

amendment targets these flexibilities specifically to the area of aviation security so that we can immediately begin the process of ensuring the public's safety.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Before the Senator leaves the floor, we would like to report to him that I finished speaking with Senator HOLLINGS. Senator HOLLINGS and Senator McCAIN have worked together in the Commerce Committee for many years now. I think the cooperation the two of them have shown during this difficult time of the past 3 weeks is exemplary. I personally appreciate the work the two of them have done, setting aside partisan differences and moving through difficult issues. I, too, hope we can figure out a way to move on to complete the work we have before us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I join my colleague from Nevada in complimenting my friend from Arizona. It is also very much my hope and desire that we can bring up the airport security bill and complete it tomorrow. I heard my colleague from Arizona say that both he and Senator HOLLINGS are willing to object to amendments that are not relevant to the underlying package. That is a concern of a lot of people. That will help streamline and finish the bill.

I hope and believe we will have the bipartisan leadership in agreement with that so that we can keep non-germane amendments off this package and we can pass the airport security bill. Then we can work on other issues together as well. I hope that is the case. We have had good progress in working in a bipartisan way on a lot of issues. I would like to see that the case on this package as well. Then we can take up the antiterrorism package next week and finish it as well.

I thank my friend.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR DOUGLAS P. PETERSON

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the

Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 167, submitted earlier today by Senators McCAIN, KERRY, GRAMM, and myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 167) recognizing Ambassador Douglas "Pete" Peterson for his service to the United States as the first American ambassador to Vietnam since the Vietnam War.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, on behalf of the other Senators—and I know they are in various negotiations on other legislation; in Senator McCAIN's case, the Airline Security Act, and in the case of Senator GRAMM, he is involved in the Intelligence Committee right now—I say on behalf of all of them, and for me, what a great privilege it is to recognize a public servant, Ambassador Pete Peterson, who served as a Member of Congress prior to being named by President Clinton as the first United States Ambassador to Vietnam.

We bring forth this resolution commending Ambassador Peterson because of his extraordinary leadership in helping bring about the Vietnam Trade Act, which this Senate passed earlier today. What is so poignant about this story of Douglas Pete Peterson is the fact that when he first went to Vietnam during the Vietnam war as an Air Force pilot, he was shot down and captured and held in captivity for over 6 years. He was able to return to that country as Ambassador and has won the hearts of the people of Vietnam.

I remember reading a story that absolutely gripped me about a few days before Pete Peterson departed as Ambassador to Vietnam, he had a reunion with one of his captors. This was a captor who, at a time of great stress, after Pete had been beat over and over again to the point of unconsciousness, and he did not know if he was going to live or die at that particular point, in his stupor of coming in and out of consciousness, he motioned to one of his captors that he was thirsty, and his captor brought him a cup of tea.

A couple of days before Pete was to depart as the first Ambassador from America to Vietnam, and a very successful Ambassador, he had a reunion with that captor, and that Vietnamese gentleman offered him a cup of tea again.

How times had changed and what a great leader for us to have representing America where he held no grudge; he did not want revenge. He offered the best of America showing that we are a forgiving people. After serving six distinguished years as a Member of Congress from the State of Florida, for Pete, a Vietnam POW, to return to that country that had held him captive the longest as one of the POWs, then to come back extending the hand of

friendship with no malice in his heart, was to win the hearts of the Vietnamese people. In the process, he negotiated and tweaked and nurtured the Vietnam trade bill, which we passed earlier today.

It is with a great deal of humility that I speak on behalf of so many others, including Senator McCAIN. Although he was not in the same POW camp with Ambassador Peterson, he clearly knew of him and thinks the highest of him. My words are inadequate to express the thoughts of all these other Senators.

I want to say one thing in closing about Pete Peterson. He is not only a hero to so many in his public and professional life—his professional life as a military officer, as a Member of Congress, and as our first Ambassador to Vietnam—but he is also a role model as a human being. After he returned from Vietnam, he suffered through the years of a long and torturous process of cancer with his first wife, finally claiming her life, but Pete Peterson was right there with her the whole way. He had the joy in Vietnam of meeting an Australian diplomat's daughter of Vietnamese descent, his present wife Vi. They make an engaging and attractive couple.

Mr. President, I offer these comments of appreciation as we pass this resolution.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, four years ago, I rose in this body to encourage my colleagues to confirm the nomination of my friend Pete Peterson to serve as the American ambassador to Vietnam, the first since the end of the Vietnam War. When we confirmed Pete for this important assignment in 1997, many of us could not have foreseen his success in building a normal relationship between our two countries.

Indeed, the best measure of Pete's success is the fact that it seems quite normal today for the United States to have an ambassador resident in Hanoi to advance our array of interests in Vietnam, which range from accounting for our missing service personnel to improving human rights to cooperating on drugs and crime to addressing regional challenges together. That normalcy is due largely to the superb job Pete did as our ambassador to Vietnam.

As a former fighter pilot shot down and held captive for six and a half years, some would have assumed it was not Pete's destiny to go back to Vietnam to restore a relationship that had been frozen in enmity for decades. Indeed, there was a time in Pete's life when the prospect of voluntarily residing in Hanoi would have been unthinkable. Much time has passed since then. Our relationship with Vietnam has changed in once unthinkable ways.

Pete rose to the occasion and helped us to build the new relationship we enjoy today. Pete's willingness, after having already rendered many years of noble service to his country, to answer

her call again and serve in a place that did not occasion many happy memories for him, was an act of selfless patriotism beyond conventional measure. I am immensely proud of him.

I know of no other American whose combination of subtle intuition and steely determination, whose ability to win over both former Vietnamese adversaries and skeptics of the new relationship here at home, could have matched the success Pete had in transforming our relations. Pete did this in service to America, and as an acknowledgment that the range of our interests in Vietnam, and the values we hope to see take root there, called for such an approach.

Our nation is better off for Pete's service. So are the Vietnamese people. So are those Americans who learned the grim but whole truth about the fate of their loved ones who had been missing since the war as a result of Pete's unending commitment to a full and final accounting. After the number of POW/MIA repatriation ceremonies over which he presided—each flag-draped coffin containing the hopes and dreams of a lifetime—Pete can confirm that providing final answers to all POW/MIA families is alone ample reason for our continuing engagement with the Vietnamese.

Pete Peterson has built a legacy that serves our nation and honors the values for which young Americans once fought, suffered, and died, in Southeast Asia. I can think of no higher tribute than that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, the Senate is considering a resolution in recognition of the outstanding service of our former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr. Pete Peterson. I will comment briefly on the exceptional life of Mr. Peterson.

Mr. President, Pete Peterson is an American in our proudest tradition. Throughout his adult life, he has served America as a career officer in the United States Air Force, serving with bravery during the Vietnam war, including a period of over 6 years of incarceration in a Vietnam prison after having been shot down in combat.

Pete Peterson returned to the United States and to Marianna, FL, after his long period of incarceration in Vietnam and, as a civilian, established his own business but continued his commitment to service, service in the form of being a volunteer at the State's principal school for boys who have the most difficult experience of delinquency.

Pete Peterson served as a role model to these young men who were at the point in life where they either were going to recapture a sense of personal responsibility and values or they were likely to spend their own adult life in another form of prison for periods of longer than 6 years, even, that Pete Peterson spent in Vietnam.

He performed great service to these young men and, in the course of that

service, became aware of the role that service in elective office might have in terms of furthering his interest in America's youth. And so, in 1990, Pete Peterson, in what many considered to be almost a cause without hope, announced that he was going to run for the U.S. Congress. He did, and by the end of the campaign had managed to rally such public support that he defeated an incumbent Member of Congress—a rare feat in these days.

He then served 6 years of very distinguished service in the House of Representatives. Having announced in 1990, when he first ran, that he would only serve three terms, at the end of his three terms, in 1996, he indicated he was going to return home to Marianna, having completed that congressional phase of his public career. Little did he know there was yet to be another important chapter before him. And that chapter developed as a result of the Congress and the President—President Clinton—reestablishing normal diplomatic relations with our previous adversary, Vietnam.

President Clinton asked Pete Peterson to be the first United States Ambassador to Vietnam in the postwar era. Of course, Pete accepted that challenge to return to the service of the Nation that he so deeply loved.

He was an exceptional Ambassador. You can imagine the emotion he felt, as well as the people of Vietnam—to have a man who had spent years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam now returning as the first United States Ambassador.

Any sense of bitterness, any sense of loss that Pete may have felt evaporated. He represented our Nation and reached out to the people of Vietnam with unusual ability and warmth.

A testimony to his great service is the legislation that this Senate today approved, which is a trade agreement with Vietnam. This is symbolic of the new relationship that will exist between the United States and Vietnam as we rebuild our relationship based on our common interest in advancing the economic well-being of both of our peoples. This trade agreement would not have been before the Senate today but for the exceptional skills, as our Ambassador to Vietnam, which were exercised by Pete Peterson.

So, Mr. President, I join those who are taking this opportunity, as we enter into a new era of relationship with Vietnam, to recognize the particular role which our former colleague in the House of Representatives, Pete Peterson, played in making this possible.

He is truly an exceptional American, but in the mold of so many generations of exceptional Americans. We are fortunate, as Americans, and those of us who know him also as a Floridian, to have served with and to have lived at the same time with such a special human being as Pete Peterson.

I commend him for his many contributions to our Nation, and wish him

well, as I am certain he will be pursuing further opportunities for public service.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 167) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Resolutions Submitted.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. BIDEN. I ask unanimous consent to proceed up to 22 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in a matter that is very hard to discuss these days, when we are dealing with the aftermath of the destruction that has been visited upon our country. I rise to speak of a matter that is at the very heart of our fight against terrorism.

Today I met with the Secretary of State, along with my Senate Foreign Relations Committee colleagues, including the occupant of the Chair, for about 2 hours. I applaud the actions of President Bush and Secretary Powell and the rest of the administration throughout this terrible crisis. I applaud what he had to say at our meeting.

Of all the topics Secretary Powell discussed with me and other members of the Foreign Relations Committee, none was more important in my view than this: We must make a bold, brave, and powerful decision to provide generous relief and reconstruction aid to the people of Afghanistan and neighboring countries, even as we move toward war. We must wage a war against the vicious thugs who attacked our nation, but we must not permit this war to be mischaracterized as a battle against the people of Afghanistan or the wider Muslim world.

If we can't make this critical distinction, all our efforts are doomed to failure. The people of Afghanistan, who are looking for a way of ridding themselves of the Taliban regime, might direct their anger at us rather than at the brutal warlords who have caused them so much misery and pain. The people of Muslim countries from Morocco to Indonesia could turn against the United States, with disastrous consequences for many years to come—notwithstanding my belief that we will prosecute this military effort with discreet and precise efforts to minimize civilian casualties.