major conventional military weapons—battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters—that can be deployed within Europe. These limits are verifiable through an extensive regime of inspections, transparency measures, and data exchanges. To be sure, since the Cold War ended, most countries, especially in central Europe, have reduced their levels of conventional weapons well below the limits specified by the treaty. Nonetheless, the verification measures that continue in place to the present day provide a level of openness and predictability important to the continued stability of Europe.

The ''exceptional circumstances'' referred to in Russia's request for an Extraordinary Conference of the CFE States Parties are of Russia's own making, and Russia holds the key to their resolution. At the end of the last decade, the CFE Treaty was updated to reflect post-Cold-War realities in Europe. The Adapted CFE Treaty was signed in 1999 at Istanbul, Turkey; however, it has not entered into force. Ratification of the treaty by the United States and its NATO allies will not occur until Russia implements two political commitments it made at the time of the treaty's signing.

In 1999, Russia pledged that it would fully withdraw its forces from the territories of Georgia and Moldova, which were part of the former Soviet Union. One of the CFE Treaty's fundamental tenets is that a nation must give its consent for the stationing or deployment of foreign military forces on its territory. NATO nations have insisted that Russia live up to this fundamental principle and abide by its commitments. In the Senate, we have made clear to administration officials that we would give advice and consent to ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty's provisions only when and if Russia satisfied these commitments.

Russia has protested that its commitments regarding Georgia and Moldova were not related to the CFE Treaty. However, both the Georgian and Moldovan Governments have said repeatedly that they want Russian forces withdrawn from their territories. This has become a central issue in the CFE Treaty debate. Russia possesses the ability and the means to fulfill these commitments, needing only to close a single, largely abandoned Russian base in Georgia, and to withdraw a few hundred troops and an ammunition storage depot in Moldova. Russia has made progress in Georgia, but very little in Moldova since 2004.

The United States is prepared to find ways to work through its differences with Russia on important security issues in ways that recognize shared interests. Russia's threatened suspension of the CFE does not demonstrate a reciprocal view and could lead to the unraveling of the CFE Treaty itself. Nevertheless, the Extraordinary Conference can serve as an opportunity to modernize the Cold-War-era CFE Treaty in a direction that reflects the current security environment in Europe and one in which all parties can completely fulfill their commitments.

The administration's proposal to multilateralize the current Russian peacekeeping forces in Moldova, perhaps under the auspices of the NATO-Russia Council, merits serious consideration. In Georgia, Russia has already taken significant steps to reduce its troop presence the remaining steps are far less demanding but just as important. The Extraordinary Conference should offer a new beginning, rather than the beginning of the end.

The United States and its NATO Allies believe that the Adapted CFE Treaty offers the best path toward ensuring a Europe united and at peace, one in which Russia honors its commitments. If this were to occur, then, and only then, would the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the United States Senate be likely to begin a careful, expeditious review leading to U.S. ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty.

HONORING SENATE CHAPLAIN BARRY C. BLACK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Maryland is proud to honor its sons and daughters whose accomplishments touch the lives of others. We are particularly elated when an individual's talents and achievements are recognized throughout the Nation and beyond.

Chaplain Barry C. Black is one such Marylander, born and raised with five sisters and two brothers in Baltimore by a prudent and faithful mother, Pearline Black. He has penned his life story in a recent book titled, ''From the Hood to the Hill, '' stating that, ''in spite of unpromising beginnings, my siblings and I bucked the statistics and turned out fine (O)ne of the boys even became a two-star Navy admiral and the first African-American Navy chief of chaplains. Later, he was selected as the sixty-second chaplain of the United States Senate. I am that child.'' These are but a few of the stellar accomplishments in a life that serves as inspiration for us all.

Even though I have only been a Senator for 5 months, I have spent several mornings opening the Senate's sessions, and I am always inspired by Chaplain Black's serene manner, the conviction in his voice, the faith present in his life, and the ministry he has accepted. In addition to leading daily prayer before each session of the Senate, Chaplain Black and his dedicated staff conduct Bible studies and attend to the spiritual needs of our Nation's leaders and the thousands of staff members who work in the Senate. His invaluable leadership and service to our country are worthy of both recognition and celebration.

Mr. President, this afternoon the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus will honor the Reverend Barry C. Black, the Chaplain of the Senate, with a resolution and the presentation of a plaque honoring him for a distinguished career of leadership and service to the Senate and the larger community. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

SENATE BLACK LEGISLATIVE STAFF CAUCUS RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHAPLAIN BARRY C. BLACK, THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHAPLAIN OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Whereas Chaplain Black is a spiritual leader who, through his faith in GOD, overcame many obstacles that profoundly impacted him, taking his humble beginnings and used them to set his feet on higher ground;

Whereas Barry Black was born the fourth of eight children on All Saints Day, November 1, 1948 to parents Pearline Bull Black and Lester Clayton Black in Baltimore, Maryland;

Whereas Barry Black attended Pine Forge Academy and furthered his education, becoming an alumnus of Oakwood College, Andrews University, North Carolina Central University, Eastern Baptist Seminary, Salve Regina University, and United States International University (now Alliant International University);

Whereas Barry Black received Master's Degrees in Divinity, Counseling, and Management, a Doctorate degree in Ministry, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Psychology;

Whereas Barry Black married Brenda Pearsall on June 17, 1973, whom he met during his junior year at Oakwood College. They would later have three children: Barry II, Brendan, and Bradford;

Whereas Barry Black was commissioned in 1976 as chaplain in the United States Navy, eventually to become the Navy Chaplain Corps' first African-American Admiral, Deputy Chief of chaplains in 1997, and Chief of Navy Chaplains in 2000;

Whereas Barry Black was responsible for the spiritual care of servicemen from 190 religious traditions, advised and provided ministry to the Chief of Naval Operations, the Secretaries of the Navy and Defense, and the Commandants of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard;

Whereas Barry Black served in the U.S. Navy for 27 years, retiring on August 15, 2003;

Whereas Barry Black's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medals (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals (two awards), and numerous unit awards, campaign and service medals. He was also selected from one hundred twenty-seven nominees for the 1995 NAACP Renowned Service Award for his contribution to equal opportunity and civil rights;

Whereas on July 7, 2003, Barry Black was appointed as the 62nd Chaplain of the United States Senate by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), becoming the first African-American and the first Seventh-day Adventist to serve in this position: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus recognizes Chaplain Barry C. Black's exemplary achievements; his leadership and personal integrity in service to the United States Senate and the larger community; and his altruism and commitment to public service, touching the lives of many who bear witness to his spiritual leadership.