

and the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal. His commanding officer, Captain Todd Lindner, made clear to all that the 617th Military Police Company had lost an outstanding soldier. "Bill worked hard to keep high morale in his team," Capt. Lindner said, "and was a catalyst for the morale in our entire company."

To fully appreciate the impact Bill Allers had on those around him, however, it helps to know something about how he grew up. Billy, as he was known as a kid, was an adventurer. His father, William Allers II, has said that if there was a puddle of water, you would find Billy playing in it. A neighborhood friend of Bill's added, "if you [went] to look for Billy, you found him up in a tree."

Through this sense of adventure, Billy earned his childhood nickname. One day when Billy was about 4 or 5, his dad brought home a truckload of mushroom soil for the vegetable garden. Out of pure luck, this pile was deposited at the end of the long driveway of the Allers' home—and to Billy and his best friend, it had all the makings of a great jump ramp.

Before Mr. Allers had time to finish a glass of ice water inside the house, the two boys lined up their Big Wheels, sped down the blacktop and launched themselves nearly six feet into the air. Ever since that intrepid stunt, whenever they were seen together, the two were called the "Dukes of Hazzard" Boys. Billy's father jokes that this experience taught him that his son was a true "country boy."

Growing up, Bill Allers impressed people not only with his daredevil Big Wheel jumps, but also with his big heart and ability to lead others. During Bill's 4 years on the Fallston High School track team, in Fallston, MD, where he grew up, his strength of character began to shine through. His high school track coach put it this way: "As we went through the 4 years, he molded into a leader, and he wanted to be part of the team, and he wanted the team to do as well as possible, and [he] would always encourage the younger participants when he became one of the seniors."

Coach Greg Thompson went on to say, "He was selfless. He just was for everyone else and he wanted to see everybody else excel. And he wasn't worried about himself."

A truly gifted athlete, Bill mastered the high jump. He was also the "anchor" of the two-twenty and four-forty relay teams, meaning he was the one to carry the baton for the final stretch toward the finish line. If the relay team was behind, they trusted Bill to make up the ground and win the race.

Bill took pride in his team and his role on it, and he worked very hard to become the best competitor he could be. Evidently, he mastered that too, because Bill's relay team won medals at the Maryland High School State Championships in 1994.

When he was not running track, Bill worked part-time for a local land-

scaping and nursery company in Fallston. Part-time might not be a fair description, however, since it was all his parents could do to keep him from working 40 hours a week. Bill loved digging his hands into the soil and working to improve the environment that surrounded him.

In Iraq, that urge to build and create gave Bill his greatest joy—the gratitude the Iraqis had for the work he and his squad were doing to restore their country. A few months before Sergeant Allers reached his final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery, on a peaceful slope in a section reserved for those honored soldiers who have fallen in Iraq, he told his family about the work he was doing to restore that desert nation.

Bill's father said that Bill took great comfort from the gratitude the children of Baghdad showed to the American soldiers. His younger brother, Dave Allers, added, "He told us the kids over there really adored seeing soldiers out there. The soldiers handed out stationery, candy and gum. It opened up a whole new world to them. [Bill] was ecstatic that he was doing something good."

Sergeant Allers's love of the great outdoors also explains his affinity for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Bill may have grown up in Maryland, but he was first exposed to the Bluegrass State when he was assigned to Fort Knox, KY, to learn the tradecraft of the cavalry scout.

After serving a tour of duty that took him around the world and back, Bill decided to leave active-duty Army life and make Leitchfield, KY, his home. He was captivated by our rolling hills, champion horses, and friendly people. Wanting to continue his service to our country, he also decided to join the Kentucky National Guard, where he served with distinction until his final sacrifice.

Mr. President, in just these few short words I think I've made clear that this was a young man who gave so much of himself to better the lives of those around him. Now he is gone. We wish we could ease the grief of his family: his father, William, his brother, Dave, and his grandmother, Virginia, who have joined us today in the gallery, and his 9-year-old son, Gregory.

I hope their heartache is tempered by the knowledge that America will forever celebrate Sergeant Allers's heroism, and his sacrifice. As will the Iraqi children he safeguarded. And his courage, his bonds of love and friendship, and his spirit will not be forgotten.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 525. I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

Reginald I. Lloyd, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years, vice J. Strom Thurmond, Jr., resigned.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

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

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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I should first propound an inquiry of the Chair: What is the situation? What is the order of business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a period of morning business, and Senators may speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator has 9 minutes remaining.

WIRETAPPING OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in his radio address on December 17, 2005, President Bush disclosed that after September 11, 2001, he authorized the National Security Agency, NSA, to undertake wiretapping of American citizens to try to prevent terrorist attacks. The President argued that his actions were, in his words, "fully consistent" with his constitutional responsibilities.

The President wrongly asserted—Mr. President, the President wrongly asserted—that his authority to order warrantless electronic surveillance of U.S. citizens on American soil is supported by his inherent Presidential powers and the joint congressional resolution that authorized the use of force after September 11.

A huge swath—a huge swath—of America, including many expert legal minds, does not—I say, does not—agree

with the arguments put forth by the administration. These arguments are transparently contrived, intellectually deficient, indefensible excuses being served up like tripe to silence legitimate criticism of the White House.

Let me say that again. A huge swath of America, including many expert legal minds, does not agree with the arguments put forth by the administration. These arguments are transparently contrived, intellectually deficient, indefensible excuses being served up like tripe to silence legitimate criticism of the White House, a White House so infused with its own hubris that it has talked itself into believing that its inhabitants are above the law. But they are not. They are not above the law. President Bush is not above the law. No President is above the law. No United States Senator is above the law. No man is above the law. No one in the United States of America is above the law. Remember, this is a nation of laws, not of men.

Yesterday, the Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence jettisoned its constitutional responsibility to make certain that our laws are not being breached, and that the spirit and text of our revered Constitution remain in force. It is a sad day, indeed, to see such an important committee waltz under political pressure applied by the Vice President in partisan meetings held behind closed doors. The committee adjourned last night without considering a Democratic proposal to begin an investigation of the warrantless spying program, even though Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, the vice-chairman of the Intelligence Committee, had been assured that his proposal would receive a vote.

I want to commend my colleague, Senator ROCKEFELLER. He has worked hard to protect the people's liberties to make sure that this administration, even in its most secret circles, follows the law and the Constitution. It has not been an easy task, but it is one that Senator ROCKEFELLER has carried diligently.

Like Senator ROCKEFELLER, I will not sit idly by and allow the President's possible breaking of the law to be swept under the rug. I refuse to go quietly into the night, abdicating my responsibility as a U.S. Senator to a secretive executive branch, which refuses to brief the Congress of the United States on its clandestine spying on U.S. citizens without a warrant—an administration that believes it can, on its own, nullify constitutional provisions intended to protect the freedoms of millions of Americans for over 200 years.

This travesty must not stand. The peeping and snooping and spying must be investigated.

I am today announcing my intention to submit to the Congress legislation that will establish a nonpartisan, independent, 9-11-style commission to investigate and determine the legality of the President's actions.

There is a critical need for a thorough investigation of all domestic surveillance programs.

As I stated on Wednesday in my remarks on this subject, we, the American people—not just the NSA or the White House—have a legitimate need to know what is being done, by whom, and to whom. If there is a justifiable and valid reason to surveil a potential terrorist in the U.S., we certainly can find a way to do it legally. If there is a need to provide more efficient tools to fight terror, Congress has the responsibility to deliberate and, if warranted, to approve them. The President should ask Congress for them; not seize new powers that have never been enumerated by any U.S. court.

Congress would be pleased to entertain his request, as we have in the past, by updating FISA and the PATRIOT Act, but not—I repeat, not—before a full investigation to determine if laws have been broken—an investigation which will give members a fuller understanding of just what these surveillance programs entail. A little sunshine on this process is long overdue. Congress cannot fix what the White House does not want us to fully understand.

Congress needs to know if the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act or any other U.S. law has been broken, and whether the constitutional rights of thousands of Americans have been violated without cause. It is essential that Congress obtain the answers to these questions, not for partisan political reasons, but because our system of checks and balances requires it.

James Madison advised in Federalist 47 that: the accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.

The assumption of power by an unchecked executive, who arrogantly believes that he can seize the authority to spy on innocent Americans and wantonly violate the fourth amendment is the beginning of the tyranny Madison so feared.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the fourth amendment of the Constitution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONSTITUTION: FOURTH AMENDMENT

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I yield the floor. 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 (Mr. SUNUNU). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LIHEAP

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, our country needs additional funding for LIHEAP. Temperatures in rural Alaska have reached 62 below zero. These temperatures have frozen heating systems and water and sewer lines in many of our villages. Alaskans are struggling this winter and paying over \$5 per gallon to heat their homes. In fact, the mayor of a North Slope community told me that at one point, a village paid \$8 per gallon.

While the home heating picture is not as bleak in other parts of our country, all Americans are feeling the effects of high energy prices.

In December, I tried to address this situation by including emergency LIHEAP funding in the Defense Appropriations Bill. Our bill created a new revenue stream by authorizing oil and gas development in the Coastal Plain of ANWR—and used this revenue to provide funding for several emergencies. Our bill included \$2 billion for LIHEAP and funding for the hurricane victims, first responders, and farmers.

The ANWR provision would have created a long-term, dedicated funding stream for home energy assistance.

Most of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle successfully filibustered consideration of this package under the guise of a Rule XXVIII violation. They then noted to remove the ANWR provision and the funds it provided from the bill, including emergency funding for LIHEAP.

It was a sad display of good policy dying a quick death at the hands of partisan politics. It was a particularly sad day for the people this funding was designed to help.

Despite this, Americans still need heating assistance this winter. I hoped the Senate would put partisan politics aside and create a long-term funding stream for LIHEAP in December. I believe that would have been the best solution.

The measure before us today is the only other solution available, and I urge my colleagues to pass emergency LIHEAP assistance.

S. RES. 374 (PASSED THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16)

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, S. Res. 374 concerns a request for testimony, document production, and representation in a criminal case. The U.S. Department of Justice has brought a case in Federal court in the District of Columbia against the former chief of staff of the General Services Administration. The five-count indictment includes charges of making false statements and obstructing the investigation of the Committee on Indian Affairs into allegations of misconduct by lobbyists in the