

and live up to our promises to our men and women in uniform as to what we should be doing.

I am hopeful this situation will resolve itself to the benefit of veterans. I, for one, am prepared to stay here and work toward that end.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN BREAUX

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to address a subject on which there is no disagreement. The President would agree, as would Senate Democrats and Republicans and many Members of Congress; that is, to congratulate the senior Senator from Louisiana, JOHN BREAUX, on 30 years of service in the Congress.

We celebrated that momentous anniversary this past Saturday. He received, of course, many well wishes from his many friends and supporters in Louisiana and around the Nation.

I know his family is very proud. I want to say for a minute how proud I am of his service to our State of Louisiana. Thirty years ago, Senator JOHN BREAUX, then a Congressman, came to Washington as a young lawyer from a small town, the city of Crowley. He was elected to the House of Representatives at a very young age. In fact, when he got here, he was the youngest Member of Congress. He has served our State admirably ever since. Now he is in his third term in the U.S. Senate, and I have every hope he will run again and have no doubt he will be reelected.

JOHN likes to say he started campaigning in nursery school. Those of us who know him well would almost believe that. That is probably no stretch. He said he was going to city council meetings with his grandfather when he was 7 years old. In high school he was a popular athlete who played hard but was always fair to his teammates as well as his opponents. He learned the lessons on those athletic fields of hard work, teamwork, and leadership, which serve him well. Frankly, it is so obvious to all of us who know him and his affable manner, his very approachable way, always with a kind word to say, always a joke, and always something to lighten up a discussion at the appropriate time. Those traits have served him well as an outstanding Congressman and Senator.

In addition, because none of us come here on our own, he has come here as a husband, a father, and now as a grandfather. His wife, Lois, has truly been a tremendous partner, at great sacrifice to herself and her family. JOHN and Lois brought their Cajun roots to our Nation's capital, and we are proud of that. He has never lost sight of who he is or where he has come from. We know him at home in many ways, but in Washington he is known as a strong, vocal, and effective advocate for agriculture. His hometown sits right in the heart of rice country, in Crowley, LA, and in the heart of, in many ways, sugarcane country in south Louisiana; and

he is familiar with all of our row crops, cattle, and other aquaculture and agricultural commodities.

He is a strong and effective advocate of energy policy for the Nation, and his voice has been one that has brought us to the center, with a balanced approach on our energy policy. In addition, on our health care industry and issues, he has been particularly noted as a leader. As a member of the Finance Committee, there is not an important compromise that is developed on that committee—or outside of that Committee, for that matter—that he is not part and parcel of, which is a great strength as a Senator, particularly in these times when our parties seem to have a hard time coming together and finding middle ground and working out a compromise. Senator BREAUX brings so much effort in that regard and so much help.

To mention a few things—and after his 30 years, I could stay here all night and I could talk for hours. I will highlight a few of the things that would not have passed without his able help and assistance: the Welfare Reform Act, many health insurance reform bills, the balanced budget amendment, and tax cut packages that have passed here. He chaired the Special Committee on Aging and to that committee has brought a tremendous amount of passion on the issues of Social Security and Medicare, which have served this Nation well.

I will conclude by saying we have all been blessed by his leadership and his talent. He has used it to help Louisiana to grow and expand economically. Mr. President, he has had a tremendous impact on the Nation at large. He has fought for businesses, schools, workers, students, and opportunities for all. He is a founder of the DLC, of the new Democratic Network.

I could not have a better partner in the U.S. Senate than JOHN BREAUX. He is a mentor, a friend, and a partner in helping to strengthen our State. I wanted to spend a few moments to acknowledge the 30th anniversary and wish him 30 more years. He is in great health. He plays tennis regularly, with Democrats and Republicans alike, and beats us all on the court. He wins many of his battles on the Senate floor as well.

Again, I congratulate Senator JOHN BREAUX.

RESERVISTS AND GUARD PAID PROTECTION ACT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I will now address the Reservists and Guard Paid Protection Act, which I introduced last week. I'm looking forward to working diligently in the months and years ahead—hopefully, it won't take years—to pass this bill. I think it is a bill we probably should have addressed some years ago. I will speak to what the bill does.

The Reservists and Guard Paid Protection Act attempts to put into law a

tax credit for employers who voluntarily—because it is not mandatory—pay their reservists and maintain their salary level when they are called up to represent us, to fight for us, to stand in harm's way, to preserve our freedom, whether it be in Afghanistan, Bosnia, or Iraq, or anywhere our flag needs to continue to wave.

Mr. President, as you might know—and I am certain most people in America don't realize—when our reservists are called up, their salary is cut. When our reservists are called up to defend us—because the President, our Commander in Chief, and this Congress have authorized us to call on them, to call on their lives, their health, and strength to defend us—they, in most instances, take a pay cut. Why? Because their salaries are generally higher in the civilian sector than we are able to compensate them.

No soldier works for a paycheck, I realize that. If they did, we would not have any soldiers, because their paychecks are not what they need to be. They are patriotic and they believe in our Nation and they want to do their part. For that, they should be commended.

This Reservists and Guard Protection Act gives their employers, if they voluntarily keep their salaries at the level they were before they were called up to serve, a 50 percent tax credit. So it helps the employer, who also is making a sacrifice, might I say, in the new system we have on relying more on reservists and guardsmen. The employers themselves are, of course, by law mandated to keep that job open so when the Reservists come back, they have a job. They are not mandated—and should not be—to pick up the tab for their salary, but we can help, and the cost is really minimal compared to the benefits that would result.

In addition, this bill also would mandate the Federal Government would maintain, for those reservists who are Federal employees—and we have a good percentage—not a majority, but a number of our Federal employees who might work at Treasury during the day, but are weekend warriors, and now they are full-time warriors because they have been called up—this bill would mandate the Federal Government simply maintain their pay at their regular level. Instead of taking the paycheck and sending part of it back to the Treasury while they defend us, they would be allowed to keep that paycheck, which would make a tremendous amount of sense. I know it would mean a tremendous amount to the spouses and family members at home, who have to keep the lights on, pay the mortgage, pay the rent, or pay the car payment monthly, food bills, et cetera. Just because one person in the family—one of the breadwinners, and in some cases it may be the sole breadwinner—has been called up to go to war, the family bills don't stop coming. They need to be paid.

So anything we can do to keep our reservists' and our guardsmen's pay

where it was so they are not taking a cut to defend us, I think would be appropriate at this time. Basically, that is what this bill does.

Let me make another point before I close.

Since 1991, the U.S. military has significantly scaled down its active troops because we came to the end of the cold war and we thought we could scale back our active troops. Now we are scaling up, of course, to meet these new threats, and into the foreseeable future, by calling on our Reserves more and more. In fact, they represented 40 to 50 percent of our troop force in Desert Storm. We have called on them in somewhat a disproportionate way to defend us in Bosnia, Afghanistan, and no doubt, if we go to Iraq, our active force will be perhaps 100,000, if not 200,000, in number, and many of them will be reservists.

Gone are the cold war days when we had massive military personnel positioned all over the world. Now we are relying on a leaner force. The reservists have become a part of that leaner force because we need flexibility in putting our force together to serve a great purpose.

In addition, with the new war—and you know, Mr. President, because you serve on the Armed Services Committee and the Emerging Threats Subcommittee which I chair, you are familiar with the fact we are going to need new skill sets in our armed services—linguists, cultural experts, historians. We are going to need different skill sets, highly technical individuals—public relations people, individuals who have skills about setting up civil authorities. So our new Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines have to be a group of men and women who are highly trained in specialized skills.

Sometimes we can get those specialized skills from those on active duty, but it is smarter, more economical, and actually more effective if we are able to pull certain types of skills out of the civilian force when needed to apply them to that specific goal or objective. That is the way this new military is going to be designed for the future. It is different from the First World War, different from the Second World War, different than the cold war strategy. With a new strategy and new weapons, we are asking the reservists to do more. Let's not ask them to do more with less. Let's not ask them to do more and cut their pay. Let's do right by our reservists by supporting them. They are weekend warriors, but now they are simply warriors. Our benefits to them and our pay systems should reflect this new demand on their schedules.

OPTEMPO is up. Our conflicts and our challenges are right before us, and we need to respond.

I am hoping we will gain support for this act. I look forward to debating and presenting it to the committee, but I think this is the least we can do to support a segment of our national security

force that is so important and so crucial for us to win the war on terrorism, to establish the peace around the world, so this economy, and economies around the world, can grow and people truly can live in peace and prosperity. These are the people who are on the front line making that happen.

This is a very important bill. I hope we will gain a lot of support for it as the months and weeks unfold.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN E. AMBROSE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 342; that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 342) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 342

Whereas Stephen E. Ambrose dedicated his life to telling the story of America;

Whereas Stephen Ambrose's 36 books form a body of work that has educated and inspired the people of this Nation;

Whereas President Bill Clinton awarded Stephen Ambrose the National Humanities Medal for his contribution to American historical understanding;

Whereas Stephen Ambrose made history accessible to all people and had an unprecedented 3 works on the New York Times Best-sellers list simultaneously;

Whereas Stephen Ambrose served as Honorary Chairman of the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial and lent his name, time, and resources to innumerable other philanthropic endeavors;

Whereas Stephen Ambrose committed himself to understanding the personal histories of the men and women often referred to as the "greatest generation";

Whereas Stephen Ambrose's groundbreaking work on the history of World War II and the D-day invasion culminated in the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans; and

Whereas all Americans appreciate the contribution Stephen Ambrose has made in recapturing the courage, sacrifice, and heroism of the D-day invasion on June 6, 1944: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the death of Stephen E. Ambrose;

(2) expresses its condolences to Stephen Ambrose's wife and 5 children;

(3) salutes the excellence of Stephen Ambrose at capturing the greatness of the American spirit in words; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Stephen Ambrose.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, this resolution is to honor—I am not sure words can actually do appropriate justice—a great American who passed away this last weekend. That American is Stephen Ambrose, the author of a number of books, a man who helped our Nation understand the dynamics of

war, the spectacular strengths of the American infantry men and women in uniform.

He passed away quite a young man in his midsixties. He was a professor of history, known by many of us personally, and was a personal friend of the Senator from Alaska. I submit for the RECORD this resolution, to have it appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor a great American, someone Louisiana has lost and the Nation has lost. I am not sure we can ever replace him.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Yes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Senator from Louisiana allow me to be a cosponsor of this resolution.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Yes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend from Louisiana, I love to read. I have very few extracurricular activities outside the Senate, but one is reading. I have received so much pleasure from "Undaunted Courage," the great book about the Lewis and Clark expedition, which changed my view of our country. Of course, the work he did on World War II is something that will forever be in my mind and the mind of anyone who knows anything or cares about the history of this country. And to have the pleasure of being able to talk with him on a number of occasions when he came to speak to groups of Senators, I consider one of the pleasures of this job.

I compliment the Senator from Louisiana for submitting this resolution. It is a resolution I will remember as having been a part of because he allowed me to have so much pleasure in traveling to places in my mind's eye I would never be able to reach but for his great ability to write the English language.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Senator, and I am pleased to have him cosponsor this resolution. It has been said Stephen Ambrose was not a historian's historian, but he was a student's historian. He was truly an exceptional teacher. In my mind, when I think of an exceptional teacher, it is not someone who just communicates facts but someone who teaches in a way that inspires one to be better, to help one understand the context in which one lives. He was not an exceptional teacher just for the brightest kids in the class but for every kid in the class.

He taught—I used to say he taught at UNO—at the University of New Orleans, and kids would say their whole life was changed hearing him lecture. He lectured in the Senate, which changed many of our lives and outlooks.

He was an extraordinary man and left us way too soon. He left a number of works and disciples, if you will, of his work. He certainly will live on, and we were blessed to know him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.