

more difficult hearings than you have endured in getting started on this process. I think you have been eminently fair. I have great confidence that what you choose to do, and how you choose to handle this, will be fair to everybody. And I say that to you in all honesty.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce Rev. Sheila Gustafson from First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe, NM. She has devoted her life to the ministry of God and within her work has touched many lives.

She began her service as the first female pastor ever to serve at First Presbyterian Church, and she is devoted to their mission and has served it faithfully for the past 8 years.

Reverend Gustafson demonstrates a great leadership style that endears her not only to the members of her congregation but to the community of Santa Fe. She has taken the lead within the New Mexico Coalition of Churches to create a faith-based organization that fights hate crimes and recently has dedicated her time to the revitalization and modernization of First Presbyterian Church. This project will allow the church to become a mission-oriented building that will provide direct assistance to the community. First Presbyterian Church will be able to provide meeting space for social and faith-based organizations.

I thank Reverend Gustafson for coming to offer our invocation this morning. That is not an easy chore clear from New Mexico, as I know when I take that trip every couple of weeks. It is an honor to have her here today.

PROGRESS IN IRAQ

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to comment on where we are with reference to the war. I was very pleased to read in the New York Times yesterday that a poll had been taken in Iraq. In fact, the New York Times reports so little good news about the theater of the war, I figured it had to be a poll or it wouldn't state anything good.

The poll said two-thirds of the Iraqi people believed they were better off and that they would be better off in 5 years, having gotten rid of Saddam, rather than with him present. If you listen to all the news, you wonder whether the people of Iraq even care about our efforts to help or whether there are very many who are pleased to be part of this transition toward freedom.

In addition, that same article said something rather phenomenal about the distinguished Ambassador who runs the American effort. The poll said—and the New York Times used two words—“remarkably positive”—to characterize the 47 percent of the Iraqis who said he was doing a very good job. That was said almost with in-

credulity that it could be true, but it is, because we are doing a good job.

We have been there 4½ months—not years. For us to already have achieved what has been done is borderline miraculous: Schools opened; hospitals opened; a council formed; a head of government there ready to move step by step toward democratization, with great leadership of the 25-member governing body, 17 of them Ph.D.s in the subjects of the ministries they run. The agriculture ministry is run by an agronomist of real class, the water problems handled by a hydrologist of high quality. These are the kinds of people working with us to put that country together.

One of the reasons I think we should move ahead rapidly—and I don't know what rapidly means on this legislation. Does it mean Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday? I don't know—but we had better send a signal as soon as we can that we are there to get this job done.

I had the privilege of asking questions yesterday of the two distinguished generals, the chief of staff of the military, General Myers, and the general in charge of the entire operation, General Abizaid, who speaks Arabic brilliantly. My questions to them were: Will we win this war, this conflict? Will we prevail, and will it end up positive? Instantly, each answered: Yes.

Can we win?

Yes.

Will we win?

Yes.

Do our men want to win?

Yes.

Are our men happy, pleased? Do they know what they are doing?

Absolutely.

When I was finished with my time with the Secretary of Defense and the two outstanding generals, I was convinced that all we needed to be sure that democratization sets in and takes its footing there is the will to do it. We got into this with the full concurrence of the Congress. Those who continually speak of this as being President Bush's war are stating the facts wrong. It is our war. We voted for it by huge numbers, and we haven't brought a resolution to the floor negating that, to my knowledge.

For those who now think it is not ours, but that it is the President's alone, maybe they ought to bring a resolution here denying that we are involved and that it is just his, and see what the Senate would say. I believe no one will do it, and if they did it, it would overwhelmingly fail, because we want to win and we know it, but the critics are involved in a great game of politics.

Truly, it is time we get politics out of the scene and do what is needed. If there are Senators who know how to do it better, they ought to propose it. This is a very open body. If they have a better plan, suggest it. If they think we ought to spend the money differently, amend it. But we ought to do it. Every-

body involved in this on the ground in Iraq thinks we are on the right path—the men there, the women there, the generals there, the privates. The men whose boots are on the ground think we are doing right. The only people who don't are countries such as France. We will never convince France about this. There is no use trying. They have already forgotten about America and America's involvement in helping them, and they are on some new path of their own.

I remember as a Senator when people such as Helmut Kohl, the former Chancellor of Germany, would give a speech that would make you cry about how much Germany owed America. I heard one. I cried as he told of what brothers we were and why and what great people we were to win a war and demand nothing from them. Here we are engaged in a war against terror that will help all of Europe, and we have France and other countries, for some reasons of their own, out there acting as if America were some foreign power that they don't even know, that has some mission that is adverse to the world, when they know better. They know our mission, they know our attitude, and they know what kind of country we are.

Having said that, I hope, if we can't move this emergency supplemental request on Monday, that we move rapidly, whenever that is, to let the Senate speak. Do we want to abandon this process before it ever has a chance to succeed, or do we want to give it a real chance to prevail? I believe in the end the latter will prevail. It will take some time and some talking, but in the end we will conclude that 4½ months is not long enough to determine the destiny of that country where we had such a fantastic military victory that the world will recognize forever as one of the single most significant military achievements in history with minimal civilian damage and expeditious and maximum annihilation of the real opponent.

We cannot quit after 4 months. We cannot say we will support the men and women of the military but we won't support the effort to provide the minimal service that will bring the Iraqi people into a state where they will want to move forward, democratize, and become free.

To me, it is a simple proposition—and maybe it should not be—that is, do we want to give up or do we want to win? Do we want to abandon this effort after 4½ months and challenge every single move by somebody as distinguished as Ambassador Bremer and his team? I believe the answers are pretty simple. The American people, even with all the negatives thrown at them about what's happening in Iraq, still believe we did right going in, and they still believe we are right in being there now. All that is left is that we do what is right.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business not to exceed 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and the remaining 30 minutes under the control of the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, or her designee.

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ROTATION POLICY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I will address the rotation policy in Iraq of our U.S. military forces, and specifically the National Guard and the Reserves. I will also address the planning of that rotation policy.

Over the weekend, I met with enumerable groups in Florida about their loved ones who are serving overseas. As members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, we addressed this issue with Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Myers, in our committee meeting 2 weeks ago on the plan of rotation and the inequities that are coming out as a result of the lack of planning and how that is being implemented.

Now, I am going to give some specific examples. I might say that this large stack contains all e-mails—and you know how small the type is on e-mails—from family members in my State about the inequity of the situation. These are e-mails that I have received directly from soldiers, primarily members of the Florida National Guard and the Reserves.

As I tried to address what I perceive to be the inequity in this so-called plan as being implemented, as I tried to address it in committee, as I have in private meetings with the brass, and now as I try to discuss these inequities with the Senate, I, first, will say that had the executive branch of Government listened to the bipartisan voices in the Senate Armed Services Committee—and in particular the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where the chairman of that committee, Dick Lugar of Indiana, a Republican, and one of his ranking members, Senator CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska, a Republican, and another of his high-ranking members, Senator LINCOLN CHAFEE of Rhode Island, a Republican, along with a chorus of voices on the committee, including mine—had they listened about the need for a plan after the military campaign in the postwar occupation of Iraq, then I don't think we would be going through the strains and stresses on this rotation policy. Combatant Com-

mander General Abizaid, who is supplied with Army troops through the Army Chief of Staff, of which they are having to stretch out these deployments of the National Guard and Reserves in Iraq, had they listened—had the executive branch of Government listened that there had to be a plan in place, as we had for Germany and Japan—we had a plan being worked on for 3 years prior to the end of World War II for Germany and Japan—had the plan been in place, we would see that we should not have an American face as occupiers in a Muslim country. Instead, it should be the world community participating in trying to stabilize Iraq politically and economically.

Had a plan been in place, the preparation would have been there to bring in the Iraqi civilians to run the Government so that there is an Iraqi face on the running of the Government. But that plan is not in place and we are seeing the results of the near chaos from time to time and, indeed, the sabotage that is occurring, the deaths that are occurring, and so forth.

But that is an issue for another day. It is a table setter for what I want to talk about—the inequity of the rotation policy and the plan that is specifically being conducted in the rotation of the troops in Iraq.

First, Florida's National Guard is one of the most professional in the Nation. It is well organized, it is well trained, and it is well led. They have proven their dedication to duty in this war, and they have committed to do whatever this Nation asks, and they have done it very well.

A couple of days ago, General Schoemaker, the Chief of Staff of the Army, told me that the soldiers of the Florida National Guard are as good as they come. They are also tired and fatigued.

I raised this rotation policy with the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs in that committee meeting a couple weeks ago. I have discussed this rotation policy with the Army Chief of Staff. I will discuss this policy with the Secretary of Defense tomorrow.

Florida National Guard soldiers were among the first Guard units alerted in December. They were brought into the armory the day after Christmas to start preparing all of their equipment, and they were mobilized right after New Year's Day. They were also among the first to enter the theater of operations, beginning in February and flowing quickly through March and early April.

Florida's National Guard soldiers participated throughout the major combat phase of this operation and throughout the breadth and depth of the theater—a theater that we know had no safe rear area, in the traditional sense.

Company C, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry of the Florida Guard—let me tell you what they did before the war. The war started on

March 19. Charlie Company dug by hand through the berm that marks the Jordanian-Iraqi border, and then they attacked into Iraq in support of the 5th Special Forces Group. They were in Iraq before the war started on March 19. Since then, Charlie Company has been passed around the theater, from command to command, about 10 times, from the 5th Special Forces Group, to Special Operations Headquarters, to the 5th Corps Headquarters, to the 3rd Infantry Division, to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and to the 1st Armored Division.

Charlie Company is still there and they have suffered two fatalities—one gunned down at the University of Baghdad the night I was coming into Baghdad in early July, another in a vehicle accident, and a third wounded in the neck. Other companies of the three battalions of the 124th Infantry, of the Florida Guard, have been passed among the headquarters all over the theater no less than 40 times since arriving in the area of operations.

This is not a complaint. This is a statement of fact. Florida is justifiably proud of its contribution to the war on terror. Florida has the third highest number of Guard and Reserve soldiers mobilized and deployed globally in the war on terror, with 6,190 Florida Guard soldiers. Two States are a little higher, California and Texas, and it is only by a few hundred soldiers in each of those States.

Florida has also deployed the second highest number of Guard soldiers to the Iraqi theater. Right now, in the Iraqi area of operations, there are 2,482. We are second highest to Alabama, and Alabama has 38 soldiers more. These two States, Alabama and Florida, by far have the most soldiers deployed to the Iraqi theater.

No State has provided more infantry from the Guard than Florida—1,392 infantry soldiers, followed by Indiana's infantry at 1,286. These two States by far are contributing more to the Iraqi theater from Guard units than are infantry troops.

Naturally, since they were deployed the day after Christmas, they are tired, and I believe they should be replaced by fresh troops as soon as possible.

There is a new policy, and the new policy of the Defense Department is a "12-month Boots on the Ground in Iraq" rotation policy, and it may not be equitably implemented because Florida's Guard entered the theater in company-size elements spread out over a period of 2½ months. So it doesn't sound like it is equitable for this new policy of boots-on-the-ground for the clock to start ticking only when the last unit arrives in theater, what they call over at the Pentagon "closed in command."

I understand that other National Guard units are already beginning the process of coming home, and I am happy for them, and I am happy they are coming back to their loved ones. But I cannot seem to get a clear answer from the Department of Defense