

The terrorists hoped to bring us to our knees. Let us defy them by standing together on our feet as one nation, indivisible.

Yes, we saw evil this week. But we have also seen great strength. We have seen it in the heroic men and women working day and night in the wreckage of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

We have seen it in the countless Americans in cities across the country who waited hours to donate blood.

And we have seen it in the men and women who may have prevented even greater destruction through their bravery aboard that doomed flight.

That is the strength of America—the one obstacle the terrorists did not anticipate, and the one that will be their undoing.

I yield the floor, and 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. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMERICA UNITED

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, at midday today I attended the prayer service at the National Cathedral which President Bush called. It was attended by President Bush and four former Presidents, and many Americans, of course. And I think millions of Americans watched on television. It was a remarkable, moving, and emotional prayer service.

As I sat in the prayer service, I thought about something that happened yesterday as I toured the damage to the Pentagon with my colleagues, Senator DASCHLE, Senator REID, and others. Yesterday, we were touring the Pentagon where, of course, many Americans died as a result of an airplane, loaded with jet fuel and commercial passengers, which was flown by a terrorist into the Pentagon and caused a fire and collapse and so much damage.

Yesterday, as we were being briefed at the Pentagon about the damage that was caused and the loss of life, my colleague, Senator Reid, will remember that there was a crane near the building. The crane had a long steel cable attached to it. On the end of the steel cable was one of these little baskets. There was a man standing in the basket in uniform. The crane hauled this basket up to the fourth floor of this gaping wound in the middle of the Pentagon building. This man, who is a soldier, reached around from this basket deep into the hole of the Pentagon building, and from outside of this hole he pulled out a red and gold flag. He put it into this basket, again, dangling from a crane. They brought him back to the ground. It turned out he had

pulled out of this gaping hole in this burned-out structure at the Pentagon a U.S. Marine flag that had for some reason not burned. It appeared to be the only thing that could not have possibly burned in that entire area.

This young Marine, who grabbed this U.S. Marine Corps flag—this beautiful gold and red flag—marched over to where we were, and he stopped and said he was taking this flag to the U.S. Marine Corps Commandant.

He said he saw the flag as he looked through the wreckage up on the fourth floor in an office, and miraculously this flag had not burned. He wanted to get to it, so he got somebody to take him up in a crane in a basket, and he retrieved this flag.

As he held this flag proudly, on his way to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, he said to us: They couldn't destroy this flag, and they can't destroy this country. And I thought, wow, what a thing to say. This morning I woke up and looked at the Washington Post, and there is a full color picture of this young Marine holding that U.S. Marine flag as he came away from that building. It was just before he came over to greet us on his way to the Marine Corps Commandant.

It was but one act—a symbolic act, in many ways—of a young soldier who used that flag that he saw, that had survived the fire and survived the carnage—the one flag that was left standing—to make a point that those who committed these heinous acts, those madmen who perpetrated these acts of evil that murdered so many innocent men, women, and children in this country, could not destroy that flag and cannot destroy this country.

As I said the other day, all of us are heartbroken in America today. We express that in many ways. Prayer services across the country, recommended by our President, have reflected a common understanding—the ability to grieve together and the ability to come together. It was important to do that. It is important to do that.

But there is something else that is important for us to understand. The terrorists did something they could never have possibly imagined: They created in this country a togetherness that has not been here for some long while. People want to show the flag these days.

My 12-year-old daughter yesterday said: Dad, let's put out the flag. People all over this country are putting an American flag out in full view. And people around this country are doing things that we know represent the inherent goodness of people.

Within hours of the terrible tragedy at the World Trade Center—within hours of those evil acts—we had scores of people lining up to give blood in this country. I saw the interview of one person who was in a 5-hour line, and she was asked: Why are you in line 5 hours waiting to give blood? And she said: Because it's the only thing I can do, and I want to do something today.

The terrorists could not have possibly imagined what their acts would do to bring Americans together. This country has a common purpose. Yes, it has a great deal of grief and, yes, our heart is broken, but our spirit is not broken.

The common purpose in this country is to grieve together, to pray together, and then understand that we want to—and we must—find those who planned and committed these acts, and those who harbored them, and punish them and at the same time take the kind of precautions we know we must take to prevent this from happening again.

It is a free country. We are proud of that freedom and liberty. And it is also understood by everyone that we have the risk of acts of terrorism committed in free countries precisely because of that freedom. Perhaps we can never make certain that we will not ever see a terrorist act again. Perhaps we can never do that. We can certainly exert all the energy and all the genius available to all of us in this country to take the steps we think can try to prevent these acts again.

But notwithstanding the challenges and the tragedies, and notwithstanding the common grief that was born of these evil acts, this country will remain a free country. We will remain a country of which all of us are enormously proud.

There is a spirit about America: A spirit to prevail, a spirit to build, a spirit to come together. It is reflected by a lot of things, a couple of which I just mentioned. And that spirit is, in my judgment, not dimming; that spirit is growing. In the coming weeks and days, I think manifested today on the floor of the Senate, that spirit will nurture all of America.

Today, on the floor of the Senate, we passed a piece of legislation, without a dissenting vote, that said we want to help people in need. We provided the resources to say to the people who were victims of this: You are not alone. Your families are not alone. Your loved ones are not alone. Your cities are not alone. And then we passed, without a dissenting vote, an authorization to the President, who asked for an authorization from Congress, to be able to take appropriate action against those who committed these evil acts.

Without a dissenting vote, the Congress said to the President: Yes, we are with you. That is quite a remarkable thing to have done. And it reflects a spirit not just here in the Senate; it reflects a spirit, in my judgment, borne in the breast of every American today, proud to be an American, and determined to make sure we are able to retain and nurture this way of life, to defeat terrorism wherever it exists, and to nurture freedom and liberty.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I hesitate to interject any more words prior to our going out today because I think

the tone has been set by my friend from North Dakota, but I just say that there are so many examples of people coming together. The example of the blood drives is certainly one of the most appropriate.

People are now all over America in reservation lines. They are there to sign up to give blood 2 weeks from now, 3 weeks from now because the lines are so long.

I think my friend from North Dakota would agree that the prayer service held today at the National Cathedral was touched. I think everyone there participated with the prayers. Billy Graham gave some remarks. He has been an adviser to many Presidents over the years, and even though his body is frail, his mind certainly is not.

I hope all Americans will realize that the President of the United States needs everyone's prayers now. There are 535 Members of Congress. I was able to sit with Senator DORGAN today at the prayer service at the National Cathedral. We were together. And that is what we legislatures are; we are together; we are always with each other. But the President of the United States is alone. He does not have people to lean on. He has to make decisions by himself.

So I hope that everyone will be involved in praying for this President, recognizing the tremendous burdens he has and the decisions he has to make, decisions that are so vitally important to the virtual freedom of this country, matters dealing with life and death.

So I do hope people will join together and have continual prayers for this country and the President of the United States.

THANKING THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of all Senators, I express my appreciation to the Presiding Officer. It is a real sacrifice to be here on a Friday afternoon, where there isn't a lot going on on the floor, but there were things that had to be done. Of course, the Senator from Vermont is known for his patience. And here is another example of it.

So on behalf of all Senators, thank you very much for your time and for the many hours this afternoon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2590

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday at 10 a.m. the Appropriations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2590, the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my hope that the Senate will be in a position to consider the Defense authorization bill next week. The majority lead-

er will be consulting with the Republican leader as to its scheduling.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Monday, September 17, for a pro forma session only; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 19. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Monday, the Senate will convene at 10 a.m. for a pro forma session and adjourn until Wednesday at 10 a.m. On Wednesday, the Senate may consider any available appropriations bills or the Department of Defense authorization bill. No rollcall votes will occur prior to 10 a.m., Thursday, September 20.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator HARKIN.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. 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.

NOMINATION OF JOHN NEGROPONTE TO REPRESENT THE U.S. AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon at this late hour on Friday at the close of a terrible week—a week which has seared itself into our very being for the rest of our lives—to object to the approval of John Negroponte to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

I understand an agreement was reached that this nomination be passed on a voice vote today. It has been made, and certainly I will honor and

respect the agreement. However, I believe this nomination deserves a full debate on the Senate floor and a full look into the record of this individual who is about to represent all of us in the United Nations.

I understand and I agree that America needs a U.N. ambassador. We do need someone there, especially given the terrorist attacks on our Nation this week, in terms of an international dialog and international response to this terrorist attack. But I believe it is also important that all Senators be given an opportunity to vote on this controversial nomination and to debate it.

Why is Mr. Negroponte's nomination so controversial? Why did the Baltimore Sun, in April of this year, devote a five-part series just on this one nominee? Well, I think there are two considerations that stand out in my mind, and I will explain why I oppose his nomination.

First of all, Mr. Negroponte showed a callous disregard for human rights abuses throughout his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Honduras between 1981 and 1985, during which time I traveled to Honduras and, in fact, went out to one of the contra camps with the Ambassador at that time. Quite frankly, in my conversations at that time in Honduras, and with the later revelations of what was going on with Battalion 316, which was supervised and basically trained by our CIA and our military personnel—when a lot of these issues came to light, it became clear to me that during my trip there I was misled and, quite frankly, not given the correct information that I sought.

Secondly, I believe Mr. Negroponte knowingly misinformed the U.S. State Department about gross human rights violations in Honduras and throughout Central America during the height of the so-called contra war in Central America in the 1980s.

That action, in turn, resulted in the Congress being misled as to the scope and nature of gross human rights violations that were being committed by the contras and by the Honduran military and, in particular, Battalion 316 in the Honduran military.

In a letter to The Economist in 1982, then-Ambassador Negroponte wrote:

It is simply untrue that death squads have made appearances in Honduras.

Yet from 1981 to 1984 over 150 people disappeared, including one American priest, Father James Carney, whose body has never been recovered.

All indications are it was Battalion 316 that took custody of and had control over Father Carney. There had been reports that they interrogated him, that he was severely tortured and killed—he was an American citizen, an American priest—during the time of Mr. Negroponte's ambassadorship.

I am not saying in any way he was responsible. I do not want anyone to get that wrong. All I am saying is as Ambassador at that time, there is a lot of evidence to show he just turned a