

clarify that the National Veterans Business Development Corporation is a private entity.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements regarding this matter be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I appreciate very much the distinguished Senator from Virginia moving this matter. As the Senator knows, the ranking member on this important committee, Senator KERRY, wholeheartedly supports the action of the Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator.

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

The bill (S. 2724) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2724

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

Section 33(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Corporation is a private entity and is not an agency, instrumentality, authority, entity, or establishment of the United States Government."

**9/11 COMMISSION REPORT**

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, Senator DASCHLE and I received the 9/11 Commission report earlier today. It looks as if the Commission did a thorough job and that their writeup is fair and balanced. It is certainly well-documented.

Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton deserve our praise for their bipartisan leadership.

The Commission did not play the blame game. Rather, they focused on how the United States can learn from past mistakes to make all Americans safer in the future.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join with the distinguished majority leader in expressing my gratitude to Commissioner Chairman Thomas Kean and Vice Chairman Hamilton and the rest of the Commissioners as well. They were able to operate above partisan differences and produce a unanimous report in an incredibly charged political environment. The Commission has painstakingly outlined the numerous missed opportunities to prevent the tragic events of September 11 and provided the Bush administration and the Congress with a solid set of recommendations that I believe, if enacted, can help make us more secure.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we do want to assure everyone that while mistakes, failures, and missed opportunities occurred in the past, as their report chronicles, the United States still has a very good system to protect the country.

There are thousands of dedicated Americans in the military, the intelligence community, law enforcement, and so on who endeavor every day to keep us safe. They deserve our appreciation and support.

But we can and must do better. We have to get it right 100 percent of the time.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the Commission divided its recommendations into two major categories. The first lays out a new global strategy for dealing with the threats we face today. This section contains 28 recommendations on what our Government should do to enhance our national security.

The second section contains 13 suggestions for how our Government—executive branch as well as Congress—should be reconfigured to increase our prospects for achieving our national security objectives.

Senator FRIST and I intend to work together with our colleagues in a bipartisan manner to examine all of the Commission's proposals. We both agree change is long overdue, and we cannot afford to let another opportunity to make these changes slip by.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the threat of terrorism will be with us for a long time. We need to fix the problems and correct the shortcomings cited by the Commission so that we can make America safer.

That is why Senator DASCHLE and I intend to ask the Government Affairs Committee, in close consultation with other committees with a stake in these changes, to carefully evaluate the Commission's proposals regarding reorganization of the executive branch and determine how best to implement them. It is our hope that the Government Affairs Committee shall begin conducting hearings on these issues as soon as possible.

It is also our expectation that the other committees with an interest in this legislation will conduct their own hearings. It is also our hope that the Government Affairs Committee, working closely with the other interested committees, will carefully evaluate each of the Commission's proposals and factor in their views before coming forward with a legislative package. No committee shall lose its rights to review parts of the legislation under its jurisdiction. It is our hope this package will be assembled and presented to the Senate no later than October 1.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Senator FRIST and I have also agreed to set up a working group that examines how best to implement the 9/11 Commission's recommendations that deal with reform of the Senate, such as improving intelligence oversight.

Over the coming days we will meet to discuss how best to organize and focus this group.

Our intent would be for this group to similarly present a plan of action by October 1 on how to implement the recommendations made by the Commission that deal with the Congress.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in closing, the Democratic leader and I agree that the Commission has come forward with important recommendations that deserve urgent consideration by this body. We are hopeful that the process we outlined above will give them the bipartisan attention they deserve and the American people expect.

Mr. President, 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. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

**SUDAN**

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we are about to take up a number of matters that are in a position to be passed by unanimous consent. One of those includes a concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 133, on Sudan. It is a clear statement from the Senate that what is occurring in Sudan is genocide. Many of us have felt the need to express ourselves on this important matter prior to the time we leave for recess.

I thank the distinguished majority leader and a number of colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

It is an important statement to be made. The administration needs to hear it, the international community needs to hear it, and certainly the Sudanese Government, which tolerates if not assists in genocide, needs to hear it.

I note, also, this concurrent resolution would not have been possible without the tireless effort of the Congressional Black Caucus. I especially want to note the efforts of Congressman DON PAYNE, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, and Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. Their tireless efforts for human rights ought to be recognized tonight. I congratulate them and I thank them for their work. I am very proud to be associated with that effort and with this resolution tonight.

I yield the floor and 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. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

**MY HERO 6TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST**

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I take a moment to honor Rebecca Sadler, who is this year's winner of my annual 6th Grade Essay Contest. Rebecca is from Brentwood, TN, and attends Woodland Middle School.

This year's topic was "A Salute to Community Heroes." Rebecca chose her dad, Jerry M. Sadler. Mr. Sadler died of cancer on November 11, 1999. While we have a few minutes before closing, I thought I would read a few paragraphs from Rebecca Sadler's salute to her dad. It is entitled "My Hero."

Heroes can be just about anyone. Some have earned Nobel prizes. Some have led marches and protests. Some are world leaders and some have been to the moon. Many have recorded hit singles in the music industry. Others have made millions from a simple story. But what really makes a hero? Are heroes born or made? Do heroes look like movie stars or do they look like the guy who waxes the floors at the end of the day? Are they brave enough to take down an evil terrorist? Or are they just brave enough for a roller coaster?

My hero hasn't been to the moon. And he hasn't led a protest. He didn't win a Nobel prize and he wasn't a world leader. My hero was a friend, a husband, a brother, a cousin, a father, a pilot, and one of the bravest people I've ever known. My hero is my dad. He was a commander in the Navy Reserve. He flew packages for FedEx. He had a wife, three kids, four brothers, three sisters, a mother-in-law, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and innumerable friends.

The thing that made my dad a hero was that he was never afraid and if he was, he never showed it. He was incredibly honest. My dad was a friend to everyone. My dad would have given his life for his family and his country. There was nothing that my dad couldn't do. He was so strong. Every morning I would walk into his room and say good morning. He would gather up all his strength and as soon as I walked in he would sit up, smile, and act like nothing was wrong.

Heroes don't have to be superstars and they do not have to beat any world records. They can be a parent, a teacher, a counselor, or even a garbage man. But heroes have to be a couple of things.

They should be loving, honest, brave, loyal, and kind. They should be kind to people who might not be as fortunate, loving to family, and brave no matter what. They should be loyal to friends, family, God, and their country. They must be honest to their friends so you can trust them.

My dad inspires me because he was all of the things that make a hero. He inspires me because he never gave up, even in the face of death.

My dad inspires me to do the very best I can and to be the very best I can be. He inspires me to fly someday. To say, "Yes, I can" in the face of failure. He taught me to never give up, no matter what, and he taught me to succeed. He showed me how to be brave. He inspires me to be loyal to our country, God, friends, and family. He taught me to be kind to everyone, even complete strangers, and loving to family. He inspires me to be me. My dad is my hero.

That essay is from Rebecca Sadler, 6th grade essay contest winner. It is a contest I have all over the State on a different subject each year. This year was "A Salute to Community Heroes."

Rebecca's dad Jerry M. Sadler, died of cancer on November 11th, 1999.

She concludes:

I was 7 years old and in the second grade. He left behind a wife, three children, four brothers, three sisters, and many others.

## SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few minutes we will begin some of the wrap-up. We will be in for a little bit longer. We have a lot of business to do and in a few minutes we will start at least the beginning of that.

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

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

## SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President last week, Kurdish security forces captured 15 militants in Kirkuk. Among them is a man purported to be second in command of Ansar al-Islam, an Iraq-based terrorist group linked with Al Qaeda.

Meanwhile, Iraqi security forces swept through a downtown Baghdad neighborhood and arrested over 500 suspected criminals. The operation, which was conducted without the assistance of U.S. soldiers, was the largest operation of the interior ministry since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

The developments in Kirkuk and Baghdad are positive signs of Iraq's progress. The interim government is taking on the tough responsibility of defending its citizens and confronting terrorists. We know that it will be a long and difficult process. The governor of the Nineveh province was gunned down last week by terrorists. Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claims credit for the vicious murder. And on Tuesday this week, the interim governor of Basra was assassinated as he was heading to work.

The ongoing violence is frustrating and painful. Still, the Iraqi people remain optimistic. As my colleagues, Senators LIEBERMAN and KYL, pointed out in their excellent editorial in the Washington Post this week, a BBC/Oxford Research International poll finds released this month finds that a majority of Iraqis believe their lives today are quite good or very good, and a majority believes that their lives will be better next year.

Meanwhile, Saddam will soon face his crimes. And Iraq is working to become a free and peaceful country in the heart of the Middle East that doesn't threaten its neighbors or terrorize its citizens.

Which brings me to pre-war Iraq, and the Senate Intelligence Committee report on what we knew and what we did not know.

The Senate Intelligence Committee has issued a detailed report on the intelligence community's estimate of Iraq's WMD. I commend my colleagues for their hard work and commitment. They launched a thorough investiga-

tion and produced a unanimous judgment. Indeed, their 12-month inquiry is, and I quote Senator PAT ROBERTS, "without precedent in the history of the Senate Intelligence Committee."

Acting together with clear purpose, the committee has produced a report that genuinely addresses an issue of critical importance to our Nation's security.

Their efforts are an example of the best of the Senate working in a bipartisan manner to advance the interests of the American people.

The report is tough and detailed. It reveals disturbing lapses in our intelligence gathering and processing methods, and it points to the clear need for major reforms not media driven or politically expedient measures, but deep and serious changes to how we gather intelligence—the critical information we need to protect ourselves from stealthy, vicious, and determined enemies.

One of the most troubling aspects of the Senate report is that following 1998, our Government had no human intelligence sources inside Iraq collecting against the WMD target. That is unacceptable.

Meanwhile, what information we did collect was not properly shared among intelligence agencies. Again, unacceptable.

It must be acknowledged, however, that from the United Nations to intelligence agencies all around the world, informed people believed that Saddam had WMD and the means to produce and deliver them.

Following Saddam's defeat in Desert Storm in 1991, inspectors found stockpiles of chemical weapons and biological agents. They also found a nuclear program that was believed to be less than 2 years from completion.

Then, for the next decade, Saddam refused to provide a clear accounting of his weapons programs. He defied 16 Security Council resolutions, ultimately defying Resolution 1441 passed in 2002.

So we know that Saddam used chemical weapons in the past, that he obtained dual-use materials, that he had nuclear scientists on his payroll, and that he had billions of dollars of oil money with which to pursue his goals. In addition, we know that he invaded two neighboring countries, lobbed missiles at a third, and declared America to be a mortal enemy.

A new British report further amplifies these facts. Led by Lord Butler, the British investigative team determined that the claim that Saddam attempted to buy uranium from Africa was "well founded." And I quote:

We conclude that, on the basis of the intelligence assessments at the time, covering both Niger and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the statements on Iraqi attempts to buy uranium from Africa in the Government's dossier, and by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, were well-founded.

By extension, we conclude also that the statement in President Bush's State of the Union Address of 28 January 2003 that: "The British Government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant