

tragedy, a reality has emerged: America is still strong and, because of this tragedy, America ultimately will be even stronger.

There is no firmer support for this belief than the way in which Americans have worked, as directed by our Commander-in-Chief, to get back to the demands of our daily schedules. The best civilian offense in the aftermath of these attacks is not to cower to fears of future attacks, but instead to quickly 'get back on the job' and resume our routines. To that end, our nation has been constructing an effective and forceful civilian offense. But we can still do more.

I have come to the floor today to encourage the continuation of debate—specifically here in the Senate—on issues critical to our national security. A return to such a dialogue should not be frowned upon or considered as a sign of splintered resolve, but rather as proof that America and her values are alive and well.

I commend President Bush and his advisors for their efforts thus far in preparing our minds and our military for the long battle we've undertaken. Our leaders, both civil and military, have built a coalition of nations sharing in our objective to thwart terrorist activity around the globe. We've sent a clear message to our friends, and they have responded with strong support.

And just this morning, we've communicated another message. By announcing our intent to reopen National Airport, we're telling not only friends, but the whole world, that we Americans will not live in fear within our own borders. I am pleased with President Bush's announcement. Now that added security measures have been implemented, I agree with him: It's time to unlock the symbolic front door to our nation's capital and re-affirm our commitment to get back to business.

That determination to get back to business is evident, not just at National, but at airports across the country. We have increased security measures at all airports, which in turn, have increased our sense that freedom has triumphed fear.

It's important to recognize, though, that the lack of convenience resulting from increased security measures cannot, and should not, be misconstrued as a loss of liberty. Let us not confuse the longer lines at airports and the time-consuming luggage screenings as threats to liberty; instead, consider these measures as threats to terrorism.

We are witnessing America's most important moment, and we are meeting the challenge with dignity and pride. With the events of September 11, tyranny has tried to mute the freedom that rings throughout our nation. We have defeated similar efforts in the past, and we will defeat them again. As long as we stand unified and stand strong, our spirit will never be silenced.

The solidarity shown at the different levels of government of the past few

weeks, within the various agencies, and across party lines has been unwavering. Here in the Senate, we swiftly approved legislation to provide \$40 billion toward the recovery effort and to help finance the retaliation measures currently being developed by the U.S. Military under the direction of the President. In addition, we approved a resolution authorizing the use of force in response to the unwarranted attacks. Without question, this unity is an extraordinary asset for a country poised to wage an assault on terrorism.

A few weeks ago, at Yankee Stadium in New York, and earlier at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, thousands of people—Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Christians—people of all faiths—came together and honored and remembered the fallen heroes, the innocent lives, and the bright futures claimed by terrorism. At these services, and at services across the country and in my home state of Nebraska, people revived their spirits and their faith in democracy.

These gatherings are visual displays of unity signaling that America is on the mend. Sure, for some of us, it may not ever feel like 'business as usual' again, or at least for awhile, life in America may feel more like business as 'unusual.' Nonetheless, it is important for we policymakers to get back to work, including debate and discussion of all these issues. Such action will help ensure the continued viability of democracy and the continued vitality of the United States of America. After all, lockstep agreement among policymakers is not an American ideal. The free exchange of ideas, which helped America flourish, was the terrorists' true target on September 11. The terrorists, who likely don't even understand the true meaning of freedom, loathe America's system of government, her ideals and her liberty.

In response, we must show the world how the American government will carry on, that the people will continue to have their say, and that debate will still be the prelude to unity—and not the construct of obstruction.

To be clear, I am not saying we, as a nation, will no longer be unified in this effort to combat terrorism. I am simply saying that we all need to actively participate in developing, not simply rubber-stamping, policy.

As a legislative body, we can return to the comparatively mundane and, consequently, more polarizing issues without losing sight of our resolve to fight terrorism. By doing so, we will not have swayed our national values to placate forces of evil.

Yes, in times of tragedy, it is imperative to find a common bond to bring our nation together. But, as we heal our wounds, we must give all people, on all sides of an issue, a chance to be heard. After all, democracy is the healthiest alternative to war. Our weapons are words, and our nation's internal battles are fought on the grounds of the Constitution, rather

than on the grounds of the combat zone.

I do not believe in the bitter partisanship that has, at times, characterized our nation, but I do believe that debate is critical to a strong democracy. Freedom of expression is fundamental to life in America and, by extension, to healthy debate here in Congress. We in the Senate are free to speak our minds and hearts. And as a result of that freedom, we need to freely come together and return to 'normal' debate empowered by the Constitution. Then, and only then, we will have successfully given back to the country that has given so much to each of us.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MAJOR GENERAL EDWARD SORIANO

● Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, I rise today to honor a great military leader, MG Edward Soriano, the outgoing commanding general of 7th Infantry and Fort Carson, CO. Major General Campbell will assume command and General Soriano will be moving on to greater responsibilities. As he and his wife Vivian depart Ft. Carson, they leave with a record of outstanding public service and numerous significant accomplishments.

Among these accomplishments is the Army's first housing privatization project. This project has been a major success, is ahead of schedule, and is now a model for military installations throughout the country. Additionally, General Soriano has overseen numerous successful deployments of units, including the deployment of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment to Bosnia. Now, as our military forces conduct the war on terrorism, it is evident that the service members and their families of Ft. Carson will benefit greatly from his work.

His efforts to improve the readiness and capability of Ft. Carson and its units has met with great success and will have a long lasting and significant positive impact on the soldiers and civilians who live and work there. Furthermore he has ensured that Ft. Carson will provide our President and Secretary of Defense a first class platform from which to deploy military power.

General Soriano has done his excellent work on the facilities at Ft. Carson, despite funding shortfalls. His most significant achievement, however, has been in preparing the war fighting capability of its people. The soldiers and civilians at Ft. Carson are among the best in the Army, and are proven performers. Any venture managed by the men and women of "The Mountain Post" will certainly meet with success.

Finally, General Soriano and his wife have developed and nurtured an outstanding working relationship with the people of Colorado Springs, surrounding local communities, and the

nearby Air Force Bases. They will be sorely missed, but they leave an organization committed to the pursuit of excellence. I wish him good luck and God speed.●

COMMENDING WILLIAM F.
HOFMAN

● Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I welcome this opportunity to commend a distinguished citizen of Massachusetts, William F. Hofmann III of Belmont, who is now completing his highly successful term as president of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents of America.

Bill is partner in Provider Insurance Group, which has offices in Belmont, Brookline and Needham in Massachusetts, and his career has long been notable for his outstanding contributions, and dedication to his community and his profession.

Bill began his service in the insurance industry with the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents where he served as president. He also served the State as its representative on the national board of the Independent Insurance Agents of America.

Bill was elected to IIAA's Executive Committee in 1995, and became its president last fall. He has worked effectively through the IIAA to strengthen the competitive standing of independent insurance agents by helping to provide the support they need to run more successful businesses. He served as chairman of IIAA's Education Committee for four years, and in 1994 he received a Presidential Citation for his work in this area.

For many years, Bill has also been an active and concerned member of his community. He served as president and as a member the Board of Directors for the Boston Children's Service, and has been active in the Belmont Youth Basketball program. He served as chairman of the Belmont Red Cross, and as treasurer for the Belmont Religious Council. Bill is an elected town meeting member, finance committee member, and registrar of voters in Belmont.

I commend Bill for his leadership in all these aspects of his brilliant career, and I know he will continue his service to our community in the years ahead. Massachusetts is proud of him for all he has done so well.●

THE STATE OF IDAHO'S PROCLAMATION OF WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a proclamation signed by the Governor of the State of Idaho.

Rapid population growth and urbanization have become catalysts for many serious environmental impacts and they apply substantial pressures on many facets of our infrastructure. These pressures often result in transportation, health, sanitation, and pub-

lic safety problems, making urbanization an issue that cannot be ignored.

It is, therefore, important for us to recognize the problems associated with rapid population growth and urbanization. The Governor of the State of Idaho has proclaimed the week of October 21–27, 2001, as World Population Awareness Week in my State. I would like to commend the Governor for his commitment to this issue.

I ask that the proclamation be printed in the RECORD.

The proclamation follows:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the world population stands today at more than 6.1 billion and increases by some one billion every 13 years; and

Whereas, the most significant feature of the 20th century phenomenon of unprecedented world population growth was rapid urbanization; and

Whereas, cities and urban areas today occupy only 2% of the earth's land, but contain 50% of its population and consume 75% of its resources; and

Whereas, the most rapid urban growth over the next two decades is expected in cities with populations ranging from 250,000 to one million; and

Whereas, along with the advantages and amenities, the rapid growth of cities leads to substantial pressure on their infrastructure, manifested in security, health and crime problems, as well as deterring the provision of basic social services; and

Whereas, in the interest of national and environmental security, nations must redouble voluntary and humanitarian efforts to stabilize their population growth at sustainable levels, while at all times respecting the cultural and religious beliefs and values of their citizens; and

Whereas, World Population Awareness Week was proclaimed last year by Governors of 32 states, as well as Mayors of more than 315 United States cities, and co-sponsored by 231 organizations in 63 countries; and

Whereas, the theme of World Population Awareness Week in 2001 is "Population and the Urban Future";

Now Therefore, I, Dirk Kempthorne, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim the week of October 21 through 27, 2001, to be World Population Awareness Week in Idaho and urge all citizens of our state to take cognizance of this event and to participate appropriately in its observance.●

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I rise today to alert my colleagues that October is Spina Bifida Awareness month.

Many Americans don't know much about Spina Bifida. For instance, most don't know Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect and occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of a child's development in the womb. Even fewer Americans realize that the most severe form of Spina Bifida occurs in 96 percent of children born with this disease. However, thanks to the good work that the Spina Bifida Association of America is carrying out to promote the prevention of Spina Bifida and to enhance the lives of all affected by this condition, we are all learning more every day.

During the month of October the Association makes a special push to increase public awareness about Spina Bifida, and future parents about prevention. Simply by taking a daily dose of the B vitamin, folic acid, found in most multivitamins women of child-bearing age have the power to reduce the incidence of Spina Bifida by up to 75 percent. That such a simple change in habit can have such a profound effect should leave no question as to the importance of awareness.

However, awareness is not the only important work done by the Spina Bifida Association of America. The Association was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the Spina Bifida community and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. There are more than 60 chapters serving over 100 communities nationwide.

One such chapter in Wichita, KS, was started by Tammy and Tim Wolke. Tammy and Tim have four children, two of whom are adopted. Not only do these heroic parents care for one child born with Spina Bifida, but also a child with cerebral palsy. But caring for their own children just hasn't been enough to keep Tammy and Tim busy. So, in their "free time," the Wolkes have developed and cultivated a chapter of the Spina Bifida Association of America which serves about 200 families in their part of Kansas.

As we discuss the wonderful work of the Spina Bifida Association of America and the Wolkes, I would be remiss if I failed to mention another great Kansan. In 1988, the Association established a scholarship fund to enhance opportunities for individuals with Spina Bifida to achieve their full potential through higher education. This year's four year scholarship of \$20,000 was recently awarded to Jennifer Maxton of Derby, KS. Thanks to this scholarship, Jennifer will be able to attend the school of her dreams at the University of Kansas. Jennifer is a truly amazing person who wants to become a pediatric surgeon and study abroad in Nepal. As if those goals weren't lofty enough, Jennifer hopes to some day climb Mount Everest. Jennifer wants to improve the lives of others who have not been as fortunate as she. This scholarship will start her down this path. I wish her the best of luck as she begins her academic life this fall as a Jayhawk.

I would also be remiss if I failed to mention that this evening, the Spina Bifida Association of America will be holding its 13th annual event to benefit the Association and its work in local communities around the country. Washington Post Sports columnist, Tony Kornheiser will be roasted at this event by a number of distinguished members of the Washington community, including our Congressional colleagues Senator CLINTON and Representative STEVE LARGENT. I regret that I will be unable to join my friends