

the amount of debt we are imposing on ourselves, our kids, and our grandkids. That debt will come due more quickly than we think. The consequences could be dire.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for weeks, Republicans in Congress have been saying what Democrats are finally beginning to acknowledge: that the administration has no plan for closing Guantanamo and that closing this secure facility without a safe alternative is irresponsible, dangerous, and, frankly, unacceptable.

Over the years, Guantanamo has housed some of the most hardened terrorists ever captured alive, and many of those who remain are the worst of the worst. Some have already killed innocent Americans, and many are outspoken about their desire to kill more Americans. These men are exactly where they belong: locked up in a safe and secure prison and isolated from the American people where they can do no harm.

America has not been attacked at home since 9/11 because of the hard work of our Armed Forces, dedicated intelligence officials, the men and women at the Department of Homeland Security, and State and local law enforcement officials. But another reason we have not been attacked is because some of those most likely to do so are locked up down at Guantanamo. These inmates are not spectators. They are the enemy. They are the plotters, the planners, the funders, the ones who pull the trigger.

The administration says our country would be safer if Guantanamo is closed and its inmates are transferred overseas or onto U.S. soil. If people knew who was down there, I think they would disagree.

One of the men who is locked away safely at Guantanamo is Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the man who actually organized the 9/11 attacks. We captured him while he was planning followup attacks to 9/11, including a plot to destroy a west coast skyscraper. If we had not captured Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, he may very well have succeeded in carrying out the same kind of attack on the west coast that he carried out on the east coast. This is a man who boasts about using his “blessed right hand” to decapitate the American journalist Daniel Pearl. And he is unrepentant. Earlier this year, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed joined a

number of detainees at Guantanamo in declaring themselves “terrorists to the bone” and proclaiming September 11, 2001, as a “blessed” day.

Another inmate who still declares himself a “terrorist to the bone” is Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, who served as a key lieutenant for KSM on several plots against the United States and the United Kingdom, including the 9/11 attacks. During what he described as the “blessed 11 September operation,” Ali transferred money to U.S.-based operatives and served as a sort of travel agent for some of the hijackers. This man is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Americans.

Another terrorist at Guantanamo who is responsible for the deaths of Americans is Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, who masterminded the attack on the USS Cole which killed 17 U.S. sailors in 2000. When he was arrested, Nashiri was planning new terrorist attacks, including a plot to crash an airplane into a Western naval vessel and a plan targeting a U.S. housing compound in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

These are just three of the men locked up safely and securely on an island miles from the United States in a facility that even the administration acknowledges to be humane and well run. Americans want these men kept out of our neighborhoods and off the battlefield, and Guantanamo guarantees that. Closing this facility by an arbitrary deadline without an alternative is irresponsible and it is dangerous. It is unacceptable to the American people and unacceptable to an increasing number of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

The Attorney General has said that when it comes to Guantanamo, his chief concern is the safety of the American people. Yet, at the moment, the safest option is clearly the one we are exercising. If safety is our top concern, then the administration will rethink its arbitrary deadline for closing Guantanamo until it presents us with an equally safe alternative.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we commemorate National Police Week, recognizing the service and sacrifice of the men and women across America in law enforcement. We especially honor those peace officers who have been tragically killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy.

Over 25 years ago, I served as a county executive in Jefferson County, KY, which includes my hometown of Louisville. I got to work with the county’s police force and witnessed up close their dedication and their professionalism. In Jefferson County, we pioneered new techniques for tracking down abducted children that met with much success—enough success that other jurisdictions adopted these techniques, eventually leading to Congressional establishment of the National

Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Decades later, peace officers in Louisville are still proud to protect and serve, even with their lives in the balance. And those we have lost are not forgotten. I was moved to read in my hometown paper recently an article about a memorial ceremony in Louisville coinciding with National Police Week. Fellow officers and family members of fallen officers gathered to remember them and thank them for their service. Police forces across Kentucky reverently marked National Police Week as well. At a service in Richmond, Gov. Steve Beshear watched 120 police cadets march at the State Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, while flags were presented to family members of those lost in the performance of their duties. This Friday in Covington, officers will honor their fallen brothers at the northern Kentucky law enforcement memorial.

This Senate has the deepest admiration and respect for police officers in every community in the Nation. We recognize their work is both an honorable job and a dangerous one. They bravely risk their lives for ours, and America is grateful.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the full articles about the recent ceremonies in both Louisville and Richmond.

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

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, May 8, 2009]

FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS HONORED AT JEFFERSON SQUARE SERVICE: COURAGE, COMMITMENT TO DUTY ARE HONORED

(By Jessie Halladay)

Sue Wells’ eyes filled with tears as she stood next to a wreath she helped lay at the law enforcement memorial in Jefferson Square yesterday.

Her husband, Forest Hills Police Chief Randy Wells, was killed in October 2007 while working an off-duty traffic detail.

Yesterday, Wells joined other family members and friends of officers killed in the line of duty to remember and pay their respects during a service at Jefferson Square downtown.

“It’s wonderful that they remember,” Wells said. “It’s very heartwarming, but it’s heart-wrenching too.”

Members of the city’s fraternal order of police lodges for several agencies helped plan the event, for which the University of Louisville police union was host.

“When their duty called, they laid down their life for their community, for us,” U of L Officer Russell Fuller said during the ceremony. “We will not let their actions fade into history.”

Memorials of this type mean a lot to those families left behind, said Jennifer Thacker, who spoke during the service. Thacker’s husband, Brandon, was shot in April 1998 while working as an investigator for the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Thacker now serves as national president of the group Concerns of Police Survivors, or COPS.

She spoke to those attending about the value of always being a member of the law enforcement family.

"I found hope and courage through the support of others," she said.

Louisville Metro Police Chief Robert White attended yesterday's ceremony because he said it's important to pay respects and keep the memories alive of those who have died in the service of their community.

He said these annual ceremonies serve not only as reminders but as a renewed pledge of the commitment officers make to their fellow officers and those officers' families.

"It really reiterates the importance of maintaining honor and respect for those men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty," White said.

Wells said while the service brings up many painful memories, she is grateful for the support she has received during her loss, which continues today.

"If I need anything I know I could call in the wee hours of the morning," she said.

[From the Richmond Register, Apr. 28, 2009]

STATE ADDS 28 NAMES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

MEMORIAL

(By Bill Robinson)

As a killed bagpiper played and Gov. Steve Beshear watched Monday morning, 120 Kentucky law enforcement cadets marched in military fashion to a ceremony honoring two law officers who died in the line of duty last year.

A bright spring sun flooded the state's Law Enforcement Officers Memorial at Eastern Kentucky University with light for the ceremony attended by officers and family members from across the state.

In addition to the names of Harlan County Constable Joe Howard and Bell County Deputy Sean Pursifull, the names of 26 other officers who died in the line of duty between 1862 and 1993 were added to the memorial's wall of honor.

American flags were presented to the families or departments of each officer whose name was added this year.

Pursifull and his K-9 partner were killed Jan. 10, 2008, when a vehicle driven by a fleeing suspect hit their car.

Howard suffered a fatal heart attack while serving a warrant on April 1, 2008.

Howard's son, Tim, an 11-year veteran of the Harlan County Sheriff's Department, attended the ceremony with his wife and 8-year-old daughter.

In addition to eulogizing the fallen officers, Beshear praised the cadets who "knowing the dangers, marched with their heads held high, undeterred from their goal of becoming a peace officer."

Today's law officers must be better trained than ever, Beshear said, because criminals in the 21st century are more sophisticated, methodical and organized.

However, "The heart and soul required of you, our protectors, never change," he said.

"I pray we never have to engrave any of your names, or any other peace officer, on this memorial."

The 120 cadets who took part in the ceremony included members of the current Kentucky State Police Academy class.

"I'm proud to have protected this KSP Academy class from budget cuts," the governor said, "because I know how important they will be to our state."

The ceremony concluded with a 21-gun salute as a squad of seven officers fired three rifle volleys and a bugler played "Taps."

AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, word has reached me that the health of Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has taken a turn for the worse and that

the Burmese Government is not allowing her to get the medical attention she needs. I join the administration in calling for Burmese officials to allow her doctor the access he needs to treat her. The Obama administration is currently reviewing our Nation's policies toward Burma.

It is important for the international community to press for Suu Kyi's unconditional release. We also need to continue to call for an end to the attacks against ethnic minorities.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. 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.

NEW YORK FED CHAIRMAN

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to briefly discuss an issue that I think is important and at one time would probably have been worthy of front-page news articles around the country. Instead, I notice it is just another piece of news in the middle of a paper.

Last Thursday, Mr. Stephen Friedman announced his resignation, effective immediately, as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, considered a central reserve bank in the country, the one that now-Secretary Geithner used to serve as president. As Chairman, Mr. Friedman stepped down only after a Wall Street Journal story questioned his ties to Goldman Sachs, a banking institution, at the same time he was serving on the New York Fed's board. Unfortunately, his bad judgment is just another example in a long line of examples demonstrating the tangled web we have woven in allowing so prominent a government role in private businesses, involving hundreds of billions of dollars.

Let me read what the Wall Street Journal reported last Monday, May 4:

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York shaped Washington's response to the financial crisis late last year, which buoyed Goldman Sachs . . . and other Wall Street firms. Goldman received speedy approval to become a bank holding company in September [of last year] and a \$10 billion capital injection soon after. That is a \$10 billion capital injection after they redefined themselves as a bank holding company. Prior to that they were not eligible.

It goes on to say:

During that time, the New York Fed's chairman, Stephen Friedman, sat on Goldman's board and had a large holding in Goldman's stock, which because of Goldman's new status as a bank holding company was a violation of Federal Reserve policy. The New York Fed asked for a waiver, which, after about 2½ months, the Fed granted. While it was weighing the request, Mr. Friedman bought 37,300 more Goldman shares in December. They've since risen \$1.7 million in value.

This is a troubling matter. Members of the Senate cannot even allow a lobbyist to buy our lunch. Yet this man can be on a board and can buy stock while he is asking for approval to do something he wants to do—and they eventually gave him that approval—and he continues to buy stock and it goes up in value \$1.7 million.

According to the article:

[Mr. Friedman] says he checked with a Goldman lawyer to make sure there was no timing issue with such a purchase. He says he didn't check with the Fed. New York Fed lawyers say they didn't learn about his share purchase until the Journal raised questions about them in April. . . . [The day after receiving a waiver,] Mr. Friedman purchased 15,300 more Goldman shares. . . . That million-dollar purchase brought his holdings to 98,600 shares, according to the filings.

I find this unacceptable behavior. There is a reason the Federal Reserve has a policy prohibiting a chairman of any regional Fed bank from having any connections with regulated financial institutions. You do not want the regulator to have a personal financial interest in those being regulated.

I appreciate Mr. Friedman doing the right thing now and resigning. That is a good thing. However, too many officials have been acting in a way that suggests an erosion of propriety and the proper separation of interest.

Recently, we learned from the New York attorney general that Government officials may have threatened Bank of America CEO Ken Lewis to continue a merger with Merrill Lynch or lose his job. After he figured out it was going to be very bad for his stockholders and indicated he was not going through with it, they told him they would fire him if he didn't go through with it.

Some of the stories are unclear about how that all happened, but the issue does remain, and I will be interested to see what more we learn about this troubling matter when the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform holds a hearing with Mr. Lewis and top Government officials, who will testify under oath.

Since last year, when then-Secretary Paulson told us we must act or the economy would go into collapse—and we heard those dire warnings repeatedly—we have seen more and more of these instances of impropriety and lack of wisdom.

Through TARP—the \$700 billion bailout—a blank check with no accountability was given to the Government to do basically as it pleased. The money was given to the Secretary of the Treasury, and he met in private with many of these banks. Many of them were people he knew and were friends and buddies with, and he started allocating this \$700 billion. It has continued now under Mr. Geithner, a man who previously was president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Last month, Neil Barofsky, the special inspector general overseeing this \$700 billion bailout, issued a report stating he has opened 20 criminal investigations and 6 audits into whether