

this tiny town of 800 are scrambling to fill their roles.

At the local cafe and in school hallways, the callup and what to do about the loss of city leaders is the talk of the town. At city hall, meanwhile, officials have been rushing to prepare paperwork necessary to transfer the mayor's power to a 78-year-old retired school teacher.

The soon-to-be acting police chief says Bradford is just one example of how the war in Iraq has affected small town America.

"One way or another we're going to handle it," said Michael Ray, who will become the new police chief, along with his job as a school resources officer. "It's going to be OK. I'm going to run it the same way as if the chief was here."

In addition to Mayor Paul Bunn, Chief Josh Chambliss and librarian Nolan Brown, five other citizens of this farm town have received orders to report to Fort Hood, Texas. There, they will prepare for a tour of duty in Iraq that is expected to put them in Iraq by Christmas.

Greba Edens, the town's recorder-treasurer, will take over for the 35-year-old mayor. Previously, she spent 24 years as Bradford's fourth-grade teacher.

"Most of the people on the city council now, she's paddled them before," Bunn said. Edens said she plans to carry on with Bunn's ideas. "As the mayor says, we're a family here," she said.

At the elementary school, Brown was organizing the library ahead of his deployment. He served in Vietnam and has been in the National Guard for 31 years. Now 57, he was hoping to leave the guard at age 60.

"I've got stuff scattered from here to there getting ready," he said. "I want to leave it as if I'm not coming back."

"The children here, they ask me, 'Are you going? When are you going?'" he said. "They know there's some turmoil somewhere. I tell them they may not take me because of my age . . . but it would be unwise not to prepare them."

The school had a going-away party for Brown in the cafeteria, presenting him with a cake that read, "Our prayers are with you." The school will shuffle around teachers to make up for Brown's absence.

After nine years at the school, all the students know him. As he leaves, he shouts a goodbye to his cousin's son in the hallway.

"Tell your Mom, since things have escalated, that I may not get to see her," he said to the boy. "Tell her I'll miss her and love her."

Brown says he's edgy about his departure, as are his wife and the three children they care for. But he's adamant that he has to give back to a country that gave him an education.

"The U.S. has been very good to me," he said, adding he believes citizens need "to be willing to do whatever it takes to make sure kids in the future have the same opportunities that we have."

Unlike Brown, who works in a headquarters group, the police chief and the mayor are infantry soldiers responsible for more dangerous security duty.

"I'll make a deal with the president," said Bunn, who has fought in Panama and in the Gulf War. "I'll go over there, but I'm not willing to die. Maybe it's because I've got kids now."

Bunn could be gone for up to two years. Even if he stays that long, he'll still have over a year left of his term as mayor when he returns.

Chambliss, 28, has been the town's police chief since 2001. He's not worried about Bradford, which is about 70 miles northeast of Little Rock. He said he expects the town's other four officers to continue to man the

school crossings and attend all the ball games.

"I'm curious to see what the next 18 months hold, not for me but for Bradford," Chambliss said. "I want to come back into town and see the progress."

Chambliss said that he's upset to leave his wife. They were planning to start a family soon.

He is spending the rest of his time in Bradford saying goodbye to friends and family. He had lunch at his regular spot, the Front St. Cafe, just down the road from the police station.

The cafe's owner and waitress, Marcia Pressler, said she gave him that day's \$4.95 plate special of roast beef, potatoes and carrots on the house.

"It's like a part of your family going off," she said. "I felt like I'm feeding him his last supper."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. How much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Seven and one-half minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you, Mr. President.

GUARD AND RESERVE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I salute my colleague from Arkansas for the tribute she made to this unit in her home State of Arkansas. Every one of us in the Senate can tell a similar story. But she tells us so well about the lives that are affected by the activation of Guard and Reserve men and women who leave important lives and careers and step aside to serve their Nation.

That is why it is so troubling that I come to the floor today to report for those who follow the Senate that yesterday in the conference committee of the Appropriations Committee where we met to discuss the \$87 billion request of the President, we stripped out a provision which had been adopted on the Senate floor. I would like to describe it to those who want to stand behind the families of those activated Guard and Reserve men and women.

We have 1.2 million Guard and Reserve in the United States. Ten percent of them work for the Federal Government, when they are not serving in the Guard and Reserve. At the present moment, of the 120,000 Federal employees with the Guard and Reserve, 23,000 have been activated. They include some people who are in the unit the Senator from Arkansas just described.

I offered an amendment on the floor that said when you activate a Federal employee to the Guard and Reserve, the Federal Government agency that the person works for will make up any shortfall and any difference in income while that Guard or Reserve person is on active duty. That is not a radical suggestion. There are dozens of State governments and local units of government that already do that, including my home State of Illinois and the City of Chicago.

If you are a Chicago policeman in the Guard and you are activated, the City

of Chicago stands behind you and says we will make up the difference in pay if there is a shortfall so that there is no hardship on your family. That amendment passed the floor of the Senate 96 to 3. Yesterday it was stripped out of the conference committee report that is being considered. It is \$87 billion.

Every day we hear Senators come to the floor singing the praises, deservedly, of the men and women in uniform to say we stand in solidarity with them and their families as they fight for America. These same Members who come to the floor praising the guardsmen and reservists also voted for my amendment, saying let us hold them harmless if they go off to serve our Nation for 6 months, or 12 months, or 16 months. They all voted for this amendment.

Yesterday, on a party-line vote, with every Republican Senator voting no, they took this provision out of the bill. Many of the same Senators who just a few days ago had voted on the floor for this provision reversed their position and said no, the Federal Government will not set an example and will not make up the difference in pay for those thousands of Federal employees activated in the Guard and Reserve. That is unfair and it is unfortunate. Those who come here to wave the flag about their support for our fighting men and women weren't there yesterday on this crucial vote in this conference committee.

I hope those across America who follow this debate and who may know some of these families affected by this amendment will contact their Senators and tell them it was a grave injustice that we allowed this to occur. It was a real disappointment to me. We could have done the right thing yesterday, but, sadly, we did not.

IRAQ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I listened earlier to the Senator from Missouri talking about the State of affairs in Iraq. I would like to comment on that very briefly.

If I understood his argument, he said that 6 months after hostilities had ended—at least the military operation as the President described it, and after the efforts of different inspectors and the expenditure of millions of dollars—he believed the fact that Dr. David Kay couldn't produce any evidence whatsoever of weapons of mass destruction did not reflect on statements made by this administration before we invaded Iraq. I think that is clearly wrong.

This has been declassified. We said we knew of 550 sites of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq before we invaded—550 of them. Doesn't it stand to reason that these inspectors would go to those sites first to find the weapons of mass destruction? Isn't it revealing that they have come up with no evidence whatsoever? What a tremendous breakdown in intelligence gathering—that 550 suspected sites have now turned up

to be virtually empty, with no evidence of weapons of mass destruction. How hard a stretch of the imagination is it to think Saddam Hussein, facing an invasion of forces from America and Great Britain, was very cautiously packing into vans all of the weapons of mass destruction and spiriting them out of his country? I don't think that stands to reason.

That is almost as hard to follow as the President's logic yesterday which said that the terrorism and carnage going on in Iraq today is proof positive of the progress we are making. The progress?

Frankly, these sad reports from Iraq evidence the fact that we have not established order in that country to a level where we can assure the people of Iraq, or our troops for that matter, that they are going to be in a safe situation. I have not called for us to cut and run. I do not know many who have. We have to stay the course. We are now there.

As it has been said, when you go into a gift shop, the sign says "If you break it, you own it." We went into Iraq and took control of that situation. Now we are responsible for creating a stable and secure environment, and it will be a great cost over a lengthy period of time.

Just last week, I joined with my colleagues visiting Walter Reed Hospital to meet with some of the wounded soldiers.

I say to those who are stunned to hear each day that we have lost a soldier, or two or three soldiers, not to take lightly those who are wounded. Many of the wounds of these soldiers are grievous. I met one soldier from Ohio who lost the sight in one eye and another soldier from Illinois who had been the victim of a mortar round and is going to struggle to ever walk again. I think he will, but it will be a tremendous struggle and a lot of rehabilitation. To say we have only lost one, two, or three soldiers a day—please look at this in the context of the lives lost and the lives that are seriously injured and diminished by the injuries that are suffered there.

We have to stay the course. Frankly, I find it unfathomable that this conference committee of appropriations yesterday refused to stand behind 23,000 Federal employees who have been activated in Guard and Reserve units, refused to say we will stand with their families and make certain they don't go through economic hardship during the activation period when they are risking their lives for America. Unfortunately, this conference committee walked away from those soldiers yesterday. That is shameful, and it is something we never should have done. I urge my colleagues to think long and hard about this partisan rollcall, which, frankly, reversed a 96-to-3 vote of just a few weeks ago.

I will close by saying it is unfortunate we cannot finish the Foreign Operations appropriations bill today. It is

my understanding that the DeWine-Durbin amendment for \$289 million for the global AIDS epidemic, which we believe has a sufficient number of votes on the Senate floor to pass, has been threatened by one Republican Senator from Oklahoma who has said he will filibuster the bill and stop the bill on the Senate floor.

We are coming to the close of this session and we need to pass appropriations bills. Threatened filibusters from either side—particularly from the majority side—are not appropriate at this time. I hope that Senator will reconsider.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2800, the foreign operations appropriations bill, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2800) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

Pending:

DeWine amendment No. 1966, to increase assistance to combat HIV/AIDS.

McConnell amendment No. 1970, to express the sense of the Senate on Burma.

Feinstein amendment No. 1977, to clarify the definition of HIV/AIDS prevention for purposes of providing funds for therapeutic medical care.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from North Dakota is recognized to offer an amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 2000

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2000.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] proposes an amendment numbered 2000.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To urge the President to release information regarding sources of foreign support for the 9-11 hijackers)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. Sense of the Senate on declassifying portions of the Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 2001.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) The President has prevented the release to the American public of 28 pages of the Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 2001.

(2) The contents of the redacted pages discuss sources of foreign support for some of the September 11th hijackers while they were in the United States.

(3) The Administration's decision to classify this information prevents the American people from having access to information about the involvement of certain foreign governments in the terrorist attacks of September 2001.

(4) The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested that the President release the 28 pages.

(5) The Senate respects the need to keep information regarding intelligence sources and methods classified, but the Senate also recognizes that such purposes can be accomplished through careful selective redaction of specific words and passages, rather than effacing the section's contents entirely.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that in light of these findings the President should declassify the 28-page section of the Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 2001 that deals with foreign sources of support for the 9-11 hijackers, and that only those portions of the report that would directly compromise ongoing investigations or reveal intelligence sources and methods should remain classified.

This section shall take effect one day after the date of this bill's enactment.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this is an amendment that I also offered yesterday. I was not able to get a vote on it yesterday because of a ruling that it was nongermane. I have filed a notice that I intend to move to suspend Rule XVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I will do that at the end of my presentation. That will give us a vote on this important issue today. Let me describe why I think a vote is necessary and what this issue is.

This issue deals with 9/11, the day on which our country was attacked and thousands of Americans were murdered by terrorists, many of whom came into this country and lived among us and plotted an attack against the World Trade Center; they plotted an attack against the Pentagon and perhaps the U.S. Capitol. They hijacked commercial airliners and used commercial airliners, full of both passengers and fuel, as flying bombs and missiles.

No one in this country will forget the devastation, the loss of life, and the horror of the terrorist attacks committed against the United States on September 11.

We know a fair amount about September 11: who organized it and how it was organized. We know Osama bin Laden has taken credit for it. We know it was planned by Osama bin Laden and a terrorist group called al-Qaida, and they were supported by the Taliban government in Afghanistan. We know a fair amount about the details of that day and the activities of the hijackers. There has been a great deal of discussion about how did it happen—how did it happen that these coordinated attacks by terrorists occurred in this