

place. That will create a sovereign Iraqi government. When that government is created, the coalition provisional authority's work is essentially done, but it does take time. It does take patience. It does take time to rebuild the economy, to establish the security that the people of Iraq deserve.

I welcome the ambassador to the Senate tomorrow to hear of his firsthand experiences and to help paint that perspective which makes it much easier for us both to view the news and the information that is given to us so we can make appropriate policy decisions. It is vitally important that we have that complete perspective and that full view of the Iraqi situation. We will stay the course. The Iraqi people, of course, depend on us to stay the course. It will take time. It will take patience. It will take determination.

It is astounding to me that even in defeat Saddam has the power seemingly to turn the free world against itself and divert the media's attention from his monstrous crimes. For the last week and a half we have had a glossing over of the atrocities this man had committed. I appeal to my colleagues to look at the Iraqi people, at this crucial turning point in their history, and allow the Iraqis for the first time in 30 years to really taste what freedom is all about.

We talk all the time in this Chamber about helping, reaching out to help the oppressed and helping the downtrodden. Now is the time to ask: Are Iraqis in some way unworthy, are 300,000 missing people in Iraq merely a statistic? Every day our soldiers are turning up mass graves full of the bones of men, women, and children who have been hacked down literally by Saddam's men. We are beginning to see these images. We in this body have had the opportunity to talk to our Senate colleagues who have visited Iraq recently. There are literally tiny skeletons strewn in the dust alongside these once-adored little plastic baby dolls. The images are coming back to us to demonstrate the atrocities committed by Saddam Hussein.

We cannot, we should not look away. We will not look away. We know this will take time.

On the question of weapons of mass destruction, we know, and indeed we have those horrifying pictures, that Saddam used chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction against his neighbors and his own people. Last week on the floor I talked about my opportunity to visit directly in my office with Kurdish physicians, who are still practicing today, who talked about the thousands of Kurds, Saddam's own people, who were killed by the chemical weapons of Saddam Hussein. Indeed, these Kurdish physicians tell me they are still taking care of people today who suffered the morbidity of having been exposed to chemical weapons, those who were fortunate enough to survive.

Furthermore, Saddam's quest for nuclear weaponry is well known. It is in-

disputable. One only need ask the most elemental question: For what purpose were nuclear scientists on Saddam's payroll? Indeed, the Senator from Florida, Mr. GRAHAM, told Fox News Sunday:

What we're concerned about with Iraq is its intention and capabilities to develop weapons of mass destruction, and the merger of that capability with terrorist groups. That is the ultimate nightmare scenario.

The nightmare is over. A bloody tyrant no longer rules in Iraq. A man who without qualm or regret murdered members of his own family and tens of thousands of his own citizens has been removed from power. The perpetrator of one of the past century's most gruesome crimes against humanity, the use of chemical weapons on thousands of innocent Kurdish civilians, is no longer free to pursue such weapons. The aggressor in the gulf war who a decade ago invaded his neighbor only to be driven out by a mighty coalition no longer threatens the volatile region of the Middle East. Iraq is no longer a playground for Saddam and his demented offspring. Iraq is finally and thankfully on the road to liberation.

Yes, it will be a bumpy road. It will take time. Even America was not built in a day. We are rebuilding, not just from the war but from 30 years of neglect. Today we should be celebrating the historic opportunity before the Iraqi people to build a democracy that respects the rule of law, that values life, that protects the God-given rights of every Iraqi citizen. We should lend them our strength and our competence as they face the difficult journey ahead. There can be no other course of action.

I believe that when all is said and done, Iraq will proudly stand among the nations of free people.

FAIRNESS IN ASBESTOS INJURY RESOLUTION ACT OF 2003

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to inform my colleagues that I have raised an objection to proceeding to S. 1125. Although I support finding a solution to the asbestos litigation crisis, there are a number of problems with this bill as currently drafted regarding the tax treatment of the asbestos fund. These problems affect the tax treatment of the amounts paid into and received from the asbestos fund. If not remedied, there could be serious adverse tax consequences to the companies, the asbestos fund, and, most importantly, the beneficiaries. These tax issues are within the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee, I believe that S. 1125 should be referred to the Finance Committee, but in the event it is not, the bill should be held from the floor until the Finance Committee can report a separate tax title for floor consideration.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of the De-

partment of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. Last week, we passed a Defense appropriations bill that includes \$150 million in funding for this program. In the more than 10 years since its inception, I have worked with many of my colleagues to ensure that this groundbreaking program continues to have the strong level of support necessary to give researchers the essential resources they need to discover the keys to curing and preventing breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women. It accounts for 30 percent of all cancers in women. In the United States in 2002 alone, it is estimated that 203,500 women were diagnosed with invasive breast cancer while 40,000 women lost their lives to this disease. These women are our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our friends. Research toward a cure cannot bring those loved ones back to us, but we hope it will spare thousands of future tragedies and provide hope for women currently struggling with this devastating disease.

Earlier this year, as I have for the past several years, I coordinated a letter, along with Senators LEAHY and others, requesting that the Defense appropriations for fiscal year 2004 contain \$175 million in funding for the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. This letter received the strong bipartisan support of 66 senators. Although budgetary constraints did not permit funding at the requested level, the fiscal year 2004 Defense appropriations bill does contain \$150 million for this program. Given the challenges of this year's budget, I am pleased that the appropriation bill contains such a strong level of support.

The research made possible by the Breast Cancer Research Program may benefit not only the victims of breast cancer but of countless other diseases as well. This program fills a unique role in offering awards that fill gaps in ongoing research and complement initiatives sponsored by other agencies. The program supports research and training awards that promote the investigation of innovative ideas and a strong workforce of scientists in this critical field. In an analysis of this program the Institute of Medicine said:

The Program fills a unique niche among public and private funding sources for cancer research. It is not duplicative of other programs and is a promising vehicle for forging new ideas and scientific breakthroughs in the nation's fight against breast cancer.

In just over a decade since its inception, the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program already has shown great success. The flexibility of this program helps to maximize the limited resources available. I applaud the strong support of this program and want to stress that the intent of reviewing alternative funding sources is to strengthen breast cancer research efforts and not to affect funding for the current program. I am concerned about

any efforts to review or restructure the program that might reduce the effectiveness and vitality of the dynamic research efforts it supports. Much work remains to be done in our quest for the cure, and I will continue my strong support of the Breast Cancer Research Program in years to come.

Mr. President, as this bill heads to conference, I urge the conferees to recognize the strong congressional support of this program by, at a minimum, maintaining the Senate funding level.

HONORING JOHN HARDT

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to pay tribute to a very distinguished servant of the legislative branch of Congress. In May 2003, Dr. John Hardt ends his official service with the Congressional Research Service after 32 years as a valuable resource to Congress in the field of international economics and foreign affairs. In many ways, Dr. Hardt's retirement symbolizes the ending of an era for the Congress; he is the only remaining CRS senior specialist now providing Congress with research and analysis in the field of foreign affairs. He has been a great asset to the Congress and to CRS throughout his long career in public service.

Dr. Hardt received both his PhD in economics and a certificate from the Russian Institute from Columbia University. Prior to joining the Congressional Research Service, he had already had the kind of illustrious career that serves as a lifetime achievement for many others. He served his country with distinction during World War II, receiving ribbons and battle stars for both the European and Asiatic Theaters of operations as well as the Philippines Liberation Ribbon. He has been an educator—specializing in economics, Soviet studies, and Sino-Soviet studies—at the University of Washington, the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, the George Washington University, the Foreign Service Institute, and American military service schools. He has served in the American private sector specializing in Soviet electric power and nuclear energy economics for the CEIR Corporation in Washington, DC, and as Director of the Strategic Studies Department at the Research Analysis Corporation in McLean, VA, where he specialized in Soviet comparative Communist and Japanese studies. He is a widely published author, with hundreds of research papers, journal articles, technical memoranda, and book chapters to his credit.

Dr. Hardt joined the Congressional Research Service as the senior specialist in Soviet economics in November of 1971. It is work for CRS—and for us, the Members of this body—that I want to honor today. For the past three decades, Dr. Hardt has served Members of Congress, their staff and committees with his considerable expertise in Soviet and post-Soviet and Eastern Europe economics, the economy of the People's Republic of China,

East-West commercial relations, and comparative international economic analysis. He has advised, among others, both the Senate and House Commerce Committees on East-West trade; the Senate and House Banking Committees on the Export-Import Bank and other U.S. Government financing programs; and the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees on U.S. trade policy. He frequently has traveled with congressional committee delegations, serving as a technical adviser on visits to the former Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, the former Yugoslavia, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, and Sweden, and then preparing committee reports for these trips. On many occasions, Dr. Hardt has been called on to advise directly Members of Congress and congressional staff on Russian Federation debt reduction and its relationship to nonproliferation concerns, and has provided support to the Russian Leadership Program, especially those events and activities that involved Members of Congress. The extent of his national and international contacts is breathtaking, and includes senior members of foreign governments and leading multinational businesses.

His most lasting legacy for Congress may well be his service as both editor and coordinator of a long series of Joint Economic Committee compendia on the economies of the PRC, Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe. The Congress can take pride in these important, well known, and highly respected JEC studies, to which Dr. Hardt devoted so much of his talent and energies. The more than 70 volumes of this work include: *China Under the Four Modernizations, 1982*; *China's Economy Looks Toward the Year 2000, 1986*; *The Former Soviet Union in Transition, 1993*; *East-Central European Economies in transition, 1994*; and *Russia's Uncertain Economic Future, 2001*. The series includes hundreds of analytical papers on various aspects of issues pertinent to Congress and to U.S. policy, all written by internationally recognized government, academic, and private sector experts, and all coordinated and edited by Dr. Hardt. This work was not only a valuable source of analysis to the Congress but also to the policy making and academic communities at large. For many years, these volumes were the most comprehensive sources of economic data and analyses on the economies of the Soviet Union, China and Eastern Europe.

Let me make one final point to illustrate the loss that we, as Members of Congress, sustain with Dr. Hardt's retirement. That point concerns one of the great strengths that CRS offers to Congress, and which Dr. Hardt's tenure and contributions at CRS epitomize perfectly: institutional member. Of the 535 Members of the 108th Congress, only 11 were Members of the 92nd Congress when Dr. Hardt first assumed his official congressional duties. Most of the countries that he has specialized in

have undergone astounding transformation during his working life—some, indeed, no longer exist. The membership of this deliberative body in which we serve has turned over many times. Committees have come and gone. But through it all, John Hardt has been a constant fixture, a strand of continuity in an environment of continual change—part of the collective institutional memory of CRS which is of such value to our work in Congress. We wish Dr. Hardt well in the new ventures on which he will be embarking. He will be greatly missed by us all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO YASMINA VINCI

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I honor one of our most dedicated leaders, effective advocates and passionate activists for America's children: Ms. Yasmina Vinci. Ms. Vinci is retiring after 11 years as the executive director of the Nation's Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, NACCRRA. Ms. Vinci started the Washington, DC office of NACCRRA from her kitchen table with just a telephone and fax machine and built it into a highly respected organization representing more than 860 local and State child care resource and referral agencies.

Ms. Vinci is one of our Nation's most tireless advocates for a high-quality early care and education system designed to serve all children. As executive director of NACCRRA, Ms. Vinci has provided vision, leadership and support to community child care resource and referral agencies and has promoted national policies and partnerships committed to the development and learning of all children. Ms. Vinci has worked diligently to promote quality in child care resource and referral services.

Prior to joining NACCRRA in 1992, Ms. Vinci was the manager of special projects in the New Jersey Department of Human Services where she managed the Dependent Care Grant, coordinated the development of the New Jersey plan for the implementation of the Child Care and Development Block Grant and supervised a number of research, immunization and Head Start-related projects. For nearly 10 years, Ms. Vinci was the executive director of an inner-city child care center, serving 200 low-income families through a continuum of high quality, comprehensive, and family supportive programs.

Ms. Vinci has served on the Boards of the National School Age Care Alliance, the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, United Way and YWCA. She is a current member of the Board of the Alliance for Work Life Progress, the Center for Evidence Based Practices, the Center for Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning and the NOW Legal Defense and Education