

occasion, being together as a family, reliving old memories and, along the way, creating new ones.

On New Year's Day in 2003, I had taken my sons, Jonathan and Bryan, two of my three sons, on a trip to the Everglades. It was to spend the day in the Everglades, showing them the beauty of that wonderful area and the rich tradition that is reflected by the beauty there and by nature. We had a wonderful day.

On the way back—and this is west of Fort Lauderdale—on the way back in, we were heading down what is Interstate 75 west in that part of Florida. It runs directly east back to Fort Lauderdale. That whole track is known as Alligator Alley. It was an ordinary day. We had a wonderful day together as a family. It was a great start to a new year—again, it was New Year's Day—an opportunity to share with family the beauty of that environment, the gorgeous, wonderful, magnificent part of this country.

As we were talking about events of the day as we were driving, suddenly traffic came to a halt. Just ahead, I saw red lights flashing. We pulled onto the median. I came out of the car because something clearly had happened, and it had just happened several moments earlier.

Walking down the median, I approached a horrific scene. It was a little bit in the distance, 100 yards away. There was a crumpled red car on its side, an SUV. There were men, women, and children who clearly had been thrown, hurled from that vehicle, a distance of 25, 50, even 75 yards. I remember looking out—again, it was a beautiful day, a sunny day—and as with any event such as this that occurs so quickly, so unexpectedly, we saw the streaming smoke coming from an overturned vehicle with an open door. We saw a crushed car. We did not see another car near it. Clearly, the car had flipped. Then we saw these bodies that were hurled, thrown, from this vehicle a great distance in this beautiful green median. It was a surreal environment.

It was not immediately clear to me how many people had been injured, but the fact you could tell there were several people around the car, and there were at least four people in the median over this distance, I knew that what I was witnessing was clearly devastating. It was serious.

At that time, there were no other health personnel on the scene. As a doctor, and as one who has spent days and years in emergency rooms and in operating rooms, in terms of the immediate response, it comes pretty natural in terms of evaluation, triage, and resuscitation. The real challenge was being out there, and you saw over a distance of 75 yards four people who had such a traumatic accident. Two adults had climbed out of the vehicle itself. There were four individuals—four, what appeared to be lifeless, motionless bodies, women and children, two children and two adults—who lay in the median.

Lara Spalding, whom I did not know at the time—I will come back to Lara in just a little bit—then was a nursing student at Nashville—this is the irony of it—Nashville's Belmont University, and actually worked in the emergency room there with some of my colleagues back at Vanderbilt, where I worked for 10 years as a cardio surgeon, heart surgeon, trauma surgeon.

She later described the scene that day:

It was awful. It looked like someone had dropped six people from a 5-story building.

At that point in time when I was there—and I didn't know Lara at the time—she was there either at the same time or a few seconds afterwards, there were no other doctors on the scene. Alligator Alley being so far out at that time—although it has changed, thank goodness—the emergency personnel had to come from within Fort Lauderdale to come out along one stretch of highway. It was probably 25, 30 miles, so health personnel were not yet on the scene.

When that sort of thing happens, you know your immediate responsibility needs to be to assess the situation, triage their care, and to initiate resuscitation appropriately, but the problem is people were scattered over a 75-yard distance.

I did what I could; that was, rapidly assess the ABCs in terms of resuscitation, in getting airways, and when the medical personnel started to arrive, both by helicopter, trauma teams, relief teams and ambulances started coming in, help them triage and direct them to the people who needed the care the most. And then for individuals conducting the appropriate resuscitation, of establishing an airway, making sure they were breathing and receiving CPR.

In that sort of event, it is important to get someone on the telephone to coordinate overall, so I spent a lot of time talking to 911 and the hospitals that coordinated the personnel, and as the paramedics arrived by helicopter, was able to say: You are on the ground now. Don't waste your time here; that is taken care of. And they were able to go to another patient.

I mentioned all that because I do think it is important for people to participate. Lara, at the time, was with one of the patients, cradling them, giving appropriate encouragement and instruction to personnel who were arriving who very much appreciate her heroism in stopping along the side of the road and assisting.

In addition to Ms. Spalding, there was an off-duty paramedic and five others who also stopped to help. Ms. Spalding, Lara Spalding—I will come back to her again shortly—at that time was a nursing student but before had been an Army medic who had worked at Vanderbilt University Trauma Center. She was of huge assistance in terms of the triage, assisting the paramedics.

I remember her going over to one boy who had a mangled leg. She cradled his

head and tried to keep him comfortable. She later said:

You're prepared for this when you're in a trauma center . . . but not when you're driving down the road.

I also want to comment on the men and women of the Broward County Sheriff's Office Division of Fire Rescue, particularly Incident Commander Chris Koski and his firefighters who also came on the scene and were so professional, so experienced. They deserve tremendous credit.

As far as the rescue operators, the first responders out there do not get enough credit. They are out there 24 hours a day responding to these incidents. They responded in such a quiet, humble, and heroic way. They all deserve our gratitude. They are heroes, not just for this particular day but for the work they do every day. That is what they do every single day and night.

I do remember the people whom we could not help: Felicie Kali, a beautiful 11-year-old girl whom we were unable to resuscitate, died at the scene. Her 14-year-old brother, Felix Kali, unfortunately, died later that day. Shadia Rene, a 20-year-old half-sister of the two, we were able to resuscitate but died 3 days later at the hospital. The two parents lived. A family friend who was in the automobile also lived.

After the tragic events of that day, I went back to see them the next day at the hospital, to console and to comfort them as much as one can in that time of tragedy.

There is little anyone can say directly to a family or to people involved to address such grief, but I do pray for their family to this day.

I clearly wish there was more that could have been done in response, despite the heroic actions of so many of the paramedical personnel, first responders, and Lara Spalding. I keep mentioning Lara Spalding because it was 2 years ago that my staff ran into her and talked to her. She was at that time working as a nurse at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital. In May, she took a new job. Today, she works here in the Nation's Capitol. I didn't know this until just a few days ago. She works in the Office of the Attending Physician. I was unaware of that and then had the opportunity to learn about that last week. I am delighted that she is here in the Nation's Capitol. I know she will be of great service to the U.S. Congress and to our Nation. While I would have gladly recommended her based specifically on her actions that day, I clearly had no role in her actually being hired but do appreciate her service.

SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the issue of spending in Washington, DC. None of us, as elected representatives, Democrat or Republican, in the House or the Senate, can go home without people saying: Washington seems to be spending too much.

I mention that only because we are going to be addressing the supplemental bill.

As many people saw on the news last night, agreement was reached on the limit and content of the supplemental spending bill which we have been working on for well over 2 months. What we will talk about next week but what was demonstrated and what was released by the conference last night is that we are on the right track today. The level and the substance of that bill does adhere to our calls for a conference report that limited its total amount to the President's request for true emergency spending—no fat, no excessive spending. Those criteria have been met. It focuses resources on important priorities, priorities such as funding border security, which we spent well over a month on this floor talking about, on conducting the war on terror, and aiding hurricane recovery—all while exercising tight fiscal restraint and responsibility.

Also of note, the bill contains a fiscally prudent spending level for this year's regular appropriations bills. This bill sets a discretionary spending level at the President's request of \$873 billion—another very important point of maintaining fiscal discipline.

I applaud the leadership of Senator COCHRAN and Congressman LEWIS in the House to control Federal spending and to ensure effective and appropriate Government use of taxpayer dollars so that our deficit can continue to decline and our economy can continue to grow and prosper.

This adherence to keeping spending low, coupled with our Republican tax policy, has ushered in record economic growth: 5.3 million jobs have been created over the last 3 years; unemployment is down to 4.6, 4.7 percent, lower than the average of the 1990s, lower than the average of the 1970s—again, a huge success.

There is a lot more we have to do, but this supplemental bill is an important step, following through on Republican principles of fiscal restraint.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator from Montana is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise to comment on the events of the past week. We have received word that the leading terrorist in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was the mastermind of countless brutal attacks and taking lives of members of the U.S. Armed Forces and thousands of innocent Iraqis, was killed. This has been a long time coming. I commend those who worked tirelessly over the past year to finally see the fruits of their labors. Their dedication has saved countless lives. But that does not mean the war on terror is over. We still have a lot of work to do. We know the terrorists never give up. The greatest weapon they have is, of course, fear.

Last weekend, we also heard of a terrorist plot uncovered in Canada. Fortunately, those behind that plot were arrested before they could carry out their plans to murder the Canadian Prime Minister.

We are getting better at our intelligence. We are stopping these attacks. Of course, this will continue to be our mission, and for the people who are in the business of short-circuiting these plots, their job may never end. Terrorists will stop at nothing to incite fear in the minds and hearts of Americans and free-loving people all over the world.

We will fight as long as it takes to defeat them. Part of that fight is ensuring our security at home. My State of Montana borders Canada. In our part of the country, I like to say there is a lot of dirt between light bulbs. That makes it difficult to effectively patrol the border between my State and our friends to the north. Next time, will terrorists enter somewhere along that 550-mile border that my State shares with Canada? What makes it even more difficult is we are used to going back and forth between my State and Canada. We have farmers who farm on both sides of the border. They own farms in Canada, and they also own farms in Montana. Of course, we like the freedom of that movement.

The arrests last weekend have proven that illegal activity happens on our northern border, just like the problems we have on our southern border. I have said many times during the discussion of the immigration bill that we must know who is coming in this country and what for, and we also cannot have any credibility with the American people until we secure the border.

The Senate recently passed a massive immigration bill. There were a number of border security measures in the legislation—recommendations for a security fence, using the National Guard as backup and technical support, and other features. There were also provisions to enhance the security of our northern border, although I think even those could be stronger.

Most notably, however, this legislation did something else with which the American people do not agree: this legislation gave a pathway to citizenship for millions of illegal aliens. For this reason, I simply could not support the bill. Not only is it bad policy, but it sends the message that entering this country illegally is somehow OK.

Folks in my State have said: No amnesty for illegal aliens. They have been saying that until they are blue in the face. They feel strongly about it, so strongly that I received bricks in the mail with big letters on them: Secure the border and build the wall. I am not a big fan of walls. They have never had a history of success. But nonetheless, it sends a strong message on the things we should be doing.

It is a plain fact that illegal activity happens every day on our borders. We are in a great project in the State of

Montana called the Montana Meth Project. We are finding out that meth houses have been shut down. Law enforcement has done their job in our State. What we are finding now is meth coming in from outside our borders. Crystal meth is one of the worst fights we have in our State. Other criminal activities pose a threat to the safety of local communities and to our national security as a whole. I know folks in my State have seen this happen firsthand.

Up on the hi-line, border agents in Havre, MT, have arrested illegal immigrants from as many as 35 different countries. Many of these illegal immigrants are found hiding on trains as they pass through Havre and several other towns on the hi-line of Montana. In February, a fugitive thought to be armed and dangerous led the Montana Highway Patrol on two high-speed chases near Kalispell, MT, before being apprehended. He was trying to escape to Canada. Last October, Border Patrol agents spotted a man driving in a stolen pickup toward the Canadian border outside of Cut Bank, MT. After a standoff, the man was shot by officers acting in self-defense.

I know my colleagues from States that share international borders, northern and southern, have stories like this. They can go on forever. We have illegal aliens still flooding into this country through our southern border every day and, yes, some through the northern border. It is not too much to ask for our law enforcement agencies to find, detain, and deport those who have broken the law. It is overwhelming.

It is amazing to me that we can so diligently pursue terrorists as dangerous and as murderous as al-Zarqawi in Iraq and be successful, yet we do not meet with the same success here in this country. When it comes to our own borders, our own immigration policies, mistakes continue to be made both on the ground and here in this Congress.

More importantly, when we allow illegal aliens to stay, what kind of a message does that send to the rest of the world about our immigration policy? If you come here illegally, just wait it out. That is the message we are sending now. We will give you amnesty eventually. It seems that 20 years from now, it will be amnesty once again for even more of those who would enter this country illegally. The 1986 immigration reform act didn't work. Basically, the bill that recently passed the Senate—not with my support—almost mirrors the 1986 act. What good is history if we don't learn the lesson?

As the House and Senate come together to conference on this legislation, I advise taking into account what the American people are telling us. They are telling us what they want, and they are very clear with the message. Just as we continue our efforts in Iraq and our fight in this war on terrorism abroad, we must also ensure a secure border and sound immigration policy at home. There is no way we can