

evening, heat all around the house caused the building to issue a cloud of steam.

From about 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Posey, working frantically and alone, scrambled about his property dousing thumb-sized embers with a bucket.

Flames burned a hole in the wall of a barn about 50 feet from his home before Posey extinguished the flare-up.

Several times during the night, he said, he had to drop to the ground to gulp air. And once during the evening, a wild-eyed doe charged out of the burning forest and crashed into him.

Posey said he refused three requests by local authorities to evacuate but sent his wife and two neighbors off Thursday evening. The goodbye became emotional when Posey told his wife of 47 years, Carol, to take his dog, a blue heeler named Ugly, with her.

"I was just just wondering if I would ever see him alive again." Carol Posey said Sunday, noting that she left her home with nothing but medicine and her pets. "It was a scary time, I tell you what. You didn't have time to think. You didn't have time to do anything."

Alton Posey recounted their goodbye: "I said, 'Don't you fret. This is the kind of hand I can play. I had a good supply of water, a good pressure pump, and my old coat.'"

Meanwhile, the 8,650-acre Cree Fire east of Ruidoso was 94 percent contained as of early Sunday, and a single helicopter doused hot spots. The fire is expected to be under control by Wednesday.

EXHIBIT 2

TOWN FULL OF STORIES AFTER FIRE (By Chaka Ferguson)

WEED, N.M.—Under a blue sky, with a row of apple trees serving as an outdoor wedding chapel, newlyweds Chris Mydock and Kendra Goss-Mydock proved why this mountain community, population 20, is known to some of its residents as a town of 100 stories.

Two days earlier, a raging wild-fire ripped through the Sacramento Mountains, burning at least two dozen buildings about a mile from where the Mydocks consecrated their wedding Saturday. When they took their vows, an evacuation order was still in effect.

In the background, wisps of white smoke rose from the hills. A helicopter hovered above, prepared to drop water on remaining hot spots. Firefighters milled around, awaiting orders.

But like life in this resilient community, the wedding went on.

"The pastor called us yesterday and asked us if we're still on, and we said, 'Yep, we're still on,'" said Goss-Mydock, 31, a lifelong resident of Weed, as she posed for pictures with her new husband before a sign that read "Weed: pop, 20".

The communities that dot the Southern New Mexico mountains have pulled together since a wild-fire erupted in a nearby canyon Thursday and spread to more than 20,000 acres, rivaling the bigger blaze in the north that scorched Los Alamos.

The Mydocks wanted to share their wedding with the community to help heal some of the pain caused by the fire's destruction.

"The people are really close to each other; it's like one big family here. Everybody cares about everybody else," Goss-Mydock said.

The preacher and his wife, who served as the witness, attended the wedding. The Mydocks then had their reception down a dirt road that bisects the community with patrons of the Weed Cafe, a gathering place for residents seeking news on the fire.

The family-run restaurant which also houses the community's post office, stayed open during the tense days and nights of the fire and the following evacuation, donating food and other provisions to firefighters and

evacuees. Some residents ignored the evacuation and stayed put, others took up residence with friends or relatives.

"I stayed open to supply hot coffee to the people and provide telephones," said Gary Stone, 45, who lives several miles down the road in Miller Flats. "I was making sure the coffee was on and the doors were open."

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:16 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

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

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

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Continued

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this weekend an estimated 750,000 mothers, fathers, and children united for the Million Mom March here in the District. These women and men took the first step toward ending the epidemic of gun violence in our country.

Certainly, Congress needs to take the next step. It is intolerable that commonsense gun safety legislation is stalled in a conference committee that has not met since August 5 of 1999. Twelve kids die a day from gun violence and we do nothing. We have more safety regulations for toy guns than for real guns, and we do nothing. We have watched children shot in schools and day-care centers, but still we do nothing.

Yesterday, the Democratic Policy Committee held a hearing with mothers from the Million Mom March. At the hearing, I heard stories that I must say will haunt me for a long time. I listened to a kindergarten schoolteacher talk about her horror when one of her seemingly innocent students, a kindergartner, brought a gun to school to kill a classmate. She remains afraid to teach and afraid for her students.

I listened to the mother of an aspiring high school graduate who was gunned down in front of his girlfriend's home while unloading groceries. As she talked about her loss, and demanded Congress act, she said simply:

I don't want this to happen to any other mother, father, sister or brother. I don't want anyone else to suffer like this.

I listened to a mother whose oldest son was shot and killed by a neighbor in a sleepy town in California. She told us:

I came to the District to protect my son, Brandon, from gun violence because he is the only child that I have left.

I ask my colleagues, what else will it take for us to act to stem this domestic war of violence that is infecting every city and county in our beloved country? We cannot wait any longer for the juvenile justice conference to meet and act.

I was disappointed by comments made by the National Rifle Association when asked whether all of this effort, 750,000 people coming to Washington as peacefully as any group I have ever seen come, organized in a respectful way, telling their stories, as tragic as they are, with the courage that I don't think I personally could muster, the personal stories of lost sons and daughters, mothers and fathers—the NRA was asked the question, Will this translate to political power? Their answer:

It's one thing to say it. It's another thing to do it.

They understand political power. They have it. But I do think that is changing. The landscape is changing, and it is changing dramatically. As a South Dakotan who has been raised with guns all my life, who is proud to be a hunter—I have many guns myself—I will say without equivocation that it, too, is even changing in my home State.

Given the fact it has now been more than a year, given the fact that we have not yet acted, given the fact that we ought to respond to all those people who came to Washington with their courage and with what few pennies they had to pay for their trips, I ask unanimous consent that no rule XVI point of order lie against any gun-related amendment to the military construction appropriations. This would apply to Republican or Democratic amendments.

Mr. BURNS. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

AMENDMENT NO. 3148

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I, therefore, send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] proposes an amendment numbered 3148.

At the appropriate place add the following:

Since Mother's Day, May 14, 2000, an estimated 750,000 mothers, fathers, and children united for the Million Mom March on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and were joined by tens of thousands of others, in 70 cities across America, in a call for meaningful, common-sense gun policy;

Since 4,223 young people ages 19 and under were killed by gunfire—one every two hours, nearly 12 young people every day—in the United States in 1977;

Since American children under the age of 15 are 12 times more likely to die from gunfire than children in 25 other industrialized countries combined;