

mission, which was executed flawlessly and will go down in our history books as to how we should do our work.

I wish to take a moment to compliment all of our military and intelligence people who were involved in this effort. I take great pride in representing the State of Maryland and our intelligence agencies that are located at Fort Meade. They do incredible work for our national security and for our Nation. They do a lot of work that keeps us safe, but they can never issue a press release because of the nature of their work. Many times I believe their work goes basically unappreciated by the vast majority of Americans. But I wish to take a moment to congratulate all the men and women in our intelligence agencies and in our military who have devoted their lives to keeping us safe. This mission demonstrates the type of work they do in order to make this a safer nation.

This successful interagency operation illustrates intelligence sharing at its best and the commitment of the men and women of our Armed Forces as well as our political leadership. As you know, after the attack on our country on September 11, we had commissions do work, we had a lot of congressional investigations, and there was one theme that came out very clearly in regard to the way we collected intelligence information to keep this Nation safe; that is, there was too much stovepiping and not enough sharing of information. Information that could have been shared, that could have been used in a way to keep us safe was not. This effort demonstrates the advantages of sharing information. Our intelligence agencies acted upon information that was made available through various sources and using that to be able to conduct this mission.

Truly, bin Laden was brought to justice as a result of President Obama's deliberative planning, coordination, and communication, his leadership, partnership, and dogged persistence. Because of that, we were able to accomplish this mission.

I wish to congratulate President Obama. He had to make a tough call. The intelligence information was not conclusive. Much of it was circumstantial. Yet he evaluated the best information we had to determine that bin Laden was at this location. He then had to make another tough choice, as to what type of mission to use—whether to use a sophisticated bomb in order to destroy the property, which would have caused the loss of some innocent life, or whether to use a higher risk mission of sending our SEALs into Pakistan. The President made the right call. He made the right decision, and I congratulate him on his leadership.

All Americans were affected by bin Laden's evil actions. We all remember that fateful day in September of 2001. I was on the other side of the Capitol as a Congressman in my office in the Rayburn Building. I remember receiving

information that we thought there was a plane that could be heading to our own building. The Capitol Police ushered us out of the building so we could try to get out of harm's way. We all began to understand our Nation was under attack and the world was changing.

While we are still living in that changed world, this event reminds us again the strength of America is freedom and that its persistence can prevail. As a lifelong proponent of human rights, I know we do not rejoice in killing, but this death rids the world of a man who was committed to intolerance, destruction, hatred, and the desecration of human dignity. Bringing bin Laden to justice helps heal the wounds of those who lost their loved ones and to a nation who lived through 9/11.

We must remain vigilant as the fight against al-Qaida and other extremists goes on. While al-Qaida is increasingly marginalized—particularly as we see so many in the Arab world exercise their desires for change—the threat posed by terrorist organizations will remain with us. We must remain on our highest guard, working with our allies around the world, in order to fight these extremists.

Once again, I wish to congratulate the tremendous efforts of our President, our military, and our intelligence community, especially as their hard work continues, and may this event bring some sense of peace to the families affected by bin Laden's evil, as well as to all in the world who love freedom and peace.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time spent in quorum calls be equally charged against the majority and the minority.

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

HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHO CARRIED OUT THE MISSION THAT KILLED OSAMA BIN LADEN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 159) honoring the members of the military and intelligence community who carried out the mission that killed Osama bin Laden, and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, at 10 o'clock Sunday night, I was at the terminal at the Detroit airport, and there I had gone through the usual airport

security drill—shoes off, liquids in plastic bags, and all the other inconveniences designed to keep us safe. It was at that same airport on Christmas of 2009 that a would-be terrorist sought to bomb an airliner. So I was surrounded by reminders, large and small, of how the threat of terrorism has affected our lives when Defense Secretary Gates called me with the momentous news that our forces had succeeded in raiding a compound in Pakistan and killing Osama bin Laden.

A few hours later, my wife Barbara and I joined a different scene—thousands of cheering young people waving American flags and singing patriotic songs in the early morning darkness outside the White House—part of an outpouring of relief and emotion across the Nation. What had happened is Osama bin Laden could not avoid the long memory and the long arm of justice, and he could not hope to triumph against the indomitable spirit of the American people.

The news President Obama delivered to the Nation on Sunday evening gives us many reasons to reflect. We should first turn to those who still carry the grief and loss of that September morning about 10 years ago—to those who had lost loved ones in the fight against terror and the years since and to those who carry wounds of body, mind or spirit from that war. The death of Osama bin Laden cannot bring back the lives lost through his monstrous acts, but it can, I hope, bring some measure of relief from those lost.

We first turn, with thanks and admiration, to the men and women of our Armed Forces and the intelligence community. For them and their families, the last decade has been one of long separations, uncertainty, and danger. Yet time and time again they have answered their Nation's call with courage, with competence, and with skill. Once again, they have earned our utmost gratitude.

We should also commend the President for his courage and for his care in ordering a military mission to capture or kill Osama bin Laden. There was no direct evidence that bin Laden was in the compound that the CIA had determined housed two al-Qaida couriers. Instead, the evidence was circumstantial, and there were differing views within the intelligence community as to the likelihood that bin Laden or perhaps some other high-value target was there. Moreover, the mission required the military helicopters to enter into Pakistani airspace, to land in Pakistan's sovereign territory, and for Navy SEALs to use lethal force on a compound in a city that was home to two Pakistani armed regiments. The President courageously rejected the alternative options of launching a bombing mission or waiting until there was more evidence of bin Laden's presence. He rejected both of those alternatives.

With his bold decision and with the heroism and skill of our military and intelligence professionals, our Nation

struck a tremendous blow not just against a single depraved individual but against the hateful ideology he espoused. Let there be no mistake, al-Qaida is weaker today. Its leader is dead and so is the myth surrounding him.

Osama bin Laden sent his followers to hide in dark, dank mountain caves and often to their own suicides, from the comfort of his million-dollar villa. His death has dealt al-Qaida a major blow. The mystique of Osama bin Laden has been punctured.

The victory over hate-inspired terrorism is not yet complete. Our successful mission against bin Laden will no doubt lead to al-Qaida's remaining leaders issuing calls for retaliation. It is critical our intelligence and military strength continue to seek out those elements and franchises of al-Qaida that remain in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Arabian Peninsula, Africa, and other places, such as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen. The threat may be diminished, but it remains.

Further, it is critical we ensure our military and intelligence communities continue to adapt to the threat of our irregular and unconventional enemy. The interagency cooperation that helped make this mission a success is impressive, and it remains a potent weapon in our effort to weaken the al-Qaida network.

This is an effort worthy not just of this Nation but of all nations. That is why it is important that we find answers to the significant questions raised by the news from Sunday night. Thirty-five miles from the Pakistani capital and a comfortable walk from the Pakistani military's most important academy, in a town where the Pakistani military and intelligence services own a large share of the property, al-Qaida appears to have built a massive complex, ringed by walls as high as 18 feet, protected by barbed wire, as the dedicated hiding place for Osama bin Laden. It is difficult to believe all this occurred without at least arousing the suspicions of Pakistan's security forces or their local officials.

The American people, who have provided billions of dollars of aid to the Pakistani Government, deserve to know whether elements of Pakistan's military and intelligence services or local officials knew of bin Laden's location over the 5 years or so he was there and if they did not know, how that could possibly be the case. Hopefully just as important, the Pakistani people deserve these answers, for they have suffered greatly from al-Qaida's violent extremism. Assassinations, bombings, death of civilian and military personnel alike—all these losses show that al-Qaida and its hate-filled terrorism and its terrorist allies threaten Pakistan's very existence. I believe some of Pakistan's leaders know this to be true, and I was heartened by the reaction of Prime Minister Gilani to bin Laden's death. He said, "I think it's a

great victory and I congratulate the success of this operation."

It is urgent that the Pakistani Government get answers to the questions about what its military and intelligence agencies and local officials knew and share the answers to those questions with the world and with their own people.

Pakistan can be an important ally in the fight against terror. It has as much, if not more, at stake in that fight as anybody. All the more important, then, that we openly and honestly address the questions which have been raised by the presence of terrorist No. 1, public enemy No. 1, the world's enemy No. 1—the presence of that person in Pakistan in such a central place for all these years. It is important that those questions be honestly answered so we can continue this fight together.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time for debate on the resolution that is pending be extended by 15 minutes, with the additional time being equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with all other provisions under the previous order remaining in effect.

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

Mr. LEVIN. With this agreement, the vote will now occur around 3:45 p.m.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of this resolution and offer my congratulations to the men and women responsible for developing the intelligence and carrying out the operation that led to the death of Osama bin Laden on Sunday, May 1.

This is perhaps the most important, and certainly the most stunning, intelligence operation I have seen in my 10 years on the Intelligence Committee. I wanted to congratulate, first and foremost, President Obama. As he stated in his Sunday night address to the Nation, he directed Leon Panetta shortly after taking office to "make the killing or capture of bin Laden the top priority of our war against al-Qaida."

When the effort to collect and analyze intelligence on this compound in Abbottabad bore fruit, President Obama made a courageous and very gutsy decision to order the strike, even

though the intelligence community could not assure him with certainty that bin Laden was there.

At the operational level, the hunt for bin Laden and the read on his compound has shown the greatly improved collaboration and cooperation across the intelligence community and, of course, the Department of Defense.

The CIA has received and well deserved the lion's share of the credit. The agency collected the human intelligence and carried out other missions that found and characterized the Abbottabad compound, and CIA analysts took the lead in analyzing and re-analyzing that information.

The CIA's Counterterrorism Center has a banner on the wall that reads, "Today is September 12, 2001." It has been nearly 10 years, but their perseverance and dedication has truly paid off.

I also want to recognize the efforts of the National Security Agency which provided signals intelligence and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency which conducted the imagery analysis on the compound. It was truly a team effort.

I also commend and give thanks to the Joint Special Operations Command, or JSOC, the team that flew to the compound under cover of night and conducted the raid. It was not a picture perfect operation, and changes to the plan were necessary as the lead helicopter was forced to land unexpectedly. But the highly trained and skilled members of the Navy SEAL team adjusted, reached their target, and they killed Osama bin Laden without taking any casualties themselves.

I was first briefed on the compound and the possibility that it housed Osama bin Laden in the beginning of last December along with Senator Kit Bond who was vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee at that time. Since then, the current vice chairman, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS, and I have been regularly briefed and updated on the intelligence.

I thank Director Panetta and his team for keeping the Intelligence Committee leadership informed. As one who is regularly critical of our government's inability to keep secrets, it is very reassuring that this highly sensitive and sensational intelligence was kept under wraps for months.

There is no doubt that Sunday's operation gives rise to a number of questions. Among the most important of them are, one, what did Pakistan know about bin Laden's presence and this compound in the up to 6 years he was there? It has to be pointed out that this compound was eight times bigger than any home in the vicinity. It was just a quarter of a mile away from another home. It was a mile away from a major military academy. It had razor wire on the top of very large walls, and it was very large in itself. Trash was not picked up, it was burned. No one really came in and out except the two couriers who went about delivering

messages from a distance from the compound.

It should have been an issue of curiosity, and neighbors surely would have been interested in who lived there. Why is it so big? What is going on there? But there was virtually no reaction.

The second point is, what does bin Laden's death mean for al-Qaida and for the affiliate groups and lone wolves he has inspired and led? As the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, I will be looking for answers to those questions and get more of the details of the operation itself. Tomorrow morning, in a joint classified hearing with the Armed Services Committee, we will be looking into these and other issues. But this resolution is about commending the men and women of our intelligence community and the U.S. military for their dedication and years of work that led to 40 minutes of incredible success. It should also recognize the fact that since 9/11, intelligence has been streamlined, stove pipes have been taken down, and analysts have greatly improved in their trade craft.

As a matter of fact, the intelligence having to do with this one facility was red-teamed once, red-teamed twice, and red-teamed at least a third time. The red-teaming process gives the ability of our analysts to debunk the intelligence, to try to indicate what might be a lapse, an "inconclusion," a false judgment. It is a very valuable process.

This resolution also recognizes the measure of justice now delivered to those who mourn and remember the thousands of men, women, and children claimed as victims on 9/11 and in the other attacks carried out by al-Qaida under Osama bin Laden both here and around the world.

This will not end terror as we know it today, but it surely is a monumental step to be able to put an end to the man who championed the cause, the man who provided the inspiration, the man who raised the money, and the man who was purely and simply the major leader.

Osama bin Laden is no more, and the time is upon us. I hope the world will be listening to try to consider a better path, to move away from acts of terror, move away from the killing of innocent men, women and children, and become part of the councils of government, whatever they may be, across the world, to debate, to discuss, to vote, and to put forward principled policies.

I very much appreciate the efforts of the majority leader and the Republican leader in bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge its adoption.

I notice my distinguished vice chairman on the Senate floor. I particularly want to thank him, Senator CHAMBLISS, for all of the cooperation we have been able to effect together.

You truly have been wonderful. It has been a great joy for me to work with you, and I only wish I could give you a glass of California wine to salute this very special day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, let me just say that California wine being a favorite of mine, I am available any time. Thanks for those kind comments.

Let me just say to my good friend from California what a pleasure it has been to work with her. The Intelligence Committee has always been a very bipartisan committee, and nobody exhibits that more so than our current chairman, DIANNE FEINSTEIN. She is tough when she needs to be tough, and she is fair at all times.

She and I have a unique relationship in contrast to the other committees in the Senate in that we jointly hire all of our staff, and she has been extremely cooperative to me in the hiring process. Again, she has just been a pleasure to work with. I have to say that DIANNE and I have been on the committee together for several years, and I am very proud of the work our committee has done and our relationship with the intelligence community.

One of the big reasons we have the successes that we had on Sunday in the takedown of bin Laden is because of the oversight that DIANNE and others have carried out on the Intelligence Committee and because of our relationship with the community.

It is not a combative relationship. We have the Director of the CIA, the heads of NSA, the DNI, and others on a regular basis both formally and informally. All of that is done under DIANNE's leadership.

Those are the times when we found out the needs of the intelligence community. Had they not exhibited that and had the Senator not provided the right kind of leadership, they would not have had all of the tools necessary to carry out this very important and very sophisticated mission. So thanks for your great work. Thanks for your friendship. I look forward to that glass of California wine.

I rise today in support of the resolution with respect to the takedown of Osama bin Laden and also to praise the men and women of our intelligence and our military communities with regard to Sunday's successful operation. We have been pursuing the world's most infamous terrorist for over a decade, but it was ultimately the hard work and tireless dedication of these professional men and women that led to this significant achievement.

I am always proud of our military and intelligence men and women, but most especially today I am truly proud of their great work.

As we approach the 10-year anniversary of September 11, I am thankful that the families and loved ones of the victims of 9/11, as well as all Americans, can have some closure. The leader of al-Qaida and murderer of thousands of Americans and allies can never again sponsor a terrorist attack.

It is also important to point out that this operation was made possible by information provided by enemy combatants that had been detained and interrogated by the United States. There

has been a lot of debate in this country about our detention and interrogation policy, but this is probably one of the clearest examples of the extraordinary value of the information we have been able to gather from the CIA's detention and interrogation program. If we had not had access to this information, Osama bin Laden would likely still be operating undetected today. It is because of the information gained from these detainees, pursued and analyzed over the years by the intelligence community, that led us to bin Laden's compound. It is almost unimaginable that he was located not in a cave in a Pakistani no man's land, but in a city just miles outside of Islamabad with a large Pakistani Government and military presence.

This is an amazing achievement and one that will be remembered for decades, but we must remember that al-Qaida is a diffuse and decentralized network that continues to threaten Americans both at home and abroad. A number of dangerous leaders associated with al-Qaida, including Ayman al-Zawahiri and Anwar al-Aulaqi, are still out there, no doubt plotting their next attack as we speak.

We also face a growing number of threats from other radical organizations and individuals, including homegrown terrorists and extremists. Although bin Laden's death is an enormous blow to al-Qaida, we must make sure we remain vigilant in all our efforts to defeat terrorism and never lose sight of our objectives, which is not the death of one man, but the dismantling of all terrorist networks that seek to do us harm.

In closing, I want to again thank our intelligence professionals and military personnel for their service and dedication. I also want to remind everyone that while this is our greatest success to date in our efforts to combat al-Qaida, we still have a lot of work to do and cannot rest until all of that work is done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of S. Res. 159, honoring the members of the military and intelligence community who carried out the mission that killed Osama bin Laden. I am as happy to rise today as at any time in the past 10 years—and it has been for the last 10 years that I have eagerly awaited the moment when my colleagues and I could take to this floor and celebrate the news we got this Sunday: that we got Osama bin Laden. Justice has been done. The world has become a better place now that bin Laden is no longer in it.

This is a time for national unity and celebration. It is a time to finally close a painful chapter in the history of our Nation, even as our larger fight continues. And, most of all, it is a time to give thanks and recognition to a distinguished group of our fellow citizens

who will forever occupy an honored place in our history.

I want to echo my colleagues in offering my humble thanks to the brave men who carried out the daring operation, as well as to the men and women in uniform who enabled their success. I have been involved in national security my entire life, and I am hard pressed to come up with another military operation that demonstrated such sophistication, such professionalism, such precise and lethal effectiveness to accomplish such a momentous and consequential objective. I am truly in awe of what these young men have accomplished, and I thank God that our Nation continues to produce heroic warriors such as them who are willing to give everything, to sacrifice everything, to devote their lives not to the quest for wealth or fame but to the service of a just and noble cause that is greater than their self-interests. We do not yet know their names, but we honor their achievements and we celebrate their heroism. They have made history and earned their place in it.

I want to offer the same praise for our intelligence professionals. It is a truism that intelligence fails in public and succeeds in private. So it is a great day indeed when we can celebrate such a public success of our intelligence professionals. There are men and women across our intelligence community who have devoted the past 10 years, and many more before that, to finding bin Laden. Despite setbacks and sacrifice, despite the loss of leads and the death of friends, regardless of whether the trail was hot or cold, they woke up every day and carried on the fight. And now we honor the fruits of their perseverance and sacrifice, even as they themselves remain hard at work—exploiting the new information we have recovered, analyzing the new data, and setting up the next operation.

I also want to offer my deepest congratulations and appreciation to the President and his national security team. I credit them with making the elimination of Osama bin Laden their top priority—and for accomplishing it so impressively. Regardless of the myriad groups and parties and factions into which we Americans divide ourselves on a daily basis, the killing of Osama bin Laden is a national triumph and all Americans should feel proud and appreciative of the leadership shown by President Obama and his team on this matter.

I specifically want to credit the President with ordering an airborne assault by ground forces rather than aerial bombardment. It would have been a lot easier to simply turn bin Laden's compound into a smoldering crater, but it would have denied us the certainty we now have that bin Laden is dead. It took real courage to assume the many risks associated with putting boots on the ground, and I strongly commend the President for it.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank President Bush and the many of-

ficials who labored with him for 8 years to do what has now been done. I know it is one of President Bush's regrets that he could not eliminate bin Laden on his watch, but he and his team should take solace in the knowledge that they laid the foundation for Sunday's operation, and they deserve credit for that.

Finally, I want to say a word to the many American families for whom this celebration is bittersweet because it recalls memories of the mothers and fathers, spouses and siblings, sons and daughters, who were stolen from them, and from us all—not just in the September 11 attacks but in the many acts of mass murder for which Osama bin Laden was guilty. No act of man can fill the aching emptiness of a loved one lost. For that there is only the grace of God. But it is my sincerest hope that the elimination of Osama bin Laden—this act of justice done—will help to ease the pain and bring closure to what has surely been a decade of torment, as we were daily reminded that the world's most wanted terrorist was still free.

I also want to credit the families of the victims of September 11, 2001. Had it not been for their relentless efforts and advocacy, Congress would not have established the 9/11 Commission and adopted many of its important reforms of our national security establishment—reforms that no doubt were instrumental in facilitating the joint and collaborative operation to find and kill Osama bin Laden. I could not imagine a greater contribution that the 9/11 families could have made.

Of course, the death of Osama bin Laden does not portend the elimination of al-Qaida or the end of terrorist plots and attacks against our country. We must remain vigilant in our pursuit of every enemy who would do harm to us and our friends and allies. And we shall do so. But there is no denying that the death of Osama bin Laden will have a significant impact in this long war. It will enable us to focus more of our time and attention and resources on others who would do us harm. Perhaps more importantly, it will enable our country to look more fully forward—to focus more completely on supporting the peaceful democratic awakenings that are sweeping the Middle East and North Africa, which are the greatest repudiation of al-Qaida that we ever could have imagined or hoped for.

If there is any consolation in the fact that Osama bin Laden lived as long as he did, it is that he got to witness Arabs and Muslims by the tens of millions rising up to demand justice and dignity, not through suicide bombings and mass murder, but through peaceful change, political freedom, and economic opportunity—the very ideas that bin Laden's perverse and murderous ideology seeks to destroy. That could be the truest death knell of al-Qaida, and I for one am very happy that Osama bin Laden got to hear it—just before a team of American heroes ended his wretched life.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, Osama bin Laden's death is a historic and just victory for this Nation.

While this is a profound victory in the war on terror, our thoughts must go to the thousands of innocent men and women who lost family members and whose lives were forever changed by the tragedy of September 11.

The families of those lost and our Nation as a whole can take great pride that our brave servicemembers and intelligence community successfully carried out this mission. I could not be more proud of the outstanding men and women of our military who put their lives on the line daily to defend this Nation.

Each and every one of us has a deeply personal connection to the tragic events of September 11. At the time, I was West Virginia's secretary of state. I remember staff coming into my office, and they said: Did you see what is going on? That is all they had to say, and that is all they did say.

So many Americans have similar stories. We watched in horror on live television as the second plane hit the World Trade Center and I knew something we could never anticipate and imagine had just happened to our great country. We didn't know how our lives would change, but we knew they would.

In West Virginia, similar to States all over the country, we are still mourning those we lost: a former WVU quarterback and a WVU economics graduate who were both killed in the World Trade Center's North Tower, a Parkersburg High School graduate, a young lady who perished in the South Tower, and a Marshall University medical school graduate, a doctor who practiced, was killed when the airliner he was on crashed into the Pentagon. Our thoughts and prayers will always be with them and their families.

Just like our world changed that terrible day, it has changed yet again with the killing of Osama bin Laden. It means something different to each of us. Osama bin Laden's death cannot bring back the thousands of lives that were lost that fateful day or the ones who have been lost at the hands of al-Qaida since. It cannot repair the anguish so many have suffered as a result of the evil and hatred Osama bin Laden espoused.

But it is justice, and I hope this Nation and the families of those who were lost on September 11 can take solace in that fact.

Let me also say I am so proud of the resolve, the strength, and the fortitude this Nation showed in pursuing the mission to its end.

With the killing of Osama bin Laden, the United States sent a message loudly and clearly: acts of terrorism against this Nation will not go unpunished. If you seek to do harm to this country or if you plan to hurt the people of our great Nation, we will find you and, I assure you, justice will be served.

While this success belongs to all of us, I especially thank the teams of people who united to accomplish this most important goal. President Obama and his advisers completed the mission, and I congratulate him for that. He was the one who made the difficult decision to order this mission, and he made the right call.

Immense credit must also be given to all the people in the intelligence community who have worked tirelessly to track down the world's most wanted terrorist. I also congratulate Presidents Clinton and Bush and the commitment their teams showed in fighting the war on terror.

Finally, I hope we sustain the spirit of unity we all feel at this moment to put politics aside and remind Americans that as a great nation, we become greater when we unite behind a common purpose.

For these reasons, I strongly support S. Res. 159. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I think most Americans are proud that the man who orchestrated the 9/11 attacks and then reveled in the horror of that day is dead.

Today, we recognize the dedicated work of the many intelligence professionals, law enforcement officials, and the many men and women in our armed services who brought us to this day.

The pursuit of Osama bin Laden spanned more than a decade. Following the attacks of September 11, the Senate voted 98 to 0 to authorize the use of force against al-Qaida—an authorization that is still in force today.

At the time, President Bush enjoyed the support of a nation united behind the decision to pursue al-Qaida and to drive the Taliban from power.

We should be equally united today in honoring those brave Americans who are committed to preventing further attacks upon our homeland.

While bin Laden and his followers were building their terror networks, we were patiently and diligently building our intelligence capabilities.

Following the successful raid on Sunday, those who remain committed to al-Qaida and associated terrorist groups should know that one day they too will share bin Laden's fate.

Some might think the success of this raid means the end of the war on terror. But as the President has said, the death of Osama bin Laden does not mean the death of al-Qaida. Our intelligence community and armed services must keep up the pressure on al-Qaida and associated terror networks.

Osama bin Laden launched this war on the false assumption that America didn't have the stomach for the fight. On Sunday night, he learned how wrong he was.

This week, America showed the world we meant it when we said we would not rest until justice was done to those who carried out the 9/11 attacks.

A generation of patriots has pursued al-Qaida for more than a decade, driven by the idea that every day is September 12, 2001. That spirit must persist.

Once again, I commend the President on his decision to go through with this mission. Above all, I thank the remarkable group of men who carried it out.

Not to be forgotten are the thousands of uniformed Americans in Afghanistan, Iraq, and across the globe, defending America's interests as we consider this resolution today.

The resolution reaffirms the Senate's commitment to eliminating safe havens for terrorists in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and we are reminded of the difficult work that remains. But today, those who remember the horror of 9/11 take a certain satisfaction knowing that the last thing Osama bin Laden saw in this world was a small team of Americans who shot him dead. The brave team who killed bin Laden made their Nation proud, and they deserve the Senate's recognition and its praise.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I stand, as every Member of this Senate does today, I am sure, in support of not only this resolution but everything this resolution stands for.

The elimination of Osama bin Laden as a symbol of murder, of tyranny, of repression is an important moment. It is a moment that came 10 years after it should have. If we could have found Osama bin Laden 10 years ago when we were looking for him, 9/11 might not have occurred. But it did occur.

The message for him and the message for others is you cannot hide from the forces of freedom and democracy. This was a moment when the forces of freedom and democracy triumphed over the forces of repression. This was a moment when the symbol of one view of the future was eliminated with the kind of violence he himself had perpetrated on so many others.

The President made a great decision to send this team of the best of the best into this compound to find Osama bin Laden, to know for sure face to face that he was either going to be captured by Americans or, in this case, killed by Americans, to be able to take the hard

drive, the documents. The information he had surrounding him will tell us a lot about his contacts, and who knows what it might tell us about the network of al-Qaida. The President could have made a decision to bomb the compound. I guess we would be sifting through the ashes today to see if Osama bin Laden was there. We might have been able to confirm that, but we would not have been able to confirm all the information the SEAL team was able to take with them. These are two important decisions made by the President. I think the decision to bury Osama bin Laden in an unknown spot but with the kind of respect his own religion required was also another good decision. I want to be supportive of the President and the decisions made.

There are times when a Predator missile is the right thing to use and times when it is not. One of the things we see from the death of bin Laden is that there is value to capturing our enemies and getting information from them. That thread of information that began maybe as long as 9 years ago finally was able to unravel in a way that made the connection that needed to be made so that Osama bin Laden could be found, so that justice could be done, so that the price would be paid by him, as it has been paid by so many others in defense of freedom.

Certainly, there are questions today about Pakistan, but there is no question that Pakistanis have died fighting alongside Americans in the last decade. There is no question that Pakistanis have been the victim of terrorism. Hopefully, this will be a moment that brings all of those who should want freedom to the same side.

I just returned from a quick visit to Egypt, which could very well be on the right path in the Middle East, a path where, without violence, people stand and want more freedom, they want democracy. That is not the goal of the extremists of Islam, for whom Osama bin Laden became the great symbol.

We do not believe Osama bin Laden has been in operational control of al-Qaida for some time. It would be wonderful if we find out in the next few days that he was and the terror of al-Qaida would be eliminated. I do not think we will find that out. But we do know he was a symbol in a way that is unique, in the way he symbolizes this wrong view of the future, the way he symbolizes the wrong view of the requirement that everybody living together be exactly the same. We, unlike any other country in the world, defy that view of the future. We have proven like no other country has ever proven that people can live together in great diversity, that people can live together with different points of view, and we can live in a society that still flourishes. Of course, we are the enemy of a world view that that is not possible. It is not because of anything we have done to the extremists in the world community; it is because of who we are.

Yesterday, the message of who we are was registered again in a powerful way as we all over this country and people all over the world talked about what happened the evening before, certainly not only the SEALs who went into the compound to see that justice was done but also all of those who are willing to serve, those who could have been among the elite who went in or all those who have served, the over 4,000 Americans, including many Missourians, whose lives have been lost in the last decade, in addition to the 3,000 lives that were brutally taken by the operatives of al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden on September 11, 2001.

This resolution that recognizes the courage to bring justice, that recognizes the evil that was done by Osama bin Laden and his followers, that recognizes the importance of freedom and democracy in a society is a resolution I am proud to support. I am proud of what the men and women did for us in executing this well-planned mission, but also of everybody who serves every day, for all the families who have a missing place in their hearts, for someone whose life was lost serving this country, for all the families who live with someone with a disability because of the kind of war we are in now.

I am pleased to stand here representing my State but hopefully representing, as all of us do, the forces of freedom and democracy that will ultimately triumph over the forces of repression and murder and chaos that one-world view would try to perpetuate. We recognize today another step against that view of the world.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant Daily Digest editor proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, those watching around the world may not be able to see on their screens the scene in the Senate today. We have all come to the floor in a way we rarely do. We have come this afternoon to express with one voice our endless respect and admiration for the men and women of our military and our intelligence organizations.

“Resolution” is an appropriate name for this legislation that is now before this body. It honors the resolution to a problem that has lingered for nearly a decade, one whose weight has grown heavier each day on the shoulders of the families whose lives were traumatized and the many more bin Laden terrorized. It honors the resolve with which our bravest stared down danger.

The world is still absorbing America’s astounding accomplishment—the mission to bring Osama bin Laden to justice, one that began more than 9½ years ago and was accomplished just a

little more than a day and a half ago. Mr. President, 9½ years after the worst morning in our memory, we woke up yesterday morning to a world without Osama bin Laden and with a palpable sense of justice.

Our military and intelligence operatives are the best in the world at what they do. As they set out to kill or capture our most valuable target, they captivated us with their skill and expertise, their patriotism, and their professionalism.

A flood of thoughts and emotions and analyses have been shared over the past 36 hours by many. As I said from this desk yesterday, the end of his life is not the end of this fight. It is a victory, but it is not “the victory.”

A lot has already been said about what bin Laden’s death means. So before we vote on this resolution, let me speak briefly about the American men and women who carried out this critical successful mission—a mission that was historically significant and tactically stunning.

Osama bin Laden was the most wanted and most hunted man in the entire world. His was the face of our enemy and the face of evil. There were few faces more recognizable to the American people and to the citizens of the world. Those who carried out the orders of the Commander in Chief this weekend could not be more different. We wouldn’t recognize them if we passed them on the street today. That is exactly how they would want it.

This is the newest proud page in a long story of the American hero—the unknown soldiers, the unsung saviors who sacrifice for our country’s flag and our country’s freedom. They do not ask for recognition, and they do not ask questions. They just answer the Nation when it calls.

Today the Senate stands in awe of the countless men and women who have toiled in obscurity, in the field and in every corner of the world; professionals who gather one small shred of evidence here and another clue there and pursue another lead somewhere else; the men and women who, over the course of 10 long years, pieced together the most meaningful of puzzles so that a few dozen of their fellow heroes could execute an operation the world will never forget.

These heroes confronted fear with brilliance and bravery. They met the worst of humanity with the best of America. The terrorists who carried out the 9/11 attacks did so with cowardice. The Americans who carried out this mission did so with unfailing courage.

No one has asked how these men and women vote or what their politics are. So we have come to the floor today to vote together on this resolution not as two parties, not even as 100 Senators, but as one body representing one grateful country.

Mr. President, on this resolution, Senator McCONNELL and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Harkin	Paul
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Bingaman	Hoeben	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hutchison	Reed
Blunt	Inhofe	Reid
Boozman	Inouye	Risch
Boxer	Isakson	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Johanns	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Cantwell	Kerry	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sessions
Carper	Kohl	Shaheen
Casey	Kyl	Shelby
Chambliss	Landrieu	Snowe
Coats	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Coburn	Leahy	Tester
Cochran	Lee	Thune
Collins	Levin	Toomey
Conrad	Lieberman	Udall (CO)
Coons	Lugar	Udall (NM)
Corker	Manchin	Vitter
Cornyn	McCain	Warner
Crapo	McCaskill	Webb
DeMint	McConnell	Whitehouse
Durbin	Menendez	Wicker
Enzi	Merkley	Wyden
Feinstein	Mikulski	
Franken	Moran	

NOT VOTING—3

Akaka	Ensign	Kirk
-------	--------	------

The resolution (S. Res. 159) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 159

Whereas, on May 1, 2011, United States personnel killed terrorist leader Osama bin Laden during the course of a targeted strike against his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan;

Whereas Osama bin Laden was the leader of the al Qaeda terrorist organization, the most significant terrorism threat to the United States and the international community;

Whereas Osama bin Laden was the architect of terrorist attacks which killed nearly 3,000 civilians on September 11, 2001, the most deadly terrorist attack against our Nation, in which al Qaeda terrorists hijacked four airplanes and crashed them into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and, due to heroic efforts by civilian passengers to disrupt the terrorists, near Shanksville, Pennsylvania;

Whereas Osama bin Laden planned or supported numerous other deadly terrorist attacks against the United States and its allies, including the 1998 bombings of United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the 2000 attack on the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen,

and against innocent civilians in countries around the world, including the 2004 attack on commuter trains in Madrid, Spain and the 2005 bombings of the mass transit system in London, England;

Whereas, following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United States, under President George W. Bush, led an international coalition into Afghanistan to dismantle al Qaeda, deny them a safe haven in Afghanistan and ungoverned areas along the Pakistani border, and bring Osama bin Laden to justice;

Whereas President Barack Obama in 2009 committed additional forces and resources to efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan as “the central front in our enduring struggle against terrorism and extremism”;

Whereas the valiant members of the United States Armed Forces have courageously and vigorously pursued al Qaeda and its affiliates in Afghanistan and around the world;

Whereas the anonymous, unsung heroes of the intelligence community have pursued al Qaeda and affiliates in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and around the world with tremendous dedication, sacrifice, and professionalism;

Whereas the close collaboration between the Armed Forces and the intelligence community prompted the Director of National Intelligence, General James Clapper, to state, “Never have I seen a more remarkable example of focused integration, seamless collaboration, and sheer professional magnificence as was demonstrated by the Intelligence Community in the ultimate demise of Osama bin Laden.”;

Whereas, while the death of Osama bin Laden represents a significant blow to the al Qaeda organization and its affiliates and to terrorist organizations around the world, terrorism remains a critical threat to United States national security; and

Whereas President Obama said, “For over two decades, bin Laden has been al Qaeda’s leader and symbol, and has continued to plot attacks against our country and our friends and allies. The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our Nation’s effort to defeat al Qaeda.”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) declares that the death of Osama bin Laden represents a measure of justice and relief for the families and friends of the nearly 3,000 men and women who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, the men and women in the United States and around the world who have been killed by other al Qaeda-sponsored attacks, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and the intelligence community who have sacrificed their lives pursuing Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda;

(2) commends the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and the United States intelligence community for the tremendous commitment, perseverance, professionalism, and sacrifice they displayed in bringing Osama bin Laden to justice;

(3) commends the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and the United States intelligence community for committing themselves to defeating, disrupting, and dismantling al Qaeda;

(4) commends the President for ordering the successful operations to locate and eliminate Osama bin Laden; and

(5) reaffirms its commitment to disrupting, dismantling, and defeating al Qaeda and affiliated organizations around the world that threaten United States national security, eliminating a safe haven for terrorists in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and bringing terrorists to justice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the preamble is agreed to and the motions to recon-

sider are considered made and laid upon the table.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF JOHN J. MCCONNELL

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today in support of the nomination of John “Jack” McConnell to serve as a district court judge in the State of Rhode Island. We have heard and we will hear a number of very strong statements about this nomination. I would argue very vociferously that many assertions that have been made are inaccurate at best and they are not shared by the legal and business community in Rhode Island. In fact, Jack McConnell is supported publicly and enthusiastically by the two former Republican attorneys general of Rhode Island, Arlene Violet and Jeffrey Pine. He is not opposed by the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, which knows him and has worked with him. He is supported by our legal community and our business community. He has received the strong endorsement of our leading newspaper, the Providence Journal, which has a record of moderation, indeed if not conservatism, in terms of their judgments about judicial candidates and some issues, but certainly moderation.

Later, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I will respond specifically about the assertions and concerns, but I think it is time at this juncture to make a few brief points about where we are at this Senate. We are at a point where we might be crossing a bridge from which we cannot return; that, unlike our previous history, district judges will be subject routinely to cloture motions because one faction or another decides, not on the merits but procedurally, they should not go forward.

Let me make a few points. Senator WHITEHOUSE and I recommended Mr. McConnell to the President after publicly seeking applicants, talking to attorneys throughout our State, interviewing almost every single applicant. We took this decision seriously, as you would expect. We know it is a reflection both upon ourselves and upon our State. From this pool of applicants we selected Mr. McConnell because we

found him to be among the best attorneys of the State, a pillar of our community, one of the most generous philanthropists in our State—and in most cases anonymously—and in many cases not simply writing a check but standing in a soup line early in the morning handing out food to people who need it, without acclaim, without fanfare. This is the character of the individual, and character, I think, ultimately is the test of a judge. He has a true desire to serve this country.

Indeed, Mr. McConnell has practiced law for decades. He has never been subject to an ethics claim, a malpractice claim, a rule 11 motion, and most importantly he has never had a motion for sanctions filed against him concerning his conduct in any litigation in which he has been involved. He has a spotless record.

Moreover, we selected Mr. McConnell because we knew, based upon all of his personal background, his sworn testimony, that he will follow the precedents of the law and of the First Circuit Court of Appeals and of the United States Supreme Court. This is not something we take lightly and it is not something Mr. McConnell takes lightly. We know and he knows that when you step upon the bench you assume huge responsibilities. You have to not only appear to be impartial, you have to in every word and deed go the extra mile to demonstrate that impartiality, that you are not favoring anyone. He is prepared to do that. In fact, I think that is part and parcel of the nature of this gentleman.

Now, we have to stop here and ask ourselves collectively, do we want to go ahead and take this step of cloture for district court nominees? Do we really want to add another front in the battle of partisan political “gotcha”? Do they really want to cast aside, for example, the blue slip process which allows Senators from a home State, particularly with a district judge, to say yea or nay? It is a process that has been in the Senate, in the informal culture of the Senate for years and years. Do they want to deny a nominee who has been reported out of committee on a bipartisan vote three times, not once, an up-or-down vote? I heard and I have heard for years—particularly under President Bush—many people coming to this floor and claiming everyone who is nominated and comes out of committee deserves an up-or-down vote, particularly a district court nominee, especially a district court nominee. So this is where we are poised—to reject all of them, to enter a new dimension of controversy and conflict in the Senate.

We have a long history in the Senate of precedents and tradition when it comes to nominations, particularly district court nominations. In my State, my predecessors, men such as John Chafee and Claiborne Pell and Lincoln Chafee and John Pastore, clearly adhered to those standards. And we have a record—a strong record