

10 years ago today in the Capitol. All Senators are encouraged to be on the floor for this moment of silence.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding and I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Florida, Mr. NELSON, be recognized to make remarks regarding our guest Chaplain.

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

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, it has been some time, with great anticipation and joy, that I have extended an invitation for Rev. Willie C. Barnes of Eatonville, FL, to come and be with us as the guest Chaplain for the day. Reverend Barnes's church in the historically Black town of Eatonville is a very large church. It is a church that ministers to the entire Orlando metropolitan area. They do it not only with the excellence and the soaring oratory of Reverend Barnes himself but with an outreach to the community, with projects to help the least of these, our brothers and sisters.

It is with great appreciation and humility that I recognize the accomplishments of that church and am so glad to have its pastor, a man who, with a twinkle in my eye, I call my pastor, come and be with us here in our Senate family today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

ENERGY CRISIS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it appears that our Republican colleagues think they finally found a way. They think, with Americans from coast to coast facing huge gas prices, up to \$4.70 a gallon in some places, they can score some easy political points off the energy crisis. They say that all we need to do is open our coasts for oil companies to drill and gas prices will go down. I should say that is what they did say. Now they say that is not enough. They say the energy crisis is so important that the Senate should stay on the issue and do nothing else until this problem is solved. We all know actions speak louder than words, and the Republican rhetoric has no basis in reality.

This is not the first time Democrats have tried to address energy. We have tried on many other occasions. We have worked to try to lower gas prices before this latest energy crisis hit. In fact, Democrats have proposed plans to lower gas prices six times in the past few weeks. Six times, Republicans have blocked us, just as they are blocking us now on the speculation legislation.

What has happened over those weeks? Gas prices have broken one record after another.

Democrats proposed legislation to extend tax credits for innovators who are researching and producing clean, renewable energy to decrease our consumption of oil. Republicans said no. Democrats proposed legislation to roll back tax breaks on the oil companies—remember, last year they made \$250 billion, oil companies that are making record profits while we pay record prices—and invest that money in renewable energy. But the Republicans said no. Democrats proposed a cap-and-trade system that would address global warming and provide billions of dollars of alternative energy and create hundreds of thousands of jobs. Republicans said no. Democrats proposed legislation to protect consumers from price gouging of already record-high prices. Republicans, of course, said no, because this would have been an opportunity to have the oil companies pay back some of the obscene profits they are making. Democrats proposed a renewable electricity standard which would save consumers billions of dollars through energy savings. Republicans said no. Democrats proposed legislation to go after OPEC for collusion and price fixing. But the Republicans said no. Democrats proposed legislation that would curb the excessive speculation of Wall Street traders who artificially bid up the price we pay at the pump. Republicans said no. Democrats proposed improvements to the LIHEAP program which helps senior citizens and the disabled with assistance to pay the cost of heating and cooling their homes. Republicans said no. Democrats even offered the one thing they have been talking about: drilling. Let's vote on drilling. But the Republicans said no. They didn't take our offer, yet they claim it is the panacea for the problems facing America today. They said no.

The game they seem to be playing is this: Make the American people think they are willing to grind the Senate to a halt to deal with gas prices. The American people obviously can see the record.

Republicans are having trouble finding out what they really want. Yesterday, out of the blue, came a new one. After all these years, they decided they wanted to drill in ANWR again, even though their Presidential nominee, JOHN MCCAIN, has said no on the drilling they have said they want to do. Maybe the one reason they have been a little hesitant is because their Presidential nominee, JOHN MCCAIN, has said it is only psychological; it is not going to help anything.

The American people can see the record. We have tried. Democrats have offered a comprehensive set of solutions for the short- and long-term, and Republicans have offered nothing but talk. They have talked more about drilling. What they don't say is that their drilling bill wouldn't put a drop

of oil in the marketplace for at least 12 to 15 years. Even the Republican nominee for President, JOHN MCCAIN, has called the Republican drilling plan purely psychological. Democrats believe in increased domestic production through responsible drilling, but the American people deserve solutions a lot quicker than 12 to 15 years.

If Republicans truly believe their drilling legislation would solve the problem, why would they say no to an offer to have a vote on it? It doesn't add up. Or maybe it does add up.

Fortunately, the American people are seeing clearly exactly what is going on. That is why a moderate columnist like David Broder today said that he has never seen a worse month for a Presidential candidate than what we have seen with JOHN MCCAIN this past month.

It appears there is a lot of desperation going on here. While the Republicans keep talking—we have three filibusters going on as we speak—Democrats are trying to address a critical problem the American people are facing every day. Republican strategists have called the disingenuous Republican strategy a Hail Mary for the fall elections. Perhaps a 2-year Republican strategy of nonstop delay, obstruction, and slow-walking has put them in such electoral peril that a Hail Mary is all they have left. Their strategy is bad for the American people. I have no doubt that the American people will see what they are trying to do and, come this November, will reject it.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOSS OF OFFICER CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE GIBSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if you visit the U.S. Capitol through a certain entrance on the first floor of the East Front, you will see a plaque by the door. The plaque is in honor and remembrance of Capitol Police Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut and Detective John Michael Gibson, where 10 years ago today they gave their lives in defense of this Capitol.

Their deaths remind us that, just as bravery was required from our Founders who built the Capitol, the bravery of great men is required today to protect and keep it. The names of Chestnut and Gibson will forever be remembered among American patriots.

Officer Chestnut, or J.J. to his friends, was 58 and a father of five. An 18-year veteran of the force, he was just months away from retirement. He was also an Air Force veteran of 20 years who had served in Vietnam and Taiwan, where he met his wife.

J.J. lovingly tended a vegetable garden in the back yard of his house, and

neighbors often saw him practicing his golf swing in his front lawn.

John Gibson also had 18 years of service with the Capitol Police. A friend of his recalls that just a few days before the shooting, John told him he had never had to draw his weapon on the job. Forty-two years old, he had three children, and was a native of Massachusetts.

Friends recall John's ardent love for his Boston sports teams—the Bruins, the Red Sox, and U Mass basketball.

Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson were the first Capitol Police officers to die in the line of duty. As we honor them today, we also honor the hundreds of brave men and women of that force who put their lives on the line to protect this House of democracy.

To the casual tourist, Capitol Police officers may just seem like friendly people who stand guard at the doors. But in truth, they are an elite, highly trained force charged with a critical mission. In moments of crisis, when not just lives but our very system of government is threatened, they stand ready at the front lines.

We saw again on September 11, 2001, how the Capitol can be a target for terror. And we saw again the bravery of the Capitol Police, who rushed into the building to rescue others when most of us were busy rushing out.

As my friend, the majority leader, a former Capitol Police officer himself; certainly know, police work is both an honorable job and a dangerous one.

In fact, in the 10 years since the loss of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, 24 peace officers in my home State of Kentucky have also been lost in the line of duty. If there is no objection, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that their names be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

KENTUCKY PEACE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, JULY 24, 1998–JULY 24, 2008.

Regina Woodward Nickles
 Joey Tremayne Vincent
 Jason Wayne Cammack
 William J. Collins Jr.
 Billy Ray Walls III
 Charles Brown Morgan Jr.
 Samuel Wilson Catron
 Howard Callis
 Ray B. Franklin
 Eddie Mundo Jr.
 Douglas Wayne Bryant
 Robert T. Hansel
 Steven Lloyd Hutchinson
 Larry Dale Cottingham
 Peter Alan Grignon
 Roger Dale Lynch
 Elmer Kiser
 David George Whitson
 Jonathan Kyle Leonard
 Ronnie K. Jones
 Garry Randy Lacy
 Randy Wells
 Anthony Sean Pursifull
 Joe E. Howard Sr.

Mr. McCONNELL. So today the U.S. Senate remembers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. We are grateful for their

heroic sacrifice. And we say a prayer for their families, who we embrace as we would our own.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT DELMAR WHITE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise because a son of Kentucky who joined the Kentucky National Guard has been lost in service to his country. SSG Delmar White of Wallins, KY, was tragically killed on September 2, 2007, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while he was on patrol in Iraq. He was 37 years old.

Staff Sergeant White had been stationed in Iraq for less than a week. For his valor in uniform, he received numerous medals, awards, and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

For anyone who wonders how those who loved Staff Sergeant White will remember him, the words of his wife, Michele, leave no doubt.

“He went out a hero,” Michele says. “He was a hero before he went to Iraq, in my book. . . . He was a fantastic person that everybody loved.”

Born in Illinois, Delmar—or Dale, as his friends called him—was raised in Wallins, a small town in Harlan County, KY, in the southeastern corner of my State. He graduated from James A. Cawood High School there. He eventually moved to Lexington, KY, heart of the Bluegrass Country.

In Lexington, Dale worked as a corrections officer for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. He also worked at the University of Kentucky, where he met Michele—the woman who would become his wife.

There was an instant attraction between the two. Their first date was to a local carnival, where Dale showed off his athletic prowess for Michele by winning some stuffed animals. Or maybe he had his old training to thank—Dale was a former U.S. Marine of 4 years who had served in Desert Storm.

Dale was proud of his service, and in 1998, he chose to enlist again, this time with the Kentucky National Guard. But he didn't do anything without first talking to Michele, by that time his wife. He was concerned she wouldn't want him to go. He shouldn't have been.

“You are military and always will be—do it,” Michele told him in support.

One Labor Day weekend, Dale was in Cincinnati with the Guard, working crowd control for a local event. Michele tells us that an older man walked up to him and asked, “Why would you wear that uniform?”

At that moment, a little boy approached Dale and stretched his hand up to him. The boy said, “Mr. Soldier, can I shake your hand?”

After Dale shook the boy's hand, he looked the man right in the eye and said, “That's why.”

Clearly, Dale was proud to serve his country, and confident in his mission.

As Michele says, “He was military 100 percent.”

Of course, there was a lighter side to Dale. He loved the outdoors and the go-cart track, where he was so aggressive he was known as “the Competitor.” He liked a good video game, especially one that involved shooting at something and honing his target skills.

Most of all, he was a devoted father to his two children, daughter Shelby and son Seth. He would plan special game nights for them and other children. Dale had previously served as a youth minister, and he told Michele that was something he was interested in doing again. He also hoped to serve with a fire department in the future.

Dale was deployed to Iraq in August of 2007 with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, based out of Carlisle, KY. He left an impression on his commanding officer, CPT Robert S. Mattingly, among others. This is what Captain Mattingly had to say:

There is a line that we are familiar with that says we will “cheerfully obey the orders.” That was Delmar White for certain.

Captain Mattingly said: he was an excellent [non-commissioned officer], who led by example and never asked anything of his soldiers he wasn't willing to do himself.

Captain Mattingly added: Delmar White was loved by everyone in the battery and will be terribly missed by all.

Dale talked to Michele and his children over the Internet the day before the bombing that took his life. Son Seth was so small all he could do was bang on the keyboard, but Dale would always write back, “hey buddy,” so Seth knew he was there.

During the funeral procession to Dale's burial in Camp Nelson, KY, Michele was overwhelmed at the people lining both sides of the street to pay their respects. Police cars and fire trucks stopped as police and firemen stood, solemnly saluting or with their hands on their hearts.

At the service, bagpipes played “Amazing Grace,” and there was a 21-gun salute. Three helicopters flew overhead as the American flag that had covered Dale's casket was folded and given to Michele.

Mr. President our thoughts are with Staff Sergeant White's family after his tragic loss. We are thinking of his wife, Michele; his daughter, Shelby; his son, Seth; his brothers, Robert and Doug; his sister, Tressa Fisher; his mother, Hazel White Blincoe; and many other beloved family members and friends. Dale was predeceased by his father, Perry White.

Mr. President, this U.S. Senate rises as one today to salute Staff Sergeant White's service, and to honor his sacrifice. The legacy he has left for his family, friends, neighbors, and a little boy in Cincinnati—who only remembers him as “Mr. Soldier”—will live on. And that is a legacy that his loved ones can cherish forever.