

the Department of Defense has been working to develop rapid processes for manufacturing vaccines for a variety of biological threat agents in order to safeguard our troops in the battlefield.

The most promising path so far to a speedy response for new vaccines is the use of plants to produce millions of vaccine doses in a matter of weeks at a very low cost, as compared to the 6-plus months for standard production processes that cost many times as much.

So that funding is very valuable funding. I do not think most objective observers would consider that to be pork. It will help meet military needs by continuing the progress toward rapid, tailored vaccine production for new diseases for biological threats.

Another one which was mentioned by my friend from Arizona was the money we added for a physical fitness center at the Malmstrom Air Force Base. Now, fitness is a military requirement. According to the Air Force, the existing fitness center at Malmstrom Air Force Base, which was built in 1957, so that is now over 50 years ago, "does not adequately satisfy personnel or infrastructure demands." The Air Force said in the absence of a new fitness center, "there will continue to be very few options to maintain physical fitness during the winter months." The project meets the criteria established for military construction projects more than a decade ago by Senators Glenn and McCain.

Those are just a couple of the items Senator McCain mentioned. Another point the Senator from Arizona made is that the language relative to don't ask, don't tell does not give the Department of Defense the opportunity to consider the impact of the change on morale and readiness, recruiting and retention of our troops. Here is what the language of our bill does. We were very careful in order to be sure there would be a certification that there would be no negative impact in terms of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention.

We changed the language in the bill so it was not a direct repeal of don't ask, don't tell, but rather that that policy is going to stay in effect explicitly. This is in subsection C, that don't ask, don't tell shall remain in effect until such time that all of the requirements and certifications by subsection B are met. If these requirements and certifications are not met, section 654 of title 10—that is the don't ask, don't tell policy—shall remain in effect.

One of the certifications that is required before there is a change in policy says:

The implementation of necessary policies and regulations pursuant to the discretion provided by the amendments made by subsection F—

Here is the key language—

is consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces.

This policy will stay in effect unless and until there is, No. 1, a report—which is underway now—which the Secretary of Defense is going to provide to the Congress relative to the impact of the change in policy. But, secondly, the policy will stay in effect until the President transmits—that is unless and until—the President transmits to the congressional defense committees a written certification signed by the President, Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stating, again, the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces are being met and would be met with a change in policy.

Those are just two points the Senator from Arizona made that I wish to commend at this time. I believe there is going to be opportunity for further debate tomorrow something like an hour and a half in the morning, although that is being worked on at this time.

But further debate on this bill can be had by anybody who wishes to proceed to it. But I hope we can proceed to the consideration of this bill. This is a motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. All the rights of filibustering and extended debate will be preserved on the bill itself if we can only get to debate the bill. Amendments will be available. Either amendments adding or amendments striking will be available.

But we have to get to the bill. I mean, people are making arguments about the bill which belong at the time of the debate on the bill. But unless we can get to the point where we can debate the bill, it is kind of a theoretical debate we are having—whether it is don't ask, don't tell, whether it is the DREAM Act, whether it is other things which people would either like to change that are in the bill or would like to add to the bill.

As my good friend from Delaware who is presiding at the moment knows, there are provisions in this bill that I opposed in committee that I would like to see stricken from the bill. But to oppose debate on a bill because there are provisions in the bill that we do not like or we would like to see added, it seems to me, engages in an exercise which is not what the intent of the Senate ever was. We should debate bills. We should amend bills. We should offer amendments to strike provisions, to add provisions. But to deny the Senate the opportunity to get to the point where we are debating on the Defense authorization bill is something which seems to me totally unacceptable.

We need to support our troops. This bill is a bill to support the men and women wearing the uniform of this country and their families. One can argue there are provisions in this bill which should not be in the bill. Fine. Debate them. Vote on them. But to say we should not get to the bill which contains provisions so critical for the well

being and success of our men and women in the Armed Forces, it seems to me, is totally inconsistent with what the Armed Services Committee and this Senate need to be about, which is providing for the defense and security of the country and the well being of the men and women who put on the uniform of this country.

So I hope we will get cloture tomorrow and proceed to the debate, which is totally appropriate, on a whole bunch of issues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ALICE AND EDWARD PALMER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I recognize Alice and Edward "Buzz" Palmer for their service and dedication to Chicago's African-American community.

The Palmers have worked for many years in a variety of capacities to build a strong, involved, and educated African-American community in the city of Chicago.

Alice graduated from high school at the age of 16, and with the help of four jobs and a scholarship, she was able to attend Indiana University. When she graduated in 1965, she used her degree to help others. She became an educator. While she taught at Malcolm X College, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago, she also managed to continue her own education, earning a master's degree from Roosevelt University and a Ph.D. from Northwestern.

Alice realized that education extended outside of the classroom, and so did her work. She helped create voter education programs and founded the Metropolitan Chicago chapter of the YMCA's youth and government program. The YMCA program aims to inspire young people to civic engagement and create opportunities to interact with the political system through service learning and model government.

As a teacher, and later as a legislator, Alice firmly believed that all students could learn. She made it her job to see that each student had that opportunity. She began a drop-out intervention program in the Chicago

Public Schools to give students the skills and encouragement to stay in school. As an Illinois State senator, she made it a priority to bring charter schools to Chicago. She knew the status quo in the public schools was not good enough, and she worked to create more opportunity for Chicago's students.

Alice has always strived to provide the African-American community with the education and tools necessary to build a better future. Alice shares that goal with her husband, Buzz.

Buzz grew up in Chicago and experienced the racism that plagued the city in the 1940s and 1950s. After serving in the Air Force as an elite intelligence officer, he returned to Chicago and joined the Chicago Police Department. There, Buzz observed firsthand the tense relationship between the police and the African-American community, and in response, he created the African American Patrolman's League. The league worked within the department and the African-American community to counteract racism and change the way the CPD was perceived and the way it behaved.

In the 1970s, Buzz focused his energy on addressing racial prejudice in the health care system. He started a community group that petitioned local hospitals to provide better quality health care for Black families and to hire more African-American medical professionals. He joined with other health-focused community groups and Chicago area medical schools to create the Chicago Area Health and Medical Careers Program. The program uses structured academics, counseling, motivational and financial support to help underrepresented minorities pursue degrees in medicine.

Over the years, Buzz expanded his view and took a keen interest in better connecting African Americans with the international community. Together Alice and Buzz Palmer founded the Black Press Institute to compile and edit news from Black media outlets throughout the United States for distribution worldwide.

On October 2 of this year, Alice and Buzz Palmer are being honored with lifetime achievement awards from the United Black Fund of Illinois for their decades of work with the African-American community in Chicago. I congratulate them on this award and thank them for their lifetime of dedication to Chicago and the African American community.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL JOHN C. BISHOP

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Corporal John C. Bishop of the U.S. Marine Corps and Versailles, IN.

Corporal Bishop was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. He lost his life on September 8, 2010, while serving bravely in support of Operation Enduring

Freedom in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was serving his third tour of duty and was 25 years old.

John graduated from Southwestern Shelby High School in 2003 and immediately joined the Marines. John aspired to become a marine from a young age, hoping to follow in the footsteps of his older brother Tyson. Tyson joined the Marines in 1993, and each time he returned home, John would climb into his older brother's Marine uniform.

Today, I join John's family and friends in mourning his tragic death. He is survived by his wife Cristle Bishop, who is expecting their first daughter in October; his son K'Sean Bishop; his mother Sarah Thomas; his brothers William Bishop, Mike Bishop, Anthony Thomas, Eric Thomas, Jamey Bishop, and Tyson Bishop; and his sisters Nancy Braley and Amy Parker.

As we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we take pride in the example of this American hero. We cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

As I search for words to honor this fallen soldier, I recall President Lincoln's words to the families of the fallen at 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."

It is my sad duty to enter the name of CPL John C. Bishop in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to our country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace.

STAFF SERGEANT PHILLIP CHAD JENKINS

Mr. President, I also rise today to honor the life of SSG Phillip Chad Jenkins of the U.S. Army and Decatur, IN.

Staff Sergeant Jenkins was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was only 26 years old when he lost his life on September 7, 2010, while bravely serving during his second tour of duty in support of Operation New Dawn in Balad, Iraq. Staff Sergeant Jenkins' first tour was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

A Decatur native, Staff Sergeant Jenkins graduated from Bellmont High School in 2002 and joined the army soon after. While in high school, Staff Sergeant Jenkins enjoyed playing the saxophone in the school band and worked at Scott's Food & Pharmacy.

Staff Sergeant Jenkins was a dedicated soldier who always went above and beyond the call of duty. One of his fellow soldiers, Fritz Bultemeyer, described Staff Sergeant Jenkins as "a great American fallen hero."

Today, I join Staff Sergeant Jenkins' family and friends in mourning his death. He is survived by his wife Melissa; his two daughters Piper and Lindly; his mother and father Rose and

David Jenkins; and his sister Cassie Jenkins.

We take pride in the example of this dedicated soldier and great American hero, even as we struggle to express our grief over this loss. We cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

As I search for words to honor this fallen soldier, I recall President Lincoln's words to the families of the fallen at 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."

It is my sad duty to enter the name of SSG Phillip Chad Jenkins in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to our country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace.

STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL BOCK

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor SSG Michael Bock of Springfield, NE.

Sergeant Bock grew up in Springfield, attending Elkhorn Mount Michael High School for 2 years before moving with his family to Leesburg, FL. About a month after graduating from Leesburg High School in 2002, Sergeant Bock joined the U.S. Marine Corps.

Marrying his high school sweetheart, Tiffany, in 2003, Sergeant Bock was very much a family man. According to Tiffany, no matter what he was doing or how long he was working, he would still call his family. He even got up in the middle of the night recently while in Afghanistan to get online and watch Zander, his 3-year-old son, blow out his birthday candles.

Sergeant Bock was also very dedicated to his career in the Marine Corps. He served two tours in Iraq and also served in Australia and Indonesia, where he received a Marine Corps humanitarian ribbon for his help during the tsunami recovery in 2004.

Sergeant Bock's goals of starting a college fund for his son and purchasing a house for his family were interrupted on August 13, 2010. He was on his second deployment in Afghanistan serving with the 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force when he was killed while supporting combat operations in the Helmand province.

SSG Michael Bock knew the dangers he faced and the risks he took. He also knew the importance of the work he did in the Marine Corps on behalf of his fellow Americans. He risked—and ultimately sacrificed—his own life so people a world away could have the chance to enjoy the freedoms he had found in America. I join all Nebraskans in mourning the loss of Sergeant Bock and in offering my deepest condolences to this young hero's family.