

Nation, the President of the United States outlined clearly and unequivocally why we are at war and what is required to defeat our enemies. In his remarks, he urged us to remain steadfast and resolute. In that speech, he reminded us that our enemies are motivated not by the perception that we are strong. No. Indeed, they attacked us out of the mistaken belief that we are weak.

This is not mere guess or conjecture. When one listens to the words of Osama bin Laden himself, he calls America "a paper tiger." He boasts that at the first sign of danger, that first painful blow, we retreat to wallow in our so-called—his words—decadence.

The terrorists did not launch the September 11 attacks in retaliation to military action. They struck America as a direct demonstration of their pure and unshakable hatred. One only has to listen to the words of one of Osama bin Laden's closest associates, Yussuf al-Ayyeri—no longer with us, I might add, in body. This murderer warned in a treatise written just before Operation Iraqi Freedom that:

It is not the American war machine that should be of the utmost concern to Muslims. What threatens the future of Islam, in fact its very survival, is American democracy.

Why? Mr. al-Ayyeri fears democracy will—

... make Muslims love this world, forget the next world, and abandon jihad.

He fears that if democracy takes root in Iraq, Muslims might actually benefit in the here and in the now, that they might become prosperous, self-sufficient, tolerant, and consequently—going back to quoting him:

... reluctant to die in martyrdom.

For this reason, and he explains in the treatise, his comrades must defeat unbelief, must defeat modernism, and most of all must defeat the democracy brought on by the Americans.

While Mr. al-Ayyeri falsely conflates his power-mad ideology with the Muslim faith, a faith that we all know is practiced peacefully by millions in this country and indeed around the world, one cannot deny, however, unwittingly, that he makes his case. Success in Iraq spells failure for al-Qaida, failure for al-Qaida's murderous fanaticism, failure for al-Qaida's tyrannical goals. Success in Iraq strikes at the cold, arid hearts of men who murder Muslims for daring to reject al-Qaida's warped demands.

Our efforts to help the Iraqi people build a decent and free nation, yes, a democratic society where people of differing ideas, of differing ethnicity can live in peace, live with one another, will be a clear refutation of all that the terrorists stand for and the poison that they continue to peddle.

September 11—most Americans have spent much of the day in thought and reflection on that event 2 years ago. I wish, as every American, that September 11 had never happened, that those innocent women and men and children were alive today, were with

their families, were thriving, were safe. I wish our enemies had never emerged from their caves and they never cooked up their crazed campaign. I wish all these things. But clearly wishing will not and does not make it so.

Thus, we are called to act. We are called to lead. We must protect our fellow citizens and defeat terror and those regimes that support them. Our enemies will not disappear or go away. It is not going to happen. We know that. Words do not in any way mollify them. Negotiation in no way mollifies them. Thus, we must stand firm and we must not waver.

We must support our troops; let them know how much we admire their courage, their sacrifice, their bravery. We must let the enemy know that America will press on to victory.

I know we will meet the challenge. Americans are strong and Americans are tough. We have seen that tenacity. In many ways September 11 made it come alive. It uplifted all of us, but it made that tenacity and that strength come alive.

We are sincere in our compassion. Why? Because it springs from the fundamental belief that all people have a God-given right to liberty, to freedom, to know what is in their own minds and to control their own futures; freedom to act in a room and a body like this in the political sphere; freedom to participate in their own governance. And, unlike our deadly enemies, we wish the best—not the worst—for Iraq.

The President has come this week to this body seeking our support. It really began formally in his speech now 5 days ago on Sunday night. His proposal for emergency funding to defeat terror and to stabilize our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan clearly warrants it.

We will continue to meet with the administration in the days ahead, as we have in the last several days, to assist them in these efforts. I know there will be much debate and there will be careful examination of the request, but I know the Senate will overwhelmingly support the President's request. Why? We think back to September 11. We know who the enemy is and we know what it takes to defeat that enemy.

Over the course of the week and in our briefings and after we talked to our colleagues who have gone to Iraq, it is very clear that we are making a lot of progress in Iraq. It is not what you see when you first turn on the television or when you open the newspapers now, but from our colleagues who have gone there to see firsthand, and as we have been briefed by people who have just come back, clearly, we are making progress.

Just this week the League of Arab States granted the Iraqi Governing Council membership, albeit conditional membership but membership, in their deliberative body. This is a significant step forward. There will be many more steps forward in the coming weeks and months ahead. I know we will succeed in this mission. We will defeat terror.

And the Iraqi people will have a free and a democratic nation to lead into the future.

AN INSPIRATIONAL DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will talk a little bit on another topic for a couple of minutes, in large part because we began this morning opening at 8:30, and over the course of the morning I personally, in part representing this body, have had a wonderful day. It was a day that was truly inspiring if you look at public service, but also if you look at the sacrifice that others made on September 11 and since that time, and others who continue to make right now in Iraq and Afghanistan to preserve the freedoms and liberties that we have.

We opened this morning with a commemoration, a bell ringing, and had a moment of silence with that glorious sound of that bell dramatically ringing for each of the incidents and the tragedies that occurred on September 11.

Over the course of the day on this floor, we have heard our colleagues on both sides of the aisle reminisce, talk about what they were doing then but also how they have been affected as public servants in dealing with others, how people have been brought together, how the common threads which bind all of us have been stressed a little bit more the last couple of years than maybe in the previous years.

A little bit later in the morning I had an opportunity to go by the Pentagon. At the Pentagon I saw the reconstruction. I had the real privilege of having the Speaker of the House give to Secretary Rumsfeld the flag that was flying over the east wing of the Capitol 2 years ago.

We were in the chapel in the part of the Pentagon that was struck. In that new chapel are four beautiful stained-glass windows dedicated to the events, to the families, and to the institution—all related to September 11.

Coming back here a little bit later, the Congress—Members of the House and Senate, and others—were on the front steps of the Capitol not too far from where I am speaking now on the floor of the Senate. It was very reminiscent of that night 2 years ago when we were on the steps. We made a statement. It was a spontaneous statement that the terrorists will not shut down our Government, where we joined hands and sang "God Bless America" on the night of September 11.

Then later this afternoon—just a few minutes ago—we had a wonderful service with our Senate family, staff, Senators, President pro tempore, and the Senate Chaplain and the House Chaplain, again reflecting late this afternoon on the events of 2 years ago. It was a wonderful 10 minutes when the Chaplain said: "I just want three people to volunteer to come forward and

say how September affected them." Usually everybody kind of sinks down and doesn't want to be the one to volunteer in front of a few hundred people. But hands shot up, and people spoke from the heart about how September 11 affected them each in individual ways, but with a common theme coming back of appreciation for what this country has given us and the importance of our doing everything we can to protect the freedom and liberty upon which this country has been founded and of which we take advantage.

Also, 40 minutes ago I had the opportunity to go to the West Front of the Capitol and look out over The Mall, with the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument—again, not too many yards from where we are today—to have the lone bugler quietly—right at 6 o'clock tonight, 40 minutes ago—play Taps with a clear sky—the Sun was just beginning to go down—to express our appreciation, our love, and our feeling for the many families who have been affected by the tragedy of September 11.

Again, I want to add that people continue to sacrifice and fight for that very same freedom. It is appropriate that we use this day for a day of reflection.

We continue business. I think that is important. A lot of people said we should stop all business in the Senate. No, I don't think anybody from September 11 would say stop the Nation's business. In effect, they would say continue the Nation's business. Indeed, we made real progress today and continued the work of the Senate well into last night as well.

Americans all over the country—and indeed all over the world; indeed, not just Americans—I know spent the day kneeling, praying, going to synagogues, mosques, and churches, holding services like the many services we have had here in Washington, DC. A large part of that I think is reflected in the power of faith and the fact that faith has that power to help heal, to help explain the questions of "Why?" that continue to arise: Why did things happen on that fateful day? Power to console, faith to reassure—both right now and as it did 2 years ago on that fateful day.

Although 2 years later memories are a little bit fainter and our pain may be just a touch more distant, we still ask questions, questions of "Why?" In that answer of the "why," I think it makes all of us a bit more determined, a bit more focused, and a bit more appreciative of what we have.

We do put our trust in providence. It is hard to be in this body for very long and not realize the importance of faith and providence in the Senate and in our Founding Fathers and the democracy we share today.

Abraham Lincoln, in his second inaugural address after 4 of the most traumatic years in U.S. history, said: "The almighty has His own purposes."

I thought of that today while sitting through one of the ceremonies. It does

help that question of "Why?" Clearly, in Abraham Lincoln's time, faith was able to support, console, and give strength to our Nation. Clearly, that is the same thing today as we look at the various services. Our Founders had a belief. They believed—they knew, and believed—that our Nation was founded with divine purpose. During some of the most difficult moments, with the odds being against us at certain points in time, our leaders turned to faith. And indeed God has watched over this Nation. Although we asked, "Why?" on September 11, God was watching over us on September 11.

Over the course of the day, it came up to each of us in different ways. And Lisa Beamer—the world knows now because she was able to articulate and put a face that expresses what we are all trying to describe—said of her husband's flight on that day, September 11:

The courageous actions of the passengers and crew reminded me that on the day when people around the world felt violated, helpless, alone and afraid, there were still people of character, people who in the midst of crisis dared to live to the last second with hope.

She captured it.

We all have to ask ourselves: Where did those heroes on Flight 93 reach to get their courage? We answer: "Family." That is where we get our strength. They answer: "Faith." There is no question that each individual's faith almost certainly played a role.

Todd Beamer said what is probably the most inspirational thing many of us have heard in our lives. He was talking to the telephone operator and said: "Let's roll." But what he said a few seconds before that was the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

A few days after September 11, Billy Graham, in the national prayer service at the cathedral, along with folks here looking at the lessons of the "why," said:

The lesson of this event is not only about the mystery of iniquity and evil, but . . . it's a lesson about our need for each other.

I was thinking about that when I was at the Senate service about an hour ago with the Senate family. Regardless of whether we are staff, or a Member, elected official, worker, Democrat, Republican, whether we are in our first term or seventh term, those in the room there, that common bond is a calling to public service. We believe in the greatness of this institution.

As you look at the inscriptions all around—the inscription on the east doorway that we come through every day, or that most Senators come through—the inscription written up there is the English translation of the Latin, "God has favored our undertakings."

We start coming back to those "why's."

I will close. But I think, clearly, my final reference today, after coming in 11 hours ago for what has been a meaningful day for me, is a wish and a prayer that God continues to watch over

the family members of the victims of September 11, that God heal their wounds as time goes forward, and that God continue to shine on America and indeed on this Senate.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know the majority leader is about to take us out of session, but I just wanted to take a moment to thank him for his truly inspirational remarks about the events of today which I had an opportunity to hear over the last few moments and also to thank him for his extraordinary leadership of the Senate.

You make us proud every day; particularly you make us proud today.

THE SENATE WEEK

Mr. FRIST. I close with some announcements. We had a good, productive week. We completed the Labor-HHS appropriations bill after 7 days of consideration. We had 68 amendments considered. We disposed of all 68 amendments. We had 25 rollcall votes. I congratulate both of the managers who did just a superb job in staying focused, handling some very difficult situations but allowing time for debate and votes. We have completed that bill. Both Senator SPECTER and Senator HARKIN did a superb job.

Senator ALLEN helped clear the way for Senate action on H.R. 978 with regard to the disability compensation computation bill which can now go to the President's desk.

Earlier today the Senate spoke with a voice vote as it unanimously adopted S. Res. 224 relating to the second anniversary of September 11.

Next week I look forward to beginning a fresh week and continuing on our appropriations process. Again, we have a number of appropriations bills to address. We have made real progress; in fact, five appropriations bills. If you look at the overall amount of money, that is probably 70 percent of the overall amount of money appropriated. So we are making progress. It is tough—slower than I would like, but we are making steady progress.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the passage of H.R. 2660, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, it be in order to consider the amendment I now send to the desk, that the amendment be considered and agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 1649) was agreed to, as follows: