

this is how Ronald Reagan kept his common sense. This is where you see the essence of the man, why he was so well grounded so that he could somehow see the future and keep the inspiration and appreciation of the grandeur of God's creation with the beauty of the trees and the rocks and mountains and the animals, but also recognizing what is great about this country, and the hard work and the personal strength it takes to do various things.

Ronald Reagan was a modern-day hero who embodied all that was great about George Washington and the spirits enunciated by Thomas Jefferson. His perseverance, his strength, his commitment to principle are lessons that taught me and taught many others. He was the person who inspired me and many others to get involved in organized politics and into public service. Today, thanks to Ronald Reagan, as I saw Ambassadors on the House floor from Lithuania, from Romania, throughout Central Europe—those were hundreds of millions of people who were behind the Iron Curtain. But, thanks to Ronald Reagan's perseverance, for his belief in the dignity of all human beings, that all people do yearn to be free, to exercise their God-given rights, those people who were behind that Iron Curtain, who were enemies, are now tasting that sweet nectar of liberty. They are our friends. They are our allies in this war on terror. Their numbers are growing, with greater hope and prosperity. Ronald Reagan helped make sure this century is the century of liberty.

While President Reagan's life here on Earth is over, his legacy continues to endure, motivate, and inspire me and others here in America and around the world. I hope on this weekend we will think of Nancy Reagan, say a prayer for her, remember and also thank God for one of the greatest blessings He has provided to us and that is the birth of Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I see my wonderful partner and colleague from Virginia, Senator WARNER, has joined us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I compliment my colleague for his thoughts about Ronald Reagan. With a great sense of humility and modesty, I recount one story of an experience I had with him. He loved our State of Virginia, by the way. So often on the weekends he would come down into the vicinity of where I, in those days, had a farm. He would call up and say: Hey, let's go riding.

He was the President of the United States. I said: Fine, Mr. President, where and when?

He said: Right there, on your place, just set it up.

Just as you said, Senator ALLEN, he loved the outdoors. But I remember one day we brought the horses in and were getting them ready—I had a wonderful man who used to be working for

me, and my man was putting the saddle on my horse and cinching him up. Along came the President's horse. I said to my man: Let's go over there and help the President put his saddle on the horse. We walked over there and the President said: I do my own saddle. No one touches my tack. I am going to do it.

He grabbed that big old western saddle he had, put it on the horse, cinched him down, and then he went over to help Nancy put her gear on, and off we rode, across the hills of Virginia. Eventually, we stopped up on a hill. It was a hot day in August and the flies were bothering the horses, and the Secret Service guys were having a dickens of a time staying on the horses.

He checked the horse and looked down in the valley. Senator ALLEN, he recounted to me with great specificity every step of the valley campaign. How the northerners marched down the valley and then the southern troops, Confederates, would drive them back up, and Stonewall Jackson, and on and on.

Frankly, as much time as I have spent in that valley—I went to school at Washington & Lee University—I learned facts from our President at that time about the history of Virginia.

He loved America. He loved the outdoors. He loved his history and he loved his people. You captured him beautifully in your remarks. I congratulate you, my friend.

Mr. ALLEN. I thank my colleague.

THE IRAQI ELECTIONS AND U.S. POLICY IN IRAQ

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak of the historic Iraqi elections and the President's message last night.

This past Sunday, the world watched as millions of Iraqi people headed to the polls to participate in their first free election in more than 50 years.

In doing so, the Iraqis defied the terrorists and they risked their lives for what was, for most, the first exercise of democracy in their lifetimes.

Not only did the Iraqi people defy the terrorists, but they defied the skeptics—some of whom could be found in Iraq itself, many others throughout the international community, and, disappointingly, even here at home. Many said that the elections were too soon, that the Iraqi people wouldn't dare come out of their homes to vote, and worse, that the Iraqi people weren't ready and didn't desire freedom.

Though the votes have yet to be tallied, the millions of Iraqi voters that turned out on Sunday underscore the truism that people desire to be free.

And one of the most fundamental political freedoms is the freedom to choose your government. What we saw on Sunday should not surprise Americans: When given the opportunity to be in charge of their own destiny, citizens of all nations will not only turn out in great numbers, but they are willing to

sacrifice their own lives for the opportunity to live in a free society.

I agree with one of America's most perceptive analysts on the region, Fouad Ajami, who said that on Sunday we bonded with the Iraqi people, because they were doing the most American act: voting.

As a strong supporter of our President and his policy in Iraq, I am always encouraged by my fellow Utahns who believe America should stay the course, fight on, and finish what we started. Utahns appreciate the sacrifice and courage of our troops, and those of the Iraqis who deeply appreciate our commitment.

Earlier this week, I read that the mayor of Baghdad even wants to erect a statue to President Bush, calling him the "symbol of freedom." When asked if he was concerned about the many threats on his life, Mayor Ali Fadel said, "My life is cheap, everything is cheap for my country."

He also said, "We have a lot of work and we are especially grateful to the soldiers of the USA for freeing our country of tyranny."

We saw this gratitude again last night when the daughter of a man killed by Saddam Hussein's thugs was hugged by the mother of a Marine who gave his life in Fallujah.

Some may erroneously dismiss that as crafted drama. For me, that moment in the State of the Union will forever capture America's mission of spreading freedom in this world.

I have tears in my eyes because I remember many years ago receiving notice that my brother had been killed in the Second World War fighting for the freedom that Sergeant Norwood fought for over in Iraq—fighting for the freedoms for Europe and the world.

Many of our soldiers risking their lives in Iraq are my fellow Utahans. I am both proud and impressed with their willingness to serve their country and help the Iraqi people establish a free and democratic government.

Just yesterday, a group of 100 Utah National Guard men and women, in addition to the 500 that left just a week before, were deployed to bases in the U.S. for training, after which they will move to Iraq, where they will continue to serve for 1 year.

We have had Utahans over there serving beyond the term they were supposed to serve.

We have had Utahans over there serving beyond the term they were supposed to serve. I know they will serve well and, I pray for their safe return home to their loved ones and families.

We all understand that this election was just one more step on the path to a free and democratic Iraq. But, it was an enormously important step.

I commend our President, our brave men and women in uniform, and especially, the freedom-loving people of Iraq.

President Bush began his speech last night recognizing that he serves at the privilege of the voters, and that, today,

an Iraqi government is forming based on the voters' selections, as a new government is in place in the Palestinian Authority, and in Afghanistan.

One of the President's greatest virtues, in my opinion, is his humility, and the recognition that we serve at the voters' behest is the fundamental virtue of leadership in a democracy.

To recognize that humility is to accept the responsibility that democratic leadership must always be open and transparent and compelling to the electorate.

Over the past 4 years, President Bush has often spoken directly and honestly to the American people, about the uncertain threats before us, and about the responsibilities we need to shoulder to defend our freedoms.

At the beginning of my remarks I said that one of the most fundamental political freedoms is the freedom to choose your government.

An even more basic political freedom is the freedom from tyranny or terror.

To be secure from the carbombers, from the dreaded knock on the door in the middle of the night, from the capricious order of the dictator, are necessary for freedom to be sustained.

Last night the President again stated his vision of how our security is dependent on expanding the zone of freedom to regions of the world where for too long threats to our security incubated.

Iraq will never be fully free until the Iraqi people can provide for their own security, and the President made it plainly clear again last night that our mission will not be finished until we have trained an effective Iraqi force to assume their security. To leave before then, or to announce a departure before we know we have achieved this goal, is to undermine our mission and devalue our sacrifices.

Those who call for an exit date before knowing we have succeeded care not for our success nor our security.

We know there remains much work to be done. No one called for an exit date before we had victory in World War II, a war where America made enormous sacrifices, including my only brother.

No one called for an exit strategy during the twilight years of the Cold War.

No one, after the collapse of the Soviet Empire, set an exit date for our efforts to support democratic transition in central and eastern Europe. We build our policies on victory, magnanimity, democracy and freedom.

While we will not set an exit date, we do have an exit strategy; that is, once we have trained enough security people and police people to take over and to protect and care for their own country, once we have helped to bring up their structure, witnessing that there is a degree of security, peace, and freedom in Iraq beyond where it is now, we are going to pull our young men and women out of there. Let us hope that happens sooner rather than later.

Listening to President Bush's speech last night, I know he understands how to protect America's security. Even more, he understands America's role in a challenging world. President Bush has charted a course as bold as he is, and it is incumbent upon the Congress and the American people to support him in this most important effort.

BLACK DAY IN CAMBODIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today was yet another black day in Cambodia's history and for freedom. However, given the nature of the current regime nobody should be surprised by this latest assault on liberty.

Behind closed doors, the country's rubber-stamp National Assembly executed the devious plan of FUNCINPEC Party head Norodom Ranariddh and CPP hardline Prime Minister Hun Sen to undermine the democratic opposition led by Sam Rainsy.

In a series of secret votes, Rainsy and SRP parliamentarians Chea Poch and Cheam Channy were stripped of their parliamentary immunity. The three now face trumped up charges that place their fates in the hands of a corrupt government that is infamous for its human rights abuses and injustices against the Cambodian people.

This is outrageous and unacceptable.

It should now be clear to everyone that Norodom Ranariddh has cast his lot with CPP hardliners. This is a slight against all FUNCINPEC members who continue to support democracy and justice in Cambodia, and a grave dishonor to those who have given their lives in the struggle for freedom.

The State Department has been following the situation closely, and I commend the efforts of Ambassador Charles Ray and his staff for promoting reason and the rule of law during this latest charade. I encourage the State Department to respond in a forceful and appropriate manner, including compiling a list of those individuals who voted to strip the immunity of SRP members. They and their family members should be prohibited from entering the United States. Such action is consistent with the President's Proclamation of January 12, 2004.

I encourage other donors to publicly condemn the actions of the National Assembly, and to consider sanctions against the Cambodian government. Any activities with the National Assembly should be immediately and indefinitely suspended.

Donors should know by now that there is no progress or development in Cambodia without democracy—and what little democracy existed prior to the votes has been stripped away. An opportunity exists for the tough talk of donors during the last consultative group meeting to be followed by concrete actions. They must not miss it.

I strongly advise all international financial institutions—particularly the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank—to add their voice to their

chorus of concern and to consider a suspension of operations in Cambodia until the corrupt leaders get the message that tyranny will not be tolerated.

Those who have pledged resources for the Khmer Rouge tribunal may now want to reconsider—the actions of the National Assembly underscore that there is no justice in Cambodia today. It is ludicrous to believe that the country's legal system, even with outside participation, will function in a professional and independent manner. Let me be clear that justice is unquestionably needed for the millions of victims of the Khmer Rouge genocide in the 1970s, but justice is also needed for more recent crimes in Cambodia, including the 1997 grenade attack against Sam Rainsy and his supporters and the murders of Om Radsady and Chea Vichea.

Finally, I encourage King Norodom Sihamoni to find his voice during this political crisis. The world awaits an indication of the character and priorities of the new monarch.

Hun Sen and Ranariddh underestimate the resolve of the United States, as articulated by President Bush in his inaugural address and again last night, to stand by those championing freedom and liberty. Today, we stand with Sam Rainsy, Chea Poch and Cheam Channy and add our voices to their demands for democracy and justice. I hold Hun Sen and Ranariddh responsible for the security and the safety of these individuals—now and in the future.

As Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I would remind Cambodian officials that my staff and I will be putting together the fiscal year 2006 foreign aid bill over the coming weeks and months. Hun Sen and Ranariddh should know that Washington—and the world—are watching.

DEATH OF GEORGIAN PRIME MINISTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I take a moment to share with the Senate the very sad news from Georgia this morning that Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania has died in what Georgian officials are calling an accident.

According to government statements, he apparently suffocated during a meeting with his friend and Georgian deputy governor, Zurab Usupov, from a gas leak in a space heater. Mr. Usupov also died.

We send our condolences to his wife, three children and the people of Georgia. Prime Minister Zhvania led a crusade for freedom and democracy in Georgia that brought about the Rose Revolution.

As Prime Minister, he led the fight to root out corruption and set Georgia on a new path where democratic institutions could flourish. At the time of his death, he was advocating a peaceful resolution to the problems in South Ossetia.

We mourn his death. People throughout the world, who believe in freedom,