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In Recognition of the exemplary service and career of an outstanding naval officer, Vice Admiral James F. Amerault, upon his retirement from the United States Navy at the conclusion of more than 36 years of honorable and distinguished service. It is my privilege to commend him for outstanding service to the Navy and our great nation.

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recognition are the sacrifices of the civilian nisei on the homefront, who continued to support the war effort while enduring the prejudice of fellow citizens as well as the wholesale violation of their civil rights by the U.S. Government.

This new memorial honors the valor and sacrifice of the hundreds of brave men who fought and died for their country, and it also speaks to the faith and perseverance of 120,000 Japanese Americans and nationals, who solely on the basis of race, regardless of citizenship or loyalty, without proof or justification, were denied their civil rights in what history will record as one of our Nation's most shameful acts. This memorial commemorates these events in our Nation's history. It will remind us of the consequences of allowing hysteria and racial prejudice to override constitutional rights, and, I hope, that we teach this lesson to our children to avoid a repetition of our mistakes.

I congratulate the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation for the tremendous effort that went into organizing and building the Memorial to Patriotism. Thousands of Americans from around the country donated funds to build the memorial. Over 2,000 Hawaii residents contributed approximately \$1 million to this worthy project. The completed memorial is both inspiration and educational. First and foremost, the memorial honors the memory of those who gave their lives in defense of our freedom and liberty and remembers all those who were displaced or interned from 1942 to 1945. In addition, the memorial draws on a few striking elements to cause one to meditate on the wartime experiences of Japanese Americans. The crane sculpture by Nina Akamu, a Hawaii-born artist, speaks to the prejudice and injustice confronted by Japanese Americans, and in a larger context speaks to the resiliency of the human spirit over adversity. The bell created by Paul Matisse encourages reflection, its toll marking the struggle and sacrifice of Japanese Americans in our Nation's history and reminding us of our shared responsibility to defend the civil rights and liberties of all Americans.

I would also like to congratulate our friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] and my friend, Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta, a former Member of Congress, for their leadership in gaining Congressional authorization for the memorial and their support for the work of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

Today's formal opening of this Memorial to Patriotism by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in the Nation's capital is a timely and necessary endeavor, for it reminds us and future generations of Americans that courage, honor, and loyalty transcend race, culture, and ethnicity.

JUSTICE FOR U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as we move into recess for our annual Independence Day celebration, I wish to offer my deepest gratitude for all veterans of this country who took the call for arms in silent and noble duty and sacrificed more than we can ever repay. From the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf War, American men and women have always answered the call to secure and preserve independence and freedom both here and abroad. We are forever in their debt.

I also want to take this occasion to recognize and honor a special group of brave, indeed extraordinary, soldiers who served this country so gallantly in WWII. I want to pay special tribute to those who served in the Pacific, were taken prisoner, and then enslaved, and forced into labor without pay, under horrific conditions by Japanese companies.

While I in no way wish to suggest that other American troops did not suffer equally horrific hardships or served with any less courage, the situation faced by this particular group of veterans was unique. As recognized in a unanimous joint resolution last year, all members of Congress stated their strong support for these brave Americans. As with many of our colleagues here today, I am committed to supporting these veterans in every way possible in their fight for justice.

This weekend the Prime Minister of Japan will be meeting with the President of the United States. I cannot praise this President enough for his thoughtfulness in hosting this event for the leader of Japan.

On this Independence Day, as we honor and appreciate America's freedom, we cannot help but think of those who served our country. Freedom, indeed, is not free. The price is immeasurable. I hope the Prime Minister will understand, as I know he does, the value we place upon our veterans—the very people who fought and paid the price.

Our country appreciates the decades of friendship the United States and Japan have shared. Often, we probably do not recognize as we should the value of our bilateral relationship with Japan. On many occasions, we get bogged down in trade disputes. But ultimately we have found ways to resolve past trade differences, and I am confident we can address all current and future trade issues.

It is with this sincere hope and appreciation that I raise the memory of injustices perpetrated by private companies in Japan against American servicemen, and I hope that we can find a resolution to this problem. There is no more appropriate time to open the door to this long overdue dialogue between the United States and Japan. This is a moral issue that will not go away. We can work with Japan to close this sad chapter in history. In so doing, we will fortify and continue our bilateral relationship with Japan.

In closing, I urge all Americans, during this next week as we celebrate our freedom and our great history, to thank our soldiers who gave their lives and their freedom to fight for our nation. I thank them and express my support that they will be helped and protected. I will fight for them as they fought for me, my children, and all other Americans.

RETIREMENT OF VICE ADMIRAL JAMES F. AMERAULT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise to take this opportunity to recognize the exemplary service and career of an outstanding naval officer, Vice Admiral James F. Amerault, upon his retirement from the United States Navy at the conclusion of more than 36 years of honorable and distinguished service. It is my privilege to commend him for outstanding service to the Navy and our great nation.

Vice Admiral Amerault embarked on his naval career thirty-six years ago, on the 29th of June 1965. In the years since that day, he has devoted great energy and talent to the Navy and protecting our national security interests. It would be hard to calculate the innumerable hours this man has stood watch to keep our nation safe. He has been steadfast in his commitment to the ideals and values that our country embodies and holds dear.

Following his commissioning at the United States Naval Academy, he embarked on the first of many ships that would benefit from his leadership and expertise. Vice Admiral Amerault served at-sea as Gunnery Officer and First Lieutenant on board USS *Massey* (DD 778). He then served as Officer in Charge, Patrol Craft Fast 52 in Vietnam, a challenging and dangerous assignment that kept him in harm's way. His courage and commitment to our nation was more than evident during these tumultuous years as he conducted more than 90 combat patrols in hostile waters off the coast of South Vietnam. One example of his valor and heroism is quoted from Commander Coastal Division Fourteen on 21 December 1967, "On the night of 4 August 1967 the patrol craft in the area adjacent to the one you were patrolling came under enemy fire. Disregarding your own safety, you directed your patrol craft to within 300 yards of the beach and bombarded the enemy position with intense .50 caliber and 81mm mortar fire. During this exchange your patrol craft was narrowly missed by a barrage of recoilless rifle fire." Again, his valor and heroism was established early in his career. He was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with Combat V and the Navy Combat Action Ribbon for his service.

Vice Admiral Amerault's follow-on sea tours demonstrated the tactical brilliance that would become his trademark. His next tour was on board USS *Taylor* (DD 468) as Engineer Officer.

During this tour he earned a coveted Shellback certificate for crossing the equator. He then reported as Chief Engineer on board USS *Benner* (DD 801) where he earned his first of three Navy Commendation Medals.

Several sea tours followed in steady progression. He was Executive Officer in USS *Dupont* (DD 941). He also was Executive Officer in USS *Sierra* (AD 18). He served as commissioning Commanding Officer of USS *Nicholas* (FFG 47) and Commanding Officer of USS *Samuel Gompers* (AD 37). It is difficult to convey the challenges and hardships that were faced by this officer and his family during these many and arduous sea tours.

As Vice Admiral Amerault progressed in the Navy he served as Staff Combat Information Center Officer for Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group TWO; and commanded Destroyer Squadron SIX, Amphibious Group FOUR, and the Western Hemisphere Group. Again, these were all difficult tours of tremendous responsibility that required an incredible commitment to duty and country.

Vice Admiral Amerault's shore assignments have included Director, Navy Program Resource Appraisal Division and Executive Assistant to the Director, Surface Warfare Division on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations.

His flag assignments have included Director, Operations Division, Office of Budget and Reports, Navy Comptroller; Director, Office of Navy Budget; and Director, Fiscal Management Division in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

His final tour in the Navy as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Readiness and Logistics) has demonstrated his brilliant logistics acumen. With dynamic leadership he has refocused the Navy's logistics systems to more accurately meet the needs of the war fighter and the Navy of the future.

A scholar as well, VADM Amerault is a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School (MS Operations Research) and the University of Utah (MA Middle East Affairs and Arabic), and was the Navy's 1986-87 Federal Executive Fellow at the RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California.

As he ascended to the highest echelons of leadership in the Navy, Vice Admiral Amerault garnered many commendations that further highlight his stellar career. They include the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit (seven awards); the Bronze Star with V; the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards); the Joint Service Commendation Medal; the Navy Commendation Medal (three awards); and Vietnam, Desert Storm, and numerous other campaign medals.

Vice Admiral Amerault also has the distinction of being the Navy's "Old Salt"—the active duty officer who has been qualified as an officer of the deck underway the longest.

Standing beside this officer throughout his superb career has been his wife

Cathy, a lady to whom he owes much. She has been his key supporter, devoting her life to her husband, to her family, and to the men and women of the Navy family. She has traveled by his side for these many years. They are the epitome of the Navy family team.

From the start of his career at the Naval Academy, through Vietnam, the Gulf War, Kosovo and beyond—thirty-six years—Vice Admiral Amerault has served with uncommon valor. He is indeed an individual of rare character and professionalism—a true Sailor's Sailor! I am proud, Mr. President, to thank him on behalf of the United States of America for his honorable and most distinguished career in the United States Navy, and to wish him "fair winds and following seas".

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER REFEREES FOR THE 2001 SIGMA NU CHARITY BOWL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, recently the Epsilon Xi Chapter of Sigma Nu at the University of Mississippi celebrated the eleventh anniversary of the Charity Bowl in Oxford, Mississippi. Founded in 1989, the Sigma Nu Charity Bowl has helped many unfortunate men and women, who from accidents or injuries have been permanently paralyzed. Since 1990, over \$500,000 has been raised to help these individuals.

Throughout the years, the Epsilon Xi Sigma Nu Charity Bowl has become one of the largest college philanthropy events in the nation. Every year, Sigma Nu competes in a football game against another fraternity from Ole Miss or another university. It has become an annual event that the citizens of Oxford, the parents of the players, and the Ole Miss community enjoy each year. This year's recipient was a very deserving young man named James Havard, who enjoyed watching Sigma Nu defeat Phi Delta Theta 18-13.

I would like to recognize some very special men who generously gave their time and talents in order to make the Charity Bowl a great success. Steve Freeman, Michael Miles, Kevin Roberts, Scott Steenson, and Michael Woodard are to be commended and honored for their efforts in serving as volunteer referees for the charity bowl football game. They graciously took time out of their busy schedules in order to make the game more enjoyable for the players and the fans, but more importantly they gave James Havard an opportunity to enjoy a better life.

These men belong to the Professional Football Referees Association Charities, PFRA. The PFRA is also very involved in helping out other charitable organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This distinguished organization has been very helpful in getting aid to individuals like James, and they have given many people a chance to have a better life.

These men and the PFRA are to be commended for a job well done, and for

their continued efforts in improving the lives of others.

THE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the most significant accomplishments of the 106th Congress was the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, commonly known as "ESIGN." This landmark legislation establishes a Federal framework for the use of electronic signatures, contracts, and records, while preserving essential safeguards protecting the Nation's consumers. It passed both houses of Congress by an overwhelming majority, and went into effect in October 2000.

I helped to craft the Senate version of the bill, which passed unanimously in November 1999, and I was honored to serve as a conferee and help develop the conference report. I am proud of what we achieved and the bipartisan manner in which we achieved it. It was an example of legislators legislating rather than politicians posturing and unnecessarily politicizing important matters of public policy.

Much of the negotiations over ESIGN concerned the consumer protection language in section 101(c), which was designed to ensure effective consumer consent to the replacement of paper notices with electronic notices. We managed in the end to strike a constructive balance that advanced electronic commerce without terminating or mangling the basic rights of consumers.

In particular, ESIGN requires use of a "technological check" in obtaining consumer consent. The critical language, which Senator WYDEN and I developed and proposed, provides that a consumer's consent to the provision of information in electronic form must involve a demonstration that the consumer can actually receive and read the information. Companies are left with ample flexibility to develop their own procedures for this demonstration.

When the Senate passed ESIGN in June 2000, I expressed confidence that the benefits of a one-time technological check would far outweigh any possible burden on e-commerce. I also predicted that this provision would increase consumer confidence in the electronic marketplace.

One year later, the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Commerce have issued a report on the impact of ESIGN's consumer consent provision. In preparing the report, these agencies conducted extensive outreach to the on-line business community, technology developers, consumer groups, law enforcement, and academia. The report concludes:

[T]hus far, the benefits of the consumer consent provision of ESIGN outweigh the burdens of its implementation on electronic commerce. The provision facilitates e-commerce and the use of electronic records and