

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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

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

they truly were. I attended a service this past weekend in Winslow, ME, for MAJ Aubin. The day was made all the more special as CPL Kennedy's mother, Melissa Derbyshire, was also in attendance, and my heart goes out to both families brought together by sorrow in what for them is surely the most difficult of times. It is through remembrance that these two great Mainers will live on, so today and forevermore we will remember.

The eldest of three sons, MAJ Jay Thomas Aubin was a native of Skowhegan. As a young child, his undying first love was flight. His grandfather was an airplane mechanic and his father spent his spare time buying, selling and flying airplanes. His mother, Nancy Chamberlain, said Jay started flying when he was two years old. She recalls that his father, Thomas Aubin, had some two-seater planes and would take him flying from Norridgewock Airport. His brothers Joel and Jeffrey always considered him to be the "overachiever of the family", pointing out his "student of the month" and "student of the year" awards from Skowhegan Area High School and his participation in after-school activities, like band and wrestling. He even set up his own "boot camp" in his senior year so he would be in top physical shape.

Jay joined the Marines straight out of high school and was fortunate enough to meet the woman who would later become his wife, Rhonda who was also a Marine at the time. They were married and have two children, Alicia, 10 and Nathan, 7. Jay was in the Marines for 4 years, came home to Maine and enrolled in Southern Maine Technical College in 1989 and earned an associate's degree in applied science and, later, a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Southern Maine.

His love and dedication to the Marines was so strong that upon graduation Jay re-enlisted as an officer. A true testimony to his skill and leadership, he was invited to join the elite corps that pilots the Presidential helicopter, Marine One. But before he was able to assume this new duty, he was asked to become a "Top Gun" instructor in night flight for helicopter pilots. He, Rhonda and their children moved to Yuma, AZ, in June, 2002 to complete his latest mission and he remained there until he was called to go to Kuwait.

After his tragic death, his mother received a letter Major Aubin had mailed two days before his helicopter went down. It said, "I want to thank you for everything over the years. You always tried your best to put us first at your expense." With that letter, it was as though his mother, Nancy, could hear her son's voice one last time—and what she heard was a message of undying gratitude and love.

In recent days, his friends and family have described him as "genuine and friendly and always smiling" and "pas-

sionate about his job and his country." His alma mater held a memorial service to honor him and has established a scholarship in his name. This is a man who was well loved and who touched the lives of everyone around him, especially his family. His aunt, Rella Collins, describes him as "the best of the best. He did us all proud." According to his mother in his last conversation before he departed, Jay was at peace with his mission, remarking "If anything happens to me, just remember I'm happy and I'm doing what I love to do."

The same has been said about Corporal Brian Matthew Kennedy, whose mother, Melissa Derbyshire, and stepfather, John Derbyshire, live in Port Clyde, Me. John's description of Brian gets to the heart of his character—"This man loved living and life itself. His greatest pleasures were cooking, eating lobster and mussels, his friends, lacrosse, rock climbing and doing his best at any task he was given to do—just as he did his job as a Marine crew chief aboard the CH-46 helicopter." Corporal Kennedy graduated from Glenbrook South High School in Glenview, IL with honors in 1995 and then attended Purdue University before transferring to Texas Tech. He enlisted in the Marines in 1999, according to his own words, "because he thought he could do the best job."

He had been a Marine for 3 years when he was lost to us in last weeks' helicopter crash. His family members speak of his sacrifice. His mother, Melissa, recalls him having to wait in line for 3 hours to just call home. Brian told his mother he would do his best to come home, but she says she "was lucky enough to know him for 25 years" and she remembers him "always laughing and having a good time." Brian's father, Mark Kennedy, speaks of his son's time in the Marines, saying Brian was "very pleased to be in Kuwait and was thrilled to have the assignment he had. He gave his life in an effort to contribute to the freedom of the Iraqi people."

We will all agree that these brave young men did not die in vain—indeed, in the words of Melissa Derbyshire, "they died for all of us." The loss of life is the ultimate tragedy of war, but from it, we can hope, will come peace. It is the Jay Aubin's and Brian Kennedy's of our unique history that have enabled America to become the greatest democracy civilization has ever known. They are a constant reminder of the sacrifice of one generation for the next. It has been said we are the land of the free precisely because we are the home of the brave.

At the first national Memorial Day service, in 1868, General James A. Garfield, the future President, addressed the difficulty in speaking of fallen Americans. During a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Garfield said:

"With words," Garfield said, "we make promises, plight faith, praise vir-

tue. Promises may not be kept; plighted faith may be broken; and vaunted virtue may be only the cunning mask of vice.

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and virtue."

James A. Garfield could not have said it better. The enormity of the contribution made by our military men and women overwhelms the words we have within our grasp to honor that contribution. The entire nation will be forever indebted to Major Jay Thomas Aubin and Corporal Brian Matthew Kennedy. The Aubin, Chamberlain, Kennedy and Derbyshire families are in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope all of the Senate will join me in honoring these two outstanding, exceptional, extraordinary Marines today.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, Senator LINCOLN has been coming here every morning on behalf of the Democratic side of the aisle, and I know Senator HUTCHISON and others have come on behalf of the Republican side. Senator LINCOLN asked me to come down here to pay tribute to our young men and women. It is an honor for me to do this.

Very sadly, this morning I come down to pay tribute to five young Americans who were killed in the Iraqi war, all of them from California or based in California. I have done this before. We have lost an additional 10 to whom I have payed tribute already, and that is a very large proportion of those who have been lost.

As we pray for all of those in harm's way, I think it is important to put a human face on war, and therefore I come down to discuss the great loss we feel in our State.

First is Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Michael Vann Johnson, Jr., age 25, killed on Tuesday, March 25, in Iraq, while attending to injured marines. He was assigned to the Naval Medical Center, 3rd Marine Division Detachment, in San Diego, CA. Michael was born and raised in Arkansas and graduated from Parkview High School in Little Rock. He attended the University of Central Arkansas in Conway before joining the Navy in 1997. He is survived by his wife in San Diego, his parents, and his seven siblings. I send them my deepest condolences.

MAJ Kevin Nave, age 36, was killed March 26, in a vehicle accident in Iraq,

assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. His wife and his two children live in Oceanside, CA. He is from Union Lake, MI. He was on the football team and wrestling squad at Waterford Kettering High School in White Lake Township, MI.

LCpl William W. White, age 24, was killed in a vehicle accident on March 29, in Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Brooklyn, NY.

GySgt Joseph Menusa, age 33, from San Jose, CA, died on Thursday, March 27, from a gunshot wound. He was assigned to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was born in the Philippines and moved to San Jose when he was just 10 years old. He served in the 1991 gulf war and was a marine recruiter in the San Francisco Bay area. His wife and his young son live at Camp Pendleton.

LCpl Jesus A. Suarez Del Solar, age 20, died Thursday, March 27, in combat action in Iraq. He is from Escondido, CA. He was assigned to the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. He moved from Mexico to the United States in the late 1990s with his family. He attended San Pasqual High School in Escondido and graduated from Escondido's Valley High School in 2001. He is survived by his wife and his 1-year-old son, as well as many family members in Los Angeles County, San Diego, and Mexico.

As I said, I have already read the names of 10 others into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

CPL Randal Kent Rosacker, age 21; LT Thomas Mullen Adams, age 27; CAPT Ryan Beaupre, age 30; 2LT Therrel Shane Childers, age 30; LCpl Jose Gutierrez, age 22; CPL Brian Matthew Kennedy, age 25; SSG Kendall Watersbey, age 29; SGT Michael Bitz, age 31; CPL Jose Garibay, age 21; CPL Jorge Gonzalez, age 20.

So, Madam President, out of the 43 who were killed, 15 were from or based in the State of California. And my State mourns them. May these beautiful young Americans rest in peace. And may the war end soon.

I pray for the wisdom of those who send these young men and women on their mission.

The people of my State feel very strongly on both sides about this war. I say to them today that they have every right to express themselves for and against this war; that those are indeed the freedoms that are the basis of our Nation. I also say to both sides that however one feels about the policy of this war—people know how I felt—I voted for the Levin resolution because I did not want us to go it alone, or virtually alone, because I was fearful of what could happen; and I felt it was important to lead the world as a superpower. Whether you are for or against this war, this isn't about who loves the troops more.

These troops are our children. I am a mother. I am a grandmother. These troops are our children. Some of them are parents themselves. So let us not deal with who loves our young people more. The debate is about policy, and there will be much time to debate that policy as there was before this war. And anyone who has a feeling about that policy has a right—I would say a duty—to express that view regardless of what that view is because that is what makes our country strong, that is what makes us different from other places.

So that is my message to the people of my State: to respect each other's differences. This isn't a debate about who loves the troops more; it is about policy.

California is contributing mightily to the military effort in Iraq. I have read you the names of many who have died so far. Tens of thousands of military men and women have been deployed from my State.

One of them, Patrick Sailors, is a chief warrant officer in the Marine Reserves, and he is the brother of one of my most treasured staff members, Kelly Gill, who works out of my Fresno office. He is a member of the Marine Wing Communications Squadron 48, attached to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force that is now in Iraq.

Chief Warrant Officer Sailors has spent 17 years in the Marine Corps and is a second-generation marine. His wife Liz and their two children are awaiting his return to their home in Galt, CA. His parents, Delbert and Carol Sailors, live in California as well.

I pray that Patrick Sailors and all of our men and women are safely returned to their families as soon as possible.

Madam President, one of the things I have noticed—I am sure you have noticed—is that many of those who are losing their lives are parents. Before the vote on the resolution giving the President the authority to go to war without U.N. backing, I had a conversation with one of the most treasured Members of this body who had fought in World War II. He pointed out to me that so many of our people who are over in Iraq are members of the Reserves and the Guard. They have families. They have children. They have spouses.

I am very concerned about those families and about the children of those dual-military families. I am very concerned about deploying a mother and a father into a combat zone at the same time.

Two weeks ago I introduced S. 687 which would prohibit the concurrent deployment of both parents with minor children to a combat zone. I hope my colleagues will join me in this legislation.

In discussing education legislation back home, it has come to my attention that in school districts where there is a heavy population of military families, they are finding that the

young children there are crying out for help during this time. Impact aid is something that we give to these areas to help them meet the needs of those families. Clearly, they need this help at this time.

There are two ways to help: One is to push forward with impact aid—I hope we will do that—and, secondly, to help me with this legislation which would say that two parents of a minor child cannot go to a combat zone at the same time.

Last week there was an editorial in the Washington Post entitled "Mothers at War." The editorial calls on the Department of Defense to consider staggering the deployment of two parents so the impact on children is minimized. That is exactly what my legislation does. I hope I will get help with it.

It is a horror to lose one parent in a war and one that one never, ever gets over. To lose two parents in such a circumstance would be beyond devastation. The Department of Defense should work to ensure that the children of dual military families never have to suffer seeing both parents sent off to a combat zone at the same time. This is an issue whose time has come.

I ask, what is the order at this time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Morning business is to conclude at 10.

Mrs. BOXER. Is it the understanding, further making a parliamentary inquiry, that the Democrats have until 10 or is that not determined?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. I will continue until 10.

Mr. REID. Madam President, if the Senator from California will yield, the Senator from Texas is here to speak. I am sure the Republican leadership would not care if we extended morning business so she could complete her statement. I have spoken to the distinguished Senator from Colorado who will speak about a Colorado judge who will be up next.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Texas be allowed to continue as in morning business after the hour of 10 until she completes her statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ALLARD. No objection.

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

Mrs. BOXER. I wanted to make sure I was functioning under the rules. It is very important that we have a chance to pay tribute to the young men and women who are out there. The debate over what the expectations were in this war will go on for many weeks and months and years. I am not here to debate that. What I am here to say is that when all of us said that war is a last resort—and that was stated by everyone—I think we see daily why we said that. We see daily why we have to try everything short of war that we can.

In my own history in the Senate, I have voted to go to war twice. I voted

not to go twice. Each of us in our own mind makes this decision. Of course, our voters will decide whether we were correct or not. But regardless of the policy fights, what we have to continually remember, every single minute, is that we have our sons and daughters over there right now.

Unlike other wars, many of them are parents. So the tragedy of losing them cuts deeper and deeper than were they not, because the tragedy cuts to the parents and the grandparents and to the spouses and to the children. And for a child to really never know their father or mother cuts very deep.

I pray that this war ends soon. I pray that we don't see more of these deaths and casualties and POWs. I pray that the POWs are treated right—they must be treated right according to the Geneva Conventions—that we find out more about them and that the Red Cross can get in there and see that they are OK. I pray that we won't see casualties to innocent children and women. I pray for a lot.

Today I pay tribute to my Californians who will never come back and see our beautiful State. I hope I won't have to come here in the days and weeks to come with more names.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I begin by saying I appreciate Senator ENZI. Senator ENZI came to the floor to speak about a subject very important to him. I asked him if he would mind letting us spend this entire hour in a tribute to the troops. He readily agreed. I appreciate his courtesy because we are reserving the first hour of every day when our troops are in the field to giving tribute to them, talking about some of the events that have happened in the field, talking about some of the acts of heroism, the individual acts, showing pictures of what life is like over there. I have done that on several occasions. I will again.

Today I want to talk about our prisoners. As the distinguished Chair understands—the Presiding Officer at this time is the other Senator from Texas—Texas is the base for the largest number of our active-duty military. One in 10 active-duty personnel calls Texas home. It is the home base for 114,000 active-duty service members. California comes in second with 107,000. North Carolina comes in third with 86,000. So we do feel a personal effect of this war. We also feel a sense of pride that it is our young men and women, along with all of those from the other States, who are out there on the front lines, protecting the freedom we enjoy so much every day.

I would like to talk about some of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and some of those about whom we are not sure at this time. Cpl Brian Matthew Kennedy, U.S. Marine Corps, 25 years old, from Houston, TX, grew up in Glenview, IL. He called his mom on March 18 to tell her he was about to

go into action. "It was very short and very special," she says of the call. Three days later, he died, when his Sea Knight helicopter crashed in Kuwait. He said to his dad: We are ready. We are ready. We are trained. We are ready to go. He was very proud. His parents are very proud of him.

SSgt Phillip Jordan, U.S. Marine Corps, 42 years of age, Brazoria, TX: Everyone called him Gump because he was so relentlessly upbeat. His son Tyler, 6, wants to be a marine like his father who was killed in a fire fight after a group of Iraqi soldiers feigned surrender.

Some are missing. Specialist James Kiehl, U.S. Army, 22, Comfort, TX, a computer technician with the 507th Maintenance Company: Kiehl was among the missing in the convoy ambush near An Nasiriya. His father Randy has been monitoring war news on two televisions, three phone lines, and a computer, keeping up a strong front and a strong face for the media, just in case they showed James any footage from back home.

PVT Ruben Estrella-Soto, U.S. Army, 18, El Paso: His father opposed his enlisting but he wanted to study engineering, and he was enthusiastic about going into the military and getting his education. He disappeared in the ambush on March 23 along with his friend Edgar Hernandez, who later turned up on Iraqi TV. But Estrella-Soto's fate was unknown. "Not knowing anything is hard," Ruben Estrella, Sr., told reporters.

CWO Johnny Villareal Mata, U.S. Army, 35, Pecos, TX: Mata grew up in a desert town just 200 miles from Fort Bliss, where his 507th Maintenance Company is based.

SP Edgar Adan Hernandez, U.S. Army, 21 years old, Alton, TX: "He's got a noble character," his mother, Maria de la Luz Hernandez, says in Spanish. She then inadvertently slipped into the past tense: "He was a good brother, a good son, respectful to the whole world." Hernandez, though, she believes is really alive. And he, too, was shown on Iraqi TV.

Captured: Army SP Shoshana Johnson, 30 years old, El Paso, TX: Her name means "rose" in Hebrew, the inspiration of an aunt who once worked as a nurse in Brooklyn. But her family is Panamanian American, and although she grew up in an Army family, she never expected to find herself on the front line. She is fun-loving, her younger sister Nikki says. She also says, "She is outgoing, independent and trustworthy—definitely not the kind of person who stays in front of the TV day in and day out." Shoshana's dream was to be a chef, but culinary school costs a lot of money, and Army cook was close enough. It seemed safe enough, too.

But early on the morning of March 23, her father, Claude, was flipping through the channels looking for a cartoon show for Shoshana's two-year-old daughter, Janelle. He happened to

catch a newscast on the Spanish language network, Telemundo. "They said five Americans had been captured in Iraq. I caught one African-American female, 30 years old, from the 507th. Her name was Shana. I said it's got to be her."

It was. Now her large extended family, including more than a dozen cousins, is watching and waiting. They are inspired by the relatives of Elizabeth Smart who helped stay in the forefront of the press until their 15-year-old kidnapped daughter was returned. "We just want her to be treated humanely," Nikki told Newsweek, "and to return home swiftly and safely."

I talked to the mother of one of those killed in Afghanistan last week and she said, "What I want is to make sure that my son did not die in vain." I assured her that her son did not die in vain; that the war on terrorism is going to protect the freedom for children and grandchildren throughout America, and our staying vigilant and staying on course will ensure that none of those who are already dead or are missing will be forgotten. They have paid a heavy price for freedom and we will always revere and respect them for what they have done for our country.

That concludes the tributes for today. The Senate is setting aside 1 hour every day for people to come to the floor and talk about some of the wonderful acts that are being done by our young men and women on the field as we speak today—protecting the way of life we have come to enjoy.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I speak today with a profound sense of loss. A brave, young soldier from my home State of Oregon, Brandon S. Tobler, was killed in Iraq. Oregon's first war fatality, Army Reserve SP Brandon Tobler, who was only 19, lost his life in a Humvee accident during a sand storm. I have the last correspondence Brandon's parents received from their son, an e-mail sent just 2 weeks prior to his death on March 22, 2003.

Brandon was the only son of Leon and Gail Tobler of Portland. He grew up there and joined the military to help pay for college. He was in a convoy headed to Baghdad providing engineering support to the combat troops. Private Tobler's death reminds us that a soldier doesn't have to be on the combat line to face tremendous danger and possible death. His letter reminds of the bravery of each and every person who puts on a uniform for the United States. Private Tobler will be laid to rest in the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, OR, on April 3, 2003.

I ask unanimous consent that Brandon's letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

HEY MOM AND DAD, How are things with you, I hope you are both doing ok. I am doing fine, things here are going ok we are just keeping busy. I am a little stressed but other than that I am alright, I have been loaded down with a lot of tasks that I have

not even been trained for, but I think I am doing an ok job. Anyway I am sorry that I have not written you guys lately and I know I have been writing Val a bit more than you guys and that is something I really intend to change, I just want you guys to know that I miss you guys a lot and love you guys even more and I thank you both for the person you made me become and all of the things you have struggled to get me over the years. I really appreciate the support that you guys have given me and accepting my enlistment in the Army. I feel that if I can make a difference out here then I have done my part. If I can save one life, if I can do something that makes a family sleep easier at night without fear then I have done my purpose, cause I know now that's what my calling is in life, not to make money or be powerful and wealthy but to simply make a difference. And I thank you my loving parents for all that you have done to get me this far, but now I have to take the next step and make a difference for someone else out there. Well go ahead and pass this around to everyone in the family, Val too . . . And to the family my love and best wishes and prayers go out to you, little Veronica or shall I say big Veronica, I miss playing with her and being her big cousin but at least my being here will help keep her safe and grow up happy and full of life as she is already. So to my family, if you see a soldier one of my comrades in arms, please thank them for the service they give, pray for them because we as soldiers give up sooo much to come out here and in sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and soldiers could always use encouragement and a thanks. . . Well my love to you guys and I'll see you soon. . .

Love to all,

BRANDON.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY M. TYMKOVICH, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session and proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 55, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Nomination of Timothy M. Tymkovich, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 6 hours of debate, with the time equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I strongly support the confirmation of Tim Tymkovich as a Federal judge on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. The nomination is before the Senate. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting his confirmation.

Two years ago, one of the most talented lawyers in the State of Colorado faced a rather large but very exciting dilemma. Most of us would not look at his particular situation as a dilemma at all but, instead, view it as a welcome set of exciting career opportunities.

With the new administration filling vacancies and political appointments, he was offered the chance to serve the people of the United States, a chance to use his skills as a premier attorney through the Federal Government. This lawyer had practiced both civil litigation and appeals with an emphasis on regulatory and administrative law, particularly in the areas of telecommunications and public utilities. He served for 5 years as Colorado's solicitor general. He served as a law clerk to Justice William H. Erickson of the Colorado Supreme Court.

With all this experience under his belt, he had to decide whether to pursue a career with the Department of the Interior under the leadership of fellow Coloradan Gale Norton or to continue working in his successful law practice and to answer the call of his countrymen and President and to strive to serve the Nation as a judge on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

What choice did the attorney of whom I speak make? What path did Tim Tymkovich choose? He chose to pursue the Federal judgeship and to fulfill his sincere desire to lead a life of public service, a life dedicated to upholding the law and our Constitution.

On May 25, 2001, President Bush nominated Mr. Tymkovich to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. On February 12, 2003, under the leadership of Senator ORRIN HATCH, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr. Tymkovich finally received a hearing. Today, nearly 2 years later, the Senate has picked up his nomination for consideration by the entire body.

Today's actions, 23 months after his nomination, move us closer to fulfilling the Senate's duty as laid out in the Constitution through the advise and consent clause of article II. This vote has been a long time in the making. After several letters, several floor statements, and almost 2 years after the original date of his nomination, Tim Tymkovich is finally getting an up-or-down vote.

I thank Senator HATCH for moving his nomination out of the committee. I thank the majority leader, Senator FRIST, for scheduling this debate and the vote later on today.

The nominating process is a grueling one. To be confirmed, Mr. Tymkovich, along with his fellow nominees, put his

life on hold to await action by the Senate on his nomination. In Mr. Tymkovich's case, he had to endure 2 years of uncertainty, not knowing whether he should change his law firm partnership, pursue other options, or wait for the Senate to grind forward, with each step and every decision scrutinized by the Senate. Undoubtedly, he had other career opportunities, other choices that would have led to remarkable successes. As you will recall, I mentioned the Department of the Interior possibility at the beginning of my remarks. Yet he chose to pursue the Tenth Circuit court nomination.

As we have witnessed with the Miguel Estrada debate, the judicial nomination process has broken down into partisan politics and entrenchment, taking a heavy toll on the life of the nominee and on the quality of justice delivered to the American people.

Today we have the opportunity to begin to correct this dangerous path we have been traveling. Tim Tymkovich has my unqualified support. Confirmation of his nomination by this body will prove to be a great service to the people of the United States. His nomination has enjoyed broad bipartisan support—support from judges and colleagues, both Democrat and Republican policymakers.

I have a series of charts highlighting support for his confirmation, charts I would like to share with you today.

The first chart quotes Roy Romer, former Governor of Colorado, and, I might add, former Democratic National Committee chairman who served under the tenure of President Bill Clinton and who is now superintendent of the Los Angeles United School District. Mr. Romer is a strong supporter of Mr. Tymkovich and has expressed his sentiment to the Judiciary Committee.

Governor Romer, in a letter to the committee, wrote:

Mr. Tymkovich served the State of Colorado from 1991 through 1996 during the latter part of my tenure as Governor of the State of Colorado. He served with distinction and was a strong advocate in legal matters for Colorado. He also demonstrated a capacity to work closely with Colorado Democrats, as well as Republicans, as Solicitor General. . . . He was always a straight shooter in giving legal advice to me and my top staff.

Governor Romer believes his past legal experiences have given Mr. Tymkovich a broad understanding of the varied legal issues that may come before him on the Tenth Circuit. Governor Romer believes Mr. Tymkovich will bring strong legal credentials to the court and a judicial temperament that should garner the support of the Senate.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter from Governor Romer be printed in the RECORD.

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