

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

quantities of uranium from Africa' was well-founded.

The report also rebuts many of the widely circulated claims made by Ambassador Joe Wilson about his role in the mission to Niger; the report he made to Washington upon his return; and later his claims that the administration manipulated intelligence. This report reveals that Ambassador Wilson's repeated attacks on the President's credibility were misleading, at best, and without merit.

Furthermore, both reports find that no political pressure was applied to influence intelligence estimates. President Bush and Prime Minister Blair were, in fact, scrupulous in their presentation of the evidence as it was known.

Saddam Hussein intended to resume his illegal weapons programs, and was taking steps to do so. The Butler report corroborates that, prior to the war, Iraq was "carrying out illicit research and development, and procurement activities to seek to sustain its indigenous capabilities."

In other words, Saddam was a threat to our peace, security, and interests. He never abandoned his ultimate goal to acquire WMD. Saddam may have been biding his time, but as the President told the nation, in this case, time was a ticking bomb.

I applaud the efforts of both our Intelligence Committee and our British allies. Their examinations of the intelligence problems and misjudgments prior to the war are crucial to making the reforms necessary to winning the war on terrorism. This war, more than any other, depends on information.

I look forward to the discussion of how we can strengthen our intelligence gathering and analysis. Brave men and women are out in the field, right now, risking their lives to defend America's freedom. They need an intelligence system that backs them up. America needs an intelligence system that works, and works well.

#### ASBESTOS UPDATE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to report briefly on where things stand on the asbestos negotiations Senator DASCHLE and I have been conducting for the last couple of months.

There is wide agreement that the current asbestos litigation system is disastrous for victims, for jobs, and for the economy.

More than 700,000 individuals have filed claims; approximately 300,000 claims are still pending; more than \$70 billion has already been spent trying to resolve these claims; and more than 70 companies have filed for bankruptcy as a result.

And yet we have very little to show for it. We have a system where the sickest victims of asbestos exposure have to wait in line with thousands of unimpaired claimants.

There are many things that we in Congress cannot agree upon. But every-

one can agree that this system is a mess and must be fixed.

Senators HATCH and LEAHY ironed out a unique solution to the problem. They created a no-fault trust fund for claimants funded by business and insurance that would pay truly sick claimants fair claims values in a prompt manner.

S. 1125 embodied this idea and was reported out of the Judiciary Committee in July of 2003. That bill provided \$108 billion in mandatory funding for claimants.

On April 7, 2004, Senator HATCH and I, along with Senators MILLER, DEWINE, VOINOVICH, CHAMBLISS, HAGEL, and DOMENICI, introduced a substitute bill, S. 2290. S. 2290 increased the funding for claimants to \$114 billion.

Unfortunately, on April 22, that bill only received 50 votes on the floor of the Senate. Why? The opponents' primary complaint was that the funding was insufficient.

I did not want to give up on finding a solution to this crisis. Fortunately, neither did the Democrat leader. So we met and decided to ask Judge Becker, a respected Third Circuit Court of Appeals judge who had been working on asbestos issues with Senator SPECTER, to try to mediate the parties' differences. He did so over a 2-week period in May and was able to get Organized Labor to move from \$153 billion to \$149 billion.

The business and insurance side of the equation moved from the \$114 billion into the mid-\$120 billion range. But no deal was reached.

In June, the minority leader and I met again and agreed to try to negotiate this matter between us, along with the help of the interested parties.

Soon after those negotiations began, the business side made yet another move, this time offering to fund a \$131 billion trust fund. They were told that was still insufficient.

So, at my request, Senator DASCHLE put together a proposal. He proposed a \$141 billion trust fund. He also indicated how his side believed the start up of the fund and pending claims should be handled, among other issues.

In response, I encouraged the business and insurance communities to make their best and final proposal on the size of the fund. I told them that the end-game was near and that it was time for them to do the best they could in terms of a proposal.

As a result, they made a huge move and agreed to fund a \$140 billion trust fund, with roughly \$40 billion funded in the first 5 years.

Now here is the rub. Time is running out. It is now the end of July, and we are set to begin a long recess. We only have 21 days left in this session of Congress to get a bill completed.

So I sat down with Senator DASCHLE earlier this week to try to push negotiations forward. To get a bill, we must begin to tackle the tough issues.

Those tough issues concern funding and pending claims. Because we have

reached the bottom line for business and insurance when it comes to funding, it is time to intensify negotiations on the so-called "start-up" and "pendings" issues.

Business and insurance will not agree to a \$140 billion trust fund and, simultaneously, continue to pay massive sums for ongoing litigation. Either a trust fund is the solution to our problems or it is not.

I have asked Senator DASCHLE to let me know whether he believes his side can move in our direction and not permit leakage in the tort system. If so, substantial progress can be made.

Today, I received a letter from Senator DASCHLE and 12 other Democrats expressing their commitment to "work over the August recess to narrow our differences and secure a compromise that provides necessary relief to victims and businesses."

I deeply appreciate their steadfast commitment to this issue and look forward to hearing from them about how we can solve the asbestos litigation crisis.

#### AMERICA IS MOVING FORWARD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, over the past few months, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have come to the Senate floor in a vain effort to convince America that we are worse off than we were 4 years ago.

They offer a pessimistic litany of distorted statistics to discredit the measurable progress America has made in the last 4 years. Just last Friday, the minority leader came to the Senate floor to cast a negative light on America's astonishing rebound from the triple shock of terrorist attacks, corporate scandals, and a recession inherited from the Clinton administration.

It is critical that the American people know the truth.

Far from the other side's woeful depiction, America is moving forward and gaining strength. We have been tested, and we have proven ourselves to be a tough, resilient and resourceful nation.

America remains the economic engine of the world. While our European friends struggle with double digit unemployment, America's unemployment rate is at historic lows and dropping.

Are we better off? Four years ago, President Bush inherited an economy that measured \$9.8 trillion. Today, the economy has grown almost \$1 trillion more.

Are we better off? Four years ago, President Bush inherited an economy that was the equivalent to roughly \$25,000 for every person. Today, that number has grown to nearly \$30,000.

Are we better off? Four years ago, President Bush inherited an economy that employed 136.9 million people. Today, the number of people working has grown by nearly 2 million and is on track to create 1.2 million jobs this year.

Contrary to claims made by critics, the quality of jobs being created is excellent. Three quarters of the new jobs