground and covering me with his body. He received numerous wounds to his body and face.

I truly believe his actions that day saved my life. What more can a person do for God, Country and his fellow man.

In closing, I think of the Military Code of Conduct. The First Code, I am an American fighting man, I serve in the forces which guard our Country and our way of life. And

I am prepared to give my life in its defense.' The immigrants I had the privilege to know and serve with upheld this Code. Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Erick A. Mogollon, a Guatemalan-born immigrant and Gulf War veteran, is a Senior Chief Petty Officer with the U.S. Navy. At the hearing he summed up the views of many immigrant soldiers and sailors when he testified,

After having had the opportunity to meet so many shipmates over the course of my career, I can honestly say that the contribution of immigrant American's can never be fully measured. These Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, have left their motherland, been welcomed by the United States and have given of themselves to the defense of this nation. For many immigrants, they have given and will continue to give because of their deep appreciation and dedication to the Untied States. They know, first hand, how it is to live without the protection and security they now count on, and will give their lives to protect it.

The statement of Paul Bucha, president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, also included some strong declarations that I believe are worth sharing. Mr. Bucha testified,

Tens of thousands of immigrants and hundreds of thousands of the descendants of immigrants have died in combat fighting for America. I put to you that there is a standard, a basic standard, by which to judge whether America is correct to maintain a generous legal immigration policy: Have immigrants and their children and grandchildren been willing to fight and die for the United States of America? The answer—right up to the present day—remains a resounding ''yes.''

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the testimony delivered by Mr. Bucha and Senior Chief Mogollon be printed in the RECORD.

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

STATEMENT OF AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATE (HANDLING) SENIOR CHIEF (AW), ERICK A. MOGOLLON, UNITED STATES NAVY, SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, UNITED STATES SENATE, ON ''THE CONTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES'' MAY 26, 1999

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today to talk about immigrant American's contribution to the Armed Forces and our national defense. I'd like to share with you a few thoughts on how I became an American and why I joined the United States Navy.

I was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala on 24 January 1960 and immigrated to the United States with my family in 1970. My mother, three brothers and one sister lived outside of Boston in Milford, Massachusetts. In 1973, I moved to East Douglas and attended Douglas High School. I am proud to say I graduated in 1979 with high honors. While in high school, I entered the Delayed Entry Program and shipped out to boot camp in September 1979. I joined because of the opportunity to excel and to give of myself in gratitude for what this great country of ours has done for me and my family. I'd like to acknowledge the support of my wife, Marilyn and my children, Solines (15), Erick (12), Elias (9) and Marilyn (6) throughout my career. Sailors go to sea, but the family must always remain behind.

Being able to qualify for service was itself an accomplishment that encouraged me to do my best. I graduated at the top of my class from ''A'' school and was assigned to the world's best aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy* (CV–67). After serving on *Kennedy*, I was assigned to VR–22 and VQ–2 in Rota, Spain. I have enjoyed the opportunity of overseas service and earned my qualification as an Aviation Warfare Specialist. While in Spain, I was fortunate and honored to receive the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Leadership Award for Petty Officers. Being chosen from thousands of highly qualified shipmates was truly rewarding. The most important highlight of this tour was my citizenship. On June 17, 1985, I became a United States Citizen at Fanuiel Hall in Boston, Massachusetts.

After leaving Spain, I asked for reassignment to the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy* (CV–67). I am proud of the ship and our combat service during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. As a newly promoted Chief Petty Officer, I served as a flight deck chief during the war and was directly responsible for the launching and recovery of our combat aircraft. During the war, U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy* aircraft participated in over 120 combat strike missions and flew nearly 4000 strike sorties. I am proud to say we did not lose any pilots or aircrew during the war. The pride, professionalism and dedication of our sailor's was evident in daily operations.

After the war, I was assigned to U.S.S. *America* (CV–66) as the Leading Chief Petty Officer for V–3 division and was able to experience the contributions of many immigrant Americans who are dedicated to the defense of our nation. I now teach leadership to the senior enlisted force and am assigned to the Submarine School in Groton, CT. This highlight gives me the opportunity to instill pride and commitment to others.

After having had the opportunity to meet so many shipmates over the course of my career, I can honestly say that the contribution of immigrant American's can never be fully measured. These Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, have left their motherland, been welcomed by the United States and have given of themselves to the defense of this nation. For many immigrants, they have given and will continue to give because of their deep appreciation and dedication to the Untied States. They know, first hand, how it is to live without the protection and security they now count on, and will give their lives to protect it.

TESTIMONY OF PAUL BUCHA, PRESIDENT, CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, UNITED STATES SENATE, CONCERNING ''THE CONTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES'' MAY 26, 1999, 10 A.M., DIRKSEN 226

My name is Paul Bucha, President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and I have asked Charles MacGillivary, a past president of the society, to present my testimony. I want to thank you Senator ABRAHAM for holding this hearing and, more importantly, for displaying leadership on the immigration issue and reminding us of America's great tradition as a nation of immigrants.

Let me state my position clearly: All of us owe our freedom and our prosperity to the sacrifices of immigrants who gave of themselves so that we might have more. We are fortunate and we are forever indebted to those who have gone before.

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the U.S. Armed Services. Generally presented to its recipient by the President in the name of Congress, it is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1946, the Medal of Honor Society was formed to perpetuate and uphold the integrity of the Medal of Honor and to help its recipients. In 1957, Congress passed legislation, later signed by President Eisenhower, that incorporated the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

A review of the records shows that 715 of the 3,410 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients in America's history—more than 20 percent—have been immigrants. I would like to share the stories of some of these individuals so the committee can better understand the sacrifices made by these and other immigrants.

Lewis Albanese, an immigrant from Italy served during the Vietnam War as a private first class in the U.S. Army. On December 1, 1966, Albanese's platoon advanced through dense terrain. At close range, enemy soldiers fired automatic weapons. Albanese was assigned the task of providing security for the platoon's left flank so it could move forward.

Suddenly, an enemy in a concealed ditch opened fire on the left flank. Realizing his fellow soldiers were in danger, Albanese fixed his bayonet, plunged into the ditch and silenced the sniper fire. This allowed the platoon to advance in safety toward the main enemy position.

The ditch that Lewis Albanese had entered was filled with a complex of defenses designed to inflict heavy damage on any who attacked the main position. The other members of the platoon heard heavy firing from the ditch and some of them saw what happened next: Albanese moved 100 meters along the trench and killed six snipers, each of whom were armed with automatic weapons. But soon, Albanese, out of ammunition, was forced to engage in hand-to-hand combat with North Vietnamese soldiers. He killed two of them. But he was mortally wounded in the attack.

''His unparalleled action saved the lives of many members of his platoon who otherwise would have fallen to the sniper fire,'' reads the official citation. ''Private First Class Albanese's extraordinary heroism and supreme dedication to his comrades were commensurate with the finest traditions of the military service and remain a tribute to himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.'' Lewis Albanese was 20 years old.

Mexican-born immigrant Marcario Garcia was acting squad leader of Company B (22nd Infantry) near Grosshau, Germany during World War II. Garcia was wounded and in pain as he found his company pinned down by the heavy machine gun fire of Nazi troops and by an artillery and mortar barrage. Garcia crawled forward up to one of the enemy's positions. He lobbed hand grenades into the enemy's emplacement, singlehandedly assaulted the position, and destroyed the gun, killing three German soldiers.

Shortly after returning to his company, another German machine gun started firing. Garcia returned to the German position and again singlehandedly stormed the enemy, destroying the gun, killing three more German soldiers, and capturing four prisoners.

Finally, Lieutenant John Koelsch was a London-born immigrant who flew a helicopter as part of a Navy helicopter rescue unit during the Korean War. On July 3, 1951, he received word that the North Koreans had shot down a U.S. marine aviator and had him trapped deep inside hostile territory. The terrain was mountainous and it was growing dark. John Koelsch volunteered to rescue him.

Koelsch's aircraft was unarmed and due to the overcast and low altitude he flew without a fighter escort. He drew enemy fire as he descended beneath the clouds to search for the downed aviator.

After being hit, Koelsch kept flying until he located the downed pilot, who had suffered serious burns. While the injured pilot was being hoisted up, a burst of enemy fire hit the helicopter, causing it to crash into the side of the mountain. Koelsch helped his crew and the downed pilot out of the wreckage, and led the men out of the area just ahead of the enemy troops. With Koelsch leading them, they spent nine days on the run evading the North Koreans and caring for the burned pilot. Finally, the North Koreans captured Koelsch and his men.

''His great personal valor and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice throughout sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service,'' his citation for the Medal of Honor reads. That self-sacrifice, the citation notes, included the inspiration of other prisoners of war, for during the interrogation he ''refused to aid his captors in any manner'' and died in the hands of the North Koreans.

These and other immigrant Medal of Honor recipients tell the story not only of America's wars but of America's people. After all, we must never forget that all of us are either immigrants are the descendants of immigrants.

Tens of thousands of immigrants and hundreds of thousands of the descendants of immigrants have died in combat fighting for America. I put to you that there is a standard, a basic standard, by which to judge whether America is correct to maintain a generous legal immigration policy: Have immigrants and their children and grandchildren been willing to fight and die for the United States of America? The answer—right up to the present day—remains a resounding ''yes.''

DETROIT FREE PRESS ARTICLE ON GUN-RELATED PROSECUTIONS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to a Detroit Free Press article, published on Tuesday of this week, entitled, ''Federal gun cases decrease: Decline in Michigan greater than in U.S.'' This article notes that from 1993 to 1997, there has been a very significant decline in the number of gun prosecutions brought in Detroit.

Mr. President, over the last two weeks, we in this body engaged in lengthy debate on the question of how effective or useful different proposals to regulate firearms were likely to be in stemming violent crime, most especially juvenile crime. I supported some of the proposals and opposed others. This article, however, brings home another important point raised in this debate: no matter what laws this Congress passes, their effect on violent crime will almost certainly be negligible if the Administration is not willing to use them to prosecute violent criminals. Unfortunately, the Free Press article provides little ground for optimism on this score.

According to the Free Press, between 1993 and 1997 the number of people prosecuted in Detroit in cases investigated by the BATF dropped by 55%, compared with a 36% drop nationally. The Free Press also reports that there has been a nearly 50% decrease in prosecutions involving the three largest categories of federal gun laws, from 221 to 112 respectively.

When asked about this, U.S. Attorney Saul Green of Detroit reportedly stated that the decrease in prosecutions in the Eastern District of Michigan follows a downward trend in crimes. In fact, however, while there has been some improvement on that score, Detroit's violent crime rate has been falling significantly less than that of most large metropolitan areas, and it remains unacceptably high. Meanwhile, the much more dramatic decline of violent crime in Richmond, Virginia, where federal officials have pursued a policy of vigorous prosecution of gun offenders, strongly suggests that if the Administration were following the same course in Detroit, we would be doing better.

As the Detroit Free Press article points out, police records show that there were 559 murders in Detroit in 1993, compared to 453 in 1998. But that still left Detroit with the highest murder rate per capita for cities with a population of approximately one million or more—and the sixth highest among the U.S.'s 225 largest cities.

Moreover, while in 1998 the rate of reported violent crimes decreased 6% nationally, in Detroit it actually increased by 13%, according to FBI figures. Nor is this simply a one-year anomaly.

In 1997, the number of murders in Detroit increased by 9% from 1996 and Detroit's murder rate ranked 5th worst among the U.S.'s 225 largest cities. Meanwhile, our rate of serious crime decreased by only 1%, compared to a 3.2% decrease nationally. Similarly, in 1996, Detroit's rate of violent crimes decreased by only 3%, compared to a 7% decrease nationally.

Nor is Detroit's relatively small numerical improvement explained by the fact that it is a major metropolitan area. To the contrary, it is mostly the biggest cities, like New York, that have seen the largest drops in crime rates over the past few years.

The fact that Detroit is lagging behind the nation's improving violent crime rates, along with the fact that it is continually among nation's 5–7 worst cities with respect to its homicide rate, clearly indicates that this is no time for anyone in Detroit, including the federal government, to be relaxing our crime-fighting efforts. Meanwhile, recent data from Richmond, Virginia's Project EXILE strongly suggest that aggressive prosecution and severe punishment of gun law violations would be of major help. In 1998, the year following the implementation of Project Exile in Richmond, the homicide rate in Richmond decreased by approximately 1/3. The rate of firearm-related homicides in Richmond dropped even more—66%, from 122 in 1997 to 78 in 1998.

This takes me back to where I started. I voted in favor of several of the measures the Senate adopted last week because I believe that they can be useful tools in stopping gun violence. But quite simply, no gun laws, either those currently on the books or any new ones that Congress may enact, can be effective if the Attorney General does not enforce them through aggressive prosecution. The Detroit Free Press's article of two days ago confirms that right now, both in Detroit and nationally, aggressive prosecution is not what we are seeing. For our children's sake, it is high time for it to begin.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the Detroit Free Press article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Detroit Free Press, May 25, 1999]

FEDERAL GUN CASES DECREASE

DECLINE IN MICHIGAN GREATER THAN IN U.S.

(By Tim Doran)

Federal gun law prosecutions declined sharply in the eastern half of Michigan between 1993 and 1997.

The number of people prosecuted in cases investigated by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms plummeted 55 percent. Nationally, prosecutions were down 36 percent, according to data analyzed by the Free Press.

For the three largest categories of gun law violations, the number of people prosecuted in eastern Michigan dropped from 221 in 1993 to 112 in 1997.

The analysis comes at a time when Congress is debating legislation to tighten access to guns, and the state Legislature is considering laws to make it easier to get a concealed weapons permit.

If the federal government wants to reduce gun crime, it should enforce existing laws, said Dave LaCourse, public affairs director for the Second Amendment Foundation, which supports gun ownership.

''But the agency that's set up to put the screws to the bad guy is almost being cut in half,'' LaCourse said.

Last month, Wayne County and the City of Detroit sued gun manufacturers and dealers, saying they used a strategy of ''willful blindness,'' looking the other way when guns are sold illegally. A sting by county law enforcement alleged that nine of 10 dealers sold guns to people who indicated they were buying on behalf of a minor or felon with them.

Both U.S. Attorney Saul Green of Detroit and Special Agent Michael Morrisey, head of the ATF in Michigan, dispute the numbers from the Free Press study. The reports analyzed for the study came from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys and are made public by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University.

''The numbers have gone down,'' Green said. But he said he does not accept the data the Free Press analyzed as definitive.

Green said that the decline follows a general downward trend in crimes.

For example, according to police records, Detroit had 559 homicides in 1993 and 453 in 1998.

The increased use of local-federal task forces may play a role in the decreased federal gun cases, he said. ''We have a lot more cooperation than we had in the past and some of the cases developed might go to local prosecution, rather than federal.''

Morrisey and ATF officials in Washington said the bureau shifted its investigative strategy, targeting more serious violators.

The number of ATF investigators on the street declined both nationally and in Michigan, and some of the remaining agents have taken on added duties.