

economic justice and his never, ever giving up in fighting for those things he believes in, is what Senator KENNEDY does personally for all kinds of people, including people who don't live in his State, people whom he has never met, people who walk down the hall. He brings them into his office and gives them a book, written by Senator KENNEDY, but in the name of his dog Splash. And he talks to children. Again, they are people Senator KENNEDY doesn't even know, who can do nothing for him politically. He gives so much in those ways.

As Senator ENZI does, I hope Senator KENNEDY will be back here as strong as ever. He has used that energy and passion for so many others, and he will put that same energy and passion into being cured. We all look forward to that day in the fairly near future.

(The remarks of Mr. BROWN pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 574 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

Mr. BROWN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. BARRASSO. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BARRASSO pertaining to the introduction of S. 3071 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this coming Monday, May 26, the nation sets aside a day to honor those brave men and women who died in battle while wearing the uniforms of the Nation's Armed Forces. Soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen; officers and enlisted; volunteers and draftees; young and old; they were all members of our American family our fathers, brothers, sons, mothers, wives, sisters, cousins, neighbors and friends. More than 41 million Americans have served their nation during a time of war over the course of our history. More than 651,000 Americans have lost their lives as a result of that service. It is likely that somewhere in every family's extended network of relatives, neighbors and friends, there is a veteran, perhaps even a veteran whose service and sacrifice we honor on Memorial Day.

Despite the fact that some 200,000 of our fellow citizens are today wearing uniforms and serving in hostile theaters far from home, too many Americans see Memorial Day weekend only as a long weekend marking the end of the school year, the opening of pools, and the beginning of summer. We are beguiled by the warm breezes redolent of honeysuckle. We are distracted by bright sunshine and outdoor pleasures. We are lulled into a sense of security and carelessness, at home in our safe neighborhoods with new-mown lawns, cheerful flowerbeds, and shady streets. It is easy to forget that in distant places, men in dusty uniforms patrol

dangerous streets mined with improvised explosive devices.

If you take a moment to look more closely, however, you may notice the flags flying from front porches along those shady streets. You might notice other flags, smaller flags, planted in front of marble markers throughout cemeteries around your town, each marking the grave of a veteran. You may notice families visiting gravesites in a ritual as old as war itself, laying down flowers to remember and honor those whose lives were lost too soon, too violently, too far away from home and family, in pursuit of causes larger than themselves. They are gone, but not forgotten by those who knew and loved them best.

War is a terrible tool of nations, and its use exacts a high price in both blood and treasure. On Memorial Day, the nation honors those who have paid this price with great courage and even greater sacrifice. It is important to remember the lives of those who were lost, lest we come to think that war is ever easy, or quick, or certain in its course. We do well to remember the words of Sir Winston Churchill, 1874-1965: "Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. The statesman who yields to war fever must realize that once the signal is given, he is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events."

The current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have meant that many of the gravesites being visited this Memorial Day, more than 4,000 of them, are raw and new. Many of the families visiting those graves bring young children with them, children who have lost a father or mother. They know that their parent died a hero. But that knowledge does not make the day-to-day tasks of school, homework, sports practices, or learning life skills from their parents any easier for these children. It does not make it any easier for the parent left behind to shoulder a life's work that they thought would be shared with their partner. As a nation, we should not give them any reason to worry that their family member's sacrifice will ever be dismissed or overlooked.

Ours is a fortunate nation, blessed with a rich and bounteous land. It is populated by hard-working, creative, inventive, people who are generous and compassionate. And, it is governed by the best form of government ever devised by man. The tangible symbols of that government are the documents of our government the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution that set forth the ideals by which we live and operate. As a Nation, we do not always live up perfectly to those ideals in practice, but we are again fortunate that the system is self-correcting, with the people ultimately in control. None of these fortuitous cir-

cumstances could persist, however, without the bravery, valor, and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform who defend our Nation and preserve our Constitution. To them, we owe eternal gratitude. Their willingness to answer the call to battle, and to fight so valiantly and so well in so many conflicts over the years, has kept the Nation strong.

Whether they died at Concord, Gettysburg, in Flanders Fields, Vietnam, or in Iraq and Afghanistan; whether their graves date from this century or those that came before, on this last Monday in May, I hope that Senators and all Americans will set aside a few quiet moments to remember, and honor, the men and women who have lost their lives in the service of the Nation. In those quiet moments, I also hope that the Nation will say a prayer for the families they left behind.

I close with a few stanzas from a poem by Theodore O'Hara, entitled, "The Bivouac of the Dead."

THE BIVOUAC OF THE DEAD

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo!
No more on life's parade shall meet
The brave and fallen few.

On Fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead.

Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead,
Dear is the blood you gave—
No impious footstep here shall tread
The herbage of your grave.

Nor shall your glory be forgot
While Fame her record keeps,
Or honor points the hallowed spot
Where valor proudly sleeps.

Yon marble minstrel's voiceless stone
In deathless song shall tell,
When many a vanquished year hath flown,
The story how you fell.

Nor wreck nor change, nor winter's blight,
Nor time's remorseless doom,
Can dim one ray of holy light
That gilds your glorious tomb.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, Memorial Day is a day of reflection. It is a day reserved for remembering those who have given their lives in service to our country. While we may choose to remember these individuals in different ways, each American has a responsibility to recognize the contribution of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the values upon which this Nation was built.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of the men and women serving in our military, many of whom I am proud to say are fellow Utahns. I am always very humbled by this experience. The courage and dedication of these individuals offers much to emulate.

I recognize the sacrifice of the countless men and women who over the decades have selflessly given their lives to uphold freedom and defend the many values we hold dear. Each of these individuals not only gave of their own life but left forever altered the life of a mother, father, husband, wife, son, daughter, brother, or sister. Those

loved ones who are left behind are owed our respect and support. We must continue to work to ensure the fallen are remembered and those they leave behind are not forgotten.

In this time of war, my thoughts and prayers are with all who serve this Nation and with those families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I am deeply grateful for this service. Please let us not forget the courage and selflessness of these individuals—to them we owe a debt beyond our means to repay. This Nation shall forever stand grateful and proud of each man and woman who has willingly accepted the call to defend our freedoms and provide for our safety at home.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today with the great pleasure of recognizing the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and honoring the many contributions that Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have made to our great Nation and to my home State of Nevada.

I am proud of the role this distinguished chamber played in the designation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, albeit many years too late. On June 19, 1978, some 135 years after the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to the United States, Representatives Frank Horton and Norman Mineta introduced a joint resolution “authorizing and requesting the President to proclaim the 7-day period beginning on May 4, 1979, as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week’”—H.J. Res. 1007. Two months after being passed overwhelmingly by the House, the Senate unanimously approved the joint resolution and promptly sent it to President Jimmy Carter for his signature.

In addition to recognizing the onset of Japanese immigration to America, the month of May was selected because May 10, 1869, also known as Golden Spike Day, marked the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States, to whose construction Chinese pioneers contributed greatly. Hundreds of miles of this railroad passed through a newly admitted and mostly uninhabited western state that I have called home for my whole life. Without the tireless efforts and tremendous sacrifices of these Asian settlers, the state of Nevada would have remained largely disconnected from the rest of our country for an untold number of years.

Rising to support H.J. Res. 1007, Senator Spark Matsunaga, who served the State of Hawaii for over 13 honorable years before succumbing to cancer, remarked that “most Americans are unaware of the history of Pacific and Asian Americans in the United States, and their contributions to our Nation’s cultural heritage.” He continued by saying that one of the two main purposes of the joint resolution was “to

imbue a renewed sense of pride among our citizens of Pacific and Asian ancestry.” I am delighted that the many celebrations taking place around the country to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, particularly in my home State of Nevada, have showcased the enduring sense of pride that Senator Matsunaga spoke about nearly three decades ago.

Almost 14 years after President Carter signed H.J. Res. 1007 into law, Representative FRANK Horton once again assumed the leadership role on this issue and introduced a bill to permanently designate May of each year as “Asian Pacific American Heritage Month”—H.R. 5572. After this bill was passed by both Houses of Congress, President George H.W. Bush signed it into law on October 23, 1992.

Ever since, our country has taken the time at the end of each spring to celebrate the innumerable contributions that Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry have made and continue to make to the United States. To the roughly 15 million Asian and Pacific Islander Americans who currently live in our country, and most especially to the thousands of those who reside in Nevada, I wish you all the best during this joyous time of year. I urge my colleagues in this Chamber to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH R. EGAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I join Senator ENSIGN today to recognize the remarkable life of Joe Egan, who passed away on May 7, 2008.

Joe is known in Nevada and throughout the country as a skilled attorney who worked hard to make our Nation safer and to stop the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump from being built in Nevada. I think Joe hated the nuclear waste dump project as much as I do. In his obituary, he arranged to have his ashes spread over Yucca Mountain. “Radwaste buried here only over my dead body,” he said.

After learning in 1996 that Yucca Mountain was scientifically unsuitable for storing radioactive waste, he was deputized as the lead lawyer for the State of Nevada’s efforts to fight the dump. Nevadans should be proud to have had such a magnificent person fighting for them.

Joe was a key force in dealing multiple blows to the project and bringing it to a standstill. Over the years, Joe has made it abundantly clear that the project is unsafe and that the science behind it is unsound. It speaks to his character that although he was not from Nevada, he fought against this project with both passion and strength because he knew that it was the right thing to do. When we finally end the battle against the Yucca Mountain project, we will have done it together with Joe and his team.

Joe was by no means antinuclear. He just wanted to see nuclear power produced safely and the dangerous wastes

it produces to be managed properly. He also worked hard on nonproliferation efforts, helping the United States secure thousands of tons of weapons-grade uranium from all over the world.

Joe’s legacy will live on through his family, friends, and through his tremendous efforts to keep Nevadans and all Americans safe.

Mr. ENSIGN. We have both had the pleasure to know and work with Joe. He was a brilliant man a Minnesota native who received three degrees, in physics, nuclear engineering, and technology and policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received his law degree from Columbia University. During his lifetime, Joe did everything from working in the control room of a nuclear powerplant to serving as president of the International Nuclear Law Association. Joe was a strong supporter of nuclear energy. Throughout his life, he fought for the development of sensible, sound, and safe nuclear policies.

Joe served as Nevada’s lead attorney in the fight against dumping nuclear waste in Nevada. Applying his deep knowledge of the law and nuclear engineering, Joe helped the State of Nevada in our fight against Yucca Mountain.

Mr. REID. Joe Egan was a talented person who led a rich life which was tragically cut short by an aggressive cancer. I am saddened by his death, and will not forget all that he has done for the people of Nevada. To his wife, children, and family, I wish to extend my deepest sympathies.

Mr. ENSIGN. The work that Joe has accomplished during his lifetime will forever stand as a fitting testament to his character. He was an amazing lawyer, a great father, and he will be sorely missed by all. My sincere condolences go out to his family.

CONGRATULATING MENA BOULANGER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the contributions of Mena Boulanger to the Chicagoland area. Next week, Mena is retiring after 30 years of work to raise public awareness of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and its conservation efforts throughout its 76,000 acres.

In the fall of 1973, the Boulanger family—Mena and David and children Sarah and John—made their way from Seattle, WA, to Cook County, IL. The family began spending almost every weekend exploring the various Forest Preserve District sites in the Western suburbs of Chicago. Leaving behind the landscape of their native Pacific Northwest, the family’s appreciation of the Midwest flora and fauna came slowly, and so did a commitment to the prairie around Chicago—lands now part of Chicago Wilderness.

In 1979, Mena began as the first, full-time Director of Development for the Lincoln Park Zoological Society. For