

First, I want to say that I am here not as a spokesman for any party or entity or organization or group. While I have held elected positions I am here, just like you, a citizen (only a lot older and a little grey in the hair).

I want you to know too, that I am neither a fan of nor a practitioner of personal degradation when discussing issues. I find it a sad trend in our politics. So you won't hear it here from me.

I admire the way Casey Baux persisted; his gracious and helpful demeanor should benefit us all today. The way Casey helped this event become reality is really, how "political things" get accomplished. Your teachers are also to be commended and the administration.

It is a misnomer to be labeled pro war. Frankly, I don't understand how anyone would take that position—but there comes a time when despots who have the blood of hundreds of thousands of people on their hands have to be stopped.

In the early decades of the 20th century, the Turks annihilated the Armenians. They asked the world for help, but got virtually nothing. When Hilter was determined to wipe out the Jews, he referred back to the fact that no one remembered the Armenian genocide.

Saddam Hussein wiped out the Sumerians. The culture no longer exists.

When he lost the 1991 war he agreed as a condition of his surrender to disarm Iraq. He would not. And that is what generated this war.

A million Iranians are dead because of Saddam, 8000 Kurds we know, his own people were gassed to death and his tortures and barbarity continue unabated by international disgust.

It is always easier to do nothing. You know that. But while we stand by, hundreds of thousands of people are being tortured and killed.

Our country moving off the path of diplomacy that it has traveled so long, personally touches me. My brother in law and family live there, in the "Scud Box" zones of Saddam. We speak almost daily about what they will do. But they're some of the lucky ones. They can leave when it gets too close.

I hold simple yet solid beliefs that one can make a difference. I have learned through experience, my own in high school, and with students over the years since, that given opportunity and information you make good decisions.

I came today because my family has been deeply wounded by war. I lost two uncles in WWII. My Uncle Wallace was one of the first Wyoming casualties when the USS *Houston* was sunk. The Japanese took prisoner the other when he was a year older than some of you. Orral survived the cruel Bataan Death March. He was brutally tortured, bayoneted, and his gold tooth removed, left alone and died on the compound dirt.

My family can never forget the horror of war, because it touched us personally.

Yet, in 1960, President Eisenhower chose one of our large fossil fish to be the National Gift of the American People of the Japanese Emperor Hirohito. When our family sat at the kitchen table to discuss whether we should accept the offer given the damage to our family, My Father showed us what courage and forgiveness was about in an eloquent explanation of War and the difficulty of creating peace over time, one family at a time.

The kitchen table was my great spring board, because there we were all allowed our own thoughts, ideas, solutions we were accepted, though often confronted by solid debate and fact. I hope you have a kitchen table, a family that talks and listens for that is the beginning which you carry to friends and school and business and life.

You can be empowered to change public policy or to maintain our policy. The system is simple and works.

Assure we practice mutual respect in our politics because we are largely citizens in all phases, from citizen legislator to citizen soldier.

I urge you to view and digest the remarkable objective coverage of the Free American Press. And seek out the press worldwide. One is always more enlightened by seeking differing views and information.

Be skeptical, but avoid the despair of cynicism. They are very different things.

Question. Ask questions. And listen.

Seek out all sides and all sources before you find your view, and know it may have a spectrum as wide as Wyoming and change as often as Wyoming's weather.

Travel. Travel the country, but more importantly travel the world. You will be enlightened as to how well off we are.

Trust.

Trust that you will find your own truth about these difficult times.

Trust that you will be alright.

Trust that just like those around you now as family, teachers, police, forest rangers, on and on up the system that Americans in leadership positions are decent, honest, and caring—for you, our country, and others.

Know this too, from NY Democrat Charlie Rangel, of the U.S. Congress; when asked about his criticism of the President and policy days before the war he said: "That's what I am elected to do! But let me tell you, when that flag goes up, I salute, I'm there."

When at war observe that partisan politicians cease their partisanship, that parents and brothers and sisters of soldiers, and aviators, and sailors find solitude and prayer to comfort their fear and the choking that comes in the night from knowing that one's child is defending, by fighting with their life, one nation, one people, made up of all the peoples of Earth.

And I close my comment with a quote from my favorite non-warrior Mahatma Gandhi. Said in 1931, "Peace and disarmament are not matter of reciprocity. When real peace and disarmament come, they will be initiated by a strong nation like America irrespective of the consent and cooperation of other nations."

Thank you.

NATIONAL TARTAN DAY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I rise to commemorate the fifth anniversary of National Tartan Day. While it is observed on April 6 of each year, I make this recognition today because the Senate is not expected to be in session on that date. I want to remind my colleagues that the resolution which establishes National Tartan Day was Senate Resolution 155. It passed by unanimous consent on March 20 of 1998.

As an American of Scottish descent, I appreciate the efforts of the individuals, clan organizations, and all the many other groups who were instrumental in generating support for the resolution. These groups worked diligently to foster national awareness of the important role that Americans of Scottish descent have played in the progress of our country.

The purpose of National Tartan Day is to recognize the contributions that Americans of Scottish ancestry have made to our national heritage. It also recognizes the contributions that Scot-

tish Americans continue to make to our country. I look forward to National Tartan Day as another opportunity to pause and reflect on the role Scottish Americans have played in advancing democracy and freedom. It is my hope that this annual event will continue to grow in prominence, with ceremonies and activities similar to those that have been held over the past few years. Scottish Americans have helped shape this Nation. Their contributions are innumerable. In fact, three-fourths of all American Presidents can trace their roots to Scotland.

In addition to recognizing Americans of Scottish ancestry, National Tartan Day reminds us of the importance of liberty. It honors those who strived for freedom from an oppressive government on April 6, 1320. It was on that day that the Declaration of Arbroath was signed. It is the Scottish Declaration of Independence. This important document served as the model for America's Declaration of Independence.

In demanding their independence from England, the men of Arbroath wrote, "We fight for liberty alone, which no good man loses but with his life." These words are applicable today to the heroism of our American veterans and active duty forces who know the precious cost of fighting for liberty—a fight that is taking place at this moment as a coalition of military forces seeks liberation for the people of Iraq.

Senate Resolution 155 has served as a catalyst for the many States, cities, and counties that have passed similar resolutions recognizing the important contributions of Scottish Americans. I would like to thank all those groups and individuals who have continued the work of reminding the world of the stand for liberty taken on April 6th almost 700 years ago—in Arbroath, Scotland. A call for liberty which still echoes through our history and the history of many nations across the globe.

I believe April 6 can also serve as a day to recognize those nations that have not achieved the principles of freedom which we hold dear, and which we are fighting for even now. The example of the Scotsmen at Arbroath—their courage—their desire for freedom—still serves as a bright beacon today.

ANDEAN COUNTERDRUG INITIATIVE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to express some concern to the Appropriations Committee about the report language that was included regarding the supplemental request for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative. The Senate report indicates that the committee considers their funding of the President's request as a downpayment on funding for the next fiscal year.

I would like to ask the committee to reconsider taking this position without

a greater examination of both the 2004 request and how the supplemental funding will be used. I believe penalizing the 2004 request because of needed funds today will hamper the effectiveness of this program, particularly when it seems we may be turning the corner.

This request is designed to support our current efforts in Colombia, which are occurring at a significantly higher operational pace than was anticipated when the current fiscal year budget was developed. Since the fiscal year 2004 budget was created, we have seen a wave in urban bombings, the launch of a rescue mission for kidnapped American citizens, a significant increase in the violent attacks against our spray aircraft, and an increase in the violent attacks against President Uribe and other top Colombian officials. These increased threats need to be countered now, and require a revision in the original budget estimates on what will be spent both this fiscal year and next.

The supplemental funding is necessary to continue current operations at their current pace. By including the President's request in this bill, the committee is recognizing this need. But we should not penalize next year's efforts by counting this supplemental appropriations against the 2004 request. I strongly urge the committee to reconsider holding this needed supplemental funding for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative against the fiscal year 2004 request.

TRIBUTE TO GREG MASTEL

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to thank Greg Mastel for his work as the Finance Committee's chief trade adviser and chief economist during the 107th Congress.

I asked Greg to rejoin my staff in early 2001 with two specific goals in mind—significantly expanding the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program and reinstating fast-track trade negotiating authority for the President. To me, these are the twin pillars of U.S. trade policy. If the United States was to move beyond the logjam that had stalled progress on trade for nearly a decade, both of these programs needed to be in place.

Thanks in large part to Greg's hard work, both of those goals were achieved.

In August of last year, the President signed into law the Trade Act of 2002. Not only did it restore fast track to the President, it also created the largest expansion of Trade Adjustment Assistance in that program's history. And just for good measure, we renewed and expanded both the Andean Trade Preferences Act and the Generalized System of Preferences.

The Trade Act of 2002 is the most significant piece of trade legislation to come out of the Congress in over a decade. And it would not have happened without the skilled guidance and steady hand that Greg showed every step of the way.

Getting there wasn't easy. There were a lot of long nights and more than a few tense meetings. And for Greg, there were some personal challenges that didn't make the job any easier, but made his performance even more impressive.

Shortly before we went into conference with the House on the Trade Act, Greg suffered a nasty bicycling accident that left him with a broken collarbone, badly bruised ribs, and more sore muscles than I care to think about. But Greg was in the office every day, working through the pain and showing the same good humor that always made him such a pleasure to work with.

At the time, I called Greg "the Lance Armstrong of the Trade World"—although he probably needs to hone those biking skills. I stand by those comments. In conference negotiations, it is always a challenge to bridge the differences between Democrats and Republicans and between the Senate and the House. But to sit in a room negotiating the finer points of U.S. trade policy at 2 in the morning while fighting through the pain of broken collarbone takes a special kind of staffer.

Not only is Greg an expert on trade—he also understands the state of Montana. Greg is a true product of Montana. He grew up on a ranch outside of Missoula, where his childhood pursuits included hunting, camping, and archery. He is a graduate of Hellgate High School in Missoula, where he was a star second baseman on their baseball team.

He has never forgotten his roots in Montana. I have always felt that Greg's experiences back home gave him a feel for policy issues that cannot be learned.

And Greg has a long history with my office. He began as an intern in 1987, and within a few months became my youngest legislative assistance. His formal training as an economist made him a natural for covering international trade issues, vital for a State that depends on exporting its goods and services to markets around the globe. I relied on Greg to assist me with some of the most important issues to Montanans, including beef exports to Japan and wheat exports to China.

At various points, Greg has served as both my legislative director and my chief of staff. In each of these positions, he served with distinction through many years of trying to convince Montanans that trade was necessary and could be beneficial. He came up with the idea of trade missions and helped organize those to Asia and South America. Those missions did more to promote understanding than 100 speeches could have.

Greg also became an expert on U.S. trade laws, including many which he helped to draft. It was a natural that, after leaving my staff in 1994, Greg moved on to a distinguished career in academia and public policy. He is the author of three books dealing with

China, United States trade laws, and WTO negotiations, and has written a column for the Journal of Commerce.

Somewhere along the way, Greg and his wife Lois found the time to raise two beautiful children—Alexander and Caroline.

I was lucky to be able to lure him back for the 107th Congress to serve as my chief trade adviser on the Finance Committee.

Greg has been a wonderful friend to me and my staff over the years. I thank him for all of this hard work and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR BAIRD

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on behalf of a man, Victor Baird, who, until recently, had probably one of the most thankless jobs in the Senate—Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Senate Ethics Committee. In this position, Victor was charged with preserving the integrity of the Senate by policing the conduct of its Members and ensuring that the Senators and their staffs adhered to the Senate's high ethical standards.

The nature of the Ethics Committee is that the work we do remains confidential, except in the most egregious circumstances. Victor faced some of these circumstances and his guidance in steering the committee, the Senate, through them was invaluable. In general, though, most people didn't hear that much about Victor or the work he did in his 16 years on the committee, but to those of who sit on the committee or who have ever sat on the committee, we know that a lack of public exposure for the committee means that Victor was doing his job, and doing it well.

As I mentioned before, Victor was a 16 year veteran of the Senate Ethics Committee. He was first appointed to the committee by Senator Heflin in March 1987. He was acting Staff Director and Chief Counsel from October 1992 until March 1993 and became Staff Director and Chief Counsel from April 1993 until this January.

Before arriving in the Senate, Victor served in the United States Air Force and had a distinguished legal career in Georgia that included serving as an Assistant Attorney General in Georgia, as an Administrative Law Judge for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and on the Consumers' Utility Council of Georgia.

Victor's legal acumen, good nature, keen attention to detail, nonpartisan nature, and most of all, his integrity, all contributed to his success in the Senate. He will be missed by many. I thank him for his service to the United States Senate and to his country, and wish him God speed in all his journeys ahead.

TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS GUARD AND RESERVES

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the American