

again remind his people who sent him to the Senate that he was a person who became a very distinguished Senator whom history will always admire.

Thank you very much.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am deeply moved this morning, as are Senators all over America today—not only those who are present in the Senate, but so many who have gone on from the Senate to other careers—about the loss of our distinguished colleague Senator Thurmond. I think it is coincidental, and indeed most fitting, that the Presiding Officer in the Chamber this morning is the son of the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island, Senator John Chafee.

I first met Senator Thurmond when I joined then the Secretary of the Navy, John Chafee, as his principal deputy and in later years to succeed him. Really, our first call was to come to the Senate to meet with Richard Russell, John Stennis, Strom Thurmond, John Tower, and Barry Goldwater. I remember our calls as the brand-new team of the Secretary of the Navy during the height of the war in Vietnam—at least one of the periods of great intensity—was in 1969. Senator Thurmond greeted us in his office in the same way that he greeted me throughout my 25 years in the Senate. Each of those years—except since his retirement in January that I shared with him, as did John Chafee and others—it was a learning experience every day you were with him.

I stop to think of the men and women of the Armed Forces today all across the world, engaged in fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, and guarding the outposts of freedom. They have not lost Strom Thurmond because they have the wealth of the memories of him. I don't know of any class of individual—perhaps other than his immediate family—for whom Senator Thurmond had a deeper or more abiding love and devotion than those in uniform.

This record last night covered briefly his distinguished military career, and I don't doubt others will address that. But we always remember that he was a judge in the State of South Carolina. By virtue of his age at that time—I think right on the brink of 40, give or take a year—he would not have been subjected to the draft. He would not, by virtue of his judicial position, have had to leave that position and go into the Armed Forces—other than by his own free will. He resigned his judicial post to go into the ranks of the U.S. Army, where he served with great dis-

tingtion, going in on D-Day with the airborne assault divisions, landing, helping those who were wounded—that was his first call—and then marshaling the forces to mount the offensive against the German army, and going through those matters until victory in May of 1945.

When we walked into his office, two things always struck me. One was the portrait that was obviously painted in the period when he was Governor—straight, tall, and erect, eyes that were penetrating, eyes that reflected a tremendous inner confidence and conviction, but eyes that had a soft side, because he did have a soft side. He loved humor. He was very often the object of a lot of humor, including respectfully from this humble Senator. But what a tower of strength. I served with him these many years on the committee as really an aide-de-camp—yes, a fellow Senator, but I was happy to be “general” Strom Thurmond's aide-de-camp on many missions—missions that took me abroad on occasions when he was chairman, and missions from which I learned so much at the hand of the great master on the subject of national events. He was unwavering in his steadfast support of Presidents, be they Democrat or Republican, and unwavering in his resolve for the care of the men and women in uniform on active duty, their families, the retirees. And, oh, Mr. President, did he love the National Guard. There wasn't a bill that went through the Armed Services Committee and conference when he wouldn't tug on my shoulder and say let's beef up a little bit for the Guard and Reserve here. Remember, in times of crisis, they are among the first to respond.

That bit of wisdom has proven ever so true. Going back to the Balkans campaign, the Guard was actively engaged at all levels of that campaign. The Air Guard, for example, flew so many of the missions carrying food, medicine, and other supplies to the ravaged civilians and others in Sarajevo. I remember I joined one time in one of those missions. I remember it so well because the plane behind ours was shot down and lost—just to point up the risks that those Air Guard took on those missions.

Now, today, in Operation Iraqi freedom, worldwide against terrorism, once again the Guard and Reserve are in the forefront—a Guard and Reserve that have benefited through the many years of Strom Thurmond being a Senator and receiving a fair allocation of equipment and money, often in competition with the regular forces.

But Strom Thurmond was there with his watchful eye on the Armed Services Committee to ensure that degree of fairness for the Guard and Reserve. He rose to the rank of major general. I mentioned his portrait as you walked in. Then, in a very discreet way, there was a large frame that contained all of his many decorations. He rarely talked about them. As a matter of fact, only

after one tried to elicit facts from him would he share facts about the combat of war and what he received in World War II, and the other recognitions by our Government and other governments for his contribution to freedom worldwide.

So I say to my dear friend—really a big brother—I thank him for all he has done for the world, for the Nation, for this humble Senator and, I daresay, many others of my contemporaries, as we came along in this institution on the learning curve that was often at the hands of Strom Thurmond.

My final thoughts are with his family, his wife and children, all of whom I have known throughout these years, and with whom I have had the privilege so often to be photographed, from little sizes all the way up, as we do through the years with our colleagues. But I know the Presiding Officer's father, were he here today, would join in the most fervent and heartfelt expressions with regard to our comrad, our colleague, our dear friend, Strom Thurmond.

ONGOING MILITARY OPERATIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this morning we had another meeting organized by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, with Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Staff, General Pace, together with representatives from the intelligence agencies.

This is the third time Secretary Rumsfeld has been to the Senate this week. He has been in close consultation with the Senate during these perilous days for our Armed Forces around the world, and most particularly in Iraq. Our discussions, by necessity, were largely related to classified matters and were behind closed doors.

I do share with my colleagues two thoughts. I sensed by those colleagues—quite of number—who joined us this morning a heartfelt concern for the men and women of the Armed Forces who, around the clock, 7 days, 7 nights, are in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, most particularly, and we share in the bereavement of their families for those who are lost from time to time.

Steadfast this Nation must remain in its resolve to bring to a conclusion the hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan, such that the peoples of those two countries can themselves create a government free of oppression and persecution to enable them to have a very large measure of freedoms, freedoms we enjoy in the form of democracy, beginning with speech, privacy, and a sense of security in their homes, in their workplaces, and in the nation.

This is a long and courageous struggle worldwide, headed by, if I may say most respectfully, a very strong and courageous President of the United States, George Bush, and those principal deputies and many others right

down to the privates, sailors, airmen, and marines who are making possible this freedom throughout the world.

We will stay the course. We will meet every challenge. We shall not waiver in the mission of this country. I just pray and hope the American people have a complete and full understanding of the risks they are taking and the absolutely essential requirement that this Nation continue its leadership and succeed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 248, the nomination of LTG John P. Abizaid to be General; and Calendar Nos. 254 through 277, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, the Army, and the Navy.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed, en bloc, as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. John P. Abizaid

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brigadier General George A. Alexander
Brigadier General Edmund T. Beckett
Brigadier General Wesley E. Craig, Jr.
Brigadier General James R. Mason
Brigadier General Gerald P. Minetti
Brigadier General Richard C. Nash
Brigadier General Gary A. Pappas
Brigadier General Clyde A. Vaughn
Brigadier General Dean A. Youngman

To be brigadier general

Colonel William E. Aldridge
Colonel Louis J. Antonetti
Colonel Michael W. Beaman
Colonel Robert T. Bray
Colonel Nelson J. Cannon
Colonel Robert P. Daniels
Colonel David M. Davison
Colonel David M. DeArmond
Colonel Myles M. Deering
Colonel James B. Gaston, Jr.
Colonel Alan C. Gayhart, Sr.
Colonel David K. Germain
Colonel Frank J. Grass
Colonel Gary L. Jones
Colonel James E. Kelly
Colonel Kevin R. McBride
Colonel James I. Pylant
Colonel Steven R. Seiter

Colonel Thomas L. Sinclair
Colonel Frank T. Speed, Jr.
Colonel Deborah C. Wheeling
Colonel Matthew J. Whittington

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. William J. Germann

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. William M. Jacobs

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. John W. Bergman
Brig. Gen. John J. McCarthy, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Thomas F. Deppe

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Adm. William J. Fallon

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael M. Dunn

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Keith B. Alexander

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, Jr.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Terry L. McCreary

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Martin J. Brown
Capt. William A. Kowba
Capt. Michael J. Lyden

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Captain John M. Bird
Captain John T. Blake
Captain Fred Byus
Captain Frank M. Drennan
Captain Mark E. Ferguson, III
Captain John W. Goodwin
Captain Richard W. Hunt
Captain Arthur J. Johnson, Jr.
Captain Mark W. Kenny
Captain Joseph F. Kilkenny
Captain William E. Landay
Captain Michael A. LeFever
Captain Gerard M. Mauer, Jr.
Captain Douglas L. McClain
Captain William H. McRaven
Captain Richard O'Hanlon
Captain Kevin M. Quinn
Captain Raymond A. Spicer
Captain Peter J. Williams

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Robert H. Foglesong

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Kelley

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Douglas Burnett

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Craig S. Ferguson

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 5035:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Michael G. Mullen

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. William T. Hobbins

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Randall M. Schmidt

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position