

military effort within Operation Enduring Freedom that helped break the back of the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan. It is fitting to take time to remember the sacrifice of the participants in that noble undertaking in the mountains of Afghanistan, and to ask Americans to pray for those who gave their lives. Let us also pause to recall the continuing efforts of our armed forces and civilian national security employees in Operation Enduring Freedom, and in the global war on terrorism. We are profoundly grateful for the sacrifices of all, and offer our prayers and deep gratitude to them and to their families.

On March 1, 2002, Americans went into battle near Gardez, Afghanistan, with Afghan and other allies, to attack al-Qaida and Taliban forces in eastern Afghanistan. Over the course of seven days, our forces engaged and defeated determined terrorist forces throughout mountains and rough terrain, at elevations as high as 12,000 feet, and in temperatures that dropped to 15 degrees Fahrenheit at night.

During Operation Anaconda, American Special Operations Forces combined with elements of the 101st Airborne Division, the 10th Mountain Division, and other aviation and ground units representing several allied nationalities to bring the war begun on September 11, 2001, directly to the terrorists and their supporters.

On March 4, 2002, a small American force came under night attack at a desolate mountain base at Takur Ghar. As a result of the ensuing engagement, seven Americans died. They gave their lives while trying to help each other, in a remote and forbidding place where their duty and their devotion to one another and their families had taken them. These seven Americans—like all Americans, civilian and uniformed, now engaged in the noble effort to end the terrorist threat to our Nation—were volunteers. They didn't have to be on Takur Ghar, but when called they did not hesitate to step forward and say "send me." As a testament to their heroism, at least eight Silver Stars, the Nation's second highest medal for valor, were awarded to participants in the battle along with almost thirty Bronze stars and numerous other awards.

Mr. President, Americans and their allies gave their lives during Operation Anaconda and elsewhere in Afghanistan. Americans and their allies have given their lives in other engagements in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Let us take a moment to reflect upon the sacrifices of those who died on Takur Ghar, and on other remote battlefields in the war on terrorism. Let us rededicate ourselves to ensuring the safety of home and hearth for their families, and for ours. Finally, let the Senate and all Americans show deep gratitude for their unselfish decisions to step forward and say "send me."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE POSTAL WORKERS

• Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, contrary to popular belief, this motto, which appears on a number of postal buildings, is not the official motto of the United States Postal Service. But it certainly could have been this past winter in the Granite State, where we suffered through some of the coldest temperatures and heaviest snowfalls in recent memory.

In spite of these challenges, Postal Services employees in New Hampshire have achieved record performance. On-time First-Class overnight mail service is at all-time record levels, and customer satisfaction is at 98 percent. In addition, New Hampshire's Postal employees are the safest in the Northeast and among the safest in the nation. Under ordinary working conditions, these achievements would be impressive. When you consider the bone chilling cold and seemingly relentless snows of these past few months, these achievements are even more remarkable and indicative of the dedication and commitment of New Hampshire's Postal employees.

While the New Hampshire District of the United States Postal Service has always been among the national leaders in serving and satisfying their customers, I want to publicly thank each of New Hampshire's 4,000 Postal employees for their tireless efforts, especially over these past few months: the employees are the processing and distribution plants who made sure that the mail was ready for timely dispatch despite the cancelled flights and closed roads caused by the inclement weather, the maintenance people who kept the sorting machines running efficiently as well as the employees who maintained the vehicles so that mail could be transported safely and on time; letter carriers that withstood the cold, brutal weather and traversed through mountains of snow to provide delivery to their customers; and the clerks in the post offices who cheerfully greeted customers and gladly handed over mail rendered undeliverable in areas with impassible roads.

I also would like to give a well-deserved thank you to the postal customers in our great state who worked so hard to maintain safe access to their mail receptacles. Clearly, mail service this past winter was a team effort requiring patience and cooperation among and between Postal employees and New Hampshire's Postal customers. Once again, New Hampshire's hardy residents and Postal employees delivered.●

HONORING THE LOUISVILLE BALLET

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I have the privilege and honor of rising today to recognize the Louisville Ballet, the

State Ballet of Kentucky. Last week, this organization celebrated its 50th anniversary in the performing arts. This occasion was marked by special performances and educational events throughout the week.

This company originally started as a civic ballet company, performing on a production-by-production basis. It was not until 1975, when eight dancers were hired as an ensemble company, that the company achieved professional recognition and status. Now, 50 years later, the Louisville Ballet employs over 30 dancers, occupies the award-winning Louisville Ballet Center, administers the Louisville Ballet School, and reaches over 100,000 people every year. Their reputation for excellence in the arts drew the world-famous dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov to perform with the company for two seasons during the late seventies.

In addition to bringing excellence in performing arts to thousands of ballet fans, the company takes immense pride in its educational outreach programs offered to students. Through in-school, in-theater, and in-studio programs, students gain a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the ballet world, from early production planning basics to viewing a live performance. More importantly, these programs emphasize the importance of physical activity and positive self-esteem.

I appreciate the tradition of excellence created by the Louisville Ballet Company and their efforts to reach out to communities. Please join me in congratulating artistic director Mr. Bruce Simpson and the Louisville Ballet Company and wishing them another wonderful 50 years and beyond.●

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW R. DUKSA, SR.

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Matthew R. Duksa, Sr., a Connecticut businessman who passed away on November 28, 2002. Mr. Duksa, known as "Mattie" to many of his friends, was born and raised on Oak Bluff Farm, his family's dairy farm in Southington, CT. He graduated from Lewis High School and then attended the Cheshire Academy and the Connecticut College of Commerce in New Haven. Later, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from the McAllister School of Embalming in New York.

In 1949, Mattie opened the Borawski-Duksa Funeral Home in New Britain, CT and began a career providing comfort to families in their darkest hours. In 1952, he established the Newington Memorial Funeral Home in Newington, CT. He served as president of both firms until his death this past November.

Too often we think of community service as some immediate, extraordinary act or some heroic event. But communities are shaped by the daily routines and simple acts of kindness and respect that citizens display each

day. Men like Mattie Duksa—who do difficult jobs that need to be done—help to define and reinforce the values of our communities. The businesses they run and the lives they lead affect us all for the better.

Outside his business, Mattie had a well-developed sense of civic duty. He was a Newington volunteer firefighter for 16 years. He served as Director of the Newington Volunteer Ambulance Company. He was Chairman of West Meadow Cemetery Expansion and Building Committee. And he was a proud member of the Organization of Polish Businessmen.

The communities he served came to rely on Mattie's gentle understanding and his spirit. In 1997, the Newington Chamber of Commerce named Mattie "Business Person of the Year." In 2002, the funeral homes he founded were honored as "Family Business of the Year" by the University of Connecticut Family Business Program.

Mattie and his lifetime of service to his community will be missed, but remembered fondly by those who knew him and benefitted from his many contributions. I extend my sympathies to his wife Dottie, his son Matthew, his daughter Diana Duksa-Kurz, and his grandchildren James, Kristy, Johanna, and Jacqueline.●

HONORING MSGT KATHERINE BARTON

● Mr. BURNS. Madam President, today I rise to honor MSgt. Katherine Barton for her 20 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. She recently retired from the Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, in San Antonio, TX.

Katherine Barton grew up on air force bases all over the country, moving every few years as her father, Lt. Col. William C. Flannigan, was promoted and reassigned. She enlisted in the Air Force in 1979 and began her distinguished Air Force career as a police officer. In subsequent years she became a supervisor in medical administration, where she continued to perform her duties in an outstanding manner, as well as earning her bachelor's degree in History from the University of Houston.

MSgt. Katherine Barton's service includes Active Duty assignments in New York and Texas, National Guard assignments in Vermont and Texas, and Air Force Reserve assignments in Louisiana and Texas.

MSgt. Katherine Barton and her husband, Keith, are the proud parents of three sons. Like most military families, Keith's support has been instrumental in Katherine's service to her country.

While in the Reserves, MSgt. Katherine Barton has been activated in time of war, not once, but twice; in January 1991 for the gulf war and again in October 2001 for the war on terror. When she was needed most, MSgt. Katherine Barton left her job as a teacher, the comforts of her home, and

the arms of a loving family to serve her country.

Madam President, I congratulate MSgt. Katherine Barton for her 20 years of service to our great Nation. Her contributions to the U.S. Air Force and to all Americans she protected will not be forgotten.●

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I wanted to share with my colleagues the text of a speech delivered by Jürgen E. Schrempp, chairman of the Board of Management DaimlerChrysler AG, on December 2, 2002, at an event sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. I had the honor and privilege of introducing Mr. Schrempp at this event, and I hope his insights about the automotive industry and about international trade will be helpful as we, as a nation, work to strengthen our economy.

The speech follows.

THE TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP

1. Introduction—Senator Lugar, Excellencies, Honored guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you for your warm welcome. Senator, may I offer my special thanks for your thoughtful and gracious introduction. Your remarks are deeply appreciated, coming as they do from a world leader in the field of foreign affairs. I would also like to thank the good people from the Center for Strategic and International Studies—and specifically Simon Serfaty—for their hard work in making this conference such a success. The value of the CSIS in facilitating dialogue about what route Europe and America should follow, to fulfill their joint destiny, is immeasurable. It's a great pleasure—and a privilege—for me to be with you today. It is also an opportunity to talk about an important, visceral part of my life. That is the relationship between Europe and the United States.

2. A personal view of the United States—I have a very personal view of this connection. My first real contact with America came during the early eighties. I had been appointed chief executive of Euclid, a Daimler-Benz subsidiary operating out of Cleveland, Ohio. The company produced really heavy-duty trucks. And it was my first really heavy-duty job with Daimler-Benz. In this two-year period: I discovered the bottomless hospitality of the American people. I discovered the extent to which my body could produce adrenaline. I came to grips with the reality of America's leadership in world affairs. And I became very aware of our crucial transatlantic links! Links in which DaimlerChrysler now has an extremely healthy self-interest! DaimlerChrysler is, after all, the most significant German-American company.

3. America's role in Europe—From my perspective, the positive impact of American actions on Europe is central in much of what we, as Europeans, have become. One of the highest points I can recall was the role played by the 41st President of the United States, and his team, in unifying Germany. And, of course, ending the Cold War. Never forget: It was the Americans who stood in the vanguard against European communism. From thousands of kilometers away across the Atlantic! I was certainly not surprised. America's warmth and friendship has been a given for a long time. America helped to establish the Berlin relief-corridor after the

war. It put in place the Marshall Plan to rehabilitate Europe. And its contribution to the wider freedoms now enjoyed by Europeans has been enormous.

4. The high stakes of alienating the EU from the US—Ladies and Gentlemen, Stakes are high in the complex areas of business and political diplomacy. Especially for the United States and Europe. More than anything, our priority must be to establish truths about one another and build on these. One such truth is that we are totally wedded to the cause of democracy. We are also inextricably bound together by the cause of those freedoms that define our civilization. These are the values that mark us as prime custodians of the free world. These are the values for which we are prepared to fight!

5. Commercial interdependence is the key—But it is not only these strong emotional ties that underpin the transatlantic bridge. Our commercial interdependence is a vital part of that bridge's structure. The United States and the European Union enjoy the world's most significant commercial relationship. They are, quite simply, each other's largest trade and investment partners. Together the United States and the EU account for 40 percent of world GDP as well as 80 percent of global foreign direct investment. It requires very little analysis to establish that this joint relationship is essential. Yet we now need to face a sudden and strange reality. The exceptional goodwill characterizing our historic links is being tested. Quite seriously, I might add.

6. The DaimlerChrysler example of excellent US/European relations—In this regard I have a real sense of *deja vu*. Mainly because of my experience at DaimlerChrysler! This merger offers the best example of outstanding transatlantic relations I can think of. Why do I say this? Well, shortly after the deal, global automotive markets began to deteriorate. The highly acclaimed "Merger of the Century" was suddenly under fire. But we stayed calm. We were patient. We held our course. Above all, we believed in ourselves. We had an unshakable sense that we should not meet operational challenges by changing our well-defined strategy. And, by the way, why should we have done so? Mercedes-Benz, the most valuable automotive brand in the world, remains the ultimate benchmark in the luxury segment. Our Commercial Vehicle Division was—and is—by some margin, the world's market leader in trucks, vans and buses. Therefore, we were able to focus on our main operational challenge. That was to implement our turnaround plan at Chrysler. Since then our phenomenal team in Auburn Hills has made outstanding progress. As a result, Chrysler Group earnings for the full-year 2002 will reflect a real turnaround. And on this score, I believe the empowering union of German and American interests was a critical factor. It prevented a deeper financial crisis—similar to those experienced at Chrysler in 1979 and 1991—from occurring. And Chrysler now enjoys the same access to credit markets as the rest of our group. Bearing in mind what happened before, I'm sure many Americans have recently breathed a huge sigh of relief!

7. The practical results of amalgamating Daimler-Benz and Chrysler—You may ask how we turned the corner. Firstly, we combined the very best of our American and German heritages. Then we unlocked the vast potential of our joint experience by working with extraordinary commitment—and loyalty—to one another! I can say with considerable pride that since the merger we have built an enterprise in which America and Germany can have great confidence. We have harmonized processes. We have exchanged components, engines and transmissions and other commodities. For example, we decided