

THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, it is with pride and humility that I stand and thank my colleagues for passing S. 381 by unanimous consent last night. Once passed by the House and signed by the President, this bill will award Congressional Gold Medals to the surviving World War II heroes we know as the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders.

The effort to pass this measure has been a personal one to me. I thank 78 of my colleagues who have cosponsored the resolution. It proves the Senate can still reach consensus. I especially thank Senator BOOZMAN, who is my original Republican counterpart, in introducing this bill in February. Also, original cosponsors Senator MURRAY and BAUCUS and TESTER and NELSON and CANTWELL and SCHATZ—original cosponsors.

I wish Senator Lautenberg, also an original cosponsor and close personal friend, the last World War II veteran in the Senate, were here today to see its passage.

My special thanks to Senator CORNYN for his work on this and especially Senator AYOTTE. They have my personal thanks for helping to bring so many Republicans to sponsor this bill with us.

Many of you know the story of the Doolittle Raid. More than 71 years ago, following the attack of Pearl Harbor just 4 months earlier, 80 brave American airmen launched a mission that would become our Nation's first offensive action against Japanese soil in the Second World War. They volunteered for what was called an "extremely hazardous mission" without knowing at the time what it actually entailed. Under the leadership of LTC James Doolittle, the raid involved launching 16 U.S. Army Air Corps B-25 Mitchell bombers from the deck of the USS Hornet, a feat that had never been attempted in combat before.

On April 18, 1942, again just a few months after Pearl Harbor, 650 miles from its intended target, the Hornet encountered Japanese ships. Fearing the mission might be compromised, the raiders decided to launch 170 miles earlier than anticipated. These men accepted the risk that they might not have enough fuel to make it safely beyond Japanese-occupied China. The consequences meant the Raiders would almost certainly have to crash land or bail out, either above Japanese-occupied China or over the home islands of Japan. Any survivors would certainly be subjected to imprisonment or torture or death.

After reaching their targets, 15 of the bombers continued to China. The 16th, dangerously low on fuel, headed to Russia. The total distance traveled by the Raiders averaged 2,250 nautical miles over a period of 13 hours, making it the longest combat mission ever flown in a B-25 during the war. Of the 80 Raiders who launched that day, 8 were captured. Of those eight prisoners, three were executed, one died of

disease, and four survived as prisoners of war and returned home after the war.

The Doolittle Raid was a turning point for the Pacific theater and set the stage for Allied victory. Of the original 80 Raiders, 4 survive today. A Raider from Cincinnati, my home State, MAJ Tom Griffin, passed away on February 26 of this year, the very night I introduced S. 381. Major Griffin was the navigator of plane No.9, the Whirling Dervish, on the Doolittle Raid. He survived the mission and continued to fly until he was shot down in 1943 and held in a German POW camp for 2 years.

When the war ended, Major Griffin returned home to Cincinnati and later owned his own accounting business.

Similar to our veterans past and present, he asked for nothing. These veterans served simply because their Nation asked. For many years the surviving raiders gathered to celebrate the mission and to honor their departed fellow Raiders. This year's celebration was bittersweet. It was their final reunion, they decided. All the remaining Raiders are in their nineties and it is becoming hard for them to make the trip. It was decided this would be their final reunion.

This is an article, a story in the Plain Dealer in Cleveland, of the final reunion which took place in Dayton, OH. The three remaining survivors who could make the trip called out "here" as a historian read the rollcall. They then raised a goblet inscribed with their names and toasted their fellow Raiders with a bottle of 1896 Cognac, a bottle that Commander Jimmy Doolittle passed down for the Raiders' final toast. Seventy-six other goblets were turned upside down, one for each of the comrades who had passed away. Hundreds of people watched the solemn ceremony and offered their respects.

Speaker BOEHNER, whose district is nearby Dayton, OH, sent a letter in honor of the occasion.

In an Associated Press article on the ceremony, a 12-year-old boy whose grandparents brought him to the event said, "I felt like I owed them a few short hours of the thousands of hours I will be on this Earth."

This journey started 2 years ago for me when Brian Anderson, the Sergeant at Arms for the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Association, approached my office seeking a proclamation for the 70th anniversary of the raid. We achieved that goal, passing S. 418 in August 2012 by unanimous consent. But that was not enough for Brian. It was not enough to honor these men and what they had accomplished. We set our goal of awarding the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed by Congress, limited to two a year in this body, to the Raiders.

This honor is designated to those who "have performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized a major achievement in the

recipient's field long after the achievement."

These 80 veterans met that description. They exemplified our highest ideals of courage and service. They deserved to be recognized.

President Kennedy said "a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors and the men it remembers."

We, our Nation, honor those who serve. I call on the House and I call on the Speaker to quickly act on this legislation. Sitting in the Chamber today is a Senator from Texas, the senior Senator from Texas, who played a major role with Senator AYOTTE and others in gathering cosponsors for this Congressional Gold Medal. I thank Senator CORNYN for his work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to turn the compliment around and extend my appreciation to the Senator from Ohio Mr. BROWN for his leadership on this issue. This is long overdue to these great American patriots, the recognition they so justly earned.

FORT HOOD AND PURPLE HEARTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, 4 years ago an Islamic radical who identified with Al Qaeda and supported the cause of global jihad opened fire at Fort Hood Army base in Killeen, TX. The shooter eventually killed 12 soldiers and 1 civilian, while wounding 30 others. He might have killed or wounded many more but for the selflessness of a civilian physician's assistant by the name of Michael Cahill and an Army captain named John Gaffaney, both of whom charged the gunman and gave their lives in order to save the lives of others.

Four years later we continue to honor their tremendous sacrifice and we continue to honor the memories of all those who gave their lives or were injured on that awful day. Back in August, the Fort Hood shooter was sentenced to death for his crime and appropriately so. Let me be clear about what the nature of this crime was. This was not an ordinary criminal event. This was a terrorist attack, plain and simple, committed by a man who had reportedly had at least 20 different email communications with a senior Al Qaeda figure by the name of Anwar al-Awlaki. The late Mr. Awlaki, who was killed by a U.S. drone strike in September 2011, also had contacts, well documented, with the so-called Underwear Bomber, who tried to blow up Northwest Airlines flight 253 just 7 weeks after the massacre at Fort Hood.

Following the Fort Hood attack, Awlaki celebrated the shooter as a hero. He called him a hero. He also told Al Jazeera that prior to the attack, the gunman had specifically asked him whether Islamic law justified "killing U.S. soldiers and officers."

The Fort Hood shooter had repeatedly and unapologetically said that

these terrible atrocities which included execution-style murders were just part of the larger jihad against the West, which is why he shouted “Allahu Akbar” just before opening fire. The shooter has said that by slaughtering 13 Americans, including 12 uniformed military members and 1 civilian, he was defending “the Islamic Empire” and “helping my Muslim brothers.”

In short, the Fort Hood massacre was not an episode of workplace violence. This was a terrorist attack inspired by terrorist propaganda and carried out by someone who was an agent of Al Qaeda and viewed himself as an Al Qaeda holy warrior.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Government so far has refused to give the kind of recognition that is deserved to the 12 uniformed servicemembers who gave their lives, and those who were injured on that terrible day. Part of that recognition should include Purple Hearts to the soldiers who lost their lives that day, and not given the civilian equivalent, the Medal for the Defense of Freedom, to Michael Cahill.

In other words, the U.S. Government’s official position is that this is not a terrorist attack on our own soil but instead is an ordinary criminal attack. That cannot stand. We cannot denigrate the service of those military members who lost their lives that day—and civilian hero Michael Cahill who lost his life—by saying that this is somehow workplace violence or some ordinary criminal attack. We need to officially recognize that this was a terrorist attack inspired by Al Qaeda and carried out by an agent of Al Qaeda on our own soil.

Some will tell you that Purple Hearts can be awarded to victims of a terrorist attack only if the perpetrators of that attack were acting under the direction of a foreign terrorist organization. In their view, the Fort Hood shooter does not qualify. This argument fails to take into account the evolving nature of the conflict—the global war on terrorism.

After all, Al Qaeda leader al-Zawahiri has urged his followers to conduct exactly the kind of deadly attacks that occurred at Fort Hood in 2009 and at the Boston Marathon in 2013. Al-Zawahiri believes that such “dispersed,” small-scale attacks will “keep America in a state of tension and anticipation.”

As he declared a few months ago, “These dispersed strikes can be carried out by one brother, or a small number of brothers.” In other words, it doesn’t make sense to distinguish so-called lone wolf terrorists acting on behalf of Al Qaeda from other terrorists with a more explicit Al Qaeda affiliation.

Remember, Al Qaeda doesn’t issue business or calling cards, and it doesn’t issue its staff IDs. What it does do is urge Islamic radicals around the world to pick up arms and kill Americans, and that is what Major Hasan did that terrible day 4 years ago at Fort Hood in Killeen, TX. For that matter, Al

Qaeda views American soil as a primary battleground in its war against western civilization.

When courageous members of our military lose their lives to Al Qaeda-inspired terrorists, whether it is abroad or here at home, they deserve to receive Purple Hearts, and their grieving families deserve to receive the proper benefits accorded to all men and women in our military who lose their lives in service to their country.

It should not matter whether they lose their lives in America—whether it is in New York on 9/11 or Killeen, TX, 4 years ago—or on the battlefield in Afghanistan. It should not make any difference where they lose their life as part of the effort to protect innocent life in the war on terrorism. If they are killed by a terrorist committing violence on behalf of foreign jihadists, then they are casualties in the broader war on terrorism, and they deserve to be treated as such.

Earlier this year I introduced legislation that would make the Fort Hood victims eligible for all of the honors and benefits available to their fellow U.S. servicemembers serving overseas in combat zones. My cosponsors in the House are Representatives CARTER and WILLIAMS, and they have numerous cosponsors. Today I am offering a modified version of that legislation as an amendment to the Defense authorization bill. By enacting this amendment, Congress would honor the memories of those who lost their lives at Fort Hood, and it would help their surviving family members, all of whom, as you can imagine, have experienced tremendous pain and hardship as a result of this terrorist act on our own soil 4 years ago in Fort Hood, Killeen, TX, at the hands of MAJ Nidal Hasan, an agent of Al Qaeda, to be sure, and someone who deserves the penalty of death that has been meted out by a military jury a few weeks ago.

I hope the Senate will rise up in a bipartisan way and pass this important legislation and erase these meaningless distinctions which differentiate between those who lose their lives in Afghanistan and those who lose their lives here on American soil. It is a just and well-deserved honor that these patriots have earned by their own blood, and these families deserve as a way of ameliorating some of the terrible loss they have suffered in their own service to our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the legislation before us, the National Defense Authorization Act, and to highlight some of the many provisions in this legislation that are critical as we think about our national security and the future of our military. I chair the Readiness and Management

Subcommittee, and I understand that one of the chief challenges which faces our military is readiness. The effects of nearly 10 years of warfare on our equipment and personnel, coupled with the sharp budget reductions under sequestration, have made it more difficult for our Nation’s military leaders to prepare our forces for combat.

During our markup of the Readiness and Management Subcommittee sections of this bill, I was pleased to work with my colleague from New Hampshire, the ranking member of the Readiness and Management Subcommittee Senator AYOTTE to move more than \$1.5 billion from low-priority military construction projects into critical operations and maintenance accounts for each of our military services. This move will help mitigate the worst effects of sequestration on readiness. It is obviously not going to address the whole problem. We have a lot more work to do. Our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line for us, and we need to keep the commitment we have made that they should have the best possible training and best available equipment before we send them into combat.

I was also pleased to work with Senators MCCAIN, LEAHY, and GRASSLEY to include a 1-year extension of the special immigrant visa programs for both Iraq and Afghanistan. Special immigrant visas allow Afghans and Iraqis who worked directly with our U.S. Government and our men and women on the ground to come to the United States if their lives are in danger as a result of their service. We have heard countless stories of how these young brave men and women risked their lives to help the United States drive out violent extremists from their home countries of Iraq and Afghanistan. As we wind down our military operations, we have a responsibility to ensure that those who are in danger as a result of their faithful service to the United States are protected from harm.

Many of us are now familiar with one of these stories that has been much publicized, the story of U.S. soldier Matt Zeller and his Afghan interpreter Janis Shinwari, who served the U.S. Government for over 9 years in Afghanistan. During an attack in 2009, Shinwari not only pulled Zeller out of a kill zone to safety, he also shot two members of the Taliban who were sneaking up behind them. In doing that, he saved Zeller’s life. Following the incident, Shinwari was put on a Taliban kill list.

After many months—really years—of waiting, both Zeller and Shinwari recently reunited here in the United States thanks to this special immigrant visa program. I had the opportunity, with Senator MCCAIN, to meet the two of them in my office several weeks ago. Matt Zeller said that Janis Shinwari is his brother. He expressed how grateful he was to Shinwari for saving not only his life but all of the other members of his unit who were helped by Shinwari.