

The day after Senator LUGAR's comments, another distinguished Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, GEORGE VOINOVICH, wrote a letter to the President. In the letter, Senator VOINOVICH urged the President to wake up to the truth that so many of us already know: that the war cannot be won militarily.

It can only be won politically. Yet another distinguished member of the Armed Services Committee, Senator WARNER, then said he expects the number of Republican defections with the President to rise.

I am encouraged by what we are hearing now from Republican Senators, even though it is only a handful. But when you join these three Senators with Senators SMITH and HAGEL, we are up to five. We still have 44 to go.

I said earlier this week that this could and should be a turning point. After the recess, we will turn to the Department of Defense authorization bill, which is our next chance to force the President to change course.

But we are still a long way from reaching our goal. More Republicans are saying the right things, but now we badly need for them to put their words into action by voting the right way also.

The current handful of Republicans isn't enough. We would not be able to get any legislation passed without 60 votes, but we are getting closer. We are not where we need to be yet.

In May, as I said, the President called our plan a "recipe for chaos." Each day that goes by we sink further and further into the President's escalation, and it becomes even clearer that the best way to ensure chaos, death, devastation, and destruction is to stick with the President's failed policy. Let's go with our plan, which is not chaos but stability and the saving of people's lives.

As we leave for the celebration of our Nation's birthday, the Fourth of July, I ask my colleagues to listen to the call of the American people. Choose the path that honors our troops, makes our country safer at home, and stronger abroad.

When we return next week, let's get to work on a responsible new direction that Americans demand and deserve and, in fact, is long overdue.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, next Wednesday is July 4, Independence Day, the grand national celebration of our Nation's beginning. The Senate and the House of Representatives will be quiet, in recess so that Members can join in Independence Day celebrations around the country with constituents, families, and friends.

On July 4, summer is approaching its zenith. The days are hot and sunny. Water in all forms lures children into the heat—in the country, shady streams offer relief; in urban areas, fountains or even fire hydrants answer

the call, while across the country, swimming pools offer watery fun with an accompanying musical soundtrack of splashing and laughter. Even summer thunderstorms do their bit to cool things down while displaying nature's power and majesty as the lightning cracks and the thunder booms.

Fourth of July celebrations are a wonderful time to glory in all that is good about the United States. Flags and fireworks, picnics and parades, mellow afternoons and martial music—everything about Independence Day is grand. As we join together to remember the bravery that led our Founding Fathers to draft the Declaration of Independence, the long struggle to win our freedom, and the enlightened wisdom that resulted in our unique and wonderful Constitution, the love of our Nation that is the true spirit of patriotism is renewed. Surrounded by the happy faces of our diverse population enjoying their small town parades, music under the stars, family picnics and the grand finale of the fireworks displays, we can be sure that our Founding Fathers chose well when they gambled on a new nation in which "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

On Independence Day, when laughing children run with their sparklers to compete with the fireflies, we are also reminded of our own obligation to preserve for them all that is good about these United States. In this, we may also look to the Declaration of Independence, which ends with "a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

For our Founding Fathers, this pledge was not mere rhetoric—their signatures on the declaration that hot summer in 1776 put at risk their families, their fortunes, their worldly possessions, and their lives. Some, like Edward Rutledge, age 26, were young men, with all of their life's promise ahead of them. Others, like Benjamin Franklin, age 70, were no longer so young, and the prospect of being hunted down for treason could not have been very appealing. Still, he did not shirk from signing and has even been quoted as saying that "We must all hang together, or assuredly we will all hang separately," his witty way of warning the signers that any failure to remain united could result in each of them being tried and executed for treason. History has shown that his warning was not needed.

Through the years of war, even as some of the signers lost their homes or put their fortunes into the war effort, not one of them backed down. For that, we may all be thankful.

Even as the years of war passed, the signers of the Declaration of Independence continued to serve their new Nation. They served as ambassadors for

the new United States, as Presidents and Vice Presidents, as Cabinet members, and as a source of inspiration and industry for the fledgling Nation into their old ages. It is fitting that Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, third President of the United States, Vice President, Secretary of State, Minister to France, Governor of Virginia, colonial and State legislator, founder of the University of Virginia, farmer and philosopher, died at the age of 83 on the Fourth of July, 1826, on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. He worked and wrote prolifically until the very end of his life, always for the betterment of the Nation.

On the same day, July 4, 1826, John Adams passed away at the age of 91. President, Vice President, Member of the Continental Congress, farmer, and philosopher, Adams remains the longest lived person ever elected to both of the highest offices in the United States. Until his record was broken by Ronald Reagan in 2001, Adams was the nation's longest living President, at 90 years, 247 days. The record is currently held by former President Gerald Ford, who died December 26, 2006, at 93 years, 165 days. Adams and Jefferson's correspondence during their later years remains an invaluable historical record of the early days of our Republic, and their respect for each other was unmatched. Even as he died, Adams is said to have breathed, "Thomas Jefferson survives," in what may have been his final earthly comfort knowing that his friend remained to watch over the young Nation.

Madam President, it is a great privilege to be able to call oneself a citizen of these United States. It is my great privilege to serve the Senate and the people of West Virginia and the United States. I feel that privilege every day but especially on the Fourth of July. I am inspired by our Founding Fathers and by the great documents that are the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Like Jefferson and Adams, I am inspired to continue serving the land that I love to the very best of my abilities for the whole of my years.

Madam President, I close with a poem by Walter Taylor Field, entitled "Flag of the Free."

FLAG OF THE FREE

Look at the flag as it floats on high,
Streaming aloft in the clear, blue sky,
Rippling, leaping, tugging away,
Gay as the sunshine, bright as the day,
Throbbing with life, where the world may
see—Flag of our country, flag of the
free!

What do we see in the flag on high,
That we bare our heads as it passes by,
That we thrill with pride, our hearts beat
fast, And we cheer and cheer as the flag
goes past—The flag that waves for you
and me—Flag of our country, flag of
the free?

We see in the flag a nation's might,
The pledge of a safeguard day and night, Of
a watchful eye and a powerful arm

That guard the nation's homes from harm.
 Of a strong defense on land and sea—
 Flag of our country, flag of the free!
 We see in the flag a union grand,
 A brotherhood of heart and hand,
 A pledge of love and a stirring call
 To live our lives for the good of us all—Help-
 ful and just and true to thee, Flag of
 our country, flag of the free!
 Flutter, dear flag, o'er the lands and seas!
 Fling out your stars and your stripes to the
 breeze, Righting all wrongs, dispelling
 all fear,
 Guarding the land that we cherish so dear,
 And the God of our fathers, abiding
 with thee, Will
 bless you and trust you, O flag of the free!

IOWA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize a group of Iowans who distinguished themselves in their service on behalf of the security of the United States. Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry, of the Iowa Army National Guard, brought honor to itself and the State of Iowa while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Troop C entered the Iraq theater of operations on October 30, 2005, and completed its mission on October 30, 2006.

Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry was based at Camp Ashraf in the Diyala Province of Iraq. Diyala is one of the most contested provinces in Iraq, and the mission of Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry was to provide perimeter defense at Camp Ashraf, reconnaissance and security patrols, improvised explosive device clearance missions, and convoy escorts. Troop C missions were conducted in such contested cities as Baghdad, Baqubah, and Khalis, as well as anywhere else required. Dangerous does not quite capture the situations that Troop C faced on a daily basis.

During this tour of duty, Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry conducted more than 3,000 missions, drove in excess of 150,000 miles on treacherous Iraqi roads, sustained over 50 improvised explosive device strikes, discovered more than 25 emplaced improvised explosive devices and provided security while these devices were destroyed; and on a routine basis conducted security missions to Ashraf's West Water Pump Station. Troop C put themselves in harm's way to ensure continual water supply to Ashraf and the surrounding villages. For its actions while performing these missions, Troop C has earned to date eleven Purple Hearts and nearly one-hundred combat action badges.

Battlefield success came at a price. SGT Dan L. Sesker made the ultimate sacrifice, giving his life while conducting a convoy operation in Baghdad.

On May 29, 2006, members of Troop C arrived on scene immediately after 4th Infantry Division Soldiers and a Columbia Broadcasting System news crew were attacked while conducting Memorial Day interviews. The soldiers of Troop C heroically took up the secu-

rity mission and provided first aid to the wounded Soldiers and news crew. The treatment provided to the correspondent, Kimberly Dozier, saved her life.

Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry deserves the highest praise of this body and the entire Nation. The courage, selfless sacrifice, and dedication to their mission displayed by Troop C exemplifies what is best in our brave soldiers and I am very proud to call them fellow Iowans. It is to the valor of those in Troop C and others like them past and present that we Americans owe our freedom and security today.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, over half a century ago, in *Brown v. Board of Education*, a unanimous Supreme Court struck down laws requiring racial segregation in our public schools. Yesterday's decision limiting voluntary efforts to desegregate public schools is false to Brown's promise of equality by making it far more difficult for local school boards to bring students of different races together in the classroom.

The landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* called on us to honor not only the requirements of the Constitution but also of our consciences. America was made stronger as a result. Although the *Brown* decision initially met with intense resistance in many parts of the country, it eventually came to be recognized as one of the Court's finest hours.

Yesterday's decision, however, makes it far more difficult to achieve equal educational opportunity for children of all races. *Brown* was a giant step in ending racially segregated public schools, but achieving integration takes more than a court decision. It takes good will, vision, creativity, common sense, and a firm commitment to the goal of educating all children, regardless of race. Above all, it takes a realistic assessment of local communities to determine what will work to bring students together.

That challenge is difficult to meet, because in many parts of the Nation, neighborhoods continue to be highly segregated by race and national origin. Without specific efforts by local school boards to promote diversity, public schools often reflect the same racial segregation as the neighborhoods around them. As over 500 prominent social scientists who have studied residential segregation explained in their brief in the *Seattle and Jefferson County, KY*, cases, without voluntary efforts, neighborhood schools cannot achieve the integration that we as a society recognize is so important.

The benefits of integration, both for individual students and for society, are enormous. Children who participate in classes attended by students of many races enjoy greater parental involvement in public schools, and greater cross-cultural understanding. It helps

close the racial gap in education by helping African-American children achieve greater academic success. One of the Nation's leading conservative judges, Alexander Kozinski, described Seattle's integration plan as an "eminently sensible" "stirring of the melting pot," which helps children learn to interact as citizens of our common society. Without integrated schools, children will not learn these important lessons. That's a result we cannot afford.

Local school boards such as Jefferson County's have transcended the legacy of Jim Crow segregation to achieve not only enhanced opportunities for students but greater cooperation, participation, and genuine friendship between children of different races. We should honor that achievement. We should also ensure that school districts such as Jefferson County's, that do not want to return to the days of all-White and all-Black schools, receive the support and information needed to continue that success.

The Court's ruling undermines the important goal of racial integration by ignoring the real world consequences of its decision. Ironically, Chief Justice Roberts, who helped form the majority on this decision, stated at his confirmation hearing that this was something he would not do.

My first question to John Roberts at his confirmation hearing was about *Brown v. Board of Education*. I asked whether he agreed that the Court in *Brown* properly based its opinion on "real world consideration[s] . . . at the time of its decision." "Certainly, Senator," he responded, "you have to look at the discrimination in the context in which it is occurring."

Yet his plurality opinion in yesterday's decision ignores the context of *Brown* that Chief Justice Roberts said at his hearing was so important. In fact, Chief Justice Roberts would have gone even further than a majority of the Court and argued to outlaw virtually any use of race in voluntary efforts to integrate public schools.

The central tragedy in *Brown* was society's abandonment of African-American children to second-class schools. Every child relegated to such schools is harmed. Chief Justice Roberts' opinion disregards that reality by defining the only harm in *Brown* as the consideration of race in assigning children to school. The harm to these children is not less just because their segregation is the result of housing patterns rather than discriminatory laws. The cruel irony of the Chief Justice's view is that it would undermine *Brown* by ensuring that thousands of minority children would continue to attend segregated schools. Fortunately, a majority of the Supreme Court understood that we cannot afford to ignore the harm to students in segregated schools.

Despite professing moderation and promising to uphold precedent, the Court's newest members have already voted to radically limit the Clean Water Act. They have argued that the