

pride we as a family felt in them, the stories that they told us, I will be sharing with my colleagues over the next several days. But just the lasting impression I had was this juxtaposition of feeling, as we talked to the moms and dads and children, of concern for their husband or their spouse and, yes, an insecurity about their safety, which is natural, as we would all feel, but at the same time an optimism, a feeling of being able to contribute to the United States of America and our great democracy.

They were upbeat. They were optimistic. They were patriotic. And that sort of juxtaposition of feeling was something that was a real privilege for me and my family to experience. The one thing they did all say, as we finished church and went to lunch, was: Make sure, when you go back to Washington, that you let your colleagues know and let the President of the United States know how much we appreciate their leadership, their support for our troops abroad. Let the President know that we are keeping him and his family in our prayers.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 6 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the first hour shall be equally divided between the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the Senator from Arkansas, Mrs. LINCOLN, or their designees.

The Senator from Texas.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank our distinguished majority leader for visiting with the families of our troops from the 101st from his State. All of us are personally visiting with families of people who are there, and particularly in my case, I spent quite a bit of time talking to the families whose loved ones are either missing in action or are verified prisoners of war.

There is nothing more rewarding than talking to these incredible people who are afraid of what might be happening. They are, of course, going through something that all of us hope we will never have to go through, but they are very strong. They trust that we are doing everything possible to inform them, to find out the whereabouts

of these prisoners or missing persons. Most certainly, our military—this is something I personally ask in our briefing sessions—is trying to find out exactly where these prisoners or missing people are located.

They are working through the Red Cross to try to have a Red Cross representative see these prisoners just as the Red Cross representatives are being able to see the Iraqi prisoners who are being held by the allied forces. So it is a tough time for these wonderful people of America who are supporting their loved ones in this very trying time for them.

All of us want to be reminded that there are specific laws, international laws, called the Geneva Convention, about the treatment of prisoners. Article 17 explicitly prohibits inflicting physical or mental torture and any other forms of coercion on prisoners in order to obtain information of any kind, including publicizing photographs where they can be recognized. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer questions may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind.

Article 23 of the Geneva Convention prevents a prisoner from being sent to or detained in areas where they may be exposed to the fire of the combat zone, and in no case can prisoners be used as human shields.

The Geneva Convention also requires access to the prisoners by officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We have informed the Iraqi Government that we intend to treat their prisoners with dignity and abide by the Geneva Convention. We most certainly are appealing to the Iraqis to let in the Red Cross personnel.

One of the benefits of the so-called embedded media is that they are on the scene with our military and are able to provide some very candid photos of our troops in action.

I want to show a few more of the photos. I started some of them last week. I think these photos really speak more than a thousand words about what it is to be at the front. We see the pictures on television, but I wanted to display some of the still pictures showing how we are treating prisoners of war and the people of Iraq as our allied soldiers are coming upon them.

This photo shows a U.S. marine helping an injured prisoner of war moments after securing the port of Umm Qasr in southern Iraq. It was taken on March 23 of this year.

U.S. Marine LCpl Marcco Ware of Los Angeles carries an Iraqi soldier who was injured in an attack on Ware's outfit on Tuesday, March 26, 2003. This unit has been attacking LCpl Ware's unit, but he found this injured soldier and is carrying him to safety.

I am very proud of the character and courage of our forces and the way they are treating those who are in their care. At the same time, we have seen our soldiers paraded on Iraqi television

in clear violation of international law. We applaud our troops' bravery, courage, and professionalism. Our prayers are with them and their families in this most difficult time.

President Bush has demanded that the Iraqis immediately comply with the Geneva Convention. I urge all of those who might have information that could be helpful to the Red Cross in getting in to see our prisoners of war to bring that forward. I encourage the Iraqi Government—if there is any shred of dignity—to make sure they abide by the Geneva Convention, just as our forces are abiding by it.

I know so many in the Senate are reaching out in their individual States, trying to make sure that we touch the families who are suffering so much. In churches throughout my hometown of Dallas, they have prayer lists including every person who is connected to a member of that particular parish. Those young men and women are being named individually in those prayers. I think all of us are touched. We have Texas embedded media.

I close with part of a piece in the San Antonio Express that was written by Sig Christenson, their military correspondent who is embedded with the 3rd Infantry Division:

March 25: It was a little after 3 p.m. today when the little slice of Iraq that we occupy dimmed.

A vicious sandstorm, almost certainly the worst one yet for the 3rd Infantry Division troops that have been here for months, swept over the sandy plateau we took from 200 or so Iraqi troops this past Sunday.

"Wow, it's dark," Airman 1st Class Dan Housely said.

Not to mention surreal.

In less time than it takes to watch a rerun of "The Beverly Hillbillies," the once-overcast but relatively clear desert was a swirling mass of sand. An orange hue descended over the landscape, creating a scene resembling Viking probe photos of Mars.

Sand gets into everything around here, and especially seems drawn to your sinuses and ears. Take a "Baby Wipe bath," as soldiers call it, and you'll clear out clumps of dirt from your ears—day after day.

Outside, gale-force winds kick up the sandy floor and turn each fine grain into a weapon. . . . Within an hour, I had a headache that pulsed at the back of my skull.

It could be worse.

We hold the high ground and have lots of firepower, but that won't stop Iraqis loyal to Saddam Hussein. Already we've lost a soldier within walking distance of my cot—he was shot dead—and our troops have encountered Iraqis wearing American military uniforms close to our camp.

If today's battle for a bridge outside An Najaf is any example, we can expect a determined, fierce resistance all the way to Baghdad. Iraqi regulars and elite militia driving trucks took on 70-ton M1A1 tanks, coming at them again and again.

That kind of fanaticism is cause for my imagination to go wild as I prepare to sleep. A sandstorm gives perfect cover to infiltrators and snipers out here, and as I worked today I found myself frequently looking out my Humvee. It could become a habit.

Mr. President, I appreciate very much Senator LINCOLN from Arkansas sharing this hour with me, and the rest of the hour on our side will be managed by Senator THOMAS of Wyoming.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I compliment my colleague from Texas. She and I have embarked on this opportunity to really highlight a tribute to our troops. I am honored to share the responsibility with her, and I am certainly appreciative of all the stories she brings to light as we do highlight and pay tribute to our troops. It is really a forum for all of us to share in saluting the efforts of our men and women in uniform, and also to remind one another that as we lift up our prayers and thoughts for the families of our constituencies that have men, women, and family members who are fighting in the Middle East in this conflict, we can also lift up our thoughts and prayers for one another's constituents. It is not just the people from Arkansas I can lift up my prayers for but all the service men and women, so that they know in return it is not just their Senators but our whole body having thoughts and prayers for the men and women who are so gallantly defending our freedoms in a land so far away.

When we kicked this off last week, we really hoped to have daily contributions from our colleagues paying tribute to our Armed Forces and to those among our own constituents who are sacrificing in the liberation of Iraq and other operations. I speak for myself and, I am sure, Senator HUTCHISON when I say the response has been overwhelming. We appreciate the contributions made by our colleagues and others who have brought stories to the floor. We thank our colleagues for their participation and encourage all of them to continue to bring forth those stories so that we all might share with one another the experiences we are having in our own offices, particularly with our own constituents.

Today I want to briefly speak about two of my constituents from Arkansas, both of whom were called to serve in Iraq.

The first is Hospital Corpsman Michael Vann Johnson, Jr, a 25-year-old Navy medic and Little Rock native who was serving in the 3rd Battalion of the 5th Marine Expeditionary Force.

On Tuesday of last week, Michael was the first Arkansas serviceman reported to die in action, as well as the first Navy casualty, when he was hit by shrapnel from an exploding grenade. At that time, Michael was tending to another wounded soldier, placing himself in harm's way in order to minister to the needs of others.

His was a display of incredible courage and a testament to our troops' dedication to their brothers and sisters in battle.

Oftentimes we do not really think about the camaraderie and the dedication these men and women in uniform have with one another, but it is a tremendous sacrifice they make on behalf of one another.

His was a display of courage and certainly dedication to his fellow man. I have with me today a story about Michael Johnson that was published in yesterday's Washington Post, a story that gives us a glimpse of the kind of man he was. The story details a number of Michael's qualities as remembered by those who really knew him the best—his energy, his intelligence, his compassion, and his generosity. These were the qualities that spurred him to volunteer for an assignment in the Middle East because he wanted to be there to help his brothers when they went into battle.

I ask unanimous consent that this Washington Post profile of Michael Johnson be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mrs. LINCOLN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, as his father, Michael Vann Johnson, Sr., said last week:

He died for the freedom that we have, the freedom that each of us loves.

A beautiful sentiment and a fitting tribute to a young man who made the ultimate sacrifice to make this world a safer place for all of us.

I know my colleagues join me in sending out our deepest condolences to Michael's family, friends, and loved ones, particularly his parents and his wife Cherice, in this very difficult time.

As I mentioned earlier, it is so important for us collectively, as a body, to lift up our prayers for each and every man and woman serving this country in conflict right now. So I ask all of my colleagues to keep his family in their prayers.

I would also like to recognize today LCpl James Smedley of the U.S. Marine Corps. Prior to being deployed to Iraq, Jason was assigned to the 4th Civil Affairs Group here in Washington, DC. He was also enrolled as a student at Howard University. And if all of that is not enough to keep a young man busy at his age, he was also a valuable full-time member of my personal staff here in my Washington office.

In January, Jason was deployed to Iraq. He was called up on a Tuesday, and he left on that following Friday. Some of my colleagues may recall that Jason accompanied me here one morning before his departure so that I could recognize his service on the Senate floor. He is a very handsome young man, full of energy, excitement, and dedication not only to his country but to his fellow man and to his Creator. He is the epitome of what we think of in the youth of America: young people who are excited about what they can contribute, who they can become, and what they can do for others.

On Friday morning, we received news that Jason had been wounded in combat and was being transported to a field hospital. For several hours that morning, we were uncertain as to the extent of the injuries he had suffered,

but I am happy to report that although Jason had been wounded, he is safe and secure at a military hospital in Germany with relatively minor wounds to his arm and his hand. He is expected to recover fully from his injuries and may, in fact, return to the battlefield upon his recovery. That is yet to be determined.

I have to share what I felt when I got an e-mail that said Jason had been wounded. We did not know how he was. All we knew is he was in a field hospital probably about to undergo surgery. I knew that I was going to have to call his mother, Carolyn, whom I knew and who had come up with Jason to help him pack for his departure.

I thought about how she must feel. I thought to myself: Here I am with twin boys almost 7 years old. Sometimes I even have a twinge of, I do not know, guilt, or certainly just distance when my children go for a sleepover, and here this woman had sent her son across the sea to a land unknown to him and to her. How she must feel to have gotten word that he had been injured but she did not know how badly, she did not know where he was, she did not know who was caring for him.

I called her, and she was remarkably steady. She, too, had gotten an e-mail from Jason just a couple of weeks ago where he had lifted up a prayer for her, just like the e-mail he had sent me: Dear Senator, I want you to know how I am doing. I have wonderful men that I am traveling with and who I will be fighting with, and I want to lift up a prayer for you. I want to lift up a prayer for you and for my friends in the office.

This was a young man not worried about himself but about others.

When I spoke with Carolyn, she was remarkably steady, and through the course of the day, we received another e-mail saying that he was doing OK, we knew where he was, and that he was going to be all right. I heard the sigh of a comforted mother who had gotten word that everything was OK for the time being. What small way I could identify with that, I lifted up my sigh, too.

Along with Jason's families and friends, I wish to say I am deeply proud of his valiant service, and we all look forward to him returning home in good health as soon as possible.

Jason Smedley, a young marine wounded in action, and Michael Johnson, a Navy corpsman killed as he bravely sacrificed to help others—these, Mr. President, are the human faces of the war to liberate Iraq. We will not forget their courage and commitment, and it is in their honor that the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, in conjunction with the troops of our allies, will move forward with their mission to liberate Iraq from the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and destroy Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. The sacrifices of these young men and women will be well honored when this mission is complete.

Mr. President, I wish to touch on one other item. I mentioned the e-mails. Many of our offices are getting e-mails and letters. I have recently received many e-mails from schoolchildren who want to send packages to our troops. They want to do letters and collages. They want to send care packages. Such patriotism among our young people always inspires me, and it is a wonderful tribute to the young people of this country. I know letters and pictures from schoolchildren across this country would light up the faces of our troops, many of which woke up this morning and each morning in sand-filled dugouts.

At this point, the Department of Defense wants to make sure the letters and drawings from relatives make it to our troops first. So they asked us to hold off sending care packages to the Middle East for the time being.

The Defense Department is encouraging folks who want to show their support to do so in a variety of ways, and I thought I would take a moment to share those with everybody.

To send a message to the troops, you can e-mail them through www.operationdearabby.net. If you have already purchased goods to send in care packages, the Defense Department suggests that for the time being you send those to a local veterans home. A wonderful way to honor the men and women in service to this country today is to certainly honor those who have served our country in the past.

If you have perishables or items you have brought together with the intent of sending them abroad, perhaps you could take them to a local veterans home and share them with the veterans community of this country. Then perhaps at a later date, you can do something for the troops abroad.

You could also call a local base to notify the families of deployed servicemen that you have goods, and they can collect them and send them off if it is at all possible. The real key has been that the Department of Defense, for security purposes, does not want to be inundated with packages for our service men and women and hope you will look at creative ways to honor our troops, just as we are today and each and every day coming to the floor of the U.S. Senate to honor these wonderful service men and women who are defending our country. We are looking also for the multitude of ways we can honor them. We encourage each and every one of our constituents to be inventive and to look for other ways they can honor those service men and women who are serving our country. You could also support the troops by displaying a flag and teaching your children respect for the flag.

Our hope is that in the coming weeks we will all look for ways to honor those men and women who are serving our country abroad, who are defending our freedoms, and who are working to eliminate the tyranny of Saddam Hussein.

I thank all of my colleagues who join us in this effort, and in the coming days I look forward to the ways we can honor our troops. I do, again, appreciate the support and the work of my colleague from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON, in this effort.

I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 30, 2003]

MEDIC WHO DIED TORN BY DUTY, DOUBTS

(By Amy Goldstein)

As a medic at a San Diego naval clinic, he had been resolute in volunteering for duty in Iraq. But Michael V. Johnson Jr. was a healer by training and temperament, and once he arrived in the Middle East, he was uncertain of the morality of having placed himself in war.

In letters to his wife, Cherice, sometime two letters a day, he wrote out his worries about what he—and the Marine division to which he was attached—might be called upon to do. How would God view him if he helped take a life?

On the war's sixth day, last Tuesday, it was Johnson who was killed, becoming the first naval casualty in Iraq. His 26th birthday would have been tomorrow, his wedding anniversary in two weeks. At 4:30 a.m. Thursday, Cherice Johnson was awakened by knocks on the door of their military housing. Seeing the chaplain and the officer through the peephole, she understood why they had come.

The information was sketchy—Johnson apparently had died when shrapnel from a grenade struck his head, she was told. The military emissaries did not say exactly where he had been. Nor did they explain "if it was an accident on our behalf or in combat," said his wife, 24, who had fallen in love with him when she was a high school senior and he a college sophomore in Little Rock.

He was a young man of many facets: an extrovert with the energy of a child, a passion for basketball, a gift for drawing and singing, a knack for science and calculus.

In Little Rock, his mother, Jana Norfleet, said she is trying to draw comfort from a certain symmetry: a son born in the spring and lost in the spring.

She said she tried to instill a sense of striving in the youngest of her three children, her only son. "I pushed him a lot," she said. "We would spend many nights just sitting, studying together. We didn't move until he was finished." And even when he was young, she was explicit about her reasons. "I'm doing this to make you realize there are many kids out there who are going to excel higher," she would tell him "and I want you to be in that group."

Starting in second grade, he was in classes for gifted and talented students. He graduated from Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School, which selects its students from the entire county. His mother and stepfather still keep on a living room shelf a plaque from his freshman year, when he was listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Six-foot-one, he excelled at basketball. "I think he saw himself as a basketball professional in his dreams," his mother said, "but we kind of swayed him in the other direction. We told him, 'That should be your second love. You need to make a living, son.'"

Growing up, he had loved the cats, dogs, gerbils and fish in his family's house, and he was fascinated in biology classes by dissection. Compassion was part of his Christian faith, forged by his stepfather's insistence on attending church every Sunday.

He thought of a career that involved medicine. Together with a girlfriend at the time,

he enrolled at the University of Central Arkansas, commuting the 45 minutes north to Conway, Ark. He hoped to enter classes that would lead him into physical therapy, but they were full, and he pursued pre-engineering classes for two years before he left.

"He went into the Navy to continue his education, to have it paid for by Uncle Sam," said his mother, who was uneasy about his choice but told him she would support him.

"He had wanted to strive for bigger and better things and travel, and he just came upon the Navy and decided that would be the starting point for what he wanted to do," his wife, Cherice, said.

After basic training, he trained as a hospital corpsman at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., then was assigned to a clinic at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot that is part of the Naval Medical Center, San Diego. He had an affinity for the work. He gave physicals to potential recruits, helped to treat the sick and, at times, provided counseling.

He and Cherice formed a wide circle of friends, and he developed an attachment to the men he thought of as brothers in a surrogate, West Coast family. Last June, he extended his five-year enlistment by a year.

Late in the year, as the prospect of war grew, he was among fewer than half-dozen of the clinic co-workers he knew who volunteered for the Middle East, Cherice Johnson said.

He did not ask his mother for her opinion before deciding. If he had, she would have told him not to go, "because that's what mothers say," Norfleet said. "I'm selfish. I'm going to tell you that right here and now. That's my baby. But he didn't ask me. He's a man.

She told him, once again, that she supported his choice, but her feelings slipped out. "Don't you think you could find a tent like on the 'M*A*S*H' series, a tent to treat the wounded back behind? she asked.

He replied, she recalled, that "they were his brothers, and he wanted to be there with them and for them."

His final conversation with his mother went on for two hours, on a cell phone as he was about to be deployed from California. He last called his wife on a refueling stop in Spain.

The last letter to his mother arrived just over two weeks ago from Kuwait. "By the time you receive this letter, I will have gone to war," he wrote. "If I don't make it back don't be sad for me. Be happy for me and praise God, because I've gone to heaven to be with grandma."

"The reality of war draws you closer to God," the medic wrote. "It lets you know how valuable life really is."

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I will take some time this afternoon to recognize what is being done for us and for this country. All of us have strong feelings about those who are defending freedom. We have talked about the risks they take, but I rise today to recognize the sacrifice of a particular Marine Corps Second Lieutenant, Therrel Shane Childers.

Certainly all of us recognize the necessity of defending freedom. We recognize the willingness of brave men and women to do what is necessary. We recognize the connection between the land of the free and the home of the brave. However, when we have these losses,

they are a great tragedy to all of us, particularly to the families and loved ones.

Known as Shane to his family and friends, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment of the 1st Marine Division of Camp Pendleton. Shane was the first combat casualty of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 30 years old.

2LT Childers was lost while leading his platoon in a fight to secure a pumping station in southern Iraq. Shane's parents, Joseph and Judy Childers of Powell, WY, say that Shane always wanted to be a marine. His family says he liked the rhythm of life in the Corps, the pride that goes with wearing the Marine uniform.

After his high school graduation in 1990, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served in the Persian Gulf war. After his duty in the gulf war, Shane served as a Marine security guard at the American consulate in Geneva, Switzerland, and at the American Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

Shane later left the Marines and attended college at the Citadel where he completed his studies in an untraditional 3 years and was commissioned in 2001. Today, we mourn the loss of this young man and certainly pray for his family.

I express my condolences to the Childers family and my gratitude to the men and women who wear the uniform and walk the line so that our Nation can continue to remain free.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, more than anything else, we all are thinking about the conflicts that are going on in Iraq and about our men and women who are fighting there. Of course, we have to continue to do what we have to do. Our lives go forward. We think about it a lot, and hear a great deal about it—I suppose more because of the embedded media—than we have ever heard before. We hear various kinds of reports. Certainly they are good for us to hear. We need to know what is happening. From time to time, we also hear some questionable comments and questions about the commitment of our leadership. Nevertheless, that is where we are.

I guess all of us think a lot about why we are there, what needs to be done, and what will be the outcome. This morning I met with a group of 8th graders from Big Piney, WY, one of the smaller towns in western Wyoming. The whole class from the high school came. I think there were 30 of them. One of them asked: What do you think of the war?

Well, how would you react to 8th graders who ask that? I think it makes you really wonder. So we talked a little bit about it. We talked about the fact that it is a war that was brought about by terrorism, a war that was brought about by what happened in the Persian Gulf 12 years ago, a war that was brought about by the fact that Saddam Hussein, who had to sign an agreement to finish that war because he was defeated, has not done what he was required to do.

We have to talk a little bit about the fact that the whole reason we are there, the whole effort, is to disarm Saddam for the safety of the United States, for the safety of the world. No one wants to have a war, certainly. It is not anything that we would like to do. He had great opportunities to do something different in these past 12 years. He refused to do so.

These 8th grade kids seemed to understand that no one wants war but we have to defend freedom. We have had to defend freedom numerous times, of course—quite different situations, quite different circumstances, but we find ourselves in different circumstance now as a result of 11 September, where instead of having to be afraid of divisions landing on your shore with artillery, and so on, now we find that one or two persons with mass destruction tools and weapons can destroy 3,000 people very easily. So it is a different situation. It is hard for young people to understand that, but I was very pleased with the fact that they do not like war—neither do we—but they understood that you have to defend those things that threaten the basis of our country.

They were in Washington, DC, to see the foundation of the United States, to see what freedom is about: The Government of the people, by the people and for the people. They were here to see the Supreme Court. They were here to see the Constitution, the thing that probably ensures our freedom more than any other document. They understood that we have to defend those things, and I was so pleased.

They were very skeptical. When they thought about it some and they thought about it in terms of the kinds of threats that are there and then when they thought about it in terms of those people who are voluntarily protecting our freedoms, who have gone into a war situation—I am a little bit prejudiced, being a marine, as to the Marine aspect of it, but everyone who is there is sacrificing for our freedom. Certainly we have a right to speak out and we have a right to have different views, but I hope we all recognize our responsibility to support our troops, people who are giving more than they could possibly be asked. We have the opportunity to do that.

It is a good exercise for us to be able to talk to young people about why it is we are involved and the importance of protecting the kind of country we have and want to maintain. Certainly there is nothing more important than that.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President and distinguished colleagues, America is the greatest country the world has ever known. And, today, in places across the world, the greatest fighting men and women the world has ever known continue America's legacy of liberating oppressed people.

My friends, America went to Bosnia to offer liberation and hope from despair and suffering—we went to Haiti to offer hope to an oppressed people—we went to Somalia to offer America's legacy of a better life for people who had rarely seen a day free of suffering, persecution and torture.

Freedom and liberty are two words that should stir great emotions in all Americans.

Freedom and liberty are the gift of America to oppressed people everywhere.

Freedom and liberty, speak often these words because America's sons and daughters are in Iraq today doing what Americans have done for generations: We offer hope for a better tomorrow.

Let's talk about America's sons and daughters. They come from an America today that is no less interested in its own freedom and liberties than the freedom and liberties we wish for all people.

They are the sons and daughters of a great American revolution that never ends. The cause of freedom and liberty never ends.

We have seen the pros and cons in the streets of American cities these past several weeks. There are great passions on both sides. The great glory of America is that 28 protestors can occupy the office of a U.S. Senator and not fear being put to death for their views.

This is the fight that America's sons and daughters wage today.

If we may, for a moment, find peace in the haze of conflict between those who support our efforts today, and those who do not, I ask that we do it in the name of America's sons and daughters who have been called upon to duty and service. Perhaps our energies now can be better spent by focusing on the world that we create in America today when our troops return.

Get off the couch; stop watching the news; forget the radio broadcasts; turn off the playstation; unplug the TV; get outside, America.

We've had our say. Now let's have our say for the tens of thousands of Americans fighting for freedom and liberty.

Let us dedicate our energy—our pro and our con—to building the best possible Nation for our troops to come home to.

Join hands and voices to help the moms, the dads, the husbands, the wives, the sons, the daughters, the brothers and the sisters to get through these difficult days. Offer more than words; offer hope indeed.

Walk with them together during these times, open your homes and open your hearts. Our Nation is at war with an enemy across the world.

Let us not be a nation at war with each other within. We have a common goal: Offer comfort and hope and encouragement to those who fight for our freedom, and those who are left behind to pray for their success and safe return home.

America, the greatness of our Nation is not that we can survive conflict and division. The greatness of America is that we can build upon our differences and multiply our blessings.

For the sake of the families of those who sacrifice, for the sake of the soldiers who are in harm's way, let us build a better America for their return.

These are momentous days in the history of this country. They remind me of this remarkable statement by one of our early patriots, Patrick Henry, during our war of independence. He wrote:

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheaply, we esteem too lightly; 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price on its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated.

You can talk about equality or you can make it happen.

You can sympathize with the poor or you can help create a job for them.

Yes, these are challenging times; we are witnessing the birth of a new century and a new moment of hope for mankind. Yes, these are dangerous, trying times, but it is a great time to be alive.

Allow me to share some of my favorite quotes from Abraham Lincoln to guide our thoughts about this momentous time.

In the second inaugural, Lincoln said:

The dogmas of the quite past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise to the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

You don't undertake change for the sake of change. But when the circumstances have changed, it is folly to stick with the old game plan.

The fall of the Soviet Union changed the world forever.

September 11 changed the world forever.

The problem with some at the United Nations and even some in our own Con-

gress is that they are "enthralled" with the old way of doing things. To them you don't deal with evil, you just contain it. But that dogma led to the deaths of millions in Rwanda and Cambodia because we were too timid to act.

For decades we allowed terror networks to grow and infiltrate even free societies. Because we thought there was nothing we could do about so pervasive an evil, we just hoped for the best.

Now we have historic opportunity to strike a decisive blow against tyranny and terrorism in one place and give birth to a new century of hope for freedom and security. We must accept the moral responsibility our power gives us.

Lincoln also said:

Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us do our duty as we understand it.

Our Nation, more than any other, was born on eternal values—That God had endowed all people with inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But as much as we would like to believe it, the power of those ideals do not sweep the globe and enforce themselves. Somebody has to do it.

Right now the United States, Britain and a couple of dozen other nations are doing the dirty work of liberty. The lesson of history is: somebody has to do it.

Lincoln was right; it takes faith to do it. Certain things can't be proven to people who are devoted to another path.

We have a duty to do, and to most of us it is clear. Just because everybody doesn't see it doesn't mean it isn't exactly the right thing to do.

Finally, a word about our great President. Here is a message for "43" from "16". Lincoln said:

If I were to read, much less answer all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for business. I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what's said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, then angels swearing I was right would make no difference.

I am profoundly grateful that we have a President who does not run his life by what the polls say. That is the opposite of leadership.

I believe in a free media. I believe in the power of public opinion. But I see red when I see newspaper and Internet polls one week into the war in Iraq, asking about whether we are bogged down or if the President is using the right strategy.

So much of the 24-7 commenting and opinionating out there is precisely the substance that covers the floors of Minnesota feedlots.

In a long ago war it was said:

They also serve who only stand and wait.

The same is not true for those who just sit and wait.

Public opinion is, as it should be, strongly with this President; strongly

with our fighting men and women; strongly that we are doing the right thing in the name of freedom, in the name of liberty; to be an end to terror, to be an end to oppression, to be an end to rape, to be an end to torture, and to open up new worlds of possibilities. But I do ardently wish people would shut off the TV and shut off the computer and get out there and build the best possible great Nation for our troops to come home to. Shut it all off, say a prayer for our troops, say a prayer for our leaders, and go to work building a great America.

Finally, one more word from Lincoln and I am done:

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and all Nations.

May God bless our fighting men and women on the front line. May God bless and support and hold and comfort the families of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. May God bless the United States of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I understand it is appropriate to speak in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I came to the floor to say a few words about Senator Patrick Moynihan. Obviously, I didn't know him for all of his very successful and rather stupendous life, but I knew him rather well for that portion spent in the Senate. Even as to that portion, it was not my privilege to spend a great deal of time on the same committees with the Senator. But it was obvious to me he was a very big man, not big only in stature—he was very tall—but clearly he spoke eloquently and could grasp the situation with a demeanor and in a manner that was not very common and ordinary here.

From my standpoint, we struck up a friendship principally based upon his asking me a lot of questions about the budget and about my work as chairman or ranking member on the Senate floor.

Today it was my privilege to attend, with my wife Nancy, his funeral mass and some of the other ceremonial