

Over a year ago, we intercepted a message Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a terrorist in Iraq, sent to Osama bin Laden. In the message, al-Zarqawi said, "The future has become frightening" for terrorists because democracy has gained a foothold in Iraq. He told Osama bin Laden, "Democracy is coming and there will be no excuse thereafter for the attacks."

Iraq has become the proving ground of our commitment to the war on terror. If we waver, our enemies will read our hesitation as victory. If we do not fight the terrorists abroad, we will be forced to fight them on our shores.

We must remain united behind our troops and committed to this mission. I urge the Senate to continue to support the strategy President Bush outlined last night.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska. He has been such a strong leader as chairman of the Appropriations Committee and chairman of the Defense Appropriations Committee as well. No one knows better how the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan are performing their duties and how this administration has stepped up to the plate to make sure they have what they need to do the job. He has been to Iraq and Afghanistan. He has visited the troops, as have I, and his words were very helpful in talking to the American people about this subject.

Mr. President, as we begin this day, we are also going to have a very important amendment that will help our veterans be able to have the service they need as they are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as many of the veterans of previous wars who are now in the Veterans' Administration system.

Secretary Jim Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, came to the Congress just this past week and said that there has been a surge in the use of veterans facilities that has caused the ability to determine what will be needed in the future to be skewed. All of the patterns of the past are now not in place for use today because we have more veterans coming into the system. That is not a bad thing.

We owe the veterans the care they thought they would receive when they entered the military service and which they so richly deserve. Whether they fought in a war or not, they were there to serve, and many of them did fight in wars—brutal wars. The one we are in now is a brutal war. There are actually more injuries and fewer deaths in the kind of war that we are fighting. That means that many people are coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan injured.

Our President has said unequivocally that we are going to take care of those people who have served, and we are going to treat their injuries because they deserve to have that treatment. So Secretary Nicholson has come to us and asked for an emergency appropri-

ation. We are going to give Secretary Nicholson, of course, an emergency appropriation.

Senator MURRAY and Senator BYRD are working on an amendment. I have a second-degree amendment with Senators SANTORUM, KYL, and CRAIG. It is a leadership amendment because we put it together with the White House, the OMB, and the Veterans Affairs Department, to try to get the numbers. We wanted to know what we will need for this year, going into next year.

I am chairman of the Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. I have worked with Senator CRAIG, who is the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which authorizes the policies that affect veterans. We have put together a second-degree amendment to Senator MURRAY's and Senator BYRD's amendment that will put \$1.5 billion into the system immediately, and it will be there until it is spent. It will take us into the next fiscal year, because we are not going to scrimp on serving our veterans. We need more prostheses; we need improved ability to help people who have lost arms or legs, or who have been burned. We are going to provide that help, Mr. President, and our amendment is going to be a consensus that will come together with everybody at the table.

We are going to do the right thing by our veterans with an emergency appropriation that will come to the Senate floor this afternoon. It will be put on the Interior appropriations bill. We worked with Senator BURNS and his staff to put this emergency in at the first possible vehicle, and the first vehicle is on the Senate floor today. We just got the numbers this week. That is why we are going to immediately put in force an emergency appropriation that will assure that our Veterans' Administration has the funds it needs to assure that we don't take from the building funds because we know there are many veterans facilities in the process of being built or promised to be built. We need more veterans facilities, not fewer. So taking from maintenance accounts or capital accounts didn't seem like the right thing to do.

We worked together with the Veterans' Administration, with the leadership of our President, with Democrats and Republicans, to come up with the right numbers to put it on the first bill that will go through the Senate this week. We hope the House will work with us to fund this appropriation and that nothing will be, in any way, delayed or denied to a veteran, either one coming back from Iraq or one coming back from Afghanistan or from anywhere in the world, or a veteran who has served previously.

Mr. President, I so appreciate the President's speech last night. I appreciate that he gave his speech at Fort Bragg, NC, in front of those men and women serving our country in the most noble way. I appreciate that the President said we hope more people will vol-

unteer for the Army. We need more volunteers right now. We are ramping up the end strength of the Army by 30,000. This is part of our ongoing effort to revamp the Army. The Army is doing a fabulous job in Iraq. So are the Marines. The Navy and the Air Force are helping. But we need to have America come together.

I was so pleased that the President asked Americans to do something next week, on July 4, Independence Day. He asked every American to reach out to a family of someone serving today in Iraq or Afghanistan. I know the people of America will respond. I know they will go to that Web site and start the process of finding out how they can do more to give those young men and women with boots on the ground overseas fighting terror the opportunity to talk to their folks back home, to talk to their families.

The President is taking the lead, and the Senate—Republicans and Democrats—must come together to lead our country to do the right thing in the war on terror.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we may proceed with a unanimous-consent request.

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

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—BILLS DISCHARGED

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following postal naming bills en bloc: S. 571, S. 775, S. 904, H.R. 120, H.R. 289, H.R. 324, H.R. 504, H.R. 627, H.R. 1001, H.R. 1072, H.R. 1082, H.R. 1236, H.R. 1460, H.R. 1524, H.R. 1542, and H.R. 2326.

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these bills be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to the bills be printed at this point in the RECORD.

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

#### CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY A. CHISHOLM POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (S. 571) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1915 Fulton Street in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Congresswoman Shirley A. Chisholm Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed, as follows:

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

#### SECTION 1. CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY A. CHISHOLM POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1915

Fulton Street in Brooklyn, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Congresswoman Shirley A. Chisholm Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Congresswoman Shirley A. Chisholm Post Office Building.

#### BOONE PICKENS POST OFFICE

The bill (S. 775) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 W. 7th Street in Holdenville, Oklahoma, shall be known and designated as the "Boone Pickens Post Office" was read the third time and passed, as follows:

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

##### SECTION 1. BOONE PICKENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 W. 7th Street in Holdenville, Oklahoma, shall be known and designated as the "Boone Pickens Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Boone Pickens Post Office".

#### BRIAN P. PARRELLO POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (S. 904) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1560 Union Valley Road in West Milford, New Jersey, as the "Brian P. Parrello Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed, as follows:

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

##### SECTION 1. BRIAN P. PARRELLO POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1560 Union Valley Road in West Milford, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "Brian P. Parrello Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Brian P. Parrello Post Office Building".

#### DALIP SINGH SAUND POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 120) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road in Temecula, California, as the "Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JOHN MARSHALL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 289) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8200 South Vermont

Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Sergeant First Class John Marshall Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### ARTHUR STACEY MASTRAPA POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 324) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 321 Montgomery Road in Altamonte Springs, Florida, as the "Arthur Stacey Mastrapa Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### RAY CHARLES POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 504) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4960 West Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, as the "Ray Charles Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### LINDA WHITE EPPS POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 627) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Putnam Avenue in Hamden, Connecticut, as the "Linda White-Epps Post Office" was read the third time and passed.

#### SERGEANT BYRON W. NORWOOD POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1001) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 South Heatherwilde Boulevard in Pflugerville, Texas, as the "Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### JUDGE EMILIO VARGAS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1072) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 West End Street in Goliad, Texas, as the "Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### FRANCIS C. GOODPASTER POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1082) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 East Illinois Avenue in Vinita, Oklahoma, as the "Francis C. Goodpaster Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### MAYOR TONY ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 1236) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 750 4th Street in Sparks, Nevada, as the "Mayor Tony

Armstrong Memorial Post Office" was read the third time and passed.

#### CAPTAIN MARK STUBENHOFER POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1460) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, as the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### ED EILERT POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1524) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the "Ed Eilert Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### HONORABLE JUDGE GEORGE N. LEIGHTON POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1542) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 695 Pleasant Street in New Bedford, Massachusetts, as the "Honorable Judge George N. Leighton Post Office Building" was read the third time and passed.

#### FLOYD LUPTON POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 2326) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 614 West Old County Road in Belhaven, North Carolina, as the "Floyd Lupton Post Office" was read the third time and passed.

MEASURES PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 590, S. 867, S. 892, S. 1206, AND S. 1207

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 590, S. 867, S. 892, S. 1206, and S. 1207 en bloc, and these bills placed on the calendar.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BURNS. I ask for the regular order.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2361, which the clerk will report.