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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 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:

Glory and praise to You, Lord God of heaven and earth. You give us life that we may know, love, and serve You here and now. We are to find and to show goodness and truth in this often troubled but beautiful world.

You are the maker and lover of peace. Protect us from all anxiety. Keep us and our military safe from the weapons and the hatred of others in this time of war. Help our wounds continue to heal, that the United States of America may lead the world with new freedom through this new millennium, which has begun with such strife.

The eyes of many are on bombs dropping on a city far away. But because we are human, our vision is often clouded. Help us also to see the explosive power of Your divine blessings in our lives, so that we may respond with lives of service and love.

Father, may these Senators and all who work for peace, security, and the common good find satisfaction in their work for the progress of peoples. There is urgency in our prayers these days, Lord. Show us the way to the fullness of life. Teach us again. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINDSAY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, 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 (Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina). The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. to allow Members to continue to make statements supporting our troops who are participating in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

At 11 a.m., the Senate will begin consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill. Amendments are anticipated to that measure. I take this opportunity to encourage Members to notify the managers as early as possible today if they intend to offer any amendments. Our goal will be to complete the supplemental by tomorrow sometime. I would love the opportunity to finish it today, but I think realistically we should have as our goal to complete it tomorrow at some point. In order to do that, it will be critical for our colleagues to bring to the managers any amendments they may wish to offer.

At 2 p.m. today, the Senate will conduct the fourth cloture vote in relation to the Miguel Estrada nomination. Following that cloture vote, the Senate will resume consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill. The Senate will complete action on the supplemental this week. Therefore, I inform all Senators to expect rollcall votes throughout the day.

### SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I take a couple of moments to comment on the actions in support of our troops in Iraq. First, our condolences, as always, go out to the families of those who have lost loved ones. Being from Tennessee,

I particularly express my sympathies to the family of Marine LCpl Patrick Nixon from Gallatin, TN, who was killed while attempting to secure a critical bridge across the Euphrates River in Nasiriyah.

I also offer our prayers and condolences for those who have lost loved ones, and also offer prayers to those in the field fighting for us.

I commend the tremendous performance of our Armed Forces and continue to be amazed by their degree of professionalism, their boldness, and the courage they represent each and every day. There will be tough days ahead, as we all know, but we all feel the steady progress being made.

I take a moment to commend the Navy SEALs and Army rangers who rescued PFC Jessica Lynch from a hospital in Nasiriyah where she was being held. Most people had the opportunity to see the very dramatic footage a few hours ago of her being rescued by those special forces. We join with her family and friends in Palestine, WV, in celebrating her recovery. This is one more example of the outstanding flexibility, training, and performance of America's military men and women.

I should mention, because it relates to a trip I took this weekend in visiting the base at the 101st Airborne in Tennessee, I had the opportunity to visit with Major General Petraeus's wife, Holly Petraeus, whom I first met 11 years ago when they previously had been stationed at Fort Campbell. I got to know her at that point in time and saw her when General Petraeus and I had the opportunity to start the Army 10-miler together a few months ago. I say "start" because I am a slow runner; when we started the race, he took out ahead of me after the first 20 yards.

General Petraeus now is on the front page of the Washington Post. The opening paragraph:

U.S. Army troops seized the southern edge of this key Euphrates River city today as Iraqi militia fighters appeared to retreat in the face of overwhelming firepower. . . .

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



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Shortly before 2 p.m., Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of the 101st Airborne, drove in an armed convoy up a rocky escarpment into Najaf, urged on by clapping Iraqis who gestured impatiently for the Americans to press deeper into the city center.

It gives me a great deal of pride for the 101st Airborne to be able to hear these real-life stories of the bravery and boldness of General Petraeus. I was with Holly Petraeus this past Sunday at the 101st Airborne. She hosted Karen, my wife, and me to lunch and attending a church service. She is doing a tremendous job of keeping up the spirit of all the families there and has become a real focal point for the community efforts in Hawesville, KY, Clarksville, TN, and on the base to support our troops. We have a lot to be proud of, with tough days ahead.

Meanwhile, the Senate will be addressing the supplemental emergency spending in order to support our troops, as well as the underlying budget, which I hope to complete—which we will complete by April 11.

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 exceed beyond the hour of 11 a.m., with the time to be equally divided between the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the Democratic leader or his designee, the Senator from Nevada.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the troops. I am totally amazed when I watch the television reports at the bravery displayed by those who are serving our Nation in harm's way.

There is a saying from the Scriptures that:

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

The motto of my home State of Nevada is: All for our country. Nevada has a long and proud history of patriotism and contributing to this Nation's defense in times of peace and in times of conflict. Many brave Nevadans have proudly donned the uniform of our armed services. Unfortunately, some of our finest have lost their lives in service to our Nation.

Nevada has lost several servicemen during the ongoing war on terrorism, and last week we learned of our first casualty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. LT Fred Pokorney was killed during a cowardly ambush on our marines near An Nasiriyah, Iraq. His death has brought the reality of war to families across Nevada. His life and dedication have touched and inspired me.

I wish I had known Fred when he played for the Tonopah High School basketball and football teams. I only had the opportunity to learn about this gentle giant, for that is what he was, since he made the ultimate sacrifice for me, my family, for all Nevadans, and all Americans.

It should not come as a surprise, but when I learn about these brave men and women who risk their lives and sacrifice so much to defend our freedom, I am awed by the caliber of their character, integrity, and dedication. Fred Pokorney is the perfect example.

Nothing was handed to Fred. He overcame challenges that would have been an excuse for others to quit. He was incredibly well liked for his positive attitude and competitive spirit. He joined the Marines right out of high school and graduated with a degree in military science from Oregon State University, also my alma mater. He loved being a marine.

A tremendous void is being felt by those who knew Fred best. Just as it is inspiring to hear about the character of men and women who serve in our military, it is heartening to speak to those left behind and hear the pride they somehow find the strength to share. When I spoke to Fred's wife—she goes by Chelle—it was obvious her husband is a hero to her as he is to us all. She is comforted by the knowledge that she knew what it was to have peace and love.

Now she is charged with raising their 2½ year old daughter Taylor—and passing Fred's legacy on to her, and Fred's love for country on to us all.

On the telephone last week, Chelle read me the last letter Fred wrote to her and to his daughter Taylor. I would have brought those letters to the floor but, frankly, I could not have read those letters without breaking down because of the emotions that were communicated from one of our soldiers on the battlefield to his family.

Chelle told me Fred's death, though, gave her hope. She feels a responsibility to take Fred's pride, strength, and deep patriotism, and instill it in other Americans. So long as freedom thrives and she can help other Marine families heal, Chelle knows Fred's death will not have been in vain.

What Chelle does not realize is that she, too, is a hero. The families who support our military wait anxiously for word from their loved ones and continue the motions of life while their loved ones are away. They are heroes also. Without their strength and support, our troops could not be the best in the world. I stand here today, grateful for the bravery of Fred Pokorney and inspired by the courage of Chelle Pokorney and others like them.

For Taylor, I pray she grows up to know that her father's death on the battlefield of freedom was not in vain. I pray when she is older, Taylor will know the gratitude of this Nation for her father's sacrifice, and for her sacrifice.

God bless LT Fred Pokorney and God bless his family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, while I know there are some who may have different views about what is happening in Iraq and our country's role in it, I think there is really no disagreement in our country about what our sons and daughters do for America when they are sent to fight for freedom. There should be no disagreement about our support for the troops that are in harm's way halfway across the world.

My colleague from Nevada and others have spoken eloquently about the commitment these young men and women have made to their country. They leave home, they leave the comforts of their community, they leave their family, and they march in the face of danger.

This morning I went to Bethesda Naval Hospital to visit a young man whom I had appointed to the Naval Academy some 12 years ago. His name is Jason Frei from Hazen, ND. A wonderful young man, he has kept in touch with me each year since he graduated from the Naval Academy, sending me Christmas cards, telling me how he is doing and what he is doing.

He left his wife and two children to go to Iraq with his Marine unit. Jason was wounded last week and is now back at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He has lost a part of his arm. His eardrum was punctured. He was injured by a rocket-propelled grenade when it hit his vehicle.

He is a remarkable man. This morning he was very positive. He was in good spirits and he told me about the men and women with whom he served. This morning in the hospital he was most concerned about his unit, which is still in Iraq—how they were doing, what they were doing. He is, I think, symbolic of those brave men and women who always answer the call for our country.

This is a young man from a small town in North Dakota, but he could be a young man or woman from a town anywhere in America who, when his country needs him, answers the call.

In North Dakota, we have the highest percentage of callups in the Guard and Reserve of any State in the Nation. More than one-third of our National Guard and Reserve have been called to active duty.

A young woman on my staff in Bismarck has been called to active duty with the National Guard, a young lieutenant. They go and serve because they are called to serve our country.

I recall one day at a veterans' hospital in Fargo, ND, pinning the medals on the pajama tops of a Native American named Edmund Young Eagle who served during World War II. He had never gotten his medals. His sisters asked if I could help get the medals for him, whom I didn't know just a week from death. He had lung cancer. We got his medals and on a Sunday morning