

fighting unit, fighting shoulder to shoulder in the jungles of Cambodia.

Mr. President, in the span of less than a month, these two brothers each had the chance to save the other's life. Not only did they have the chance, but they took that chance and they were successful. Here is one account:

One of the soldiers . . . hit a trip wire, setting off a mine that had been placed in a tree so that it would detonate at face level. Bodies, body parts and shrapnel were blasted back into the ranks as the squad was crossing a stream. Tom picked himself up and looked for his brother. What he saw was a 'geyser' of blood gushing from Chuck's chest. Tom, then only 19, stanced the bleeding and bandaged the wound, only then noticing that he'd been hit himself in the arm. Twenty-five days later, it was Chuck's turn to rescue Tom when their troop carrier hit a hand-detonated mine as it emerged from a village in the delta. Tom had been in the turret behind a .50-caliber machine gun. He was unconscious, not obviously alive, when his brother got to him. The blast had blown out Chuck's eardrums and severely burned his left side, but knowing the carrier might soon explode, he worked feverishly to pull Tom from the wreckage, then threw his body on top of Tom's as Vietcong fighters in ambush sprayed the area with gunfire.

For this remarkably courageous service, SGT CHUCK HAGEL was decorated with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and two Purple Hearts.

After the war, CHUCK HAGEL came to Washington and worked on Capitol Hill. By the age of 26, he was chief of staff to Congressman John McCollister of Nebraska. Within 10 years, he was appointed by President Reagan to be the second highest ranking official in the Veterans Administration. But very typical of CHUCK HAGEL, after just a few months during his term of service, he spoke out against a cut in benefits to Vietnam veterans and quit the Department in protest. This was not the stepping stone to an impressive career in Washington, as some had thought, because CHUCK HAGEL spoke out against something he thought was wrong.

When Senator HAGEL left Capitol Hill, he scraped together whatever money he could find by selling a car and cashing in life insurance policies to invest in an upstart business that built networks for wireless phones. Within a few years, CHUCK HAGEL's company was one of the most successful cellular telephone providers in America. He entered the American system of free enterprise and was extremely successful. But after succeeding in business, CHUCK returned his attention to politics and won a seat in the Senate in 1996.

I have served with CHUCK HAGEL in the Senate for 12 years. One would be hard-pressed to find a more conservative Member than the senior Senator from Nebraska. Although our political philosophies differ, I know CHUCK HAGEL to be one of the bravest and most fiercely independent Members of this legislative body. He has been a def-

icit hawk when others in his party abandoned fiscal restraint.

He crossed the aisle and worked with my predecessor, Senator Daschle, as well as Senator KENNEDY and Senator MARTINEZ on the Republican side, to seek a comprehensive immigration plan that would be both tough and compassionate but, above all, fair.

He served the people of Nebraska well as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Banking Committee, the Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, the Intelligence Committee, and the Rules Committee.

I will be forever grateful for the courage Senator HAGEL has shown on the Iraq war. He spoke out early against the war, he spoke out often, and he was right. As all Senators know, speaking up against a hallmark policy of one's own party is no easy task. With Senator HAGEL's help, we were able to move the debate forward and to finally provide some oversight on the incompetent management of the war. Although Senator HAGEL will not see the end of the war as a Member of this body, there is no doubt that his courage has brought us closer to that day.

One of the most remarkable days in my political career was the time when we were working on how to do something to change the course on the war in Iraq. I went and visited Senator HAGEL in his office. As you walk in, you see a picture of Tom and CHUCK HAGEL in a mechanized vehicle in the jungles of Cambodia—or Vietnam. I don't know exactly where it was, but Southeast Asia. He is very proud of his military career. But we visited, and I probably wouldn't be a very good salesman, selling automobiles or a house because it was hard for me to close the deal, saying: CHUCK, will you vote with me? At home that night, he called me and said words to the effect: I listened to you; I'm going to vote with you.

His vote made the difference. It allowed us to carry the day and send a bill to the President that the President vetoed. Senator HAGEL didn't wait for me to close the deal, he closed the deal. I have great admiration and respect for him and what he did that night. I think he changed the direction of the country and how it felt about the war in Iraq, and it allowed the people in America to know that we could do something, that we are not powerless.

It is well known that Senator HAGEL has been considered on more than one occasion as a candidate for President or Vice President. Here is what he said, though.

I don't have to be President. I don't have to be a senator. I just have to live with myself.

So whatever path CHUCK HAGEL follows next, he, his wife Lilibet, and their daughter Allyn and son Ziller, should have the deepest pride in the lasting impact of Senator CHUCK HAGEL's patriotism and service for the betterment of the Nation we love through both the military and the Senate, where he has served so gallantly.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise this morning to recognize and pay tribute to several colleagues who are concluding distinguished careers in the Senate. These gentlemen have distinguished themselves. They have dedicated themselves to representing their States and representing the best interests of the Nation.

PETE DOMENICI

Senator PETE DOMENICI is an individual who has worked many years to strengthen our country in so many different ways. He has been a key member of the Committee on Energy and Water, and he has been a key member of the Appropriations Committee and the Budget Committee.

He was first elected to the Senate in 1972—36 years of outstanding service to the Nation and to his State of New Mexico.

He will be remembered for many things but particularly for his unswerving commitment to mental health parity in the health care system. It is fitting that legislation we passed will bear his name, along with that of Senator Paul Wellstone. Senator DOMENICI's advocacy for those with mental illness, his understanding of these issues in a profoundly personal way, accounted for the momentum and ultimately the success of the legislation. I commend him and thank him for his service.

LARRY CRAIG

Senator Larry Craig, with whom I had the privilege to serve on the Committee on Appropriations, is someone who has vigorously defended his positions in the Senate. We have disagreed more often than agreed, but our debates have been both vigorous and civil. I can recall managing the legislation, Senator CRAIG on the opposing

side, with respect to issues of guns and firearms. I recall a debate that was vigorous, robust but principled. I appreciate that effort and his service.

WAYNE ALLARD

There are three Senators with whom I have had the opportunity to serve closely. They are people I respect immensely and wish the best to as they go forward. WAYNE ALLARD and I came to the Senate together. We were in the House of Representatives together. We have served on both the Armed Services Committee and the Banking Committee together. It seems, indeed, that on the Banking Committee, we were either the subcommittee chair or ranking member, depending on who has the majority, throughout our career in the Senate. In that effort, we worked closely with Senator ALLARD and his distinguished staff on issues with respect to homelessness, housing programs, many areas of endeavor. He has been a distinguished individual who has done a great deal, not only for the State of Colorado but for national housing policy and for many other areas of endeavor.

On the Armed Services Committee, I had the privilege of working with him. He applied his energy and efforts to clean up the Rocky Flats plant, a nuclear facility in Colorado. He has made a lasting and extraordinary contribution to his State through those efforts. I commend him for all those. I wish him well as he goes forward.

JOHN WARNER

Senator JOHN WARNER was my chairman on the Armed Services Committee. Frankly, he represents the model of a Senator. His integrity, judgment, and decency resonate throughout this Chamber and will make a lasting impression on this body. He has served Virginia with distinction. He has particularly served the men and women of our Armed Forces with distinction and unfailing dedication. Part of that comes from his own experience. As a young man he joined the Navy and then later was in the Marine Corps. His own experience, later amplified by his service as Secretary of the Navy, left an indelible impression upon him. That impression is the fact that all the great decisions made in Washington ultimately must be borne by young men and women who serve in uniform. He has never forgotten that. He has never forgotten that decisions we make play out in the lives of soldiers and sailors, marines, airmen, and their families. That unfailing sense of obligation to these young Americans is a profound contribution he has made.

He is also someone who on many occasions has defied the current tides of popular opinion. I recall that when the deplorable incident surrounding Abu Ghraib broke, there was a sense in some quarters that we should try to avoid mention of that, that we should minimize the issue. Senator WARNER recognized we couldn't do that, that we owed it to the men and women in the Armed Forces to look at the issue care-

fully so it would not be repeated, to ensure that it was, as it truly was, an aberration in the otherwise extraordinary dedication of our forces, not just to the military profession but to the ideals of decency that have been the hallmark of the American fighting man and woman throughout our history. His efforts there will be ruled as a remarkable display of placing the needs of country and respect for the institution of the military above any partisan political concerns. He is someone who has made a huge contribution. Again, that contribution will resonate throughout the history of this country, particularly the history of the Senate.

CHUCK HAGEL

Finally, let me pay tribute to a dear friend and colleague. We entered the Senate together 12 years ago. Senator CHUCK HAGEL has represented Nebraska with rare insight and extraordinarily good humor for 12 years. He is one of those individuals who is respected and liked by everyone because he is an extraordinarily decent person, someone who takes his job seriously but himself not so seriously. He is someone I have had the privilege to travel with across the globe—Russia, Afghanistan, Singapore, the Philippines, northern Africa, and back again to Afghanistan and Iraq. He, too, has a rare dedication to the men and women of the armed services, born of his own personal experiences. As a young man he chose not only to join the U.S. Army but to serve in Vietnam. He had the opportunity to be posted to Germany. He would have served out his time and left. But he decided he had to march to the sound of the guns. His brother was already there. Together in the same unit, he and his brother served the U.S. Army. He was wounded in action, received the Purple Heart. He came back as a veteran and continued his education and then built a very successful business career. But he never lost sight of those men and women who serve in uniform. He is very active in the USO. He is someone who was active in veterans affairs. Then, finally, when he was elected to the Senate, he took his learning, his experience and appreciation and played a major role on the Foreign Relations Committee. His commitment to a broad multinational policy of using our alliances, of building our power not just through our military power but through diplomatic and reputational power has made a significant contribution to the country, not just for the moment but for many years. He is leaving the Senate to pursue other endeavors. I wish him well. He has been a remarkable friend. He, Lilibet, and their children, Allyn and Ziller, are a remarkable family. I will miss him particularly. I salute him, thank him. He, to me, is the very model of a Senator who has served his country in different ways and now has chosen to continue to serve in other ways. I am sure he will continue to contribute to the country.

To these Members, I wish them well. I thank them personally for their kind-

ness to me and their thoughtfulness on so many other occasions.

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise also to speak about a very important topic, and that is the need to enact legislation to help unemployed Americans amid the current economic downturn. Yesterday, we passed an unprecedented package of support for the financial markets. There are many Americans who are suffering as grievously as our financial markets and those who work in the financial markets. There are an estimated 800,000 unemployed workers who will begin to run out of emergency unemployment compensation because jobs are too scarce in the current economic climate. We cannot turn our back on these 800,000 Americans. We need to help them. In June, I was pleased by the inclusion of 13 weeks of emergency unemployment compensation to all States in the war supplemental spending bill. This help was critical and something I had advocated for a very long time.

Too many individuals in our States who have been unemployed are still looking for work, but they can't find it and they are running out of benefits. The labor market continues to deteriorate. This impact is becoming magnified as a result of the continued unravelling of the financial marketplace. We are seeing—in fact, one of the reasons we acted last evening—credit markets seize up. We are seeing auto sales lots not able to finance the acquisition of cars and buyers not able to buy automobiles. We are seeing a host of problems that manifest themselves in GDP statistics, unemployment statistics, and in the lives of ordinary Americans it is manifested in the stark reality of no work and a family to support. We have experienced the eighth straight month of job declines. Unemployment has soared to a 5-year high of 6.1 percent; 16 States now have an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent or greater. New national unemployment numbers for September will be released tomorrow morning. It is expected that these numbers will continue the downward trend, given the sustained notices of plant closings, mass layoffs, and cutbacks for small businesses trying to survive in this environment. In my State of Rhode Island, the situation is more bleak: 8.5 percent are jobless right now. It is the second highest level in the Nation, a jump of over 3.4 percent in the course of the last year alone. We are hemorrhaging jobs in Rhode Island. It is the highest unemployment rate in Rhode Island since November 1992.

In addition to this evaporation of jobs is the acceleration of prices. Gasoline, food, and health care costs are all accelerating. Families are caught in a tremendous squeeze. That is why I am pleased to have introduced bipartisan legislation, which has been cosponsored