technology such as drought-resistant crops. Farmers buy crop insurance. In my State of Iowa, about 92 percent of the farmers have crop insurance. Livestock farmers help animals manage heat by building climate-controlled buildings. But when faced with weather conditions such as we are currently dealing with, even the best laid plans may not keep the farming operation afloat. That is where the Federal Government comes in. We help provide a safety net.

Let me say just how that drought affects crops. I just read in the newspaper something put out by some government agency that said about 55 percent of the landmass of the United States is in a drought condition right now. In my State of Iowa and many other Midwestern States, on an average of about 22 years, we face drought situations that are catastrophic for crops. Actually, the last one was in 1988, so now we are having one in my State of Iowa and that is 24 years. But, on average, it happens about that long. So we see the need for something that is beyond farmers' control. We can't do anything if it doesn't rain when it is supposed to rain, and right now is one of those most important times when crops need rain. So why do we provide the safety net? Because the American people understand how important the production of food is to our food supply and farmers doing that production.

It is a matter of national security. It has been said we are only nine meals away from a revolution. If people were without food, this argument goes, they would do whatever it takes to get food for themselves and their families. It has only been 3 years, I believe, in some places in the world where they had riots that were national problems—not just local problems but national problems—because of a shortage of rice. That is a staple in many countries; I suppose particularly of Asia. So we have to have a stable food supply if we are not going to have social upheaval.

The need for food can also be illustrated by looking at military history. In other words, a food supply is very important for our national security. It may be a joke, but Napoleon supposedly said "an army marches on its stomachs." But we also know from modern history, if we consider World War II on this very day, 60 or 70 years after World War II, why the Japanese and the Germans protect their farmers so much with safety nets of various sorts. Because they know what it was like during wartime not to have adequate food as a part of national security. A well-fed military is one ready to fight and to defend.

There is nothing more basic than making sure the Nation's food supply is secure, whether it is to prevent social upheaval or for our national security or maybe for a lot of other reasons. In order to have stability in our food system, we need to have the safety net available to assist farmers through the tough times so they can keep producing food.

I have not always agreed with the policies set in each and every farm bill Congress has passed—of the eight I have been involved in. In fact, there have been times in which I voted against individual farm bills because I didn't agree with the policy being set. However, I support, to a large extent, what we accomplished in the Senate-passed farm bill last month. Obviously, I didn't agree with everything, particularly with the lack of savings we captured from the nutrition title. But, for the most part, we passed a bill that embraced real reform in the farm program that still provides an effective safety net.

Whether it is the Senate bill that cut back $23 billion from the present farm program or whether it is the House bill that seems to cut back $35 billion, I will bet this is the only piece of legislation that can possibly get to the President's desk this year that is going to save money rather than if it had just been simply extended. I would think people who want to set a record of fiscal conservatism for the upcoming election would be very anxious to take up a bill the Congressional Budget Office says saves either $23 billion or $35 billion.

So I say mostly to the other body, because right now that is where the action is and where we hope it will take place, we should not delay any longer. The farm bill is too important to all Americans to leave it in limbo. We need to get a farm bill to the President. The farm bill is approximately 80 percent nutrition programs. Most of the people who benefit are not farmers. Then, the other 20 percent is a safety net for farmers but also for all the programs the Department of Agriculture administers.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, before I go into the closing business, let me say I had the pleasure of presiding in this body during the remarks that were just made by the distinguished chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Senator LIEBERMAN of Connecticut, the distinguished ranking member of that committee, Senator COLLINS of Maine, and the distinguished chairman of the Commerce Committee and, until recently, chairman of the Intelligence Committee, Senator ROCKEFELLER of West Virginia.

I simply want, briefly, to add my voice to theirs and echo the three points they emphasized: One, we absolutely must take action on cybersecurity; two, it is a genuine and undeniable matter of our American national security; and, three, we cannot claim to have done the job, we cannot claim to even have attempted the job seriously if we do not address the question of the critical infrastructure on which American life and our economy depend that is in private hands and, therefore, cannot be protected under the existing regime in place protecting our government and military networks. We have to solve that problem. Anything that does not solve that problem is a clear failure of our duty, as national security experts from Republican and Democratic administrations alike have very clearly explained.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SALLY RIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I know that you and all of our colleagues will want to join me today in paying tribute to Dr. Sally Ride, the first American woman to fly in space, who died peacefully on Monday at her home in San Diego, CA. Sally Ride was 61 years old.

Dr. Ride was a physicist, an astronaut, a science writer, and the president and CEO of Sally Ride Science, a nonprofit company dedicated to realizing her lifelong passion for motivating young people to stick with their interests in science and to consider pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Sally Ride was born and grew up in Encino, CA. As a young girl, she was encouraged by her parents to pursue her two passionate interests: science and sports. At Stanford University, she studied physics, astrophysics, and English literature while becoming the school's number one women's tennis player. When asked what had made her choose science over tennis, she joked, "A bad forehand."

In 1977, as she was about to complete her Ph.D. in physics, Sally read that NASA was looking for astronauts and, for the first time, was allowing women to apply. From a group of 8,000 applicants, NASA selected 29 men and 6 women—including Sally Ride—as astronaut candidates in January 1978. The following year, she qualified for assignment on a space shuttle flight crew.

On June 18, 1983, Sally Ride made history as the first American woman in space, part of a 147-hour mission aboard the shuttle *Challenger*. She later said, "The thing that I'll remember most about the flight is that it was fun. In fact, I'm sure it was the most fun I'll ever have in my life."

Sally Ride's historic space flight riveted the Nation and made her a household name—a symbol of women's ability to break barriers and achieve any goal, no matter how lofty. She immediately understood and appreciated her place in history, crediting the women's movement of the 1970s with paving her way into the space program.

Dr. Ride made another space flight in 1984 and was preparing for a third when the *Challenger* exploded shortly after takeoff on January 28, 1986. She served on the Presidential commission investigating the *Challenger* tragedy and worked at NASA headquarters as special assistant to the administrator before retiring from NASA in 1987.

After serving as a science fellow at Stanford's Center for International Security and Arms Control, Dr. Ride joined the faculty at the University of California, San Diego as a physics professor and director of the California Space Institute.

In 2001 she founded Sally Ride Science to create educational programs that entertain, engage, and inspire young people. She served on the President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology, the National Research Council's Space Studies Board, and the boards of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and the NCAA Foundation.

Sally Ride pushed the limits of knowledge, courage, and accomplishment for all Americans, especially for girls and young women. As a pioneer in the final frontier of space, she showed millions of American girls that there was truly no limit on what they can do or where they can go.

On behalf of the people of California, who have been so moved and inspired by Sally Ride's life and legacy, I send my deepest appreciation and condolences to her partner of 27 years, Tam O'Shaughnessy; her mother, Joyce; her sister, Bear; her niece, Caitlin; and her nephew, Whitney.

CHRISTENING OF THE USS SOMERSET

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, this Saturday, July 28, 2012, the U.S. Navy will perform a christening ceremony in New Orleans for the future USS *Somerset*. The USS *Somerset* is a special ship, bearing the name of the Southwest Pennsylvania county where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed on September 11, 2001.

On that infamous day, a group of defiant and determined Americans challenged a group of al-Qaida hijackers hell bent on crashing the plane into the U.S. Capitol, the White House, or another sensitive DC-area target. The terrorists' goal was not achieved, thanks to the bravery of the Americans onboard. We will never forget their actions in the face of horror.

The USS *Somerset* will serve as an ongoing emblem of their heroism as it races to the aid of our friends and defends American liberty against our foes. This ship also embodies the American spirit local Pennsylvanians demonstrated shortly after the crash, when they raised the Stars and Stripes atop a dragline near the crash site as an unforgettable symbol of our country's resolve during a time of national sorrow.

Wherever the USS *Somerset* goes, so will a piece of southwest Pennsylvania. The bow of the ship includes steel from the dragline adjacent to the crash site in Stonycreek Township, where it was a silent witness to an indelible act of American courage and strength in defiance of those who would do us harm.

I wish the U.S. Navy and the future crew of the USS *Somerset* safe travels and successful missions defending America and freedom worldwide.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. NEOSHA A. MACKEY

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Neosha A. Mackey, who retired earlier this summer as dean of university libraries at Missouri State University after 27 years of service. During her years of dedicated service, Mackey oversaw the expansion of the Meyer Library to meet the needs of the academic community with improved access to local archives, manuscripts and photographs. The MSU library system also improved its access to other research materials with a Special Collections and Archives section available to internet users that was previously only accessible to view at the MSU Library.

Mackey started at Missouri State as the head of reference in 1985. Later she served as associate dean of library services, 1987–2009; acting dean, 1993–1995, and was appointed dean of library services in 2009.

During her tenure, the library enhanced services with a $28 million addition and renovation project. Mackey has also been a presence in the classroom teaching both undergraduate and graduate level courses while monitoring budgets and coordinating personnel matters. As Missouri State reached out to establish programs and classes for students in China, Mackey and her husband John took a leadership role in the development of those programs.

Mackey also directed an expansion of the Meyer Library's local archives and collections with a loan agreement to house, preserve, and provide access to manuscripts and photographs owned by The History Museum for Springfield-Greene County. The History Museum holds a comprehensive collection of photographs and personal documents capturing decades of history and changing cultures in Springfield and Greene Counties. The new campus location promises improved access for researchers and the general public as well as a safer climate- and temperature-controlled location for these priceless archives.

Before arriving at Missouri State, Mackey was at the Ohio State University from 1978–1985 as personnel librarian and head of the home economics library. She served as assistant to the dean, 1975–1977, and as head of the Parish Business Library, 1970–1975, at the University of New Mexico. Mackey has a bachelor of arts in economics and a master's in library science from the University of Oklahoma and an MBA from the University of New Mexico.

Mackey's achievements and her personal commitment to excellence have guided the Missouri State Library program to a place of national prominence. I thank her for her efforts and wish her well in her well-deserved retirement.•

2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend three Vermonters who will be representing the United States in the Olympic Games in London. One hundred years ago Albert Gutterson of Springfield, VT, won Olympic Gold in the broad jump. This year, Lea Davison, Trevor Moore and Andrew Wheating are the latest in a long line of Vermonters to compete in the world's most prestigious athletic competition.

Lea Davison won the first mountain bike race she ever entered when she was 17 years old. A native of Jericho, VT, Lea competed in cross country and was a Division I alpine ski racer at Middlebury College before becoming the youngest woman to join the professional mountain biking tour. Lea has become one of the dominant forces in professional women's mountain biking but still takes time to give back to the community, running a summer camp for girls from Vermont who are interested in cycling.

Trevor Moore began sailing with his father and brother at a very young age. When he moved to North Pomfret, VT, as a teenager his passion for competition led him to play for Woodstock Union High's tennis and soccer teams. At Hobart College, Trevor was an accomplished sailor and a three-time All American, in addition to being named the 2007 College Sailor of the Year. He will be competing with Erik Storck in the 49er category in London.

London will mark Andrew Wheating's second Olympic Games. He competed for the track team in the 800 meter race at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Andrew is originally from Norwich, VT. Recruited by the University of Oregon, he was the NCAA champion in the 800 meters in 2009 and 2010 and in the 1600 meters in 2010. Andrew is renowned for his ability to come from behind in races and will be competing in the 1600 meters in London.

Vermont is proud of Lea, Trevor, and Andrew, and I and the citizens of my State wish them the best of luck at the 2012 Olympic Games.•