

That is from one of the Iraqis participating in the progress. And if any terrorists think the people of Iraq do not hold their new republic dear, let them heed the words of Munthir's older brother, Naseer Abbas, also of Baghdad. He states quite simply: "We are ready to defend this constitution with our blood."

Iraqis are our partners in the war on terror, and they understand the magnitude of our shared cause. They realize the power a thriving democracy in the heart of the Middle East can have as a counter-example to tyrannical regimes like Iran, whose President recently called for Israel to be "wiped off the face of the Earth." The Iraqis have embraced liberty, and rejected the homicidal urgings of terrorists. I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting them and their commitment to freedom.

Tyrannical leaders who repress their people much as Saddam Hussein once did the Iraqis should make no mistake: The people in your country are looking at Iraq and wondering, "Why not here? Why not now?"

The terrorists do not have the right answers to those questions. Americans, and Iraqis, do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, before I talk about the situation in Iraq, I want to mention something that has gone on in my City of Philadelphia which I think deserves recognition during Veterans Day; that is, a situation with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the Revolutionary War. That is a memorial which was erected in Philadelphia in 1954. There was an eternal flame added to that memorial back in 1976 during our bicentennial year. About 10 years ago that flame went out, and for 10 years the City of Philadelphia and the government of the City of Philadelphia refused to relight it—to fix the flame.

It wasn't until the efforts of Larry Mendte, a journalist for the CBS station WKYW television in Philadelphia, and the work he did in bringing this issue to light—other journalists have brought this to light in the past—but to Larry's credit, he did not give up. And they continued to run story after story and hound the city of Philadelphia to try to finally fix this monument and fix this eternal flame.

I wish to give thanks to the veterans community in Philadelphia, to WKYW, to Larry, and ultimately I have to congratulate Mayor Street. After an enormous amount of pressure put on his administration, Mayor Street finally decided to fix the flame.

Once the flame was fixed, the National Park Service took that flame over and will make sure that the flame

at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Revolutionary War, where so many died in the city of Philadelphia, will burn as an eternal flame.

As we all know, this Friday is Veterans Day, a day when Americans pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served in our armed forces. There is no group of Americans to which we owe more than those who have fought to protect the freedoms that are the very heart of our Nation.

The truth is that our veterans, both past and present, should be honored every day of the year. We would not be here today, enjoying all the blessings we have if it were not for the sacrifices of those who took up arms to defend America. And so, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the residents of my home state who have fought to ensure that those who passed away in service to our country are remembered, day in and day out, with the reverence they deserve.

The city of Philadelphia, so central to the American Revolution, became the final resting place for thousands of Revolutionary soldiers. Many of these brave men, America's first patriots, were laid to rest in mass, unmarked graves throughout the Philadelphia region. To honor these soldiers, and the millions more who have fought for our Nation since its inception, a war memorial was erected in Philadelphia in 1954. Ever since, this monument, known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, has stood as a tribute to those who first made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of America.

During the bicentennial celebration in 1976, an eternal flame was added to the monument. This flame, a symbol of the enduring spirit of the soldiers that passed, was to burn continuously in their honor. Yet over time, the flame was neglected and allowed to die out. For the last few years, this monument has stood incomplete, and as a tribute to our soldiers, insufficient.

Thankfully, Philadelphia is a city filled with conscientious, concerned citizens. On June 6 of this year, Mr. Larry Mendte, a journalist for the CBS station WKYW, reported that the flame had gone out. The response from viewers was immediate. The next night, a veteran of the gulf war traveled to the monument and lit her own flame, a flame that would certainly not wane due to neglect, thus beginning a candlelight vigil that would be joined by many others.

Mr. Mendte, along with his colleagues at CBS, would not let this story disappear. He tracked down city officials, demanded an explanation, and refused to accept their attempts to brush him off. On June 13, merely seven days after the initial story was broadcast, the city began the repair process. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Mendte, WKYW, and the many concerned Philadelphia residents who responded to this story, over 100 individuals were able to witness the reigniting of the eternal flame on June 29.

An inscription on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier reads, "Freedom is a light for which many men have died in darkness." Freedom is a light, a light that still shines bright throughout the world thanks to the effort and sacrifice of American soldiers. Today in Philadelphia, a different light is shining, once again, in recognition of these soldiers and what they have given for us.

I commend Mr. Mendte and his colleagues at WKYW for bringing attention to this issue and pushing for its resolution, as well as the residents of Philadelphia who responded, in force, with their support. Most of all, I thank America's veterans, who have given more than we can ever repay, and deserve to be honored and recognized at every opportunity. The eternal flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a fitting tribute, and I am proud to represent such dedicated, patriotic citizens who worked so hard for its restoration.

Congratulations to all involved in the city of Philadelphia.

U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS' SUCCESS IN IRAQ

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I congratulate the Senator from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON, for her tremendous effort in organizing Members to come to the floor to tell the other side of story in Iraq.

It started with a series of e-mails that I received from different people, from constituents to folks who weren't constituents, who complained to me—these are soldiers in-country—that they were becoming frustrated because every day they would be out there on the frontlines in-country, serving, sacrificing for our country and accomplishing great deeds and then would have to turn on CNN and other news shows and read the clips from the American newspapers and see a war being described which they were not seeing. They were not seeing the war as being an IED every day but seeing, every day, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis working with our American military forces to make Iraq a more stable and safe place.

I, along with Senator HUTCHISON and my colleagues, have decided it is time to start going around the mainstream media and telling the other side of the story.

I came from a press conference downstairs where I had four civilian independent military bloggers. These are people who have been in-country—one is going to be in-country in the next couple of weeks, one who is the wife of someone who is heading to Iraq—talking about the military blog, talking about all of the information that is now populating the Internet, of people who are actually there in-country, telling their stories, people who are making a difference every single day in the lives of Iraqis.

One such person is Captain Jim Bentzley, who is from suburban Philadelphia, who wrote to me a month and a half ago. He said:

The reason I'm writing to you about this mission is because I do not believe that the American public realizes how well we are working with the new Iraqi military. In my own shop, the mission could not be accomplished without the help and, cooperation of my Iraqi troop-employees. Likewise, I help them by guiding them through the U.S. military's logistics system. I'm also trying to educate them past the military logistics by introducing them to some of my civilian-experience and U.S. business logistics practices: lean logistics and six sigma. Efficiency is a new concept for them . . . but I believe I can get through to them so that when we, Americans, leave this place, the Iraqis will pick up the mission seamlessly.

I would like you to visit my operation so that you can see the way we work with the Iraqis and so that the American people can also see. There are a lot of good things going on over here and most of them deal with people and the close relationships that are being formed—this is definitely not seen by America; America only seems to see the darker side of Iraq. Friendships that will last a lifetime are starting here, and they are friendships between former enemies. I realize I've only been here, in Iraq, for a couple of weeks, but already I consider my Iraqi counterparts close friends.

Corporal Mindo Estrella, from Erie, PA said:

I like working with the [Iraqi Army] and teaching them our tactics. I think that they've learned what we are teaching them and one day will be able to take over operations.

Corporal Estrella reenlisted, in the Marine Corps this past October, shortly after his battalion arrived: in Iraq. He said:

I like what I do, It gets rough at times, but nobody made me come out here. I signed the contract knowing what I was getting myself into.

He reenlisted last month. He said he likes what he does. He feels he is making a difference in transforming the country of Iraq.

LCpl Dan Williams said the same thing. He arrived in mid-March and has worked in-country, in Fallujah, to identify lots of insurgents and is working with the people now. He says he is getting the intelligence from the people in the community, where originally they were hesitant to work with them. Now most of the intelligence they are gathering is from Iraqi civilians who realize that it is now in their best interests for their country that they want to fight for to cooperate not with the American military but also with the Iraqi military in rooting out insurgents in their country.

We are making tremendous, positive steps.

I am going to be working, over the next several months, to make sure that the stories of the people who are on the frontline, who are fighting the war in the trenches, have their stories told to the American public and not people sitting in editorial rooms in New York City trying to spin what is going on in the mainstream of Iraq.

For example, news comes that America has suffered the loss of 2,048 brave servicemen and women in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The loss of any soldier in the cause of freedom grieves us all; especially the parents, wives, husbands and children of each deceased loved one. As elected officials, we don't know these soldiers as numbers, but as people, with hopes and dreams, family and friends. Knowing them as we do, it is hard to imagine the loss of any of them.

As great as the loss is, it can only compound a family's sadness to hear some say that the loss of their loved one was neither for the protection of America or the freedom of man. Yet we hear it regularly. Critics say Iraq posed no threat, as there was no link in Iraq to the war on terror. Or that securing freedom in the Middle East is impossible or isn't worth one American life.

To those who have lost their loved ones, don't believe these critics. Don't let those poisoned words take root in your heart.

As you hear of the 2,048th soldier lost, there is another number that demonstrates the protection of Americans here, and the preservation of freedom around the world. And that number, as best we can ascertain, stood at 450 last month.

Over 450 suicide bombers have attacked in Iraq. That is over 450 suicide bombers who did not strike at America's homeland, did not strike at our embassies, our ships, our civilians around the globe. It is your sons and daughters who have protected America from these 450 plus suicide bombers.

The suicide bomber represents that greatest threat to America, to democracies, to civilized society, and to peace. Stopping suicide bombers from attacking America and our allies is the foremost goal of the War on Terror. Without terrorists, planes, trains, boats, cars, and buses are moving gifts to society. Add a single terrorist, and they are transformed into weapons of mass death and destruction.

With one suicide bomber, a stolen van filled with explosives cost the U.S. Embassy in Beirut 63 lives, including 17 Americans. With one suicide bomber, a delivery truck took out the Marine Barracks in Beirut, costing the lives of 241 U.S. Marines. With just two suicide bombers, a small boat hit the U.S.S. *Cole*, killing 17 sailors. With just four suicide bombers, the London subway and buses became the final destination for 52 civilians. With just 19 suicide bombers, four airliners made for one of America's darkest days by killing nearly 3,000 innocent people.

The suicide bomber is the foremost weapon of terrorism today. So how can anyone say that 450 ex-suicide bombers in Iraq has not protected American lives?

Critics of this war insist that it is America's presence in Iraq that has created the 450 plus suicide bombers in Iraq. Did America's presence in Iraq cause the attack on the World Trade

Center in 1993? Did our presence in Iraq compel terrorist to attack us on 9/11? The answer is no. It was our existence in the world that compelled the terrorists to attack us, time and again. These suicide bombers existed and attacked America before, on, and after 9/11, and well before Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Frankly, I am stunned that after 9/11 that anyone in a position of power would assume the peaceful intentions of one suicide bomber, much less each and every one of the 450 ex-suicide bombers in Iraq.

So I believe that 450 fewer suicide bombers does make America safer, and our brave men and women in uniform serving in Iraq have protected America from these cowards.

On the Marine Corps website is a story about Lance Corporal Dan Williams, a 22-year-old intelligence analyst from Murrysville, PA with the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment currently conducting security and stability operations in and around Fallujah. Part of Lance Corporal Williams' mission is to piece together fragments of data on terrorist identities, connections, and locations. This information is used to determine where and when to apprehend these individuals, and what type of threat they may face upon arrival. Since his unit arrived in Iraq in mid-March 2005, Lance Corporal Williams and his fellow Marines have helped to apprehend dozens of insurgent supporters and to unearth several weapons caches in the area.

As for this fight for freedom, we now have a democratically-elected constitution in place in Iraq. Will freedom and democracy take root and flourish in Iraq?

We cannot say right now. But, when we laid to rest the 1,500 American soldiers that perished on D-Day in the grave at Normandy, no one could say whether freedom would take in post-Nazi Germany. When we laid to rest those 6,891 fallen soldiers at Iwo Jima, no one could say that militaristic Japan would become a democratic nation. None of those tens of thousands who fought and died in the hot chapter of the Cold War knew that freedom would ever arise behind the Iron Curtain, much less survive. And even here in America, as we buried the 4,435 lost in total at Concord, Lexington, Bunker Hill, Trenton, Princeton, Bennington, Cowpens, and Yorktown, no one could say for certain that a government of, for, and by the people would take. But it did.

Each of those who died in all these battles never knew if freedom and liberty would result from their sacrifice. Rather, they died for the hope and dream that it might exist and flourish, both here and elsewhere for our fellow man.

It is so unfortunate that so often critics of this war fail to tell the stories of success coming out of Iraq; the stories which prove that our U.S. servicemembers are working with the

Iraqis to help them to sustain this newfound freedom by helping the strengthen their armies.

The stories of success from our soldiers and sailors in Iraq need to be told. Our soldiers need to know that their bravery and hard work in Iraq is not in vain.

This new chance for freedom in this part of the world is due entirely to the sacrifice of our soldiers and sailors, and their families.

I say to our servicemen and women and your families—Our nation owes you our gratitude, and we honor you for bestowing the immeasurable gift of freedom. We thank each and every one of you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Pennsylvania for talking about what our people with boots on, on the ground in Iraq, are saying and what they are seeing.

I think it is important that we talk to them about the feelings in America because some people might get a misimpression if they listened to people who actually put forward the idea that we would cut and run from something that was started for all the right reasons—to protect Americans.

The President, knowing what happened on 9/11, was determined that he was not going to have another terrorist attack on America with weapons of mass destruction. That is why we went into the Middle East. We took on Saddam Hussein, who was known to have, from many different sources, weapons of mass destruction.

So we are there, and our troops are doing a great job. We are building the confidence in Iraq. You can see it from the people who are voting with their feet. They are walking to the polls and voting. Even under threat of death, they are working to establish a democracy. They are defying the terrorists. They know what the terrorists are doing to their country, and they are fighting back. And we are going to stand and fight with them, as we promised we would do.

I want to talk about this picture. It says more than any words ever could. Michael Yon is a former Green Beret who has been out of the service for years. He is also a gifted photographer and writer. He was embedded in Iraq for 9 months earlier this year. He learned about the area, the people, the unit in which he was embedded, and the situation in Iraq. His photographs capture an honest and inspiring message about our soldiers' service in Iraq, the mindset of the terrorists we are fighting, and what this war is all about.

I would like to read Michael's own words describing what happened on Saturday, May 14, 2005, in Mosul, just before he took this heartbreaking picture:

Major Mark Bieger found this little girl after the car bomb that attacked our guys while kids were crowding around. The sol-

diers have been angry and sad for two days. They are angry because the terrorists could just as easily have waited a block or two and attacked the patrol away from the kids. Instead, the suicide bomber drove his car and hit the Stryker when about twenty children were jumping up and down and waving at the soldiers.

Major Bieger, I had seen him help rescue some of our guys a week earlier during another big attack, took some of our soldiers and rushed this little girl to our hospital. He wanted her to have American surgeons and not go to the Iraqi hospital. She didn't make it. I snapped this picture when Major Bieger ran to take her away.

The soldiers went back to the neighborhood the next day to ask what they could do. The people were very warming and welcomed us into their homes, and kids were actually running up to say hello and to ask soldiers to shake hands.

Eventually, some insurgents must have realized we were back and started shooting at us. The American soldiers and Iraqi police started engaging the enemy and there was a running gun battle. I saw at least one Iraqi police who was shot, but he looked okay and actually smiled at me despite the bullet hole in his leg. I smiled back.

One thing seems certain: The people in that neighborhood share our feelings about the terrorists. We are going to go back there, and if any terrorists come out, the soldiers hope to find them. Everybody is still very angry that the insurgents attacked us when the kids were around. Their day will come.

Mr. President, it is stories like this one that reaffirm why Americans are so proud of our troops and proud of the Iraqi people for embracing democracy and supporting our efforts to defeat terrorism. U.S. troops are not seen as occupiers, as some in our country would have you believe. Our soldiers are standing beside Iraqi forces, and their sacrifice to win the war on terror will never be diminished.

We are fighting an enemy who is willing to make a point of killing innocent children. There will be no freedom if we cut and run. We know why we are there, and we will complete the mission.

This story shows so much about how our troops feel. And if any person in this country talks to troops who have returned from Iraq, they will tell you similar stories about the feelings of the Iraqi people. Iraqis often are under threat of death if they are talking to American soldiers or trying to do something productive that would move their country forward, such as voting on a constitution, which they did in droves. They are standing firm despite the threats.

Our troops are going through the process of teaching the Iraqi police and the Iraqi soldiers how to help themselves, how to work the equipment, and how to counter insurgents who would wait until children are in the picture before choosing to blow themselves up.

This is an enemy that we must not let stay on this Earth. We must eradicate it wherever it is. And we must make sure that it does not come to America because if this enemy would wait until children are surrounding our soldiers to do their heinous crimes, what would they do if they came back

to America to attack our people? How heinous would their crimes be here?

Our President is trying to make sure they do not have that opportunity, that they will not be able to perpetrate their horrible and indecent acts against the people of America on our soil. Our President is taking every step to assure that Americans are secure.

So I think it is time for us to stop the partisan bickering. No one in their right mind would suggest that this is a time for America to turn and run. So let's try to work together to make sure we are doing everything possible to help the Iraqi people get on their feet, hold their elections, and begin the process of self-government.

Nothing will eradicate terrorism more quickly than showing that democracy and self-governance can work. That is what our President is leading our country and our troops in the field to provide: Safety and security for the Iraqi people so they can govern themselves. The Iraqi people are moving forward with a constitution they have written and they have voted for, which will be followed by more elections of a parliament and leaders who will take this constitution and make the laws that will give freedom to every Iraqi. Freedom is something which they have not known—many of them—in their lifetimes. It is a worthy cause because it will also assure the security of the American people in future generations.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1042, which the clerk will report.

The journal clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1042) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Chambliss amendment No. 2433, to reduce the eligibility age for receipt of non-regular military service retired pay for members of the Ready Reserve in active federal status or on active duty for significant periods.

Ensign amendment No. 2443, to restate United States policy on the use of riot control agents by members of the Armed Forces.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The journal clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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