

or just a father figure who influences one's youth, is a very special thing indeed.

It is certainly possible for a child to grow into a talented, accomplished, and good adult without the influence of a father figure, but good fathers and good mothers give their children an advantage. They give their children the security of knowing always that they are loved and that someone is rooting for them, someone is looking out for them. In that security, a child can find the confidence to try and to fail, and to try and to fail, and to try and to fail again. It is a great and lasting gift that our fathers give to each of us, one that certainly deserves one day of recognition every year.

So, Mr. President, I close with a short poem by Holly Dunn called "Daddy's Hands" and a salute to fathers everywhere:

I remember daddy's hands folded silently in prayer.
 And reachin' out to hold me, when I had a nightmare.
 You could read quite a story in the callous' and lines.
 Years of work and worry had left their mark behind.
 I remember daddy's hands, how they held my mama tight
 And patted my back for something done right.
 There are things that I'd forgotten that I loved about the man
 But I'll always remember the love in daddy's hands.
 Daddy's hands were soft and kind when I was cryin'
 Daddy's hands were hard as steel when I'd done wrong.
 Daddy's hands weren't always gentle but I've come to understand
 There was always love in daddy's hands.
 I remember daddy's hands workin' 'til they bled
 Sacrificed unselfishly just to keep us all fed.
 If I could do things over, I'd live my life again
 And never take for granted the love—
 The sweet love—
 in daddy's hands.

FLAG DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, June 14 is celebrated in the United States as "Flag Day." Flag Day is not a big holiday. Offices will not close to observe it; stores will not hold special sales; no fireworks will light the sky; no special presents or dinners will make June 14 stand out for most people. I doubt that even the holiday card makers have put out much of a selection of cards to send to loved ones, reminding them that we are thinking of them on Flag Day. But it is a special day nonetheless. One may notice more flags than usual—small ones cantilevered into the breeze next to neighborhood front doors and larger ones snapping smartly before schools and storefronts. In Washington, DC, of course, we are blessed with a plethora of flags. Flag Day is a good time to take special note of them, flying proudly above the Capitol Building

and in front of all the other government offices and monuments, like those encircling the Washington Monument. They are a grand sight every day of the year, but especially so on Flag Day.

Americans honor their flag, the Stars and Stripes, or Old Glory, on June 14 because it was on June 14, 1777—230 years ago—that the Continental Congress adopted a resolution to give the United States a national flag to replace the British Union Jack. A special committee was formed assigned to suggest the flag's design in a report. The resulting proclamation was brief but inspiring. It said, simply:

That the flag of the United States shall be of 13 stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of 13 stars of white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

The new flag was first carried into battle on September 11, 1777, at the Battle of Brandywine, as General George Washington attempted to prevent the British from advancing on Philadelphia.

The 13 stars on that first flag represented the 13 original colonies, but that constellation continued to grow as the Nation grew, until we became the 50 stars that grace Old Glory today. At first, the number of stripes grew as well, but that quickly became unwieldy, and the number of stripes reverted to 13, to represent the original 13 States in the Nation. George Washington is reputed to have said that:

We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separate it by white in stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her.

Certainly, the original congressional proclamation did not specify the symbolism of the colors of the flag, or the design, but that has only left the field of symbolism wide open for poets and philosophers, for generals and Presidents as well as everyday citizens. The red has been seen as the blood that has been shed for our Nation, as well as for the red of the British Union Jack. The white has been seen as purity or hope, while the blue has been compared to honor or to the heavens that guard over the Nation. Flags are full of symbols, and Old Glory means many things to Americans. It sums up our Nation in a single icon, and we project our love, pride, determination and even, sometimes, our frustration on it.

The American flag usually brings out the best in us, or rather, the best in us usually brings out the American flag. There are few sights more moving than the sudden appearance of so many American flags on the afternoon of September 11, 2001, and in the days immediately after. The fierce determination and unshaken loyalty to our Nation in the face of a threat was clear in the sight of the flags that appeared on homes, stores, mailboxes and cars within hours of that unspeakable event.

The Stars and Stripes are seen when we celebrate, such as on the Fourth of July or at inaugurations. Old Glory

also marks more solemn occasions. The sight of the American flag draped over the coffin of a soldier home from the war, to be solemnly folded and placed in the lap of his grieving family, is a grim reminder of the sometimes great cost of serving our Nation. Those flags, sitting still folded in triangular flag cases on mantels, under shadowboxes with medals, and the small flags so carefully placed in front of the markers at veterans' cemeteries around the Nation on the last Monday in May, remind us of the close proximity between Memorial Day at the end of May and Flag Day in mid-June. But again soon, on July 4, we will see the Stars and Stripes back in party mode, flying proudly over our heads as a part of our grand national birthday celebration.

Mr. President, I like to close my observation of Flag Day with one of my favorite poems, by Henry Holcomb Bennett, entitled "The Flag Goes By."

THE FLAG GOES BY

Hats off!
 Along the street there comes
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
 A flash of color beneath the sky:
 Hats off!
 The flag is passing by!
 Blue and crimson and white it shines,
 Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.
 Hats off!
 The colors before us fly;
 But more than the flag is passing by.
 Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
 Fought to make and save the State;
 Weary marches and sinking ships;
 Cheers of victory on dying lips.
 Days of plenty and years of peace;
 March of a strong land's swift increase;
 Equal justice, right, and law, Stately
 honor and reverend awe;
 Signs of nation, great and strong
 Toward her people from foreign wrong;
 Pride and glory and honor,—all
 Live in the colors to stand or fall.
 Hats off!
 Along the street there comes
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;
 And loyal hearts are beating high;
 Hats off!
 The Flag is passing by!

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today is a day of great significance to me and many Americans. In 1949, after decades of unofficial celebrations, President Truman signed an act of Congress that National Flag Day would be celebrated each year on June 14. Sadly, this national holiday goes unnoticed by far too many Americans. I wish to make a few brief comments about our Nation's flag on this day of celebration and remembrance.

Whenever I get a chance to speak with foreign visitors to the United States, I like to ask about their impression of the United States, especially if it is their first time visiting. Time after time, they express amazement at the abundant presence of the U.S. flag, not only in Washington, DC, but in cities and towns of every size across the Nation.

Truly, flags are flying everywhere, not only at government buildings but at restaurants, parks, malls, gas stations, along highways, not to mention

inside and outside private homes. Flag pins adorn lapels, flag stickers grace our cars, flag designs make for popular home decoration, and on Independence Day, our clothing often takes on the theme of Old Glory.

Clearly, we Americans love our flag and love displaying it. It is an expression of patriotism, reverence, and love of country.

From 1776 to today, from the marines who fought their way to plant the flag at the top of Iwo Jima to the firefighters who lifted the flag above the ruins of the World Trade Center, it is clear that our flag represents so much more than a nation. In truth, the American flag represents thousands of years of struggle to achieve political liberty, religious autonomy, and freedom from want. More important, our flag represents the inspiration of the life of our Nation and what humanity has the potential to accomplish.

Throughout our Nation's history, the American flag has enjoyed the protection of its people and its laws. Unfortunately, this safeguard was eroded in 1989 by the Supreme Court decision in *Texas v. Johnson*. This decision, which many of my colleagues and I agree was misguided, found within the Constitution a right that had never before existed: the right to physically assault the flag under the first amendment. Since then, Members of Congress have been faced with reconciling the tension between "free speech" and the symbolic importance of the American flag. As citizens, we can no longer allow flag burning to be considered a "norm" in our society. Although we can do nothing when terrorists or those with anti-American sentiments defile our flag abroad, we owe it to our brave service men and women, to ourselves, and to our children to do something when it happens on our own soil.

Our colleagues in the House have submitted a joint resolution to amend the Constitution to allow Congress to protect our flag. I do not take amending the Constitution lightly, but I commend the sponsoring representatives for taking action on such an important issue.

On this Flag Day, I hope we can all remember that our flag is much more than tightly woven cotton mixed with beautiful colors. It is a true symbol of the struggle of this Nation to remain free and it flies tall as a reminder to all of the liberties that we enjoy as proud citizens of this country. The respect that our flag deserves depends on us. I will close by quoting Franklin K. Lane, former Secretary of the Interior, who said this about the flag:

I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President. I would like to take a few moments to observe Flag Day.

Two hundred thirty years ago this week the second Continental Congress passed a resolution that created the flag of our Nation. On Flag Day we

commemorate the anniversary of this resolution and pay tribute to this honored symbol of the United States.

For every generation of Americans the flag has represented the highest ideals of our Nation, democracy, liberty, and justice. I am proud that although the number of stars has changed over the years, what our flag stands for has not.

I hope New Mexicans will take a moment today to honor the flag and all it represents.

HONORING THOMAS F. HOUSTON

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Thomas F. Houston for his 37 years of public service. For the past 9 years, Tom has served as the Senior Policy Advisor to the Director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. After almost four decades of service, he will retire this month after a career in which he served the United States in numerous capacities, including almost 20 years as a congressional staff member.

He left Mississippi in 1973 to join me on the staff of Congressman William Colmer. Tom served as Congressman Colmer's press assistant and later helped with my first campaign to replace our former boss. Tom's skill and hard work earned him a stint as deputy press secretary for the Ford-Dole Presidential campaign in 1976, and when that came to a close, Tom joined the staff of the House Committee on Government Operations, serving there until June 1989.

During his 12-year tenure on the committee, Tom had a major hand in writing a number of historical pieces of legislation, including the Inspector General Act of 1978 that first established Inspector General Offices inside Cabinet-level agencies to independently monitor their work.

In 1989, Tom left the Hill to join the George H.W. Bush administration at the Department of Defense. During the Persian Gulf buildup and war, he was the Director of the Desert Shield/Desert Storm Public Affairs Cell. That operation set the precedent for the military's public affairs policy during the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The impact of his tenure at the Pentagon is reflected in the fact that during just a 4-year period in office, Tom was twice honored by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney with the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

In 1992, Tom left the administration and returned to the Hill to serve as the communications director for the first Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. He met with potentially-affected communities and their congressional delegations to negotiate the best path forward for the transformation of the U.S. military. When the first commission began wrapping up its work, he was named Staff Director to oversee the transition to the next round.

In 1995, Tom signed on as chief of staff to Congressman JIM SAXTON of New Jersey as the second BRAC round began. Congressman SAXTON's district stood to be hit hard by the BRAC process, and Tom devoted himself to helping see the Congressman and his constituents through the duration of the second round of the process.

When it came to a close in 1996, Tom accepted an offer to serve as the chief of staff to Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON of Texas, a key member of the Senate Armed Services Committee at the time and later a member of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

Tom's seemingly endless devotion to his country was only surpassed by his commitment to his family. Tom decided in 1998 to step away from the Hill in order to spend more time with his children. In a move he later called "the best decision I've ever made," Tom took a job at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, NCIS. He was recruited by NCIS Director David Brant, who charged him with overhauling the way the agency conducted its public affairs. Tom proceeded to do just that, working as head of communications for NCIS and Senior Policy Adviser to the Director to help bring about this revitalization that resulted in NCIS receiving the international recognition it enjoys today.

Tom worked tirelessly to make lasting improvements in the way NCIS approached public affairs during his tenure. Recruiting a top-notch media and congressional affairs team, he undertook an unprecedented public outreach campaign to make NCIS and its mission more widely known and better understood.

I am confident that his enormous efforts will continue to bear fruit for years to come. Perhaps the most well-known outcome of his efforts, though, has been in garnering NCIS international attention through the hit TV show "NCIS," which Tom was instrumental in bringing about. The show has earned NCIS and its employees the kind of public acclaim few in Federal Government enjoy, and through constant collaboration with the show's producers, Tom has worked to ensure the show continues to be a credit to the hard-working men and women that make up the agency.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate, honor, and thank Tom and his wife Ginger for their friendship and contributions to our country.

BUDGET RESOLUTION ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 207(f) of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 Budget resolution, directs the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to make appropriate adjustments in allocations, aggregates, discretionary spending limits, and other levels of new budget authority and outlays to reflect the difference between the budgetary impact