

to force his way past them. When Officer Chestnut blocked his path, the gunman shot him point-blank in the chest and killed him. Special Agent Gibson then warned nearby tourists and staff to seek cover. In fact, he chased the gunman down the hallway. He was headed for the House leadership's office. When they exchanged gunfire, one tourist was hit. Officer Gibson was also hit and died from his wounds, as did Officer Chestnut.

A plaque has been placed in the Capitol Building where the confrontation took place, and their names are carved in the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial recognizing their sacrifice.

I knew Officer Gibson. Senate Democrats had a retreat. During that retreat, my wife became very ill one night. Special Agent Gibson was the first one there. He was carrying all the resuscitation equipment. He was sweating. He had run from the office where the police were stationed to take care of my wife. I remember how kind, thoughtful, and considerate he was, and how gentle he was.

I didn't know Officer Chestnut other than exchanging greetings when I met him, but his reputation was outstanding, and his actions that day proved his enormous strength of character.

I think of the brave police officers who protect me every day, Mr. President, with the skill and hard work I see firsthand each day. I also think of all the law enforcement men and women who keep this building and those who serve within it safe. We should all be grateful, but I am grateful beyond words.

So on this somber anniversary, I will lay a wreath and observe a moment of silence for these two heroic men we lost. Our hearts, and certainly our thoughts, are with the families of Special Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut. I have met their families on a number of occasions. We hope that remembering them is some comfort to them that the sacrifice of their loved ones will be forever remembered with our gratitude and utmost respect.

SENATE SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have not had a chance to convey this information to the distinguished Republican leader. I have not had time because the decision was just made this morning. I want to go over the calendar for the remainder of this year.

We, of course, know what we have to do this week and next week. We need to complete the work on the Homeland Security appropriations bill, which is so important, with the 9/11 recommendations to become effective soon, and we have the National Intelligence Estimate report just rendered which indicates we have to be vigilant at home. We must complete the appropriations bill dealing with homeland security before we leave this work period.

We also need to do our work on SCHIP, children's health care. The Finance Committee, on a very bipartisan vote—17 to 4—passed that matter out of committee. It was led by Senators GRASSLEY, BAUCUS, ROCKEFELLER, and HATCH. What came out of that committee has been a compromise. That is how bipartisanship works. As reported in the Congressional Daily yesterday, that matter should have more than 60 votes. So if there is, in fact, an effort to slow that bill down, it appears on a bipartisan basis we can move it forward. It is certainly important legislation, and we need to complete it.

We also, as I just mentioned, need to complete the conference report dealing with the 9/11 Commission recommendations. We expect that to be passed in the House this week. The conference committee, basically, has wrapped up all its work on that bill. It has been very heartwarming that the conference has been led by Senators LIEBERMAN and COLLINS, and we had an actual conference, just as we used to have around here all the time. The first conference committee meeting was mobbed with press looking in. That is the way it used to be. A real conference report will come out of that conference committee, and that is very important.

Finally, we are going to complete the ethics legislation. I want to tee up so that when we come back in September, we will have some work to do without looking for something to do. What I would like to do is move to the VA-Military Construction appropriations bill. We will do that one way or the other. I hope on a motion to proceed that I will not have to file cloture, but if I have to, that is what I will do. So when we get back in September, we will have something to work on.

Let's talk about September. Whenever we leave here, Mr. President—and, as I have indicated, I hope it is next Friday, but that may not be the case if we have to do some extra days to complete our work—when we come back, of course, September 3 is a holiday, so we will come back on September 4. September 4 will be treated as most of our Mondays are treated. We will have a vote at 5:15 p.m. or thereabouts that evening, and we will work that week.

On September 10—everyone is on notice—we will be in session that day, and we will have votes before noon. It is not going to be 5:15 p.m. Everyone knows that is going to be an early vote day. Why? Because on September 10, 11, and 12, we will have full work days. We have to complete our work by 6 o'clock on September 12 because that is the beginning of the Jewish holiday, Rosh Hashanah. We will be out of session September 13 and 14. There will be no votes on Monday, September 17. It will be a work day, but we will not have votes. And then we are going to work the remainder of that week, the remainder of the next week, and the remainder of the next week. We could have—and I will try to give the distinguished Republican leader and all Sen-

ators notice—we may, because of what we are working on, have to have some Monday votes earlier than 5:15 p.m. We will try to announce it a week ahead of time so people can make arrangements.

Then, on October 8, which is a holiday, Columbus Day, we are going to have that as a home State work period. That whole week, we are going to be out of session; that is, October 9, 10, 11, 12, we will be out of session. We will come back on October 15 and work that day. We will have votes on October 15. I don't expect early votes. We will have votes on the 15th. We hope we can complete work for the session by November 16. If we cannot, then we have to come back. We will come back on December 3 and complete our work. That will give us 3 weeks before Christmas. I hope we don't have to do that. I think it will be good for everybody if we can complete our work on November 16.

I say to my friend, the distinguished Republican leader, if he has any questions about this, I will be happy to answer them. I apologize for not being able to give this information to him first, but the decision I was waiting to make was what to do on September 17, as to whether that will be a vote day. We decided it will not. I am now in position to state this publicly.

WOUNDED WARRIOR AMENDMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before I leave the podium, I wish to say a couple words about another important piece of legislation.

Earlier this year, Americans were shocked by reports of the crisis at Walter Reed and other armed services medical facilities. It wasn't just Walter Reed, but that was the picture everyone saw. We learned that many of our courageous men and women wounded in service to our Nation were receiving unacceptably poor treatment and care upon their return to our shores.

I learned from this morning's news that there is a big lawsuit filed by Afghan and Iraqi veterans. Hundreds of thousands have joined together in a lawsuit against the Veterans' Administration. I do not procedurally understand how that is going to go forward, but it was in the morning headline news.

There is now, according to this news report, about a half a million backlog requests for Iraqi veterans to get care.

We learned during the early look at Walter Reed and other facilities not only was the veterans' care system ripe for bureaucratic failures, but even the physical facilities failed to meet a minimal level of acceptable quality.

The American people were outraged by these facts, and I am glad to say the Senate took prompt action. The Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees held a rare joint hearing to identify the best ways to make right the existing failures and to prevent similar injustices from ever happening again. Members of these committees

worked together in an entirely bipartisan manner. Last month, they introduced the Wounded Warriors bill, which was entered as an amendment to the Defense authorization bill. The Wounded Warrior amendment addresses the substandard facilities, which we have all read about and have visited, such as Walter Reed, and the lack of seamless transition when medical care for troops is transferred from the Department of Defense to the Veterans' Administration, which often leads to diminished care.

The legislation also looks at the inadequacy of severance pay to help those who have sacrificed so much already to support their families while they recover, and the need to improve sharing of medical records between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It addresses the inadequate care and treatment for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress syndrome by authorizing \$50 million for improved diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation. We saw this problem highlighted, as I have indicated, in the morning news. There are a number of stories about that, but the main story is in the L.A. Times, which cited a report by a special Pentagon task force showing that 38 percent of soldiers and 50 percent of National Guard members come home from Iraq and Afghanistan with mental health issues. Yet only 27 of these 1,400 VA hospitals have inpatient post-traumatic stress disorder programs.

Finally, the Wounded Warrior legislation provides support for wounded troops whose health insurance programs, such as the TRICARE program for retired veterans, have allowed gaps in medical coverage and treatment.

In the next few days, I intend to take the Wounded Warrior amendment from the Defense authorization bill—there were additions made to that from the time it left committee—and I will seek unanimous consent that we pass it now. The rest of it, with rare exception in the Defense authorization bill, if we passed it yesterday, wouldn't kick in until the beginning of the fiscal year. But the Wounded Warrior amendment legislation becomes law upon passage and approval. I hope we can do that. This would make these provisions immediately effective when the President signs this. Given the immediate care these people need, and the immediate need to act on the Wounded Warrior amendment, which has overwhelming bipartisan support, I am hoping we can all work together to pass it before we leave here. If we have to do it by unanimous consent, I hope we can do that.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

BIPARTISAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, to pick up on some of the observations of the majority leader, bipartisan accomplishments have been altogether too rare this year, but we do have an opportunity here in the next 2 weeks, as he has indicated, to do some good work on a bipartisan basis, and a good example of that will be later this morning.

I commend Senator KENNEDY, and particularly Senator ENZI, for their leadership on this higher education bill. That is a classic example of how we ought to operate more often in the Senate, and I hope we will reach that high standard more frequently for the balance of the year.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S GLORIOUS FABRIC

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, from America's earliest days, bravery has been essential. A group of courageous farmers were the first to stand against the British. The Declaration of Independence was a death warrant for anyone who signed it. The Constitutional Convention took place in a shuttered room. The Founders were brave, and they knew bravery would be needed to maintain what they had built. As Washington wrote when the veterans of 1776 began to pass away:

Thus some of the pillars of the revolution fall. May our country never want props to support the glorious fabric.

We remember today two men who supported the glorious fabric of our country. Jacob Joseph Chestnut and John Gibson gave their lives on a Friday afternoon while standing sentry at the gates of this great citadel of liberty. The Chambers had fallen silent for the week, staffers were celebrating the passage of a law, tourists were studying old plaques, and the President was getting ready for a weekend trip to his camp when a madman pierced the calm routine of daily life in Washington, and a brave grandfather and young father stood strong against him.

Their heroism was duplicated by the Senator-surgeon who tried to keep the killer and his victims alive, by the British tourist who rushed to one of the victims' side to hear his last words, by the horde of officers who rushed the gunman. When the flags fell, thousands of Americans called the Capitol to grieve. Thousands more showed up to mourn the fallen officers and to honor the ideals they died for. An act of savagery had roused a nation to mercy and compassion. It was an instinct we would see again on an even darker day 3 years later.

We are grateful for the lives of these good men and for their sacrifice. They were not sunshine patriots. They were brave Americans who stood their ground, as Americans so often do, to ensure that the ceremony of freedom would go on. It does. It will. And they will not be forgotten.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1642, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1642) to extend the authorization of programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Coburn amendment No. 2369, to certify that taxpayers' dollars and students' tuition support educational rather than lobbying activities.

Kennedy amendment No. 2381 (to amendment No. 2369), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Massachusetts is recognized for 10 minutes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2381, AS MODIFIED

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have a modification to my amendment that is at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be modified.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2381), as modified, is as follows:

Strike all after the first word, and insert the following:

— DEMONSTRATION AND CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE USE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL FUNDS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No Federal funds received by an institution of higher education or other postsecondary educational institution may be used to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with any Federal action described in subsection (b).

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibition in subsection (a) applies with respect to the following Federal actions:

(1) The awarding of any Federal contract.

(2) The making of any Federal grant.

(3) The making of any Federal loan.

(4) The entering into of any Federal cooperative agreement.

(5) The extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(c) LOBBYING AND EARMARKS.—No Federal student aid funding may be used to hire a registered lobbyist or pay any person or entity for securing an earmark.

(d) DEMONSTRATION AND CERTIFICATION.—Each institution of higher education or other postsecondary educational institution receiving Federal funding, as a condition for receiving such funding, shall annually demonstrate and certify to the Secretary of Education that the requirements of subsections (a) through (c) have been met.

(e) ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE.—The Secretary of Education shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the provisions of this section are vigorously implemented and enforced.