

held this seat, and Senator KENNEDY, who is our committee chair today on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

One of the witnesses today was a gentleman from Senator KENNEDY's State of Massachusetts, Joe Aguiar, who worked for a fabric manufacturer for nearly 30 years. He and 900 coworkers were laid off without any notice last summer. As are so many workers in manufacturing, he is about 50 years old. Like so many other workers in my State of Ohio, in Springfield and Lima and Tiffin and Marietta, their lives have been upended. For most, the pensions and health care which they earned and which they desperately need and which they thought had been promised to them, so often the pensions and health care will be slashed.

Mr. Aguiar, as workers do in places such as Marion, OH, and Xenia and Zanesville—those workers need an extension of unemployment insurance. Now more than ever, we need to extend those unemployment benefits because so many workers see their unemployment benefits run out because they can't find comparable jobs.

It is very simple. Economists on Wall Street and Washington and universities all say that every dollar invested in unemployment benefits leads to \$1.64 in growth—more than any other stimulus package, any other stimulus program, any other way to put money into the economy. We had this discussion, and the unemployment extension was blocked by congressional Republicans some months ago. In addition, we offered a stimulus package which will, in fact, put money in people's pockets—a good thing. Unemployment extension would have come quicker and put money into the pockets of those who will spend it immediately because they are struggling. They need the money for gas for their cars to go out and look for jobs, for food to feed their families, and the daily necessities of life.

The Congressional Budget Office agrees that a dollar in unemployment benefits leads to \$1.64 in growth, finding that extending unemployment benefits is cost-effective and the single fastest acting measure.

The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, and the Akron Beacon Journal in my State all agree. Last week, the House approved an extension of unemployment insurance. The Democrats are trying to—or are going to—include unemployment insurance extension in the stimulus package. We hope the Republicans don't filibuster this, and that the President finally changes his mind and signs an extension of unemployment insurance. It is a reasonable extension and needs to be done now.

As I came over here today to talk about unemployment benefits and extending them, my thoughts turned to Senator KENNEDY and his family. Senator KENNEDY, who we find out today has been diagnosed with a serious illness, has been fighting for an extension

of unemployment insurance certainly lately in this case, and other times, but he is always fighting for workers, the poor, and the middle class. Nobody in this Congress has consistently, or for a longer period of time, in the history of this institution, fought for workers or the middle class the way Senator KENNEDY has, and the way he will continue to; he has been tireless about this.

Just last week, I stood on the Senate floor with Senator KENNEDY as we worked together to pass legislation that came out of his committee, a committee on which I also sit, the Health, Education, Labor, Pension Committee, to establish collective bargaining rights for firefighters and others. When it comes to issues facing working families, Senator KENNEDY, as recently as last week, fought for legislation to give workers a civil right—the right to collective bargaining. He has been the compass of this institution too. He focuses his attention and our attention on the insecurities so many families in this country are facing. Our prayers today are with him as he heals, and with his lovely family.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we close morning business.

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

Mr. REID. What now is the pending business before the Senate?

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A message from the House is the pending measure.

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I raise a point of order that title VIII in its entirety, section 1004 of title X, and section 1005 of title X, each violates paragraph 4 of Senate rule XVI in the Reid motion to concur in the House amendment No. 2, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is sustained. The motion to concur with the amendment falls.

AMENDMENT NO. 4803

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the patience of my friend from New

Jersey. He was here much earlier in the day. For a number of reasons we were unable to have him recognized at that time, but he is always such a team player who is willing to wait. I appreciate my friend from New Jersey very much.

At this time I now move to concur with House amendment No. 2, with the amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Mr. REID moves to concur in the House amendment No. 2 to Senate amendment to H.R. 2642 with an amendment 4803.

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

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 ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4804 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4803

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk and I now ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 4804 to amendment No. 4803.

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

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I now send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment No. 2 to H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations bill, with an amendment, Senate amendment No. 4803.

Harry Reid, Richard Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Bill Nelson, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Dianne Feinstein, Mary L. Landrieu, Joseph Lieberman, Daniel K. Akaka, Barbara A. Mikulski, Byron L. Dorgan, Maria Cantwell, Sherrod Brown.

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have had a number of conversations with the distinguished Republican leader and I

have told him where we are going to try to get by the end of the work week on this matter now before the Senate, and he is mulling over my suggestions that I made to him this afternoon. We will meet again and talk about this tomorrow.

We also have now the budget conference report that has been filed. That was done this afternoon. Tomorrow I am going to ask consent that we move to that. There is a 48-hour rule. Under the 48-hour rule we can't get to that until Thursday at 4 o'clock. I think it would be to everyone's interest to see if we could get rid of that—I don't know if "get rid of" are the right words, but see if we can move on to that and adopt that report tomorrow.

We also received from the House the veto message—I am sorry, the farm bill. We are going to have to, at some time before we leave here, have a vote on overriding the President's veto on the farm bill. So there are things we have to do.

The budget has a statutory time. I am not certain we will need to use the whole 10 hours. I rather doubt it. We have the veto override. That is very privileged. We can spend a lot of time on that or whatever time people want. We hope we could get to that very quickly and see where the votes are.

And then we still have the supplemental to dispose of. So we have a lot to do in the next few days, but with some cooperation I think we can get to where we need to get. I certainly hope so. I hope that is important and understandable to the Senators.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT JOSEPH A. FORD

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of the brave Army sergeant from Knox, Indiana. Joseph Ford, 23 years old, died on May 10, 2008, in Al Asad, Iraq, from injuries sustained when his vehicle overturned during a training operation. With an optimistic future before him, Joseph risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A lifelong Hoosier, Joseph graduated from Knox High School in 2003. His teachers and friends recall a young man with a thirst for knowledge and a generous spirit. Shortly after finishing high school, Joseph joined the Indiana National Guard and was stationed in New Albany. Joseph was fiercely dedicated to serving his country and disciplined himself to meet the high

standards of military fitness. He enrolled in the University of Southern Indiana, where he studied history, a passion he had since high school. In June, Joseph married his wife, Karen, of Evansville, IN.

Joseph traveled to Georgia in December with his National Guard unit for training before he left for his first deployment in Iraq. He was scheduled for deployment through 2009 but planned to return this summer to celebrate his first wedding anniversary with Karen. Assigned to the 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, Army National Guard in New Albany, IN, Joseph served as a turret gunner with the Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade in Iraq.

Today, I join Joseph's family and friends in mourning his death. Joseph will forever be remembered as a loving husband, son, and friend to many. He is survived by his wife Karen; his parents Sam and Dalarie; his brother Matthew; and his sister Abbey Ambrose.

While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Joseph, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief. Today and always, Joseph will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Joseph's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Joseph's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Joseph A. Ford in the official RECORD of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that Joseph's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Joseph.

HONORING ALPHA COMPANY 641

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, Alpha Company, 641 Aviation Regiment is an Army National Guard company that operates C-23 Sherpa cargo airplanes. Headquartered in Portland, OR, the company has detachments in Oklahoma, Washington, and South Dakota. Commanded by MAJ David Doran, the company consists of 44 soldiers and 10 C-23 airplanes. The Oregon soldiers that are part of the company hail from all around the State of Oregon: Portland, Salem, Pendleton, McMinnville, La Pine, Hermiston, and Dallas. The company deployed to Iraq from October 2007 to May 2008.

The story of Alpha Company, 641 Aviation Regiment is as complex as the 44 personalities that comprise the company. It is a mixture of experienced combat veterans on their second or third tour and young and eager soldiers experiencing their first deployment. The youngest is 21; the oldest is 54. There are married fathers and unmarried bachelors. There are full-time guardsmen and traditional National Guard, who split time as electricians, students, civilian aviators, and aspiring attorneys. Identifying with "Ducks," "Beavers," "Huskies," and "Sooners," the dynamics of this hodgepodge is sometimes surprising, generally humorous, and always fascinating.

From Oregon to Oklahoma and Washington to South Dakota, the soldiers in this company have interacted with individuals from all across the country, with equal parts of Midwest know-how and Northwest can-do. As a result, those from Oregon have learned the right way to eat grits, and those from Oklahoma have learned 20 different words to describe "coffee." Each person in this company has brought a unique perspective and fresh batch of life experiences to share with the group. Everyday, a new story begins with "back when I was a kid . . ." or "on my last deployment . . ." This company brought together a cross section of America, fresh with an unflinching sense of duty, deep-seated pride in their job, and an unquenchable drive to get that job done.

Alpha Company operates the C-23 Sherpa, which is the least understood and most underestimated aircraft in the Army inventory. With its boxy dimensions, it has assumed the moniker "BOX CAR." As unsightly and unusual as it may be, pound for pound and passenger for passenger, this rat-nosed aircraft has moved more parts and people around Iraq than most other military airframes. The crews who fly the Sherpa will tell you that what it lacks in looks, it makes up for in dependability. The Sherpa is the unsung, unappreciated, and unassuming aircraft that gets it done, around the clock. Whether it is a box of widgets or 14 soldiers going out on R&R leave, this aircraft and its crews make it happen.

In October 2007, Alpha Company mustered and deployed to Balad Air Base in