

We can do this. It is a positive step. It is a bipartisan step on a topic that certainly could use a little bipartisan-ship. We haven't had much on Iraq. That is the way we overall lose in a situation, when we split here. If we will stand together here, we will not lose over there. We need to start pulling people together around some sort of common idea and not say: Well, because it is a Democratic idea, I guess we can't do it, or because it wasn't proposed by certain individuals, we aren't going to do it.

Let's pull together. This is something that can and will work, and it is something we need to do because if we can get this situation to stabilize, we can start pulling our troop levels back. I do not believe we will pull our troop levels completely out of Iraq for some period of time, just as we are still in the Bosnia region for some period of time. We can pull our troop levels back, certainly pull them back to the Kurdish, Sunni, and Baghdad to keep as a stabilizing force for some years to come, but not losing troops on a daily basis and we will be able to get those troop levels down.

This is something we can work on in a bipartisan way and get us pulling together and get us into a stable political environment. It is not a perfect solution. There isn't a perfect solution that exists. I think it is a far better one and far more likely to produce political results on a benchmark basis of stability that we can work with and that we can then move forward in facing other more difficult situations, other equally difficult situations in the region, as I started off talking about—Iran, the lead sponsor of state-sponsored terrorism, which is one we have to address with what they are doing in the region.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LITTLE ROCK NINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today marks an important anniversary in America's continuing efforts to create a truly just and more perfect Union. It was 50 years ago today—50 years—that nine courageous high school students in Little Rock, AR, stood up to a jeering, threatening crowd, the Arkansas National Guard, and their own Governor to claim their fundamental right for equal educational opportunity.

I can still recall as a child, seeing that scene on black-and-white television, a scene that has been replayed so many times, watching those students as they walked through that gauntlet of hate into a high school.

High school, for most of us, was a joyous experience, a happy experience. For many of these students, their high school career began with fear.

These young people, not chosen by any scientific method but almost by chance, came to be known as the Little Rock Nine. Thankfully, it is hard for many Americans to understand what courage it took for them to walk into Little Rock Central High School in 1957. You know what it took? For those kids to walk into that high school, it took an order from President Dwight David Eisenhower, the protection of the U.S. Army, the extraordinary legal talents of future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and daily guidance from caring adults such as Daisy and L.C. Bates. Above all, it took the daily faith and courage of those nine young kids and their families.

The crowds who surrounded Little Rock Central that day may have disappeared after a few tense days, but the taunts and threats to those nine students continued for the entire school year. In the end, those nine young students became America's teachers. They showed us and they showed America how we could live closer to our ideals.

Although their names will always be linked first and foremost with Arkansas, the people of my State are proud that four of the Little Rock Nine went on to college in Illinois. Gloria Ray Karlmark earned a mathematics degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Three of the Little Rock Nine earned degrees at Southern Illinois University, a great university in my State, which prides itself on having opened its doors and cast away any racial prejudice very early. It became well known throughout the African-American community as a place where higher education was available for those African-American students who were striving to better themselves.

Minnijean Brown Trickey graduated from Southern Illinois University and went on to a distinguished career in education, social work, and public service that included serving in the Clinton administration as a Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Dr. Terrance Roberts earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in psychology from SIU. Today, he is a professor and practicing psychologist in California.

Thelma Mothershead Wair earned a B.S. and a master's degree in guidance counseling from SIU, married a fellow SIU student from my hometown of East St. Louis, and served as an educator and an inspiration in the East St. Louis school system for 28 years before she retired.

A lot has changed in America over the last 50 years. Little Rock Central High School remains one of the best, most challenging high schools in Arkansas. Today, it has an African-American student body president. Other communities that were once deeply divided by race—and not all of them in

the South, I might add—have changed as well.

In my home State, my Land of Lincoln, a few weeks ago I visited a town I have come to know over many decades—Cairo, IL. Forty-five years ago, Cairo was a hotbed of Ku Klux Klan activism. In the land of Lincoln, in 1960, there was a white citizens council that was doing its best to keep Cairo a segregated town, many years after *Brown v. Board of Education*. The head of the white citizens council was the white states attorney for Alexander County. Similar to many southern towns, Cairo closed its municipal swimming pool rather than allow black and white children to swim together. Today, I am proud to tell you that the mayor, the city treasurer, and the police chief of Cairo are all African-American.

But the struggle for equal justice is not over. Last week, thousands of people from communities across America traveled by plane, car, and bus to Jena, LA, with a population of less than 3,000, to protest what appears to be separate and unequal justice. The facts in what has come to be known as the Jena 6 case sound disturbingly similar to so many cases from an era so many of us thought was long gone.

One year ago, some African-American students at Jena's public high school asked the school administrators if they could sit under a shade tree outside the school, and they were told they could. For years, that tree outside their school had been known as the "white tree." By custom, its shade was for white students only. Days after African-American students dared to sit under that tree, nooses were hung from its branches—nooses. Local authorities dismissed that unmistakable reference to the terrorism of lynching as another youthful prank.

Over the next 2 months, tensions rose at the high school. A series of fights between black and white students escalated. Each time, black students were punished more severely than the white students who took part in the same fights. Finally, last December, six young men, all African-American, were arrested and charged with attempted murder and other serious felonies that could send them to prison for a collective 100 years.

The problem of unequal justice is not confined to the South, and it is not limited to race. It is easy to condemn yesterday's wrongdoing, but the Little Rock Nine had the courage to oppose injustice in their own time. In our time, few people still condemn the overt racism of Jim Crow and "whites only" drinking fountains, but many still excuse and justify discrimination and unequal justice based on such distinctions as national origin and sexual orientation.

I believe one day in the not-too-distant future, we will look back on these attitudes and wonder how we could have tolerated such discrimination and division.

It is good to reflect on times past, the heroes and heroines of those eras,

but also to reflect on what America was like, how people reacted to that scene in Little Rock, AR, and how they reacted to Dr. Martin Luther King. It is easy now, some 50 years later, to suggest everybody knew it was the right thing to do in Little Rock and that everyone understood Dr. Martin Luther King's message was consistent with our values as Americans. But we know better. We know America was divided—some cheering those students and some cheering the crowds.

We learn from experience. I believe in redemption, personal and political. I think as each of us makes mistakes in our lives, we are oftentimes given a chance to correct those mistakes. I think when our Nation has made a mistake, whether it is slavery or racism, we are given a chance to correct that mistake. Today, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Little Rock Nine, let us reflect on how far we have come.

Melba Patillo Beals, a member of the Little Rock Nine, went on to a distinguished career as a journalist and author. In a book about her role in history, she wrote:

If my Central High experience taught me one lesson, it is that we are not separate. The effort to separate ourselves—whether by race, creed, color, religion or status—is as costly to the separator as to those who would be separated. The task that remains is to see ourselves reflected in every other human being and to respect and honor our differences.

The best way we can honor the courage of the Little Rock Nine is to follow their example—to have the vision and the courage to confront the injustices of our time.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WEBB. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I would like to express my concern about amendment No. 3017, the Kyl-Lieberman amendment, which among other things—and most troubling—would designate the Iranian Revolutionary Guard as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

I think we all have a great deal of concern about the activities of Iran. We as a nation have stood strongly and will continue to speak strongly about those activities. We have taken no op-

tions off the table. I fully support all of those precepts.

At the same time, I do not believe that any serious student of American foreign policy could support this amendment as it now exists. We know there are problems in Iraq. We are trying to decipher the extent of those problems as they relate to Iranian weapons systems and the allegations of covert involvement. We also know that in Iraq other nations are playing covertly. The Saudis, for instance, are said to have the plurality of the foreign insurgents operating in Iraq and the majority of the suicide bombers in Iraq. We also know there is potential for volatility in the Kurdish area of Iraq with respect to the relations with Turkey.

We are addressing these problems. In fact, the “whereas” clauses in this amendment speak clearly as to how our troops on the ground are addressing these problems.

I fought in Vietnam. We had similar problems throughout the Vietnam war because of the location of Vietnam, the proximity of China. I think it can fairly be said that in virtually every engagement in which I was involved in Vietnam, we were being shot at with weapons made either in China or in Eastern Europe. There is a reality to these kinds of wars, and we are addressing those realities. But they need to be addressed in a proper way.

Probably the best historical parallel comes from the situation with China during the Vietnam war. China was a rogue state, had nuclear weapons, would spout a lot of rhetoric about the United States, and had an American war on its border. We created the conditions in which we engaged China aggressively, through diplomatic and economic and other means. And we have arguably succeeded, along with the rest of the world community, in bringing China into a proper place in that world community.

That is not what this amendment is about. The first concern I have, when we are talking about making the Iranian Revolutionary Guard a terrorist organization, is, who actually defines a terrorist organization? The Congress, to my knowledge, has never defined a terrorist organization. The State Department defines terrorist organizations. At last count, from the information that I have received, there are 42 such organizations that have been identified by the State Department in accordance with the laws the Congress passed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this list be printed in the RECORD.

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

CURRENT LIST OF DESIGNATED FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

1. Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)
2. Abu Sayyaf Group
3. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade
4. Ansar al-Islam
5. Armed Islamic Group (GIA)

6. Asbat al-Ansar
7. Aum Shinrikyo
8. Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)
9. Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA)
10. Continuity Irish Republican Army
11. Gama'a al-Islamiyya (Islamic Group)
12. HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement)
13. Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM)
14. Hizballah (Party of God)
15. Islamic Jihad Group
16. Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
17. Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) (Army of Mohammed)
18. Jemaah Islamiya organization (JI)
19. al-Jihad (Egyptian Islamic Jihad)
20. Kahane Chai (Kach)
21. Kongra-Gel (KKG, formerly Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, KADEK)
22. Lashkar-e Tayyiba (LT) (Army of the Righteous)
23. Lashkar i Jhangvi
24. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
25. Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG)
26. Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group (GICM)
27. Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MEK)
28. National Liberation Army (ELN)
29. Palestine Liberation Front (PLF)
30. Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)
31. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
32. PFLP-General Command (PFLP-GC)
33. al-Qa'ida
34. Real IRA
35. Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC)
36. Revolutionary Nuclei (formerly ELA)
37. Revolutionary Organization 17 November
38. Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C)
39. Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC)
40. Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso, SL)
41. Tanzim Qa'idat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn (QJBR) (al-Qaida in Iraq) (formerly Jama'at al-Tawhid wa'al-Jihad, JTTJ, al-Zarqawi Network)
42. United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC)

Mr. WEBB. The second concern I have is that we as a government have never identified an organization that is a part of a nation state as a terrorist organization. From the statement of the Senator from Connecticut yesterday, there are potentially 180,000 people in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard who are part of a military force of an existing state. Categorizing this organization as a terrorist organization is not our present policy of keeping the military option on the table. It is for all practical purposes mandating the military option. It could be read as tantamount to a declaration of war.

What do we do with terrorist organizations? If they are involved against us, we attack them. What is a terrorist organization? Traditionally, we have defined a terrorist organization as a nongovernmental entity that operates along the creases of international law and does harm to internationally protected people.

By the way, it is kind of interesting to note that last week the Iraqi Government claimed that Blackwater is a terrorist organization for the way it operates inside Iraq. I am not making that allegation. I am giving an example of how people categorize these groups.