

bill asked for an additional week of floor debate. I agreed. The minority leader said this time this is a 2-week bill. I agreed with him and scheduled a second week of debate, and that is where we are now.

This week, we have conducted four rollcall votes, adopted four other amendments by voice vote, and we probably would have done more but for the unfortunate death of our colleague and friend, Senator Thomas. Yesterday morning, in memory of our friend, we decided not to work here, and that was the right thing to do. This morning, we have two more votes that are scheduled already on the Cornyn and Kennedy amendments regarding eligibility for the legalization program. We have proposed a unanimous consent agreement. We did that yesterday, and I understand the managers have that fairly well worked out on the 12 pending amendments to have votes on those later today. That was not accepted last evening, but I am hopeful that agreement can be worked out soon.

So it is clear we are working in good faith to process amendments and move forward on this bill. My decision about cloture last night was simply a way to ensure that we finish this bill in a timely manner. By offering to postpone the cloture vote, as I did yesterday, until tomorrow night, I am offering an additional full day of amendments before the cloture vote and, of course, germane amendments are considered postcloture.

I had a meeting in my office just a few minutes ago with a bipartisan group of Senators. I believe there is a good-faith effort being made by a majority of Senators, Democrats and Republicans, to move this bill forward. That is what we are going to try to do.

There are some people, rightly or wrongly—and that is all in the eyes of the beholder—who feel they have not had an opportunity to deal with this legislation. If that is the case, let's see if we can come up with some amendments that will make them happy. We do a lot of business in this body by unanimous consent—in fact, most everything. The cloture vote is scheduled for tomorrow morning, an hour after we come into session. We can change that. It is my hope that we can finish the bill this week. I am very confident we can.

I personally feel an obligation to go to the funeral in Wyoming. Craig Thomas was a Republican with whom I worked very closely on a number of issues, and I had great appreciation and admiration for him. Out of respect for him and Susan, I feel that I need to go to that funeral, and I am sure many others feel the same way. So that is going to change our schedule. It is my understanding that funeral is going to be Saturday. I have notified my caucus, and I have explained to the distinguished Republican leader that we may have to work longer hours this week. But let's try to finish this bill.

There are some, and it is a small number of people, who don't want this

bill finished under any circumstances. That happens on a lot of bills, and we have to try to work our way through that.

I hope people understand that I would like to get a bill passed. We have responsibilities as Senators to not only deal with immigration, which is a system, as I have tried to explain with a little vignette from Dr. Seuss, that is badly in need of fixing, but we have a lot of other problems in this country that are badly in need of fixing. So we may have to work hours the Senate hasn't seen very often. We may have to work into the night, tonight and tomorrow night and maybe even Friday and Friday night, and who knows if that will be enough time to get us over the hump.

I hope people will understand that it is not a question of how much time we spend on the bill, it is a question of whether people feel they have had the opportunity to change the provisions that are in the bill. I have gone over most of them: AgJOBS, DREAM Act, employer enforcement, legalization, border security.

I hope we can get this bill done. We can debate this bill all year and end up right back where we are. The American people did not send us here to pontificate; they sent us here to legislate. That is what I am trying to do and most are trying to do.

Recognizing that this immigration system is broken and that we need to fix it, I extend my appreciation to Senators—Democrats and Republicans—who believe this is the time for us to do something important for the country.

I have said on a number of occasions that this bill, when it comes out of this body, is not the last word. We have other ways of working on this bill. We, as Senators, are going to be fully involved in the legislation until it comes out of conference, which is after the House passes a bill which will have the imprint of the White House on it.

So I hope we can move forward in good faith and understand that everything we do in life has deadlines, even our legislation in the Senate.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. REID. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I thank our leader, someone who has been interested, along with many others, in the immigration issue, for the leadership he has provided in making sure the Senate was going to take up this issue. He had announced in January of this year that he was going to take a time for the Judiciary Committee to consider this legislation but that he was going to allocate 2 weeks of time, which was basically the time we took on the last bill, but it was a major period of time to consider the people's business regarding this issue. He has been accommodating in terms of working through the Senate's schedule. For all of us who are interested in getting a bill, we thank him for all he has done in terms of encouraging us to

reach judgments on these various measures.

As he has mentioned, we have made very important and significant progress, and I think there is a strong mood in the Senate, as there is in the country, that this is an extremely important issue. We are increasingly close to trying to at least make a recommendation to the country about what the Senate's judgment will be on this issue.

I join with him, as others, to say we are eager to move ahead during the day today and tomorrow and to work with the leadership. I know they have full schedules. I do think we are making significant progress and it is being done in a bipartisan spirit with a desire that those who have differing views about this issue can come together and do the Nation's business. When we achieve that, hopefully by the end of this week, both the Senator from Nevada and the Senator from Kentucky will be very much appreciated for their support in helping this legislation move ahead.

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#### RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

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#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as I think my good friend, the majority leader, already knows, we are ready to work with the other side to schedule votes on pending amendments. I think the two managers are working together this morning to set up a schedule of votes for this afternoon. All of that is a step in the right direction.

Many of the amendments we hope to schedule, however, for the afternoon are amendments that were offered prior to the recess. My concern with cloture being filed last night is that we do not want to deny Members who have yet to offer—and many of them have been denied the right to offer their amendments this week—and those who have been denied the right to offer their amendments should still get their opportunity prior to being shut out.

Now, I am counting progress on this bill not by calendar days—that is one way of looking at it—but by the ability of Senators to debate and to vote on their respective ideas is the way that I would consider progress on the bill. So I hope we can clear out the amendments that are currently pending and that we will also work together to schedule debate and votes on additional amendments that are going to be offered.

Let me remind everyone again, on the day my conference elected me leader I said that I thought we ought to do two big important things, at least, in this Congress. And one of the issues I mentioned was immigration. So I am among those in the Senate who would

like to see us accomplish something on a very difficult, some days seemingly intractable, issue. Nevertheless, I am in favor of trying to pass an immigration bill. But there is going to be widespread reluctance on this side of the aisle to support cloture and thereby bring the bill to a conclusion unless amendments, a significant number, are being allowed to be considered.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT JAMES W. HARLAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, while I am in my leader time, I rise today to honor the heroic sacrifice of a fellow Kentuckian, a brave soldier who served multiple tours in Iraq. He was also a proud father and grandfather who sought to protect the people and the land he loved.

SGT James W. Harlan was tragically killed on May 14, 2004, when a suicide bomber detonated a car bomb next to his humvee at Camp Anaconda near Balad, Iraq. Sergeant Harlan was a native of Owensboro, KY, and a member of the 660th Transportation Company's 88th Regional Readiness Command in the U.S. Army Reserve. He was 44 years old.

For his heroic service, Sergeant Harlan was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart, among many other awards and medals of distinction.

I mentioned that Sergeant Harlan was brave; let me elaborate on that. When he was 11 years old, his older sister Doris was assigned the daunting task of babysitting young Jimmy. "Jimmy was mischievous. He was always into something," she recalls. Sensing a window of opportunity to display his courage, Jimmy declared that he would jump off the roof of their family's house while his parents were away. At first Doris protested, but realizing that his intentions were probably only to rattle her, she told Jimmy: "Fine, you go ahead and do it." She even went so far as to set out pillows for him to land on. Sure enough, brave young Jimmy jumped off that roof, and to this day Doris is surprised that he escaped without major injury.

Jimmy's love of adventure carried over into his adulthood. He enjoyed the outdoors and would often take his kids fishing and hunting. A compassionate and loving father to his five children, Jimmy always made sure to spend quality time with his family. "When everyone else was sitting around with their bellies full on Thanksgiving, he would be outside throwing the football," his brother Kenny Likens recalls.

One of his favorite things to do was to coach baseball with his brothers. When he spent time indoors, he enjoyed watching old Western movies with his kids.

His sons, James Bryan Harlan, David Shane Harlan and Jacob Alexander Roberts, and his daughters, Tara Strelsky and Amanda Prout, as well

as his two stepchildren, Bobby and Brittany Gray, will miss his caring and generous spirit.

Jimmy will also be missed by two girls who might not yet realize the extraordinary sacrifice their grandfather made, but who will learn it as they grow older. He was especially proud of them. Jimmy often said of his granddaughters, Jaidyn Main and Abigail Prout, "Aren't they just the prettiest things you have ever seen?"

Jimmy's civilian career was partly spent as a truck driver. He enjoyed the opportunity to work on the big rigs and to see different parts of the country. He would often drive with his brother Kenny Likens. Through all that driving across the country, though, the two never did find a place they liked as much as their hometown of Owensboro, KY, where Jimmy was born and raised. When Jimmy left for his final tour in Iraq, he was working for the streets department in Owensboro.

Having served for two decades in the military and Reserves, Jimmy was a seasoned soldier. His patriotism and sense of civic duty compelled him to reenlist after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and he served two tours in Iraq.

While there, Jimmy supervised truck drivers who transported supplies to the troops at Camp Anaconda. His son James Bryan Harlan offered some perspective when he remarked:

Nobody wants to see their father die . . . but to have it be while doing something of this significance, we're proud of him.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that not only is his family proud of him, but all of America is proud of Jimmy's heroism and sacrifice.

SGT James W. Harlan drove a rig across the highways of the United States, and he traversed the desert sands of Iraq. He had an adventurous spirit, and his far travels and his exemplary service were a natural fit for that little boy who once jumped off his parents' roof.

Jimmy Harlan left an inspirational example for his children and grandchildren, his brothers, Kenny Likens and DeWayne Likens; his sister, Doris Taylor; his step-brothers, Randall Wingfield, Steve Wingfield, and the late Michael Calloway; his fiancée, Carol Gray; his mother, Doris Marie Gray; and his late father, William Arthur Harlan.

I ask the Senate to keep the family of SGT James W. Harlan in their thoughts and prayers. I know they will be in mine.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will resume consideration of S. 1348, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (S. 1348) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Kennedy/Specter) amendment No. 1150, in the nature of a substitute.

Cornyn modified amendment No. 1184 (to amendment No. 1150), to establish a permanent bar for gang members, terrorists, and other criminals.

Dodd/Menendez amendment No. 1199 (to amendment No. 1150), to increase the number of green cards for parents of United States citizens, to extend the duration of the new parent visitor visa, and to make penalties imposed on individuals who overstay such visas applicable only to such individuals.

Menendez amendment No. 1194 (to amendment No. 1150), to modify the deadline for the family backlog reduction.

Sessions amendment No. 1234 (to amendment No. 1150), to save American taxpayers up to \$24 billion in the 10 years after passage of this act, by preventing the earned-income tax credit, which is, according to the Congressional Research Service, the largest antipoverty entitlement program of the Federal Government, from being claimed by Y temporary workers or illegal aliens given status by this act until they adjust to legal permanent resident status.

Sessions amendment No. 1235 (to amendment No. 1150), to save American taxpayers up to \$24 billion in the 10 years after passage of this act, by preventing the earned-income tax credit, which is, according to the Congressional Research Service, the largest antipoverty entitlement program of the Federal Government, from being claimed by Y temporary workers or illegal aliens given status by this act until they adjust to legal permanent resident status.

Lieberman amendment No. 1191 (to amendment No. 1150), to provide safeguards against faulty asylum procedures and to improve conditions of detention.

Cornyn amendment No. 1250 (to amendment No. 1150), to address documentation of employment and to make an amendment with respect to mandatory disclosure of information.

Salazar (for Clinton) modified amendment No. 1183 (to amendment No. 1150), to reclassify the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives.

Salazar (for Obama/Menendez) amendment No. 1202 (to amendment No. 1150), to provide a date on which the authority of the section relating to the increasing of American competitiveness through a merit-based evaluation system for immigrants shall be terminated.

DeMint amendment No. 1197 (to amendment No. 1150), to require health care coverage for holders of Z nonimmigrant visas.

Bingaman/Obama modified amendment No. 1267 (to amendment No. 1150), to remove the requirement that Y-1 nonimmigrant visa holders leave the United States before they are able to renew their visa.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 2 hours of debate with respect to amendment No. 1184, as modified, offered by the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN; an amendment offered by the Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, related to the same subject, with time equally divided and controlled between Senator CORNYN and Senator KENNEDY.

Who yields time?