

Americans, people who relied on him not only to fight their battles, but to win important victories on their behalf.

I worked closely with Senator Wellstone for many years, in a number of areas important to both of us.

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I know that he was a tireless fighter for the men and women who had served in America's armed forces, especially for ill and aging veterans, those least able to fight for themselves, yet most in need of our help.

He fought for children, for their education and health care. And he worked to fashion a welfare system that encouraged work and protected children, without becoming punitive or unreasonable.

He also worked on behalf of the unskilled and unemployed, for a living minimum wage, for job training, and for education benefits to promote workers' 21st century skills. And I knew I could always count on his support for West Virginia's steelworkers and all workers threatened by unfair practices in an increasingly complex economy.

Senator Wellstone's many battles earned him a reputation as an ideologue and a firebrand. But I saw him reach across the aisle many times in his career. His first loyalty was to people, not to party, and his work with Senator DOMENICI on the groundbreaking Mental Health Parity Act stands as testimony to the strength of his priorities and the effectiveness of his approach. I am proud to be able to continue his work to bring equitable treatment to those who suffer from mental illness.

Paul Wellstone never believed that having principles and sticking to them somehow meant you couldn't get things done in the United States Senate. Instead, he believed that you had to stick to your principles, or you couldn't get anything worthwhile done. It was an approach that made him unique and won him unusual respect and admiration from every member of this body.

Senator Wellstone's tragic death, along with the deaths of Sheila and Marcia Wellstone, staffers Tom Lopic, Mary McEvoy, and Will McLaughlin, and pilots Richard Conroy and Michael Guess, have left a void in the Senate and in our hearts.

But all of us who worked with him, or knew of the work he did, will find some cheer in the memory of Minnesota's great voice for justice and opportunity.

Many will remember him for his fiery speeches and outspoken opinions.

But atomic veterans finally receiving treatment for their service-related disabilities, and homeless veterans with a new chance to find their way off the streets; parents whose children are learning from better teachers and enjoying better access to health care; activists who found an ally in their

struggle to end violence against women; workers receiving job training; and entrepreneurs, especially women, minorities, and the urban poor, profiting from a changed and expanded federal small business loan regime.

All these people will remember Paul Wellstone, as I will, not just for what he said, but what he did.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:40 having arrived, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:40 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. REID).

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 2:45 p.m. today, with the time from now until 2:45 to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

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

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:19 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:29 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. EDWARDS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, is the Senate in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to support the motion for cloture that will be voted on in about 15 minutes. This is a way to begin bringing this debate on the creation of a Department of Homeland Security to a close and to allow our Government to begin the urgent business of creating this new Department.

For those of us who have supported this idea for over a year now, this moment is long overdue.

I am troubled by the draft of the substitute bill that began circulating yesterday which, in my view, has not only a number of very good parts in it which are quite similar to those contained in

the bipartisan bill reported out of the Governmental Affairs Committee but also has a number of serious shortcomings that I hope to discuss when it comes to the floor either later today or tomorrow.

I am especially concerned that this new substitute bill creating a Department of Homeland Security also contains a number of special interest provisions that are being sprung on the Senate without prior warning or consideration. This is really not the time for that. We all ought to be focusing on the terrorist threat, the need to create a Department of Homeland Security to meet that threat, and not on using a vehicle that is probably moving to passage to put into it a host of pet personal projects. This is clearly not the time for that, and I hope the President and members of the leadership will discourage Senators and Members of the House from using this homeland security debate as a vehicle for accomplishing those more special purposes.

More than 14 months have now passed since September 11, 2001, that day when terrorists viciously exploited our vulnerability and took the lives of 3,000 of our friends, family, and fellow Americans. Fifteen months have now passed since October of 2001, when Senator SPECTER and I initially proposed legislation creating a Department of Homeland Security to meet and beat the terrorist threat. This measure was not just bipartisan. It was, in fact, intended to be nonpartisan. Our proposal had nothing to do with politics and everything to do with giving our Government the ability to protect the American people from another terrorist attack. I point this out now, not out of pride but to make clear how far we have come, in some ways in the wrong direction, and how much time we have taken before making this urgent transformation.

In the beginning, the vision of a Homeland Security Department was a recommendation and a report issued by a nonpartisan commission chaired by our former colleagues, Warren Rudman and Gary Hart. Then it was put forward in our committee bill. Then, as often happens to good ideas in a democracy, it gained support and steam in Congress.

At the outset, President Bush and most Republicans in Congress resisted our legislation. I never took that resistance to be partisan, and I do not believe it was. The President argued that the coordinating Office of Homeland Security within the White House led by Governor Ridge would be strong enough to do this massive and complex job. So for 8 months, the administration did oppose the creation of a Homeland Security Department.

In the meantime, the Governmental Affairs Committee held a total of 18 hearings, exploring every possible aspect of our homeland defense vulnerabilities and how they should be fixed. On May 22 of this year, the product of that work, a new version of the