



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2003

No. 52

## Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Monsignor Robert Fuhrman, the Church of St. Gabriel, in Saddle River, NJ.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty Father, terror and tyranny are our enemies. Disunity is our enemy too. But United States are States that endure! At this time of international stress we stand before You and wonder: Could there one day be worldwide tranquility? May we know peace? Will all Your people ever recognize their responsibilities to each other as the one human family?

Loving God, our countless personal freedoms distinguish us and allow us to fulfill our potential and Your plan. Help all Americans to count our blessings so that we will remain unified, especially so the war may end quickly, with evil suffering a singular defeat.

Lord, the Congress leads by serving, by representing and expressing the will of the people who are privileged to be Americans. Guide the Senate in the light of Truth. Give these men and women the support and the challenge of a united people who never let patriotism wane. A house divided against itself will fall. May this House never fall.

We make all our prayers with confidence in You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CONRAD BURNS, a Senator from the State of Montana, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, this morning the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 10 a.m. Members who wish to make statements in support of our troops are encouraged to do so over the next hour.

At 10 a.m., the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Timothy Tymkovich, to be Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit. Under the previous order, there will be up to 6 hours for debate on the nomination. It is hoped that the nomination will not require all of the 6 hours and that we will be able to yield back time and have a vote a little bit earlier.

The Senate will recess at 12:30 p.m. for the weekly party luncheons.

We are also attempting to reach agreements on several other pieces of legislation, including the CARE Act, the FISA bill, and other bills relating to our Armed Forces personnel. We will also continue to process nominations, including judges, as they become available.

As a reminder, a fourth cloture vote will occur on the Estrada nomination during tomorrow's session.

Finally, I expect the Senate to begin the supplemental appropriations bill on Wednesday, if that bill becomes ready for floor action. I hope we can expedite the consideration of that bill this week so that we are able to continue the flow of resources to our troops in the field.

Therefore, all Senators should expect a very busy week with rollcall votes each day.

Madam President, I yield the floor. I wish to make a brief statement about our troops, but I will be happy to yield.

Mr. REID. I do not have anything.

### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, we are now 12 days into Operation Iraqi Freedom. As I mentioned yesterday, I had the opportunity to visit the post of the 101st Airborne Division this weekend. It was a remarkable opportunity for me, and I wish to share with you a couple of my thoughts on that visit.

Our troops over the last 12 days have advanced 220 miles and now are sitting about 50 miles outside of Baghdad. We are all exposed, on the television and through our briefings, to the repetitive pounding of military targets day and night throughout Iraq. The key point, I believe, is that we do keep building our momentum both in Iraq and in America.

We have achieved many key objectives, and we will—there is no question—we will achieve our ultimate objective, and that is to disarm Saddam Hussein and to liberate the Iraqi people from his oppressive rule.

I am confident about that for so many reasons, but a lot of it has become real to me in a very personal sense after my visit to the 101st Airborne Division. For example, SP John G. Young is assigned to the A Company, 8th Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. He left Fort Campbell on March 1 of this year for Kuwait. He is crew chief on a CH-47 somewhere in the Iraqi desert. He is newly married. He is expecting a child in a few months and is doing an extraordinary job in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We thank him, we thank his mother, and we thank his wife for their courage.

At the 101st Airborne Division, Karyn, my wife, and Jonathan, my son, and I attended church services with the spouses and children of the Fort Campbell 101st Airborne Division. There are 50 chaplains as part of the 101st Airborne Division and 46 of those chaplains are overseas in Iraq and Kuwait. Seeing these families and the faces of these very young children as the pastor gathered them around the pulpit and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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came down and sat on the floor with the children asking them what their impressions were, what they pray for—the children were very young, 2, 3, 4, up to about 7 years of age.

One said: I pray for my daddy who is somewhere in the desert.

Another little girl raised her hand as they sat, about 20 of them, around the pastor, and said: I pray that Saddam Hussein quits doing bad things to other people.

The innocence, the understanding, and the wisdom of these young children was very apparent.

I also had a chance to talk to Michele Schumer, whose husband is a member of the Special Forces and is currently deployed in Iraq. Michele is the mother of a child in kindergarten and has another child on the way.

We talked to Adra Barna, a mother of 3-year-old twin girls, who clearly had her hands full as we watched her manage them during the church service. Her husband is deployed in Iraq as well.

I talked to Julie Sparkman. She and her husband are newlyweds. It is hard for anyone at any point to be separated, but to be separated shortly after marriage clearly introduces all sorts of feelings that we all can share with Julie and her husband. Having just been married, imagine the fear when there was that first grenade attack at Camp Pennsylvania: Was my husband involved in that or not? Was he injured or not? He was not, but again, we can personalize in many ways the experiences that result from the tremendous service of these young men and women.

Above all, these families are patriotic. I thought the atmosphere would be very somber. In truth, it was very upbeat, optimistic, and energetic. These young spouses are so proud of their husbands being able to serve all of us and able to literally put their lives on the line for those causes of freedom, democracy, and peace.

In closing, the families of Fort Campbell did ask me to share with the President their support and their prayers for the tremendous job he is doing as Commander in Chief. They are concerned about their loved ones but proud they are able to serve the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with the time to be equally divided between the Senator from Texas and the Democratic leader or their designees.

The Senator from Montana.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I rise to share another story that comes from the battlefield of Iraq. There are a thousand of these stories, but I think it is the way we start our day as a reminder of exactly what is going on at ground level—in other words, where the rubber hits the road.

In the last 12 or 13 days, we have seen how deeply committed our men and women in uniform are. They fight for a great cause of disarming Saddam Hussein's regime from its weapons of mass destruction, but also at the same time they understand that they are our brother's keeper.

What brought this home to me was a picture of this one marine carrying his injured comrade from the battlefield. It is as awe inspiring as any imagine that might come from the field of conflict. One man hurt his leg. His buddy slings him over his back and carries him safely, like a firefighter rescuing somebody from a burning building. Only in this case, it looks as though the enemy was not being cooperative or too helpful.

Men serving in battle form iron bonds. They have to because it is for the person next to them and for their country. Those bonds often forge the determination and the will to win. We can see the grim determination etched in the face of the marine who is doing the carrying. He seems to be thinking: It is all right, buddy. We will be out of here. You are in good hands.

Then perhaps when they reached the point where they were saved, the guy being carried likely responded: You do it for me, Semper Fi.

Some would say these two marines are heroes. But I would not put them in the hero class. They are America. They are the story of America. The marine who was hurt is from Oregon. The marine who saved him is from South Carolina. It does not matter what State one is from; their bond is in the unit in which they serve and in the miniature stars-and-stripe patch sewn on every shoulder of every sleeve.

For the marine from Oregon, his bond was his family heritage. His father was a career marine who rose to the top rank of sergeant major. His father was in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983 when terrorists bombed the Marine barracks, losing 241 of his buddies. The father served in combat in 1991 during Operation Desert Storm. The day after the son shipped out for Kuwait, that marine's father died. The son returned home to the funeral, returned to the scene, and caught up with his unit.

The depth of commitment of our brave Americans is shown on the battlefields not only here but also in our history. It is a cause to them and one that inspires us. May we who are in the policy business learn our lesson to be that inspiring. We, too, should be where most of them are, where the rubber hits the road. This is where it is carried out.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to the more than 43 United States soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in the mission to liberate the Iraqi people and to disarm Saddam Hussein: The 16 who are missing, the 7 who have been captured, the 109 who have been injured, and all of those men and women on the ground, in the skies, and on the seas, who are so bravely supporting the cause of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

By now, we have all seen the images on our television screens, yet little can we truly comprehend the real nature of the dangers they face, and the courage they must summon. Let us then dedicate these days to the acknowledgment of their heroism, for how profoundly grateful and blessed we are that these men and women are committed to serving our Nation and the ideals for which it stands during this pivotal and tumultuous chapter in America's proud history.

In particular, I rise this morning to honor two Maine sons—Marine MAJ Jay Thomas Aubin and Marine CPL Brian Matthew Kennedy—who were among the twelve U.S. and British Marines killed Thursday, March 20 when their CH-46E Sea Helicopter crashed in Kuwait, just seven miles from the Iraq border. While I never had the opportunity to meet these two exceptional Marines in person, over the last week I feel I have come to know them, at least in some small but very meaningful way.

MAJ Aubin and CPL Kennedy embodied the Marine Corps values of honor, courage and dedication—no matter the odds, no matter the fight. They had the mental, moral and physical strength to follow the U.S. Marine decree to do the right thing, in the right way, for the right reasons. Both men willingly and knowingly laid their lives on the line to support and defend the U.S. Constitution and protect our national security. Both men believed in their mission.

Marines are often described as a family. They are initiated en masse by boot camps and extreme conditions many of us cannot even begin to imagine. They train together day in and day out and understand each other's struggles, fears, and feelings of pride. And they fight together, bound by a common code and a calling, gallantly facing any enemy whose goal is the destruction of our way of life.

Indeed, they live by one simple truth, that risking American lives is sometimes necessary to defending America's freedom. This realization and their willingness to act upon it is what makes the sacrifice of MAJ Aubin and CPL Kennedy all the more poignant.

So we must celebrate their lives and memories as the extraordinary people