

an authoritarian regime that has deployed weapons of mass destruction against its own people, that is overtly and overwhelmingly hostile to our nation, that threatens the security and stability of some of our closest friends and allies, and that besmirches the very idea of human rights.

If the President would use military force against the government in Baghdad, he must first consult with and obtain the consent of the Congress.

With best regards, I am
Sincerely,

LAURENCE H. TRIBE.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR JESSE HELMS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my long-time colleague from my neighboring State of North Carolina, Senator JESSE HELMS.

It has been my honor and great privilege to have worked so closely with this fine Senator for the past thirty years. Senator HELMS has been one of the great Senate leaders of the 20th century. After serving in the United States Navy during World War II, Senator HELMS went on to have an illustrious career in journalism. He began his reporting career as the city editor of *The Raleigh News* and later served as the editor of the *Tarheel Banker*, which became the largest State banking publication in our Nation. During his many years of reporting and as a top Executive at Capitol Broadcasting Company, his editorials appeared in more than 200 newspapers and more than 70 radio stations in North Carolina. During these years, he also served on the Raleigh City Council.

In 1972, JESSE ran for the Senate. It was my privilege to campaign throughout the State with him, forging a friendship which I treasure. Since his election, Senator HELMS has served our Nation with nothing but class, integrity, and honesty. During his five terms in the United States Senate, his service has been marked by countless significant achievements for our great Nation. Admired and respected by both parties, he truly embodies the qualities of a superior statesman. Senator HELMS is to be applauded for his work on the Committee of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Rules and Administration Committee, and for his work as Chairman and now ranking Minority member of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

His numerous awards reflect the many and varied contributions he has made to the Senate and to his State. He was the first Republican to receive the Golden Gavel for presiding over the Senate more than 117 hours in 1973. Along with others, he holds the Gold Medal of Merit from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and on three occasions was named the Most Admired Conservative in Congress by *Readers Digest*. I would also like to note Senator HELMS has received the Guardian of Small Business Award and the Watchdog of the Treasury Award every year since his 1973 election.

JESSE certainly represents the qualities of a true southern gentleman. He is a loving husband, father, and grandfather, a devout Baptist, and an individual who would stop at nothing to help his fellow North Carolinians. His wife, Dot, is a lady of grace and charm. They are an admirable couple and a wonderful example for others to follow.

For thirty years, the tireless Senator HELMS has carried out his duties as United States Senator with the utmost sense of honor. His dedicated service to our Nation has set an example for all to follow, and I have been privileged to have served with such an esteemed individual. It is because of leaders like Senator HELMS that our Nation is the greatest in the world. As the 107th Congress pays tribute and says farewell to one of the greatest Senators of all time, I say thank you to my colleague and my close friend.

Again, I congratulate JESSE on his lengthy and distinguished career and thank him for the friendship we have enjoyed during our many years working together. On behalf of myself, my colleagues, and a most grateful Nation, I express my gratitude for his outstanding service to the United States Senate. I wish him, his lovely wife Dot, three children, Jane, Nancy, and Charles, and his seven grandchildren the best of luck and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

THE CLEAN WATER ACT: 30 YEARS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, I am pleased to acknowledge progress in the cleanup of our Nation's lake and rivers. The goals were ambitious. Congress envisioned a nation of fishable, swimmable rivers and lakes, and zero discharges of harmful pollutants. While we have not reached those goals, the steps we have taken have improved the quality of our water, including the natural, and national, resources embodied in the Great Lakes.

As cochair of the Great Lakes Task Force, I have worked with other Members to pass appropriations and targeted legislation to protect our Nation's largest inland body of water. The citizens of Michigan and seven other adjoining States recognize the value of the Great Lakes system to industry, transportation, water resources, and recreation—a vital link in a long chain of waterways that enhance our economy, provide pleasurable pastimes, and protect our health.

That's why I authored the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act in 1990 that amended the Clean Water Act; these changes help States measure and control pollutants discharged into the Great Lakes. My bill helped set uniform, science-based water quality criteria, ensuring that citizens throughout the system share the burdens and benefits of reducing harmful pollutants that can affect human health. It also provided for control and cleanup of contaminated sediments that leach

into the water, affecting people, fish, and wildlife.

I have helped secure other protections for wild creatures through the Great Lakes Basin Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. This legislation provides a framework and funding for studying and adopting measures to restore healthy fish, bird, and animal populations and to manage fisheries responsibly.

Nonpoint source pollution contaminants discharged into water over a broad area are widely recognized as a major problem. The Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program will help. This 2002 farm bill program provides grants for education on agricultural techniques, such as contoured farming and planting of vegetation along banks, that reduce the runoff of pesticides and other chemicals into streams and rivers.

Other legislation has set standards and enabled technology for reducing soil erosion, controlling sediment runoff, and creating environmental research labs specifically targeting the problems of the Great Lakes.

Even with our successes, however, EPA reports that more than 40 percent of our Nation's waterways remain too polluted for fishing, swimming, and other activities. Municipal sewage discharges and urban storm sewers continue to dump massive amounts of pollutants into our water. And more needs to be done in our cities, our industries, and our farms.

Thus the fight for water quality continues. In this Congress, I have introduced legislation to protect Great Lakes waters from invasive species the zebra mussel, Asian carp, and other intruders that enter U.S. waters through maritime commerce and on the hulls of ships. These intruders can damage ecosystems and wipe out entire populations of native fish.

I have also asked the Senate to consider the Great Lakes Legacy Act. This bill would provide funds for States to cleanup and restore areas of special concern, which do not meet the basic water quality standards laid out in a 1972 United States Canada agreement. These areas include some vital passages between the Great Lakes, including Michigan's Detroit and St. Clair Rivers.

Funding water quality management activities and improvements in environmental infrastructure is one of my highest priorities. Even now, Congress is exploring ways to improve funding for the construction of wastewater treatment plants to help control urban sewer and stormwater overflows, a huge source of nonpoint source pollution.

Even as we implement new measures, the Bush administration threatens a sweeping dismantlement of existing Clean Water Act safeguards by removing Federal oversight, allowing polluters to "buy" credits that would permit the continuation of harmful practices, and renege on the decades-old