

so that these 26 Senators may get votes in relation to their amendments.

I now call up that amendment, which is at the desk, on behalf of Senators KENNEDY and SPECTER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), for Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. SPECTER, proposes an amendment numbered 1934.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

Mr. DEMINT. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue to read.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MENENDEZ). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in light of our discussion with the distinguished majority leader under which we won't take further action until tomorrow, so we can begin to digest this mammoth amendment, I move to waive reading of the amendment.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I did have a conversation with the junior Senator from Louisiana and a number of his colleagues. I think it is only fair that they have the evening and night to work on this big piece of legislation. It took a lot longer to get here, as always happens. It is "always on its way," be here "right away," "another 5 minutes."

Of course, it took several hours. I think in fairness, it is only the right thing to do. We are going to come back at 10 o'clock in the morning. There will be no morning business tomorrow. I would say to all Senators, there is a briefing that starts at 10 o'clock with Admiral McConnell. I have not had the opportunity to speak to him yet. But I am confident that for any Senators who are unable to go to that briefing because of being obligated to be here on the Senate floor, another time can be arranged that he and/or his staff would be happy to come and visit with another group of Senators. So we are not going to be in recess during the time of that briefing. But I would hope tomorrow we can get some movement on this bill, and the Senator from Louisiana and others will better understand this tomorrow, and make a decision of how if, in fact, they want to proceed, along with a number of others.

So that being the case, I express my appreciation to the Senator from Louisiana and his colleagues we met with earlier today.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a pe-

riod of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be no more votes tonight.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a colleague and a friend—someone whose presence is missed but whose legacy will undoubtedly endure.

Senator Craig Thomas was a westerner through and through. The story of his life reflects the spirit of the West—his work ethic, his strength of character, and his love for the land and resources of his cherished Wyoming.

Craig's life lessons were formed as a summer horseback guide, as a competitive wrestler, as a marine, as a husband, and as a father. He brought those lessons with him to Washington, D.C., as a Congressman and a Senator, and he never forgot them or strayed from them. That is clear from the issues he held closest to his heart.

As a fellow westerner, I always admired Craig's commitment to being an exemplary steward of our national parks. His love for them probably developed during his childhood summers around Yellowstone National Park, but he was able to translate that passion into monumental improvements that generations of Americans will enjoy.

He also worked tirelessly on issues impacting public land management, agriculture, rural healthcare, and fiscal responsibility—all issues that greatly benefited his constituents in Wyoming. And they understood and appreciated his advocacy for their well being by electing him time and again to represent them in the Nation's Capital.

Craig definitely had a special presence on Capitol Hill. He never gave up a fight; he had a certain grit that drew others to him; and he loved to joke around—all tributes that led to his being described as a cowboy or a Western hero.

The epitome of the American cowboy, John Wayne, has inscribed on his headstone: "Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learnt something from yesterday."

Craig Thomas treated every "tomorrow" as a new and exciting opportunity

to make a difference for the people of Wyoming and the United States. He loved his work; he loved his family; and he loved life. While he is no longer serving as the voice of the westerner in the Senate, his years of dedicated service ensured that his legacy will survive.

Craig was a statesman and a leader, a fighter and a friend. The Thomas family, the people of Wyoming, and those of us who worked with Craig will always remember the spirit of Western freedom, trusted integrity, and heartfelt kindness that he embodied. We are all fortunate to have known such a remarkable person.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am proud to submit S. Con. Res. 39, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims. This resolution is the Senate companion to H. Con. Res. 87, which was recently submitted in the House.

Each crash might seem to us, in its immediacy, like an isolated tragedy, but when we step back, we see that each has its part in a global crisis that is deepening year by year. The day of remembrance—set by the United Nations General Assembly for the third Sunday of November—is not just for the 40,000 people who die in road crashes each year in America; it is for the 1.2 million who die in crashes in every part of the world and for the staggering 20 to 50 million who are injured. In fact, the World Health Organization predicts that, by the year 2020, the death rate from crashes each year will surpass the death rate from AIDS.

True, many of these crashes are unique disasters, but that leaves many more whose causes are systemic and preventable. Unsafe roads, poor medical facilities, and inadequate driver education all contribute their share to the death toll. And unsurprisingly, the toll is highest, and rising, in middle- and low-income countries. Road safety, then, is an issue of economic justice.

On the world day of remembrance, we will recall all of the victims of road crashes; we keep their families in our thoughts, and we pray for the full recovery of those still living. But our compassion for individuals must not obscure the bigger picture. "We have to change the way we think about crashes," said Diza Gonzaga, the mother of a car-crash victim in Brazil. "The majority of people think that crashes are due to fate. We have to think of a crash as a preventable event."

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any

kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On February 7, 2006 in San Diego, CA, James Hardy strangled Raymund Catolico, a gay man, to death in the victim's apartment. Allegedly, the two men met at a bus station and went to Catolico's apartment to have drinks and play video games. At some point Hardy attacked Catolico strangling him to death. Following the murder, Hardy went out for food and brought it back to the apartment to finish playing his computer game. According to Deputy District Attorney Dan Link, Catolico's sexuality was, "a substantial motivation" for the killing. Hardy is charged with a hate crime and is being held without bail.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST JOSIAH HOLLOPETER

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army SPC Josiah Hollopeter of Valentine, NE. Specialist Hollopeter was killed on June 14 in Al Muqadiyah, Iraq. He was 27 years old.

Specialist Hollopeter graduated from Valentine High School in 1998. He played high school football as a defensive end, starting as a senior opposite his brother Tyler, a sophomore at the time. Tyler would also go on to serve in Iraq as an Army helicopter pilot.

Before joining the Army, Specialist Hollopeter worked construction jobs in Omaha and San Diego. He also worked for a canoe outfitter along the Niobrara River for several summers.

Like so many young men and women of his generation, the terrorist attacks of September 11 had a profound impact on Specialist Hollopeter and inspired him to serve his country. He enlisted with the Army in January 2006. He served with the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based at Ford Hood, Texas. We are proud of Specialist Hollopeter's service to our country, as well as the thousands of other brave Americans serving in Iraq.

In addition to his brother, Specialist Hollopeter is survived by his parents Ken and Kelly Hollopeter; wife Heather; and sister Anna Hollopeter.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SPC Josiah Hollopeter.

RETIREMENT OF FRANK J. MONAHAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute

to the distinguished career of Frank Monahan, who will retire in a few days after 36 years of service to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Since 1971, Frank Monahan has worked on many of the great social justice issues of our day, always taking the side of the vulnerable, the voiceless, and the victims, always standing firm in his belief that here on earth, God's work must be our own. In the finest Jesuit tradition of his alma mater, Loyola University of Chicago, Frank Monahan is a man who has dedicated himself to serving others.

Early in his career, he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nigeria. He was responding to President Kennedy's call to a new generation of Americans to engage themselves in public service and to help spread hope and the message of peace and cooperation throughout the world. He went on to work in Chicago public schools, helping to implement antipoverty programs and improve school lunch programs so that poor and hungry children would be free to learn, without fear of want.

His good nature, strong commitment, and eternal optimism that we can leave the world better than we found it will be missed by all of us in Congress, but they will not soon be forgotten.

It has been my great privilege through the years—under seven different Presidential administrations—to work with Frank on issues of fundamental fairness and justice. When I think of him, I am reminded of my brother Robert F. Kennedy's words:

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

I commend Frank Monahan for the countless ripples of hope he has sent out in his career.

We will be sad to see him leave, but heart in the fact that this great friend and ally will continue, in new and different fields, to live out the words of the Gospel of Mathew:

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.

He has certainly earned his retirement. As Frank and his family look forward to meeting the new challenges and opportunities that lay ahead, I am sure God is looking down on him now and saying, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

THE FACE OF COURAGE

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I appreciate this opportunity to honor the distinguished service of my fellow Hoosier, SFC Jeffrey E. Mittman.

Throughout his remarkable career in the U.S. Army, Sergeant Mittman has exemplified the professionalism and

dedication that is a hallmark of our Nation's Armed Forces, including during deployments in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. On July 7, 2005, while assisting an Iraqi Public Order Brigade in Central Baghdad as a member of the Special Police Transition Team, SFC Jeffrey E. Mittman was wounded by an improvised explosive device. Since that day Sergeant Mittman has worked to recover from the injuries he sustained.

I also appreciate this opportunity to share my best wishes with Sergeant Mittman's wife Christy and children Jamie and Payton. As Sergeant Mittman works to recover from the grievous injuries he suffered while serving his nation in Iraq, I know that his children will benefit from the example of service and dedication that he and Christy have set.

I ask unanimous consent that a poem by Albert Caswell honoring SFC Jeffrey Mittman be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE FACE OF COURAGE

A Beautiful Man,
Who with The Heart of A Hero now here so stands!
Who within this his short lifetime, has so made a difference . . . so very grand!
Who with but half a face,
Who now so in history holds such a place . . .
One of such honor, one of such sacrifice . . .
one of such most magnificent splendid grace!
As this warrior battles both night and day,
To rebuild his life, from which from him has so been taken away!
In this his valiant quest, courage's best, a hero no less . . . as to our world he'll bless, in so many ways!
Beauty,
Beauty, is but skin deep!
For all of those whom have so made a difference, up in Heaven in his arms our Lord shall keep!
For we will all grow old some day,
As so surely all of our beauty shall so slip away!
So what then do our lives portray? So how can we so find heaven's way? As in a mirror we gaze!
For all that is good, of which God creates . . .
For all that is beautiful, so surely comes from within hearts as made!
As from where all true beauty so radiates, as from where so very deep down inside so emanates!
The Heart,
Is from where we so gait, from where all of our new steps are made . . . to play our part!
To rebuild from where none is left, through such pain, heartache and death . . . as God's work of art!
As before me I so see the face of God this day!
In this fine hero, with but half a face . . . who's beauty within so surely shows me the way!
All hearts melt this day, upon gazing at courage's face . . . no more beautiful man our world has so graced!
And we so watch you take each new step . . .