

critical that we get our northern border under control. It is critical, we can do it, and we should do it. We should have done it long ago, and we can do it now, and we should make that commitment to those types of resources. As this bill moves forward, I intend to make those points and try to get people to look at this in the context of a doable event rather than in the context of simply a press release event.

Secondly, on the issue of immigration itself, it is also obvious that we have to have a workable guest worker program. We have to have something that says to people: If you want to come here and work and better your family, there is a way we can work that out. We can make that happen. That takes the pressure off of illegal immigration.

As we secure the border, it is clear that some sort of effective guest worker program is necessary. As part of that overall immigration effort, there is one little slice, though, which I believe we need to address. It is a small slice.

Today there is a lottery program where you can essentially send in your name and you are put into a lottery, and you have to be from a country which is deemed underprivileged, I believe; there is some sort of categorization. But if your name is pulled out of a hat, you can get on the path to American citizenship. Fifty thousand names are pulled out of the hat every year, just as a lottery.

At one time, this may have made sense, but it doesn't make sense today. It is very obvious today that just pulling people's names out of hats to put them on the path to citizenship in America is not fair to those people who are waiting in line and who have a reason and who have followed the process and have a purpose, and it is not fair to our Nation. How do we know we want somebody whose name is drawn out of a hat to be an American citizen? What benefit is that to us, other than that the person happened to be lucky?

Thus, if we are going to keep this lottery program, I believe we should change it over to a lottery program which essentially says: If you want to participate in this lottery, you have to have some unique talents or skills which America needs, such as a master's degree or a doctorate in some sort of science or mathematical capability or maybe some foreign language capability, something that America has a use for. So I think we should convert this lottery to that type of an approach.

I note that my time is about to expire and that we have both assistant leaders on the Senate floor, so something big must be happening. Therefore, I will continue this discussion as we move forward on the debate of immigration. But I do believe it is critical to understand that resolving the border issue is a very doable event. There is no complication to this, it is not subtle. It is simply a question of

resources, and we can accomplish it with the right amount of resources placed in the right place. We don't need new laws to do it.

I yield the floor.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to comment very briefly, because I notice Senator MCCONNELL is on the floor, about the pending immigration bill now before the Senate Judiciary Committee. It is an interesting story, as we watch the news reports, of the people who are gathering across the United States. Over 110,000, some say close to 200,000, came out in Chicago a few days ago; 500,000 in the city of Los Angeles. There is hardly a major city in America where people have not stepped forward because of their concern about this immigration bill.

Who are these people? They are people we always see but seldom come to know. They are our neighbors. They sit next to us in church; they send their kids to the same school as our kids. They probably cooked your breakfast this morning. They probably washed your dishes and cleaned your hotel room. They are watching your children at daycare and they are changing your aging mother's soiled bed in the nursing home. They make sure your putting green is perfect, and they stand for hours every day in a damp and cold place, watching a production line of chicken carcasses come by, so you can invite friends for a barbecue this weekend.

They often live in crowded homes. They deny themselves many things. They sacrifice for their children and in the hopes that, at the end of the week, they might be able to send a small check home to their families in other countries.

Their children are in our military—thousands of them, wearing the uniform of the United States of America. Some have been killed serving our country. At their funerals, people in uniform come forward and present to the grieving parents a flag as a token of their heroism and bravery and their commitment to America.

Now from this Republican-controlled House of Representatives, we learn the way to treat these people is to declare them criminals—criminals. These 11 million undocumented people, according to the Sensenbrenner bill which passed the U.S. House of Representatives, would be branded and prosecuted as aggravated felons, treated the same as armed robbers and rapists—11 million people. That is the bill that came over.

This same Sensenbrenner bill doesn't stop there. It makes criminals of those who offer help. In the city of Chicago is a domestic violence center, Las Mujeres En Accion. I know it because I have been going there for years. It is in a place called Little Village. The people in Little Village are Mexican. Some are citizens and some not. Las Mujeres

is there for battered women. Women who have been beaten unmercifully by their husbands bring their small children to Las Mujeres for safety, for shelter. They are allowed to stay there while the police are out trying to find drunk and abusive husbands and put them in jail.

Under the Sensenbrenner bill which passed in the Republican House of Representatives, all of the volunteers at that center and all of the staff at that center could be prosecuted as aggravated felons. Why? Because the people they are sheltering, many of them, are not documented citizens in the United States.

That is the sad reality of the bill that came over from the House of Representatives. These immigrants are people in America without legal status. Some, indeed, crossed the border in darkness. Some entered legally and stayed on beyond the time given them. Some had their paperwork lost in this mindless bureaucracy of immigration laws. Some came, fell in love, married, and over time they became the only ones in their family who were not American citizens. They are Mexican, they are Polish, they are Irish—they are from many nations. Their ranks have grown to almost 11 million.

Most polls tell us the American people don't want to give them all amnesty, to automatically make them citizens, and no one is suggesting that. But we also realize that deporting all of them, as some have called for, is as unrealistic as well. Even if it were wise—and it is not—it would be prohibitively expensive.

America has two great traditions. We are a nation of immigrants and we are a nation intolerant of immigrants.

How can that be? Many of us have seen examples in our lives. Just a floor away, in my office, is a little framed certificate I value very much. It is my mother's naturalization certificate. She came to the United States in 1911 and some 20 years later became a naturalized citizen. Her son is now the 47th Senator from the State of Illinois. It is a classic immigrant story of hard work and sacrifice so your children can do better. It is a story that has been repeated millions of times by immigrant families who came here at great risk, with great courage, and gave this country something special. The people who came to our shores had the courage to step up one day and say: I am leaving my village. I am leaving my children. I am leaving my family, my culture, my language, my history. I am going to a place I have never been where they speak a language I cannot speak in the hope that I will have a better life.

Think of that courage. They bring it to our shores by the thousands, and change America into this vibrant, growing, diverse Nation we value so much.

Just a few blocks away from where I am speaking, in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Senate Judiciary Committee is trying to decide what to

do next. We are agreed on several things. We need better enforcement. America cannot absorb every person who wants to live here. We need better border security, and those amendments passed this morning overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis. We need to work with employers to make sure they are following the law in the people that they hire. We are considering now an amendment, a bipartisan amendment, so agricultural workers can come here to harvest the fruit and vegetables that are an important part of our lives and our economy and not be arrested for doing it—giving them a chance. We are also going to address, before this day is over, whether we will make criminals of all of the people who are here.

I certainly hope those who are following this debate understand that if the 11 million undocumented are to come out of the shadows and be part of America, they won't do it with the threat of going to jail or being deported. What we need to do is establish a sensible, tough, but fair process so that those who have come, who work hard, pay taxes, raise their families, obey the law, learn English, and want to be part of America have a chance. They can be given a chance over a longer period of time than those who go through the regular legal process. That is only fair. They should not be able to jump in front of others in line. But ultimately if we give them a path to legalization, a path to dignity, we will be a better nation for it.

They want to be part of America and its future. They left their home countries, as many of our parents and grandparents did, to come to this great Nation. We see it in the hundreds of thousands who have come out in the streets of major cities, as they stand and say in Spanish: Si, se puede—yes, we can. They chant, as they do in Chicago: USA, USA—that they love this country as much as almost any other citizen. Giving them a chance to become an important part of America's future will make us an even stronger country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT JONATHAN ADAM HUGHES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to pause for a moment today to remember the heroism and sacrifice of SGT Jonathan Adam Hughes.

"Sergeant Hughes was a proud member of Bravo Battery, First Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery, and he will always remain a member. He has earned that right." So says Sergeant Hughes's wife, Sara Hughes, on her husband's time in the Kentucky Army National Guard. She continues, "He will never have to re-enlist or extend his contract, for it has been extended forever."

On March 19, 2005, Sergeant Hughes and three other Kentucky Guard sol-

diers were traveling south in a Humvee, escorting a 30-truck convoy to Camp Liberty, the loading and unloading zone for supply trucks near the Baghdad International Airport.

Suddenly, at a point about 30 miles from Camp Liberty, an explosive device hidden in a car detonated. The other soldiers in the Humvee were injured; Sergeant Hughes, of Lebanon, KY, was killed. He had served his Nation as a citizen-soldier for almost 4 years. He was 21 years old.

For his valorous service, Sergeant Hughes was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge. He had previously received the Army Good Conduct Medal, and he was awarded the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal, for demonstrating all the qualities of a great soldier, remaining combat-focused while decisively engaged with the enemy, performing his duties and accomplishing his mission.

Adam, as his family and friends called him, was inspired to enlist in the Kentucky National Guard after his time in Junior ROTC at Marion County High School, where he graduated in 2002. After Sergeant Hughes's death, the flag outside Marion County High flew at half-staff in his honor and memory.

SFC Twymon Ray, Jr., also from Lebanon, KY, served with Sergeant Hughes and reports that one couldn't have asked to work alongside a finer soldier. Sergeant Hughes excelled at whatever task was put before him. When given an order, he would often reply with the rejoinder, "Gotcha, boss, gotcha covered."

On March 18, 2005, the day before the fatal attack, Sergeant Hughes and his unit were leading a convoy when they came upon another convoy, headed in the opposite direction, that was under attack. Being in the lead Humvee, Sergeant Hughes's team moved forward to engage the terrorists, a group of three or four cars with gunmen in their trunks.

As the terrorist drivers weaved between the tractor-trailers, the gunmen would open the trunks and fire at the truck drivers. Sergeant Hughes, who had volunteered to serve as his unit's gunner that day, engaged two of the cars, immediately drawing fire from both sides of the road.

SGT Brian Mattingly, Sergeant Hughes's team leader, recalls hearing shots "ping" off the armor of the Humvee he and Adam were in. The team was able to rescue two Iraqi-national truck drivers who had been targeted by these malicious killers. Sergeant Hughes was successful in chasing the enemy off and allowing both convoys to continue on their way without further attack.

During his downtime in Iraq at Camp Anaconda, Adam built a desk and book shelf from plywood the squad had acquired to hold his treasured pictures of his wife, Sara, and their young son, Peyton. Adam was also a cook. He

asked his mother and grandmother to send him a frying pan, and he would fry up potatoes after a unit run to Baghdad to pick up food and other supplies.

Adam Hughes also used his downtime in Iraq to work on his Humvee or play video games. He grew up as an avid outdoorsman, and especially enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Sergeant Hughes was laid to rest last year in Holy Name of Mary Cemetery, outside Lebanon, KY. I was honored to be one of the many who went to pay my respects that day to a courageous American hero. A lot of people love and miss Adam Hughes, and they will remember his bravery, his can-do optimism, and his sacrifice.

CPT Lawrence Joiner, commander of Sergeant Hughes's company, remembered Adam for his quiet and shy disposition, saying, "Words cannot express our love and brotherhood. . . . He will forever be a part of our lives."

Adam was blessed to have a loving family and many friends. His wife Sara is present today, and we thank her for sharing her memories of her husband with us. I also commend Mrs. Hughes for her tremendous compassion for the families of other Kentucky Guard soldiers who have fallen in service of our country, which she has shown by attending funerals and helping other soldiers' families cope with their loss.

Mrs. Hughes has brought her son, Peyton, who is almost 2 years old, to the Capitol today to honor his father. Accompanying the Hughes family is SGT Keith Cox, who served with Sergeant Hughes, his wife, Libbi, and their children Kyle and Mariah. The Hughes family is lucky to have such friends during this difficult time.

Adam also leaves behind a loving family: his mother, Karen Hill; his father, John Hughes; and his two sisters, Nikki Hill and Claire Hughes.

"There are no great words in a time of deep tragedy. But surely there are great men in the midst of great tragedy." Those are again the words of Sara Hughes. How true and how profound.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saying that America can never repay the debt we owe SGT Jonathan Adam Hughes or the Hughes family. We are truly blessed to live in a country where so many brave men and women volunteer to wear the uniform and defend freedom, here at home and across the world.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). Without objection, it is so ordered.