

We are beyond meeting, I believe, when it comes to this particular amendment. Flexibility is important and making sure that what we do in terms of this legislation is that we not adversely impact job security for national security, and certainly not unintentionally.

The White House has made it clear they have no plans to go in and make major wholesale changes. I take them at their word. I think if that is the case—and I take them at their word—then we ought to find, if not this language, some language that will permit us to close the gap to move this forward. If, in fact, it is everybody's plan to achieve a result here, then I think we can achieve one.

I truly believe it is important to the national interest to be able to deal with the personnel flexibility of the President. There is no question he needs to have the capacity to hire and fire, to promote and demote, and do what is in the best interests. There is no question about that. And adding that there be some requirement regarding the changing of authority or the changing of position in mission of the personnel is a slight adjustment. It certainly is not any kind of major intrusion on the Presidential authority.

To include the Morella language, in terms of flexibility, simply adds to that. I hope we will be able to move beyond meetings to closing the gap, bridging this debate so it brings about the best result that we can, not simply for the White House but for the people of this great country. This should not be about Republicans or Democrats. It should not be about the legislative branch or the executive branch. It ought to be about what is in the best interest, the national interest of our people, and for those who share the same desire for freedom and are struggling to achieve it in other parts of the world.

We have a great responsibility to the American people, but we also have a responsibility that is now being questioned and challenged around the world. One of the best ways for us to begin to resolve these issues is to take care of business at home. I cannot think of a better way than to adopt this amendment so we can adopt the Gramm-Miller proposal and move forward for national defense and our own homeland security.

Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to speak, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF HOLLY LADAY JOHNSTON RICHARDSON

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, early this morning, I lost one of my closest friends and staff members, Holly Johnston Richardson, who succumbed after a difficult battle with cancer. For nearly 30 years, she was a member of my extended family in every sense of the word. She was my right hand. My trusted advisor. My vital link to literally thousands of South Carolina friends, constituents, and family members.

But more than anything else, Mr. President, Holly Richardson was one of my dearest friends, and I will miss her more than words can convey.

To her husband, Phil, to her two wonderful children, Anne and Emmett, and to Holly's mother and father, Joanne and Coy Johnston of Summerville, South Carolina. I extend my heartfelt sympathies. I know my colleagues—so many of whom knew Holly very well—join me in expressing their support and offering their prayers during this very difficult time.

But it is Holly Richardson's life, and the courage she demonstrated throughout her illness, that is most on my mind today. I know I speak for everyone who knew and loved Holly as I did in saying that we deeply mourn her passing, and yet celebrate her wonderful life, a life dedicated to God, to her family, to her fellow man, and to her State and Nation.

Like all trusted staff members, Holly Richardson had my ear. What she probably never knew fully is that she also had my heart. On a personal level, she was—for my entire family—an unofficial "third daughter." Our confidant. Our friend. Our partner in so many aspects of our lives.

On a professional level, Holly and I were virtually inseparable. As anyone who has ever visited my Senate office knows, Holly's desk was always next to mine. We shared an office ever since she became my personal secretary in 1979. She could always be counted upon to work the longest hours, to handle the toughest jobs, and to render even-handed advice and counsel.

In fact, it was Holly who quietly bragged that she had broken in more than eight chiefs of staffs, five or six office press secretaries, eight committee chief counsels, and literally hundreds of staff assistants, aides and interns. She was, of course, correct. Holly was "the standard" when it came to professionalism, hard work, integrity and public service in a United States Senate office.

It is not an exaggeration to say that "everyone" knew Holly. Whether you were from South Carolina, or were a Washington, D.C. fixture, if you were around politics, you knew, and you came to love, Holly Richardson. From Presidents and First Ladies, to Senators and their spouses, to everyday working men and women who would call my office, Holly was beloved at every level of life.

Single-minded. Fiercely independent. Loyal and dedicated. She had the personal qualities that define what President Theodore Roosevelt once called the "courageous life."

But it was not until she was diagnosed with breast cancer less than a year ago, that people came to see just how courageous an individual Holly Richardson actually was.

Holly never wore her illness on her sleeve. She never asked you to feel sorry for her, share her burden, or wallow in her pity. In fact, few people outside of the office even knew Holly was sick. The reason was, of course, that she didn't feel sorry for herself. Holly summoned the courage of a warrior to fight her disease. And with quiet dignity and the help of the Almighty, she fought as bravely as any soldier I have ever known.

Her dedication to work, and to the people of South Carolina—whom she considered her "real bosses"—paled only to her devotion as a wife and a mother. Holly always made time for what was truly important in life. She and her husband Phil together built a loving home and were blessed with two wonderful children. She was an active member of her parish, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, in Virginia, and managed to make time to be scout helper, soccer Mom and, above all, role model.

Holly's life was truly a gift, which she shared without reservation with everyone she knew and loved. That gift now lives on in all of us—for she inspired our lives, strengthened our spirits, and touched our hearts.

VALUE OF PUBLIC LANDS, NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2002

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, last Saturday was National Public Lands Day. It was a time for volunteers in states and communities across the country to give something back to America's public lands. National Public Lands Day is the largest grassroots, volunteer effort mounted on behalf of America's public parks, rivers, lakes, forest, rangelands, and beaches.

This year's National Public Lands Day theme was "Explore America's Backyard," recognizing that many volunteers go to nearby public lands for recreation and to enjoy the outdoors. These volunteers will put in a day of real work on needed projects ranging from trail construction and repairs to habitat restoration to making public lands more accessible for disabled visitors.

This year's signature event was held at Anacostia Park in Washington, D.C. where over 400 volunteers cleared brush, removed trash and debris, planted trees and grasses, and constructed benches and boardwalk trails. These volunteers were joined by key dignitaries: Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, the current Miss USA, Shauntay Hinton, National Park Service Director Fran Mainella, Forest