

be \$1.3 billion a week. The total cost of reconstruction, including the funds we have just voted, through September 30 of next year will be almost \$25 billion.

This administration has avoided answering the question: How much will we spend before we exit Iraq?

As a result, I am concerned that this \$87 billion supplemental appropriation is in essence a blank check for the President's failed policy. It will remove a substantial portion of the pressure for real progress in the internationalization of the occupation and reconstruction efforts directed at Iraq. Passage of this supplemental spending bill will remove the incentive for this administration to negotiate.

Mr. President, the reality is that it is only through significant international troops and money, only with significant decision sharing by the United States with those foreign countries that our Nation has any reasonable expectation of an honorable and expeditious exit from Iraq.

This appropriation leads us in the opposite direction. We will do it alone. It will increase the risk to our brave soldiers. It will unnecessarily transfer reconstruction costs to the U.S. taxpayer, and it will lengthen the time when the United States can honorably and expeditiously leave Iraq.

Mr. President, 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. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TODAY IN CONGRESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today has been a very good day in the Senate, as well as in the House of Representatives, with a strong bipartisan majority vote in both Houses of Congress approving the funds necessary to support our soldiers and civilians serving in Iraq and to move quickly to stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan.

I believe this is a major victory for the President of the United States in his efforts to bring stability and peace to Iraq.

Personally, I am very pleased with the overwhelming bipartisan support for the President's proposal in the Senate. When the package was first sent to the Hill several weeks ago, very few thought it possible. We have had to make a number of difficult votes and, indeed, we worked very late last night, into the early hours of this morning, completing this bill, now, just several hours ago.

I am certain the Senate- and House-passed bills will allow us that opportunity to negotiate a final legislative package that, indeed, will give the President everything he requested.

It was important to do. It was important to complete this legislation today

especially, not only to get the money to our troops as soon as possible and to rebuild the civilian infrastructure in Iraq as soon as possible but also because of the donor conference in Madrid next week.

The President, indeed, has made a strong stand for freedom and democracy in Iraq, as well as Afghanistan, and he has taken forceful action against brutality and terrorism in the region, and by doing so has made America safer and our citizens more secure.

Indeed, we are at war in Afghanistan as well as Iraq. The funds in this legislation provide both the direct support for our soldiers, as well as an investment in creating a safer environment in the countries where they serve. The legislation will make them safer and, in all likelihood, will get them home sooner.

I also want to take this opportunity to commend Senator STEVENS for his tremendous leadership on this particular legislation, as well as Senator WARNER and Senator MCCAIN and Senator MCCONNELL, all for their tireless efforts to pass this emergency funding request.

MEASURE RETURNED TO THE CALENDAR—S. 1689

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on final passage on S. 1689 be vitiated and that the bill be returned to the calendar.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Pittsburgh, PA. On April 19, 2002, Adam Bishop was bludgeoned to death with a claw hammer by his own brother, Ian Bishop, 14, and alleged accomplice Robert Laskowski, 15. As several witnesses testified, the killing was because Ian thought his brother was gay. The victim was struck by his brother at least 15 times with the hammer and was moved to various parts of the home before he was left to die in a bathtub.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

DISARMING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ABUSERS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last week the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence United, with the Million Mom March, released a report entitled "Disarming Domestic Violence Abusers." This report provides a guide for closing loopholes in State gun laws that allow domestic violence abusers to purchase or possess firearms and offers Congress some insight into how to help our States effectively enforce gun safety laws.

Under current Federal law, domestic violence abusers subject to restraining orders or convicted of domestic violence are prohibited from owning guns. Despite the law, some domestic violence offenders continue to gain access to firearms.

The Brady report proposes a number of ways to keep guns out of the hands of domestic violence offenders. Among the suggestions are ensuring that restraining orders clearly state that the possession of a firearm is prohibited and that restraining orders be entered into state and national databases used to conduct background checks on gun sales. Further, the report recommends that law enforcement remove firearms from the scene of domestic violence incidents. Finally, stopping domestic abusers from buying additional guns requires background checks on the sale of all firearm transfers, including those that take place at gun shows.

The deadly combination of domestic violence and guns put many women and families at great risk. While Federal laws provide a general framework to prevent abusers from purchasing or possessing firearms, the Federal laws will not be effective in protecting women from armed abusers until every State enacts complementary laws. I urge my colleagues to read the Brady Campaign's report and to support Federal efforts that assist States with enforcing our Nation's gun safety laws.

NANOTECHNOLOGY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, recently I hosted a luncheon of the American Chemical Society on nanotechnology. It was a pleasure to be in the company of so many brilliant minds, and those concerned with the technological and economic future of our Nation.

Of all the areas of scientific innovation being developed today, none is more profound than nanotechnology. The ability to manipulate individual atoms is unprecedented in human history and could lead to the redesign of

most products we know of today. Some have even said it could lead to the "Second Industrial Revolution." Its scope is nothing other than breathtaking.

In the area of national security, nanotechnology has been identified as one of the most important strategic research areas. Revolutionary applications could include: very lightweight but extremely strong armor, vastly smaller and more powerful computers, microscopic sensor systems, and tiny unmanned vehicles. These could provide vastly increased capabilities for our armed forces. Conversely, to fall behind in these new areas will present us with a critical security risk.

Unfortunately, the United States is no longer the only world leader in many areas of nanoscience, as many countries have recognized its importance and are greatly increasing their funding. With stakes this high, we must pay close attention to the choices we make.

I understand the stakes and stand four-square behind public-private efforts to keep America in the lead in nanotechnology. Just as we led the industrial revolution, America will lead this new scientific revolution for the benefit of generations to come.

RETIREMENT OF MG ARNOLD PUNARO

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was privileged to attend the retirement ceremony of MG Arnold Punaro from the U.S. Marine Corps on September 19, 2003 at the Marine Barracks here in Washington, DC. General Punaro is known to many here in the Senate from his outstanding service of many years as staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee and on the personal staff of Senator Sam Nunn. I ask unanimous consent that there be printed in the RECORD, at this point, portions of the remarks made at the ceremony by Gen. James L. Jones, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander, U.S. European Command.

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

REMARKS OF GENERAL JAMES L. JONES, SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, EUROPE AND COMMANDER, U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND

The real reason we are all here is to pay honor to a true patriot who has given so much of his time and talent to our Nation, and to each of us . . . Major General Arnold Punaro, United States Marine.

We also honor an exceptional family, which has supported him through his life in the "public sector" of Capitol Hill and in his career in the U.S. Marine Corps. Jan Punaro stands in no shadow among spouses who deserve our eternal gratitude. Her support to Arnold, through his "many" simultaneous careers, has been remarkable.

Arnold has been a marine since 1968, a personal staff member for Senator Sam Nunn for 24 years, a minority and majority staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee for a total of 15 years, a member of Georgetown University's adjunct faculty for ten years, and a most valuable "utility in-

fielder" of the Department of Defense on a wide range of issues all having to do with transformation, long before the term itself became popular.

As a marine, Arnold Punaro has literally "done it all" . . . Republic of Vietnam combat leader, wounded and decorated, the Marine Corps basic school "staff protocol officer." Upon leaving active duty, he went into the reserves where he saw active duty in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and in the Balkans where he battled the largest snow storm ever to hit Zagreb. He has participated in the Marine Corps transformation starting back in 1995 until today. In 1997 he chaired the "Defense Reform Task Force" for Secretary Cohen and produced a document that remains very current. He also participated in the Hart-Rudman Commission, and currently serves on the Secretary of Defense's newly formed Defense Business Board.

In the public sector, Arnold Punaro started his post-active duty life working for Senator Sam Nunn, rapidly rising from press secretary to foreign policy/national security legislative assistant on the Senator's personal staff, before moving to the Senate Armed Services Committee and its leadership positions as Director for both the Minority and the Majority. The legislation produced during his time on the committee was both historic and transformational. Let's be clear . . . where we are today in our military has a lot to do with the fact that Arnold Punaro was where he was in a very important time for each of our services, starting with the all-volunteer force and Goldwater-Nickles legislation.

Arnold Punaro is currently serving as the Director of Reserve Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. He has been instrumental in bringing the "Marine for Life Program" to fruition in these past few years, for which I am sincerely grateful. Marines now can have a lifelong association with the Corps regardless of their career pursuits. Always a passionate advocate, Arnold Punaro's well known compassion for the lives of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and their families defines him in all that he is and cared about.

As an adjunct professor (with one bachelor of science and two masters of arts) at my alma mater, Georgetown University, for over ten years he helped mold and shape the minds of our future leaders on national security issues.

For all he has done in his short life, Arnold Punaro has always found time for his family . . . the son of Angelo and Anina Punaro, first generation Italian-Americans from southern Italy, who watched with great admiration as young Arnold grew into manhood and became a United States Marine, going off to war in 1967.

His company commander in Vietnam, COL Jim Van Riper, and his wife Connie, are here today to pay tribute to this great American, and we welcome them back to this post where they served with distinction in the early 70's. We're all proud of Arnold and Jan and their children, especially as we celebrate the safe return of 1LT Joe Punaro, USMC from Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served at the front of Marine lines in the capture of Baghdad. Joe . . . welcome home, we're all very proud of you and your Marines.

Arnold, it is a special honor for me to be able to be here today. We've known each other for 24 years, and for 24 years I've been privileged to have a front row seat which has allowed me to witness your very significant contributions to our Nation, both in and out of uniform. Very simply, you have been and remain today a special asset, and people who make the big decisions, who need the really good advice, the thoughtful consideration on

difficult issues, turn to you knowing that you will always give straightforward, thoughtful, and forthright advice. In this respect, you are in a class by yourself.

You stand here today, in our eyes, as a great Marine. The Corps has benefitted from your wise advice for many years, through both good times and bad times, and we are all the better for all you have contributed. You represent the finest example of the concept of the citizen-soldier by your selflessness and your dedication to, simply, but relentlessly, trying to do the right thing . . . regardless of the difficulty or the popularity (or lack thereof) of a given position.

All of us know full well why we are here today, and it is simply for this reason, to honor you, Jan, and your family; to say thank you for all you have done for all of us; and to wish you well in all you will do from here on out. There is still much more to be done.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, "semper fidelis" means "always faithful." Those words seem awfully appropriate today as we honor Major General Arnold Punaro.

Well done, my friend, well done!

ARABIA MOUNTAIN

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, a mere 20 minutes from the steel and concrete economic dynamo that is modern Atlanta, you can find a quiet refuge where history and natural beauty still exist side by side.

I speak of the area around Arabia Mountain which contains ecosystems home to endangered species, historic structures and archaeological sites. Its proximity to Atlanta makes it accessible to millions of Americans, but also puts it in danger of urban sprawl.

No strip mall should obliterate the ancient soapstone quarry which attracted Native Americans over 5,000 years ago. Nor should overdevelopment mar Arabia Mountain, the granite outcropping at the center of the area. This region contains much pristine land, farmland, and the charming town of Lithonia. Lithonia, home to many fine buildings made of locally quarried granite, has a name which means "stone city." The Arabia Mountain area still has a few farms from the days when it was the heart of Georgia's dairy industry, and has remnants of the 1820s Georgia Gold Rush which predated the more famous California Gold Rush by two decades.

If we are serious about preserving this irreplaceable history and environment, we must act to designate Arabia Mountain in DeKalb County as a National Heritage Area. This designation will help preserve the endangered and rare species which live nearby and save historic buildings from the wrecking ball. It will also allow the kind of smart development which preserves our heritage while allowing the kind of development which will provide jobs and growth for this beautiful region.

Arabia Mountain and its surrounding area are the result of over 400 million years of geological changes. Men have made an impact for the last 7,000 years. All this could be changed forever in another decade or so of uncontrolled growth.