

## GOP Senator Offers Support For Gay Marriage

CHICAGO (AP) — GOP Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois said Tuesday he supports gay marriage, becoming the second sitting Republican senator to make such an announcement in recent weeks.

Kirk, who has opposed a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, said in a post on his blog that "same-sex couples should have the right to civil marriage."

"Our time on this Earth is limited, I know that better than most," said Kirk, who suffered a stroke in January 2012. "Life comes down to who you love and who loves you back — government has no place in the middle."

Kirk went through months of rehabilitation before returning to work in Washington this January. He said in his blog post that when he went back to the Senate he promised himself he would return "with an open mind and greater respect for others."

Kirk is Illinois' ranking Republican lawmaker. His announcement brings to 50 the number of U.S. senators — the vast majority of them Democrats — who are on record in support of gay marriage, according to Freedom to Marry, a group that supports gay marriage.

## NRA Report Says Schools Should Arm Staffers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Schools across the nation should train selected staff members to carry weapons and should each have at least one armed security officer to make students safer and allow a quicker response to an attack, the director of a National Rifle Association-sponsored study said Tuesday.

Republican former Rep. Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas made the remarks as a task force he headed released its report, which included a 40- to 60-hour training program for school staff members who are qualified and can pass background checks.

"The presence of an armed security personnel in a school adds a layer of security and diminishes the response time that is beneficial to the overall security," said Hutchinson.

Asked if every school would be better off with an armed security officer, Hutchinson replied, "Yes," but acknowledged the decision would be made locally.

"Obviously we believe that they make a difference," he said.

## Pope Prays At Tomb Of Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis prayed Tuesday before the tomb of Pope John Paul II on the eighth anniversary of the beloved pontiff's death in what the Vatican said was evidence of Francis' "profound spiritual continuity" with popes past.

In his three weeks as pope, Francis has jolted the Catholic Church with several gestures that broke with papal tradition, including renouncing certain liturgical vestments, choosing to live in the Vatican hotel rather than the papal apartments, and washing the feet of a Muslim woman during a Holy Thursday ritual re-enacting Jesus Christ's washing of his apostles' feet.

But Francis has also visited with his immediate predecessor, Benedict XVI, and spoken on the phone with him at least three times. And on Monday, he visited the tomb of St. Peter, the first pontiff, which is located in the necropolis underneath St. Peter's Basilica.

On Tuesday, he waited until the basilica was closed to the general public to visit the tomb of John Paul II, the Polish pope who died in 2005. The tomb is located in the St. Sebastian chapel, just inside the entrance of the basilica. He also prayed before the tombs of Popes Pius X and John XXIII.

"As with the visit yesterday to the tomb of St. Peter and the Vatican grottoes, this evening's visit to the basilica expresses the profound spiritual continuity of the popes' petrine ministry, which Pope Francis lives and feels intensely, as he has shown repeatedly with his phone calls to his predecessor Benedict XVI," the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said in a statement.

# U.N. Adopts Treaty To Regulate Global Arms Trade

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly approved the first U.N. treaty regulating the multibillion-dollar international arms trade, a goal sought for more than a decade to try to keep illicit weapons out of the hands of terrorists, insurgent fighters and organized crime.

The resolution adopting the landmark treaty was approved by a vote of 154 to 3 with 23 abstentions. As the numbers appeared on the electronic board, loud cheers filled the assembly chamber.

"This is an historic day and a major achievement for the United Nations," British Foreign Secretary William Hague said. "The world wanted this treaty and would not be thwarted by the few who sought to prevent the introduction of robust, effective and legally-binding controls on the international trade in weapons."

What impact the treaty will have in reining in the estimated \$60 billion global arms trade, however, remains to be seen.

## North Korea To Restart Nuclear Facilities

BY HYUNG-JIN KIM  
AND FOSTER KLUG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Tuesday it will restart its long-shuttered plutonium reactor and increase production of nuclear weapons material, in what outsiders see as its latest attempt to extract U.S. concessions by raising fears of war.

A spokesman for the North's General Department of Atomic Energy said scientists will quickly begin "readjusting and restarting" the facilities at its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex, including the plutonium reactor and a uranium enrichment plant. Both could produce fuel for nuclear weapons.

The reactor began operations in 1986 but was shut down as part of international nuclear disarmament talks in 2007 that have since stalled. North Korea said work to restart the facilities would begin "without delay." Experts estimate it could take anywhere from three months to a year to reactivate the reactor.

The nuclear vows and a rising tide of threats in recent weeks are seen as efforts by the North to force disarmament-for-aid talks



with Washington and to increase domestic loyalty to young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by portraying him as a powerful military commander.

Tuesday's announcement underscores concerns about North Korea's timetable for building a nuclear-tipped missile that can reach the United States, although it is still believed to be years away from developing that technology.

The U.S. called for North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions, saying it would be "extremely alarming" if Pyongyang follows through on a vow to restart its plutonium reactor.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the U.S. is taking steps to ensure it has the capacity to defend itself and its allies, and that President Barack Obama is being updated regularly. "The entire national security team is focused on it," Carney said.

## Court

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She added that CAPs are not equal to hours, and each activity is given a point amount.

So far, Thoreson said the program has made an impression on the teenagers who participate in it.

"The program really has a lot of positive impacts associated with it," she said. "Our re-offender rates have dropped for those that complete the program — there is a 90 percent chance they won't re-offend by the time they turn 18."

She added that the program is also very family-oriented, which is another benefit for defendants and their family members.

"Most of the time for the cases that we deal with, there has been trust broken between the parents and child, so we work on things they can do with their parents to work together," Thoreson said. "We work on re-establishing that trust and restoring the bond so the program impacts families in a positive way as well."

The first teen court trial was held in Yankton on March 18, and trials are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at the courthouse. Volunteers also participated in a mock trial this past Monday night.

"The mock trial served as good practice for our youth volunteers since we're just starting and it's only the second court night," Thoreson said. "On April 15, we'll have two

court hearings and we want to keep it to a maximum of three or four trials each court night."

There are currently 12 teen court programs across South Dakota.

"Kids really think the program is cool and exciting," Thoreson said. "They got really interested and into it during their training. Two Mondays ago for our first hearing, our youth attorneys showed up and said they didn't get any sleep the night before because they were so nervous for their trials."

Although there are a lot of cases the teen court can handle, some are kept in the hands of the formal court system.

"State Attorney Rob Klimisch works with me to decide which cases the teen court will handle, and which the formal court will take," Thoreson said.

There is a three-strike rule in place for teenagers participating in the program. If they don't show up for something or do not get their work completed, they are given a strike. After three strikes, their cases will be moved back into the formal court.

"My goal is to have the court be successful and professional," Thoreson said. "I want to promote a professional atmosphere and make sure it stays like that."

Teenagers interested in volunteering for teen court can contact Thoreson at kthoreson@greatfuturessd.org or contact the Yankton County Boys and Girls Club at 668-9710.

You can follow Andrew Atwal on Twitter at [twitter.com/andrewatwal](https://twitter.com/andrewatwal)

## OBITUARIES

### Melvin Edelman

Melvin Delmar Edelman, 83, Rapid City, died Sunday, March 31, 2013 at Clarkson Mt View Guest Home.

He was born May 23, 1929 to John J and Louisa (Hehn) Edelman of Menno, SD, in Hutchinson County. He was the youngest of 10 children, 6 sisters and 3 brothers, of which all preceded him in death. He was brought up in the Lutheran faith having attended Sunday school at Spring Valley church of rural Viborg.

Born and raised on a farm in Hutchinson, Turner and Yankton counties. He was drafted into the US Army on Jan 14, 1952, took basic training at Fort Knox, KY, where he married Eleanor J Terrio of Irene, SD in Louisville, KY on April 12, 1952, to which 3 children were born. Janet, Debra and Kevin.

He served in Korea as an Infantryman in the 279th Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division, where he was awarded the Combat Infantryman badge, Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal, United Nations Service Medal and a medal from the Korean government.

After returning from Korea he worked in Menno for several years as a bartender, before going back to farming. In 1961 he left farming and worked at Gurney's Hatchery in Yankton before moving to Lead, SD to work at Homestake Mine. From there he went to Ellsworth AFB, working at base supply and the Commissary as night crew supervisor before retiring in 1979.

Melvin is survived by his wife, Eleanor; 2 daughters, Janet (Dave) Embree; Debbie (Dale) Schubauer; his son Kevin all of Rapid City; 5 grandchildren, Mali and Josh Embree; Christopher, Johnathon and Miranda Edelman and his great granddaughter Lucy Edelman. He was preceded in death by his parents and grandson Matthew Embree.

Graveside services will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 5, 2013 at Black Hills National Cemetery with Chap-

lain Moe Greiner officiating. Military honors will be provided by the Rushmore VFW Post #1273 Honor Guard.

Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home is in care of the arrangements and condolences may be conveyed to the family at [www.behrenswilson.com](http://www.behrenswilson.com).

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### Lawrence (Larry) Noecker

Lawrence (Larry) Noecker, 72, of Yankton died Monday, April 1, 2013, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Memorial Services are at 11 a.m. Friday, April 5, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with the Rev. Tim Lange officiating. Burial will be in the St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Hartington, Neb., at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Visitations are 5-7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home with the family present. Visitations will resume Friday at 10 a.m., at the funeral home with a rosary at 10:45 a.m.

### Ronald Grimme

Ronald F. Grimme, 66, died early Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at the Sunset Manor, Irene.

Arrangements are pending under the care of the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

### Marlene Mehlhaf

Marlene Mehlhaf, 75, of Freeman died early Tuesday, April 2, 2013, at the Oakview Terrace Nursing Home, Freeman.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 5, at the Zion Reformed Church, Menno, with the Rev. Travis Grassmid officiating. Burial will be the Zion Reformed (Kassel) Cemetery, rural Menno.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Thursday at the Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

### Mildred Cimpl

Mildred A. Cimpl, 81, of Tabor passed away Easter Sunday, March 31, 2013 at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, April 4, 2013 at the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Tabor, SD with her son Rev. Chuck Cimpl officiating. Celebrates will be Bishop Paul Swain, Rev. Joe Forcelle and a host of Sioux Falls Diocese clergy. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

Visitations will begin at 5 p.m., Wednesday evening at the St. Wenceslaus Church with a Wake service at 7 p.m. Visitations will



Cimpl

James and Anna (Bouska) Schuch in rural Tabor. She had a very devout faith and was a lifelong member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor.

Mildred attended St. Wenceslaus Parochial Grade School then

charge, he returned to work the family farm located one half mile from the original homestead and his mother's birthplace.

Gilman enjoyed hunting, cooking, reading historical and western novels. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion and former commander of Irene Hall Thompson Post #193. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters; Mildred Haugen, Sylvia Nilson and Mae Hammond and two brothers, Orin and Kenneth Hevle.

Survivors include two sisters; Lorraine Johnson of Brookings, SD and Alma Rollins of Minneapolis, MN; one brother, R. Gene Hevle

went on to graduate from Tabor High School in 1949. She married Leonard Cimpl on May 28, 1951 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Tabor.

Mildred was very involved in many church, community, and charitable activities in Tabor. She touched many lives through her teaching of the Beseda Dance which is performed each year at Czech Days.

She is survived by two sons, Fr. Charles Cimpl of Sioux Falls, Joe Cimpl of Tabor, and one daughter, Sue (Mike) Stoll of Yankton, 4 grandchildren, Selina Cimpl, Kansas City, Beth (Casey) Van Beek, Sioux Falls, Scott Stoll and

and wife Glenda of Houston, TX; one sister-in-law, Ruth Hevle of Brookings, and numerous nieces and nephews who enjoyed spending time with him on the family farm.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 6, 2013 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Irene with Pastor Mark Ostrem Officiating. Burial will follow in Salem Cemetery rural Irene. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services.

For obituary and online condolences, visit [hansenfuneralhome.com](http://hansenfuneralhome.com)

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Tyler Stoll both of Yankton, one sister, Anne Shaw of Denver.

Mildred is preceded in death by her parents.

In lieu of flowers, Mildred's request was that memorials be directed to the Czech Heritage Preservation Society, PO Box 3, Tabor, SD 57063 or The Tabor American Legion, PO Box 53, Tabor, SD 57066.

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### Vera Emerson

Vera R. Emerson, 82, of Vermillion died Monday, April 1, 2013, at Dougherty Hospice House, Sioux Falls.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

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