

many of the Republican Senators answer the rollcall; how many come and how they vote.

We know that as inconvenient as it may be for these Senators to return on Saturday, as tough as it may be for many of them to get back, it can't be any tougher than the assignments we give to our soldiers and sailors and marines and airmen to put on the uniform of our United States of America and to defend our country and to risk their lives every day.

So I hope our colleagues will be with us on Saturday. I hope they will join us in moving forward on this debate.

I can recall the vote that led us into the war in Iraq as if it were yesterday. It was a time just weeks before an election. There was almost a feeling of hysteria across this country about the possibility of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Condoleezza Rice, who was then Security Adviser to the President, suggested the possibility of mushroom-shaped clouds. All sorts of fears were engendered in a population still very wary after 9/11. It was not an easy vote because there had been a buildup, this drumbeat of support for invasion. And the day came in October when it occurred. There were 23 of us who voted no, one from the State of Rhode Island on the Republican side and 22 Democrats voting no. At the time, it was not an easy vote. I look back on it now as one of the most important votes I ever cast.

There comes a time when Members of the Senate have to face responsibility and face a vote. There will come a time when the Republicans have to face a vote on Iraq. They cannot protect the President and the White House indefinitely and forever.

I had a great friend from the State of Oklahoma, a Congressman by the name of Mike Synar. I have told this story many times, and I mention his name because I don't want him to be forgotten. He passed away in 1996 from a brain tumor. But Mike was one of a kind. He just could not stand Members of the House of Representatives who were unwilling to face tough votes. He used to get up in our caucus over there and get the floor, and we knew what was coming when people were whining and complaining about facing a controversial vote or controversial debate. And he said:

If you don't want to fight fires don't be a fireman, and if you don't want to cast tough votes don't run for Congress.

He was right. Whether you are on this side of the aisle or that side of the aisle, you better be prepared to face a tough vote and an important vote, and nothing is more important than a war, a war which has so many of our great soldiers with their lives on the line as we stand in the safety of this Capitol Building.

I hope my colleagues on the Republican side will reconsider their position. They cannot stop this debate. It is going to occur. It is occurring across America in family rooms, in offices, in

schools, in restaurants. Everywhere you turn, in the streets, in the shopping centers, it is occurring. It is going to occur right here on the Senate floor. They cannot hold back the tide. It is building against them. That tide is going to push them over, and we are going to bring this issue to a debate on the floor. We owe it not only to the men and women in uniform, we owe it to the people who were kind enough to give us a chance to serve in the Senate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON IRAQ—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to calendar No. 25, S. 574, a bill to express the sense of the Congress on Iraq, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to S. 574, a bill to express the sense of Congress on Iraq.

Ben Nelson, Russell D. Feingold, Ben Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Byron L. Dorgan, Amy Klobuchar, Daniel K. Akaka, Maria Cantwell, John Kerry, Ken Salazar, Jack Reed, Chuck Schumer, Jeff Bingaman, Barbara Boxer, Dick Durbin, Tom Harkin, Jay Rockefeller, Harry Reid.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the live quorum be waived.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I announce that we will have the cloture vote on Saturday at 1:45 p.m. As I always said, I would keep the vote open if it appeared there were problems that Senators were having in advance of the vote. I have heard from Senators on both sides of the aisle that there is no time that meets everyone's expectations. So what we would do to try to handle as many people as possible, we will start the vote at 1:45, and we will act as if it starts at 2 o'clock and terminate the vote at 2:20. I hope that meets with everyone's problems as far as transportation and getting to and from here.

So on Saturday, because I think these are extraordinary circumstances, we will make sure that as many people are protected as possible.

HONORING PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, like his hero, Abraham Lincoln, Gerald Ford helped heal our Nation. His calm leadership and fundamental decency helped hold our Nation together at a time when the forces of war and scandal threatened to tear it apart.

When he took the oath of office on August 9, 1974, President Ford declared, "This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts." During his Presidency, he worked to ease our minds, comfort our hearts, and restore our faith in our government.

In his first official remarks as President, Gerald Ford promised America:

In all my public and private acts as your president, I expect to follow my instincts of openness and candor with full confidence that honesty is always the best policy at hand.

Those were not just words to Gerald Ford, as he proved on October 17, 1974, when he appeared voluntarily before Congress to give sworn testimony—the only time a sitting President has done so about his pardon of Richard Nixon.

Gerald Ford believed that pardoning Richard Nixon was the only way to end the long national nightmare of Watergate. He also believed that it might end his political career. And he did pay a high price at the time in lost public approval and public trust.

Over time, however, many people came to see the Nixon pardon not as an act of collusion, but of courage and conciliation. In 2001, the Kennedy Library Foundation awarded President Ford its John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

Gerald Ford believed in hard work and duty to one's country. At the University of Michigan, he washed dishes at his fraternity house to earn money for college expenses. After graduating in the top quarter of his class from Yale Law School, he returned home to Grand Rapids, MI, to practice law—but Pearl Harbor was attacked. Like so many young men of his generation, Gerald Ford put his life on hold. He enlisted in the Navy and spent the next 4 years in the service.

After the war, Gerald Ford decided to run for Congress and was supported by Michigan's legendary Senator Arthur Vandenberg, one of the architect's of American internationalism. His experience in World War II and his friendship with Senator Vandenberg helped turn him away from isolationism.

As President, he described himself as "a moderate in domestic affairs, a conservative in fiscal affairs, and a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist in foreign affairs." In the 2½ years of his Presidency, he ended America's involvement in the war in Vietnam. He helped mediate a cease-fire agreement between Israel and Egypt, signed the Helsinki human rights convention with the Soviet Union and traveled to Vladivostok to sign an arms limitation agreement with Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet President.

But what earned Gerald Ford the respect and gratitude of our Nation was not only what he accomplished but how he accomplished those things. He was a master of consensus-building, cooperation, and honorable compromise.

It is notable that one of the first calls he made after becoming Vice President was to his old golfing buddy, Tip O'Neill. He set a standard for bipartisanship that we would all do well to follow.

He was a good and honorable man who served this Nation well. He will be missed.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of SGT Randy J. Matheny, 20, of McCook, NE.

Sergeant Matheny followed in the footsteps of his older siblings when he joined the Nebraska Army National Guard on March 28, 2005, as a heavy vehicle driver in Detachment 1, 1057th Transportation Company in Scottsbluff. His older sister, SSG Karen Matheny, is a full-time member of the Nebraska Army National Guard's HHD, 734th Transportation Battalion in Kearney. PFC Pat Matheny, his older brother, is an active-duty soldier with the U.S. Army. Both of Sergeant Matheny's siblings are serving in Iraq; his sister is currently serving her second tour, and his brother is preparing to deploy for his first.

Sergeant Matheny graduated from my alma mater, McCook Senior High School, in 2004. His teachers and friends knew him as a well-known, soft-spoken student. In his free time, he enjoyed riding his motorcycle and spending time with his friends. After joining the Nebraska Army National Guard in 2005, he attended basic training at Fort Jackson, SC, and then advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, in 2006.

In June 2006, he transferred as a heavy vehicle driver to the Nebraska Army National Guard Detachment 3, 1074th Transportation Company based in Sidney. Sergeant Matheny was mobilized for duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on July 15, 2006. The 1074th Transportation Company is responsible for providing security for transportation missions throughout Iraq. On February 4, 2007, Sergeant Matheny passed away when an improvised explosive device detonated next to the armored security vehicle in which he was serving as a gunner. He was 20 years old. Then-Specialist Matheny was posthumously promoted to sergeant.

The Matheny family from my hometown of McCook, NE, are the paradigm of courage and selflessness. In addition to his brother and sister, Sergeant Matheny is survived by his father Gary Matheny and mother Jan Collins. I offer my condolences to Sergeant Matheny's family and friends who inspired and supported his career. He

made the ultimate and most valorous sacrifice so that future generations around the world will live free, peaceful lives. Sergeant Matheny will be forever remembered as a hero.

COLONEL BRIAN ALLGOOD

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise to praise the memory of Army COL Brian Dwayne Allgood of the 30th Medical Brigade, European Regional Medical Command. Colonel Allgood was taken from his family late last month in Iraq. He was only 46 years old, and the highest ranking medical officer in Iraq.

After graduating high school in Colorado Springs, Brian Allgood attended the U.S. Military Academy in West Point and medical school at the University of Oklahoma. He completed his residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio and continued with his military career, rising to become one of the Army's top surgeons. Most recently, before being sent to Iraq, Colonel Allgood spent 2 years as the commanding officer of medical facilities in Korea.

It is no surprise that Brian Allgood rose to such great heights. Brian came from a medical family and a military family—Brian's father Jerry was an Army hospital administrator like his son, and Brian's mother Cleo was a nurse. One might say that service, both to his country and to those in need, was in his blood.

Brian Allgood was a healer, a quiet and humble man who knew the best way to lead was not through anger or boastfulness. Instead, he simply did what needed to be done, helping save and improve lives every day, and in doing so led by example.

Colonel Allgood acted not only with courage but with concern for the troops he led. He was renowned for his willingness to stick his neck out for his troops and for his unique bond with them. To better understand the risks posed to paratroopers, Colonel Allgood completed the grueling Ranger school and parachuted into Panama in 1989. He served as the commanding officer of the hospital at West Point. As a surgeon and later a commanding medical officer, he played a role in the saving of hundreds, if not thousands, of American lives.

And as the top Army surgeon in Iraq, Colonel Allgood also oversaw the system that tended Iraqis in need of urgent care. Every day we hear stories from Iraq of innocent bystanders facing brutality in their own streets. Who knows how many Iraqis are alive today because of the talent and wisdom of Colonel Allgood and those he led?

Colonel Allgood's parents, Jerry and Cleo, have been supportive of not only their son but all Colorado veterans, and I am privileged to have worked with them on veterans concerns in my State. Jerry and Cleo are good people and should take great pride in having raised their son from a young boy into an exemplary man: a fine doctor, a thoughtful son and brother, a loving husband, and a caring father.

To Brian's wife Jane and his son Wyatt, I cannot imagine the sorrow and loss you are feeling, and I hope that in time your grief can be salved by your pride in the way Brian lived his life. Brian served his Nation with honor and distinction and improved the lives of countless soldiers, families and those with whom he interacted every day.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

DR. WILLIAM NEAL BROWN

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to join with Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ and our House colleague Congressman DONALD PAYNE in honoring Dr. William Neal Brown, a distinguished and inspiring figure in African-American history. In recognition of Black History Month, we gathered with residents of New Jersey to pay tribute to Dr. Brown on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at the Newark Museum in Newark, NJ, during "A Salute to Heroes."

Dr. Brown was born in Warrenton, GA, on February 24, 1919. His father was an ex-slave and his mother was Native American. He grew up in Aliquippa, PA, where his father labored as a farmer and steel mill worker. His love of learning and inspiration to educate others began at an early age, when he and six of his classmates dreamed of becoming teachers.

After graduating with honors from high school, Dr. Brown went to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's public works program that put over 3 million young men and adults to work during the Great Depression. It was here that he was introduced to the Hampton Institute, where he would enroll as a work-study student and proceed to graduate with a bachelor of science in 1941.

Dr. Brown heeded the call to serve his country and enrolled in the Army Air Force, where he served in special services as an information education officer, and trained at various bases including with the Tuskegee Airmen in Tuskegee, AL. After the war, on the GI bill, Dr. Brown began his graduate studies, first at Columbia University and then at City College.

After 3 years of social work at the Veterans' Administration in Newark, NJ, Dr. Brown became the first African-American professor at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

During his 41 years as a professor at Rutgers, Dr. Brown mentored and inspired countless students and future social workers. He has lived his life by a verse he often quotes from *Thanatopsis* by William Cullen Bryant: "So live, that when thy summons comes to join the innumerable caravan that went to sway to the silent halls of death, thou go not like a quarry-slave at night, scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust. Approach thy grave as one who lies down to pleasant dreams."