

I will have amendment also to deal with other subjects. There will be other amendments that will attempt to improve the underlying bill.

My bottom line is this. In this brief opening set of comments, I just want to make the point that the bill before us is not the bill that the President recommended. It is not the bill that I think could have come out of committee. It is a bill that requires a lot of work. It is going to take a lot of time. When we try to do the amending process on the floor of the Senate, we don't necessarily end up with the best of products—just because of the way we have to proceed. It is regrettable we have to do it that way, but since we are opened up to a series of amendments, then I think we will have to have the indulgence of everyone as we present and debate those amendments and hopefully get them passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING FORMER SENATOR HOWARD CANNON

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is a very sad day because Nevada lost one of its great citizens—Howard Cannon died today.

Howard Cannon served in the Senate for 24 years. He left the Senate in 1982. He was a wonderful man. I have great memories of him when I worked as a police officer, when I was going to law school. Howard Cannon had been a bar examiner before coming back here. He was a very fine lawyer, had a great legal mind. He tutored me, as busy as he was as a Senator, to help me pass the bar. I am always grateful for that. I am grateful for all he did for me as I moved up the political ladder to different offices.

I remember the first political office I ran for was the hospital board. His chief of staff, Jack Conlin, through Senator Cannon, gave me some money for this race. He was always very caring about me, and I cared a great deal about him. I do have, though, some satisfaction because just a couple of weeks ago, on his 90th birthday, I came to the Senate and talked about what a fine man he was, how much he had done for the State of Nevada. I talked to him that day on the telephone.

COMMEMORATING SENIOR AIRMAN JASON CUNNINGHAM

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate a fallen

hero from my home State of New Mexico—I see Senator BINGAMAN so I think it is appropriate to say “our home State”—Senior Airman Jason Cunningham. He lost his life this week while trying to save the life of another serviceman in eastern Afghanistan.

I express my heartfelt condolences to Jason's wife Theresa; his daughters, 2-year-old Hannah and 4-year-old Kyla; as well as his parents Larry and Jackie. I know I speak for all New Mexicans when I say how proud we are of your husband, father, and son, and that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jason was a member of the Air Force's elite pararescue team whose mission is to rescue downed pilots in hostile territory. He joined the 38th Rescue Squadron because it was his passion to save lives, and that is exactly what Jason and his comrades were doing this week when he came under heavy fire from the al-Qaida force.

During an attempt by our forces to land a reconnaissance team in a mountainous region known to be inhabited by al-Qaida and Taliban, one troop fell from a helicopter when it was hit by enemy fire. Later, it was Jason and his rescue team who bravely went into the area where the trooper and helicopter were down in an attempt to extricate him. A heavy fire-fight ensued and Jason and five other Americans lost their lives.

I know that words are of little consolation at such a difficult time for Jason's loved ones, but I want his family to know that all New Mexicans—this Senator, and I am certain my colleague, Senator BINGAMAN—mourn with them today. I am sure that for Jason's heroics his country will bestow upon him one of the most highly respected honors it can give, the Purple Heart. Such valor deserves no less.

The loss of such fine Americans as Jason in the war on terrorism can be heartrending, but as a nation we must honor the sacrifices of men and women like Airman Cunningham and remain steadfast in our resolve to protect our freedoms and liberty from terrorism.

President Bush has told us many times that this war would not be quick or easy, and it would be good to remember that while we mourn the loss of a good man like Jason Cunningham.

I ask unanimous consent that a detailed statement surrounding the young man and his family headlined “New Mexican Dies Trying to Save Others” from the Albuquerque Journal, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NEW MEXICAN DIES TRYING TO SAVE OTHERS

(By Miguel Navrot)

Jason Cunningham was one of the best the Air Force had to offer.

Cunningham served as a pararescueman—trained to rescue downed pilots from the most hostile of enemy areas—in one of the military's elite teams, sometimes compared to the Navy SEALs.

Cunningham, who grew up in Carlsbad and Farmington and recently lived in Gallup, once considered becoming a SEAL as a Navy petty officer. He had passed the Navy's fitness test but decided to move to the Air Force.

“I didn't want to kill people,” Cunningham told Airman magazine, an Air Force publication, in October 2000. “I wanted to save them.”

Cunningham, 26, died trying to save another serviceman Monday. He was one of eight soldiers killed in renewed fighting in eastern Afghanistan.

The remains of seven of those servicemen arrived Tuesday at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Jason's parents, who live in Gallup, learned of their son's death Tuesday morning.

“We're very proud of our baby,” Jackie Cunningham said of her son as she tried to hold back tears at a family news conference on the lawn outside their blue ranch-style home.

“Jason died doing what he liked to do, save lives,” said his father, Larry “Red” Cunningham, choking on his words as he read a brief statement.

Since last summer, Cunningham, a senior airman, was stationed at Moody Air Force Base near Valdosta, Ga., with his wife, Theresa, and two daughters, 2-year-old Hannah and 4-year-old Kyla. He was deployed Feb. 1, his family said.

“We last heard from him on Saturday,” the father said.

Cunningham was the middle child of the family. Standing next to his parents were his brother, Chris, 29, of Washington state, and his sister, Lori, of Farmington.

The family said memorial services will be in Georgia and in Carlsbad this week. A funeral and burial are planned for next week in Camarillo, Calif., where his wife is from.

Cunningham was born and raised in Carlsbad. The family moved to Farmington just before his high school years. After graduating from high school, Cunningham went into the Navy for four years before moving to the Air Force.

Cunningham began the Air Force's pararescue school, a grueling 21-month training program that few finish, about 2½ years ago.

Training for pararescuemen, or PJs, concludes at Kirtland Air Force Base. Cunningham graduated from the school on July 7, when he donned the group's maroon beret, Kirtland officials said.

He belonged to the 38th Rescue Squadron.

Tech. Sgt. Tim Donovan, a supervisor for air operations with the school at Kirtland, called Cunningham “kind of silly, kind of goofy,” with a heart totally dedicated to the pararescue mission.

“He had several setbacks that he overcame and persevered through all the training,” Donovan said. “He never quit. He was totally focused. . . .

“A lot of times you have kids who don't feel they have their hearts into it or they're just in it for the beret or they're doing it for something other than the motto (That Others May Live). That wasn't him at all.”

Cunningham is the fourth pararescueman the Air Force has lost in the past three months. The Air Force has about 300 pararescuemen.

“They're a small, tight-knit community, and all of them will most assuredly feel the loss of one of their own and mourn his passing,” Kirtland spokeswoman 2nd Lt. Kelley Jeter said Tuesday.

Theresa Cunningham spoke to her parents early Tuesday.

“She was hysterical. She talked to her mom and said, ‘Jason is dead.’ That's it,” said her father, Lito D'Castro.

"He's a nice guy. He loves the service," D'Castro said from Camarillo.

D'Castro said the last time he saw Cunningham was when he visited Camarillo at Christmas-time.

Cunningham was one of seven Americans who died in the bloodiest operation of the war in Afghanistan. They were killed as troops were being taken into the battle area on two different missions, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Early Monday, a two-helicopter team was ferrying in reconnaissance troops south of Gardez when one was hit by enemy fire, said Brig. Gen. John W. Rosa Jr., deputy director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

One soldier fell from a helicopter and later died, Rosa told a Pentagon news conference.

Cunningham was killed during a subsequent rescue mission involving special forces on two helicopters. Once on the ground, those forces got into a firefight in which at least 11 were wounded and six died.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I join my colleague, Senator DOMENICI, in expressing condolences to the family of Jason Cunningham. I also read with great sadness the report of his death in Afghanistan. It was emphasized in the report which I read that he was part of this para-rescue team and that he had made a very conscious decision in choosing his career path in the military to be on a para-rescue team rather than on a different type of military team because he did want to commit his life to saving other people's lives. That is the exact activity he was engaged in in Afghanistan when he came under enemy fire and was killed in that combat.

This is a reminder to all who serve in the Senate, as well as, of course, to his family. It is an enormous responsibility we take on as a nation when we send our best young people into battle to do the work of this country, to put these men and women at risk, as has been the case in Afghanistan. It is an enormous undertaking. His sacrifice is the ultimate sacrifice and his family's sacrifice, as well. We join with them in mourning his death.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I rise today to voice my support for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda which is the often-neglected sister court to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia at the Hague. While the international media carries regular coverage of the Milosevic trial and the NATO efforts to arrest individuals wanted by the ICTY, much of the world, it seems, has forgotten about the ICTR. This week, as the UN's fifth committee considers the tribunal's budget, I want to make plain my continuing concerns about the tribunal, but I also want to be crystal clear about my continued support for its work.

In 1994, an unspeakable horror unfolded in the tiny central African site of Rwanda. Despite the initial ref-

erences to "ancient tribal hatreds" at the source of violence, we now know that the genocide was not a series of spontaneous acts; it was not about crowds gone wild or tribal bloodlust. It was carefully planned and centrally directed. Extra machetes had been imported, militia groups were in place, and incitements to murder had become a regular element of programming on the hate-radio station. The planners targeted not only ethnic Tutsis, but also politically moderate Hutus who threatened their grip on power. We know today that individual people—leaders and planners—are responsible for the deaths of some 800,000 people, and that the blame for these atrocities cannot be heaped on some imagined cultural failing.

Two weeks ago, I had an opportunity to visit the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha during a weeklong trip to Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique that I undertook in my capacity as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on African Affairs. During my brief visit, I was able to meet with the Deputy Registrar, with Judge Navanetham Pillay, who is the President of the ICTR, and with some members of the Prosecutor's office. I was also able to sit in on one of the trials underway—that of Laurent Semanza, a former mayor of Bicumbi who is charged with several counts of genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide and crimes against humanity, including rape. I heard some of the wrenching testimony in that case, and was astounded at the strength of the tribunal officials, whose work requires them to confront the horrible facts of the Rwandan genocide every day of their work.

For many years, I have strongly supported accountability measures in cases where crimes against humanity have occurred, and I think that international support for such measures is particularly important in Africa, where too often the international community fails to respond to atrocities the way we would if such acts occurred in Europe or North America.

For this reason, I have been a supporter of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. I have long supported the ICTR. In the last Congress, I authored legislation that was signed into law that would extend the U.S. rewards program to allow our government to offer and pay rewards for information about individuals wanted by the tribunal. The reason that we did this is because this provision had already existed for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia—an example of how a double standard relating to the courts was at one time institutionalized in our government.

What had happened since the Arusha tribunal's inception is nothing short of groundbreaking. The ICTR was responsible for the very first international convictions for the crime of genocide. Many people do not realize this, al-

though the international community adopted the definition of the crime of genocide following the holocaust, it was the ICTR that launched the first successful investigation and prosecution for that crime. It was the first-ever international tribunal to convict an individual of rape as a crime against humanity and to rule that rape can be a crime of genocide. The Tribunal was the first such institution to actually convict a national leader, the former Prime Minister of Rwanda, of genocide. The court has established principles of international law that will be studied in law schools around the world for generations to come.

And more importantly, it is establishing, in the minds of African leaders and African elites and African societies, the possibility that those responsible for crimes against humanity may one day be held accountable for their actions. In central Africa in particular, this goal is essential to ending the culture of impunity for gross violations of human rights, whether they occur in Rwanda or Burundi or eastern Congo. The people who have been laboring in Arusha to hold those most responsible for the genocide and for crimes against humanity in Rwanda in 1994 deserve recognition, and respect, and support.

Now, there are a number of steps that the international community can take to help this worthy effort. First, we can ensure that the prosecutor's office is adequately staffed. It is almost appalling that the post of Deputy Prosecutor has been vacant since the middle of last year. I was informed that vacancies exist throughout the office. The UN has to speed up its recruitment process, prioritizing the expeditious placement of competent applicants in important jobs, rather than starving the court of staff for the overriding goal of even geographic distribution of personnel. UN member states must also help to address another problem—that of sentence enforcement. Currently, few of the African countries willing to house persons convicted by the ICTR in their jails can meet international standards for prison conditions. Of course I am not suggesting that the international community refurbish the prisons of an entire continent. But I am suggesting that perhaps there are small and reasonable steps that we can take to help.

And the US and the rest of the international community I think should support the tribunal's request for additional judges. They have already supported a similar request for the ICTY for the former Yugoslavia. All observers have been concerned about the pace of the tribunal. It makes sense to provide it with the capacity to move more quickly through its work.

Mr. President, much has been made in recent days of the Administration's decision to publicly push for the ICTR and ICTY to finish their work in the next few years. And the need to wrap-