

of courage and steadfast character remain timeless and valuable commodities for an age in which our Nation faces considerable new threats.

Today, not unlike 227 years ago, the importance of our Marine Corps is immutable. The razor-sharp readiness of the U.S. Marine Corps reassures our friends and warns our enemies, promising swift action, decisive victories and a firm adherence to tradition.

As our U.S. Marine Corps celebrates another anniversary of its proud birth on November 10th, 1775 in Philadelphia's Tun Tavern, I stand with my colleagues in the Senate in saluting all who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor, and to their families who also serve by supporting them.

RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, we convene again today after a national holiday set aside to honor one of America's greatest treasures, its veterans.

This important holiday, originally called Armistice Day, began as a commemoration of the historic ending of World War I at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. Armistice Day became primarily a day of remembrance for those who served during World War I; indeed, Americans hoped World War I would be "the war to end all wars."

Then, during World War II, 16 million Americans again answered the call to service on behalf of our Nation. After the war ended, Americans saw the need to honor all those who served in the United States Armed Forces, during times of war and peace, and through all periods of our history. On June 1, 1954, Armistice Day became Veterans Day.

I know that many of my colleagues joined me yesterday in taking the Veterans Day holiday to celebrate the soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who wore this Nation's uniform and served honorably. That is a start, but we must do more.

As the crisis with Iraq heightens, it is especially appropriate to make certain that we keep the promise of care and support made to young men and women who made great sacrifices on behalf of this Nation. We must remember the pledge of Abraham Lincoln, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." As Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have fought hard for improvements in benefits and services for our Nation's veterans. We have made progress in fulfilling Abraham Lincoln's pledge this year, but we must never waiver in our commitment to provide our veterans with benefits and services that reflect their changing needs.

For example, our Nation's rapidly aging veterans have a critical need for long-term care. There can be no doubt that such care requires great resources, but it is our responsibility to answer

the call to provide a continuum of quality health care for veterans, as they once answered the call to preserve our freedoms.

I am honored to represent the State of West Virginia, which has one of the highest veteran populations per capita of any State. The service of the over 202,000 living West Virginia veterans inspires me each day in my role as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where I have the privilege to serve not only the veterans of West Virginia, but those living throughout this Nation.

America's 25 million living veterans deserve to be honored and respected every day, and not merely on the national holiday set aside for the commemoration of their service. It would be shameful if veterans were made to feel forgotten every day except for this one day each year. There should be no ambivalence toward those who have served our Nation in the armed forces.

I urge my colleagues to join me, not only to remember the sacrifices of our veterans, but to renew our commitment to them and to keep the promises that we made to them in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln. The men and women who served this Nation deserve no less.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to our Nation's devoted Veterans. It is these men and women, past and present, who embody the ideals of freedom, liberty and justice, which are the foundation of our great Nation.

Veterans Day is a time to recognize those Americans who gave what President Abraham Lincoln once called "the last full measure of devotion." While we reflect on the deeds of these heroes and stand grateful for their service and sacrifice, we must also ponder the ongoing actions of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

Ours is a great Nation of free people who call our finest men and women to stand guard and protect the liberty that all Americans enjoy. To this end, all of those who have donned the uniform of our Armed Forces have consciously given a piece of themselves. Whether during peacetime or a time of conflict; at home or abroad; in the active component, the reserves or the national guard; their service has been characterized by selflessness and a sense of a greater purpose.

Throughout our history, they have answered the call. Whether that call to service sent them to a distant land full of turmoil, or to the flight line at a base in the Midwest, they have served with dignity and honor.

I am proud that my home State of Texas has a rich tradition of military leadership. Our young men and women have signed up to serve their Nation and are stationed throughout the United States and in all corners of the globe. More Marines join the Corps from Texas per capita than any other State. And we are home to more Army and Air Force bases than any State.

As these men and women have sacrificed, so too has a far less recognized

segment of our Veteran population—their spouses. For each displaced serviceman, there is often a husband or wife left behind. These silent patriots have kissed their loved ones goodbye and sent them off to serve this country. They diligently run their households while their mate provides security at an airport in another part of the country or serves on a foreign base halfway around the globe. They have often put their career on hold and patiently moved the family to the next in a long series of new bases and new communities. Whatever accolades we bestow upon our Veterans, we must also remember the parallel sacrifice of their heroic spouses.

Today our troops are answering the call to duty in locations around the world. The war on terrorism is being waged by America's finest, from Afghanistan to the Philippines. Soldiers in South Korea continue to keep watch on the communist regime to their North. Air Force pilots continue to patrol the skies over Iraq as the world contemplates the future of the region. Reservists and National Guardsmen continue to serve, at the expense of their civilian vocations, on extended active duty for a year or more. Some of our military patriots continue to serve well beyond the date they were to leave active service because the Nation continues to need their expertise.

On this Veterans Day, we express our heartfelt gratitude to our Nation's veterans and to their spouses. We have incurred a debt to them that can never be fully repaid. Today we remember those who have gone before and honor tomorrow's veterans who serve our country today.

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE MORE BANKRUPTCY JUDGES FOR MARYLAND

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I rise today in strong support of legislation to provide more bankruptcy judges for several States, including three additional bankruptcy judgeships for my own State of Maryland. This legislation was introduced by Senator BIDEN and is being cosponsored by Senators CARPER, EDWARDS, FEINSTEIN, and SCHUMER.

This bill represents a significant step forward in our efforts to strengthen Maryland's Federal bankruptcy court. I have long been involved in this effort, and I commend Senator BIDEN for his efforts in this area. We have been working for several years to get these additional judgeships approved, yet no legislation has been passed that would authorize them. With such inaction, the problem facing Maryland's sitting bankruptcy judges has grown, and Maryland has remained without the additional judgeships it so desperately needs to make our bankruptcy system work.

Maryland's four sitting bankruptcy judges continue to show remarkable