

upon himself, the U.S. Navy, and the Department of Defense.

For nearly 40 years, Admiral Winnefeld has performed his duty professionally, honestly, and with great dedication. Our Nation will miss his leadership and expertise. We wish him and his family all the best as he moves to the next phase of his life. Personally, I want to thank Admiral Winnefeld and say job well done, God bless, and Godspeed.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### NEW HORIZONS PLUTO MISSION

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, 46 years ago yesterday, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first people to walk on the Moon.

September will bring the 53rd anniversary of President Kennedy's speech that launched America on the quest to land them on the Moon. He set that goal for the country not because it was easy but because it was hard. I am here to congratulate the men and women of the New Horizons mission for making the hard work of sending a spacecraft to Pluto look easy.

One week ago today, what had once been a fuzzy picture of Pluto came into sharp focus. Dramatic transformations inspire everyone. As you can see, NASA delivered an amazing before-and-after story. Until the New Horizons flyby, the best picture we had of Pluto offered little detail of our neighbor at the edge of the solar system, but now we can see distinct features on its surface, including something that looks like a heart. Who couldn't love that. Thank you for this great picture.

It took the New Horizons spacecraft 9½ years to cross the 3 billion miles between Pluto and Earth, but it was a mission much longer in the making.

In the late 1980s, a group of scientists came together to advocate for sending a spacecraft to the edge of the solar system. Such a mission would tell us more about Pluto and once again push back the edge of the known frontier. Many of those scientists are still involved with the New Horizons mission, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's own Richard Binzel.

While these scientists pushed to get the green light for the mission, it was only achieved by the partnership between NASA, some of our best U.S. universities and the aerospace industry, and the hard work and innovation of their scientists, engineers, and staff.

From just the initial information returned this week, scientists have to rethink what they thought they knew about Pluto, its Moons, and its space environment. Images came back of

mountains of frozen water as high as the Rocky Mountains on Pluto. On its Moon Charon, we can now see deep canyons and a row of cliffs and troughs stretching 600 miles, as far as from Washington, DC, to Atlanta.

Instruments on the New Horizons probe confirm that the Pluto system contains a large amount of frozen water. That is an essential building block of life. One thing scientists didn't see—many of the meteorite impact craters—suggests that Pluto was geologically active relatively recently.

The voyage of discovery from the flyby will continue for years to come. Not only will scientists learn more, but they will also train the next generation of planetary scientists. I am proud the youngest member of the New Horizons team is Alissa Earle, a graduate student at MIT.

The New Horizons team is following in the great American exploration tradition. They are pushing back the boundaries of geography, knowledge, and technology. In doing so, they are inspiring the world. No matter what you think of the classification of Pluto as a dwarf planet, we can all agree that the New Horizons mission is already a massive achievement.

I look forward to the further revelations it will bring as its data streams back to Earth and it travels to the far edges of our solar system.

Finally, I would like to note that in the same week of taking us to Pluto, NASA also commenced the continuous monitoring of the Sun and the Earth—the only home humans have known thus far. I hope the events of this past week confirm the importance of using all of NASA's tools to further the exploration of our solar system and universe and better understand our own planet as well.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### HONORING THE LIVES OF FIVE AMERICAN HEROES

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I am here with our senior Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER to speak on something very tragic that occurred in our State and in my hometown.

I rise to honor the lives of five American heroes—the five American heroes we honor today with the lowering of the flags here at the U.S. Capitol. Our community is heartbroken, as has been said many times, our State is heartbroken, and I believe our Nation is heartbroken that these outstanding young men died in the way they did, but we honor their lives. We mourn

their loss. We think of the greatness they embodied: Thomas Sullivan, David Wyatt, Carson Holmquist, Skip Wells, and Randall Smith.

I think as the Nation has learned about these individuals carrying out what many would consider to be mundane activities in support of our U.S. military, those who protect us, they understand the greatness they symbolized, most of them having served in Afghanistan and Iraq and some of them younger, beginning their careers, but all having excellent backgrounds and exemplifying the very best America has to offer.

Our Nation mourns, our community mourns, and we have lost five of our greatest. Also, hospitalized in Chattanooga today is a young man named Dennis Pedigo, whose mother and father both served on the Chattanooga Police Department, and he has followed in their footsteps.

I think people have heard all around our country the tremendous heroism that was exemplified by the Chattanooga Police Department, which rushed at the assailant and brought him to his end—by the way, trained to do so, trained to go at them. This was not a SWAT team, but these were patrol squads that were trained to deal with this kind of situation and no doubt saved the lives of other people in doing so. So we honor them. We honor all of them. We celebrate them. As a community we have been harmed, and our community has prayed.

We had a vigil on Friday night that was extraordinary. Senator ALEXANDER was there with our Governor, our mayor, county officials, and others. It was an extraordinary time of our community coming together around what has happened.

I do believe that what people all over the country and the world have heard about "Chattanooga strong" is true, and I think our community will be even stronger because of what has happened, and our Nation must understand where we are in the world and that these types of activities will possibly continue.

I had a very good conversation on Friday with the Pentagon to talk about what they are doing. I know threat activity has been rising for some time, and they are looking at what needs to be done to ensure this doesn't happen again.

I had a very good conversation this morning with Senator MCCAIN, who I know is leading efforts with House Members to figure out if there is a way to add something to the NDAA, a piece of legislation that we can deal with very quickly here so we can make sure we have policies to protect lives.

Our community is praying for these individuals. It is my hope that we will put policies in place to ensure we appropriately protect these individuals.

In addition to that, there are tangible things we can do. I know that when something like this happens,