

Democratic leader or their designees, and the second 30 minutes to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Texas.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I want to open today by noting what we saw live from Iraq yesterday starting in the midmorning. It was truly uplifting to see what we hoped would be the end: The fall of Saddam Hussein, the cheering in the streets by the Iraqi people, the flowers for the American and British soldiers being thrown at the tanks by the Iraqi people.

We are admonished by the President and by the Pentagon that this is not over. There are still areas—in fact, there was a fire fight last night that was unexpected. There was one yesterday at the University of Baghdad. So it is not over.

But we know the end is very near, and we know the people of Iraq now understand that they are going to have the taste of freedom.

You could see it in their faces. You could see it in the tears coming down their cheeks. You could see it in the children reacting against the statue of the fallen Saddam Hussein.

I think we are at the beginning of the end or at the end of the beginning. We are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, which is freedom for the Iraqi people and doing away with the many weapons that have been used in Iraq against its own people and that we feared would be used against ours.

I open by saying thank you to the American troops, the young men and women on the ground, who have fought so valiantly to make this happen. I could not be more proud today, after seeing what is happening in Baghdad and the reaction of the people and the message left by the U.S. troops on one of Saddam Hussein's palaces: "USA was here."

I hope in the days to come we will see more Iraqi people beginning to see what it is to be able to form a government and take control of their own country; to start creating jobs again and an economy that will allow them to have a democracy, free enterprise, and know what so many of us have grown up with and appreciated.

I thank the troops this morning. I want to turn over the management of our time to the Senator from Minnesota for the rest of this morning. He will also work with the Senator from Arkansas on the Democratic side to fill this time talking about the heroic and touching deeds that our troops have been doing in the field.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, what a glorious day yesterday was. I am privileged to follow my distinguished colleague from Texas who, as she reflects upon the joy that we all felt, expressed a real sense of pride in

the incredible work done by our fighting men and women, knowing that many of those who have lost their lives and those who have been prisoners of war came out of Texas bases.

For all of us there is always this mixed sense. We are filled with joy, pride and joy for the Iraqi people to be able to taste liberation and freedom in Iraq. But part of my tradition in the Jewish faith is that at the time of a wedding ceremony—a glorious day—we wrap a glass in a cloth. Then, at the end of the service, at this moment of the greatest of joy such as the great joy we experienced yesterday, the groom steps on the glass and breaks it.

Part of the sense of tradition is, in this time of joy and celebration, let us not forget that life has mixed blessings, and there are tragedies that have occurred and will occur. So as we celebrate the incredible joy of the liberation of Baghdad, let us not ever—and we will not certainly in these hallowed Chambers, certainly not in this country—forget the sacrifices that have been made by those who have given their last ounce of courage and the sacrifice of their lives for the freedom we witnessed yesterday.

Let us also understand that much work remains to be done. There will be more death. We will suffer more casualties. The liberation of Baghdad is, as my distinguished colleague from Texas said, perhaps the beginning of the end, but it is not the end.

While we eagerly anticipate the day when all of Iraq will be freed from Saddam's iron fist—and Tikrit, his enclave, is still not liberated, so there will be fighting ahead—it is important for us, in what we have done over the last few weeks, not to forget the sacrifice and bravery of the coalition forces still fighting to free northern Iraq.

I note that many are special operations soldiers, such as the skilled and fearless unnamed Minnesota man who was profiled so powerfully in an edition of the Star Tribune. And being a Senator from Minnesota, obviously, I have great pride in this unnamed Minnesotan. It is a story of a Minnesota combat air controller who had already spent more than 30 hours on the ridge line, directing close bomb attacks, with little sleep.

In the briefings we get in the morning, just the other day we had one of those soldiers come in, one of those operatives who talked about the 150 pounds of gear that they have, who talked about being on that line and directing in, with precision guidance, the airstrikes, to focus on the target, to minimize any harm to civilians who are right there.

This story chronicled the efforts, the skill, and the courage of one man—one unnamed man—a Minnesotan, but it drove home the devastating precision and prowess of our forces, a dramatic example of the remaining front line, of how the coalition has swept across Iraq in record time through the fearless

teamwork and efforts of men such as this.

I do not know whether, in the chronicles of warfare, any army has moved so quickly and moved so decisively, moved so precisely, as have our troops in what they have accomplished in a few weeks in Iraq.

I cannot share the name and the family of this brave Minnesota soldier at this time because the embedded reporter was not allowed to identify him, other than to mention that the 34-year-old air controller hails from near Park Rapids, MN, and loves fishing and snowmobiling back home, as many of us Minnesotans love fishing and snowmobiling. But the description of what this dedicated Minnesotan is doing so far from home serves as an inspiring, yet sobering, reminder of the dangers and challenges that still confront our forces.

A few passages from the story underscore the perilous conditions our Special Forces still operate under as they coordinate and choreograph the pinpoint air attacks that will ultimately lead to complete surrender, that will ultimately lead to the liberation of all of Iraq, that will ultimately lead to more stability in the Middle East, that will ultimately lead to a safer world for us here at home in America.

Let me talk a little about what is in that story:

Part cowboy, part choreographer, the Minnesotan stood in a bunker rife with scorpions early Tuesday morning and searched the sky. A U.S. fighter jet roared overhead for the third time in less than a half-hour. His casual tone masked his dangerous task of directing the aircraft to bomb Iraqi Republican Guard positions just a few thousand meters away.

The reporter continues:

As a combat air controller, he owned a 3-to-4 mile stretch of horizon that is the leading edge of a northern front only an hour from Baghdad—and moving closer.

If his team's position was not locked in by a pilot before the start of a bombing run, the five American operatives and three Kurdish reconnaissance scouts risked being the victims of friendly fire.

Their mission this night was to pound Hill 323, an 800-foot mound amid rolling hills where reinforced concrete bunkers protected Republican Guard troops and supplies.

The story goes on to vividly detail the rest of the operation, the extraordinary coordination between pilots providing air support and the Special Forces on the ground.

The unnamed Minnesotan is using the finest battlefield technology ever developed—infrared lasers that allow pilots to lock on to the position of friendly troops and target the location of enemy forces to a devastating and precise effect.

But that mission and unnamed Minnesotan also exhibited another remarkable trait that has been displayed to the entire world throughout this campaign; namely, patience and concern—the patience to make sure he got it right, that no civilians were unintentionally injured, and that his fellow soldiers were safe.

The controller lined up two warplanes to drop their payloads, but called them off because he was not certain they were locked on the target. The third jet, an F-15 Strike Eagle, took three checks of the coordinates before the air controller was confident the pilot understood his directions. The cluster bomb then hit its mark.

I submit that all of us should display similar patience and concern to that of that unnamed Minnesota combat air controller as we enter the final phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom—patience to let our coalition troops finish the job they went halfway around the world to do, and concern for the Iraqi people as they prepare for liberation and reconstruction of their country and society.

At the end of that operation, the nameless Minnesota soldier was asked if he wanted something to drink, and he requested a Guinness. I certainly hope to find out exactly who he is, so I can buy him one upon his safe return.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have this newspaper story from the Star Tribune printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Apr. 9, 2003]

MINNESOTAN WITH SPECIAL FORCES HAS KEY ROLE IN STRIKES ON REPUBLICAN GUARD

(By Paul McEnroe)

KANSI-MASI, IRAQ.—Part cowboy, part choreographer, the Minnesotan stood in a bunker rife with scorpions early Tuesday morning and searched the sky.

A U.S. fighter jet roared overhead for the third time in less than a half-hour. "Let's rope that bird," he said in a casual tone that masked his dangerous task of directing the aircraft to bomb Iraqi Republican Guard positions just a few thousand meters away.

As a combat air controller, he owned a 3- to 4-mile stretch of horizon that is the leading edge of a northern front only an hour from Baghdad—and moving closer. Any pilot flying through his quadrants—a fighter jock in an F-15 Strike Eagle or a plodder in a B-52—had to check in with him and the U.S. Special Forces team he's working with in the hills north of the Iraqi-controlled city of Khanaqin.

If his team's position was not locked in by a pilot before the start of a bombing run, the five American operatives and three Kurdish Peshmerga reconnaissance scouts risked being the victims of friendly fire. All it took was a garbled radio transmission or a misunderstanding of map coordinates.

And after the friendly fire airstrike on a convoy near Mosul on Sunday, when at least 18 Kurdish fighters were killed and three U.S. special operations soldiers were injured, the Minnesotan was not about to let his team be the latest victims.

"Sparkle him now," he said to the burly man at his side. The Special Forces' team sergeant commanding the night mission pointed his M-4 rifle into the sky and beamed up an infrared laser line. The pilot would use that to mark the unit's forward position in the jet's navigational computer and thus eliminate the chance of a friendly fire episode.

The pilot locked on, but in a radio check the controller was concerned that the pilot did not have the accurate coordinates of the

Iraqi target. What seemed minor could easily become a disaster.

The controller already had spent more than 30 hours up on the ridge line, directing close bomb attacks with little sleep. He wanted to double-check himself again. So he burrowed into a dark nylon bag at the bottom of the bunker, where he could turn on a light without alerting any Iraqis to the team's position.

Like a boy reading beneath the bedcovers at night, he scrutinized his Global Positioning System card, checking off degrees and meters while circling planes waited on his word.

AIR ATTACKS

Two weeks ago, Special Forces unit members helped Kurdish fighters rout hundreds of Islamic militants from the area around Halabja. Now they're focusing on the Iraqi troops, and they allowed a Star Tribune reporter and photographer, and a two-man team from Knight-Ridder Newspapers, to accompany them on a combat air-support mission. The only conditions were that their identities and certain strategic information not be published for the sake of their security.

Since the war began, the northern front has been characterized by air attacks in the Kirkuk, Mosul and Khanaqin areas—and little else. U.S. soldiers, frustrated at the lack of action in the region, speak of "being Turked," a reference to Turkey's refusal to allow U.S. ground troops to cross its border into Iraqi Kurdistan to attack Iraqi forces from the north.

That has led to increased pressure on Special Forces charged with combat air-support missions—such as this one, based in a western state and specializing in mountain warfare.

THEY ALL SEE THE END

The Special Forces team moved out of their small base near Khanaqin outfitted with electronic gear, Kevlar vests, night-vision goggles, 9-millimeter pistols strapped to their thighs and M-4 assault rifles slung over their shoulders. They were in for a 12-hour night mission along a newly taken line that moves south by the day.

"This is the farthest south the Pesh have been since 1991," the team sergeant said.

They all can see the end, and the push is on. The sergeant spoke of the 34-year-old Minnesota air controller this way: "He's our workhorse. We can't get him off the mountain."

The air controller joined the Air Force at 19 and has made it a career. Mention Fifth Crow Wing Lake near Park Rapids, Minn., and he brightens about the years of good fishing he's had in that area. He's also a snowmobile enthusiast.

He works beside people who are considered among the U.S. military's elite. In this Special Forces unit's last class, only 17 of 90 men survived the cut, the sergeant said.

Besides the team sergeant, the squad has a weapons sergeant who patrols the perimeter, an assistant team leader responsible for intelligence gathering and reconnaissance, a communications man and the air controller.

They are models of reserve around strangers, but hints of their wild side seep out while they make small talk and prepare to do their job.

Some speak of parachute jumps at nearly 30,000 feet and not opening their chutes until they're 3,500 feet from the ground. Others trade mountain climbing tales.

There's laughter over who got arrested—and who should've been—at a Texas bar called the Broken Spoke. They argue over what's worse to find in a sleeping bag—snakes or spiders. When a man talks of his children's birthdays or anniversaries missed while off on a mission, the rest turn quiet.

Their mission this night was to pound Hill 323, an 800-foot mound amid rolling hills where reinforced concrete bunkers protect Republican Guard troops and supplies.

"We see headlights," a soldier said. Then they counted up to 48 Iraqi vehicles on the move—lights on—a suspected armor movement that got everyone juiced because it meant that strikes could fill the night.

"B-52s in 15 minutes," the air controller said. He wasn't responsible for directing strikes against these targets, because the column was 6 kilometers away and a closer Special Forces unit was taking over.

"Hopefully they waste that column so we get some stuff over here and blow some ... up," the radio man said.

The sergeant ordered the weapons man to work the perimeter, fearing that Iraqis might be probing the hills to see whether their old bunkers were occupied. He studied the ridge line where the column's headlights briefly popped up. "They're being sent to be cannon fodder," he said.

Simultaneously, a car started a slow, meandering drive toward the two trucks used by the Special Forces team. It moved slowly enough for the sergeant to order the men into defensive positions, and an anti-tank weapon was readied. After 10 minutes, a Peshmerga was sent down for a look. It turned out that another Peshmerga had strayed into the area.

"If we'd lit him up, they [the Iraqis] could have fixed their positions to fire on us," the sergeant said.

Soon, orange bursts lit up the sky, as a B-52 struck the column. Then came a jolting rumble of sound that shook the ground. Secondary explosions around a command bunker were seen.

Around 1 a.m. Tuesday, it was time to finally call in the strikes on Hill 323. First, a reconnaissance plane scoured the area. The news was good.

"He has hot spots in the buildings," the controller said, referring to the detection of heat and a sign that troops were hiding in one of the bunkers.

A jet was called in, but the pilot had to divert after the controller spent 10 minutes lining him up for an attack run. The coordination has to be both precise and quick, and this one wasn't.

"By the time they get here, they only have 10 minutes of fuel left," he said, expressing mild frustration that this pilot wasn't able to line up his target before the window closed. "Some planes are loaded with extra weapons instead of more fuel—it's a choice the air commanders make."

The visibility was so bad that another pilot—whose craft was not equipped with an optic scanning pod—couldn't see the controller's laser. He also departed with his payload intact.

The third jet, an F-15 Strike Eagle, was on its way but it took three checks of the coordinates before the air controller was confident the pilot understood his directions.

"I don't like all this sparkle," he said, referring to having to repeatedly signal the pilots.

"Neither do I. It causes too much confusion," the sergeant said. Then he raised his M-4's laser beam to the sky, and the pilot locked on.

Next, the sergeant painted the bunker 2,700 meters away with his laser. The pilot now had the distance marked between his air controller and his target.

"I have you in sight," the air controller said. "Roger, you are clear and hot."

That was the final go-ahead for the airstrike.

The cluster bomb—not the usual weapon used on bunkers—set off a brilliant white flash and exploded in the air over the target,

spewing mini-bombs in a wide apron on top of the hill. Two more strikes followed.

"Thanks for the good work, and have a good night," the controller said to the departing pilot.

More strikes came in from another air support team down the line. About 2 a.m., an errant bomb from a B-52 landed a couple of miles to the north of this unit. Once again, everyone was reminded why the controller burrowed into his nylon bag and checked the grid coordinates as if his life depended on it.

Somebody popped open a can of soda, and the muffled sound of the hiss didn't escape the controller's ear. He was starting to relax. "That's a Guinness for me, right?"

He finally left the bunker at 7 a.m., looking ragged.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, on a final note, as the conferees to the emergency supplemental appropriations bill do their work, I hope they will include the unemployment benefits to laid-off airline workers that Senator MURRAY, I, and others worked so hard with Chairman STEVENS to include in the Senate bill.

Some of those laid-off workers from Northwest Airlines in Minnesota are now on military duty in the Persian Gulf, called up as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of them, a mechanic named Todd Stock, keeps our C-130 military planes airworthy to take crucial supplies to ground troops in Iraq.

While on duty in the Middle East, Todd learned he is one of the 4,900 Northwest workers who will lose their jobs because of the downturn in the airline industry. When he is serving his country so nobly, Todd Stock should not have to worry about whether he can take care of his family when he gets back home. His wife Sheila has told him just to get home safely and that they will get through it somehow.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Todd Stock. Our thoughts and prayers are with that unnamed Minnesotan. Our thoughts and prayers are with those men and women on the front line. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have lost loved ones in a great sacrifice, a worthy sacrifice, but the pain being so deep. They need to know that our love surrounds them at this moment.

So I hope the conferees will keep in mind Todd Stock and the other mobilized mechanics serving our country when they make their final recommendations.

I hope Americans will have the patience to understand that though yesterday was a great day, more remains to be done and our support, our commitment, our love, and our prayers will never waiver from being with those who are on the front line doing their duty, doing the job we need them to do, doing it so bravely and so proudly.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, my good friend, the senior Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, has been so steadfast in coming to the floor each

day to salute our troops. I thank her for her leadership and for her diligence. I think she has done a tremendous job. I am honored and pleased to have been working with her. She has just done a fabulous job and I think has really elevated the recognition of the service of our men and women in combat. She has done an excellent job. I thank her very much.

As Senator HUTCHISON has said on numerous occasions, and as she began today, we are so very proud of our troops, the men and women who are serving our great country, with their brave service and their tremendous courage, and also their humane treatment of Iraqi civilians and Iraqi prisoners of war.

The United States has complied with the Geneva Convention and international laws concerning the treatment of prisoners, and we call on the followers of Saddam Hussein to do the same.

The incredible vision we saw yesterday, as Senator HUTCHISON mentioned. We saw on the television the cheers of the Iraqi people over the freedom they had begun to feel in their blood and their bones, the idea that they no longer would have to fear expressing themselves, their ideas, their goals, their dreams for their families and for their country. What a wonderful feeling for all of us. As Senator COLEMAN mentioned, we don't want to think that everything has been accomplished. We know there is still much to be done. But again, what a vision to keep in our eyes and in our hearts of a people who have reached something we have long had in our grasp in this wonderful country.

Earlier this week I learned just how well the United States is treating our Iraqi POWs, how well we are working with our service men and women and our armed services to make sure we are doing right by the Geneva Convention.

In earlier remarks on the Senate floor some of my colleagues may recall I reported that a member of my staff, my congressional staff, Marine Reservist LCpl Jason Smedley had been injured in battle. Jason returned to the United States this week on a brief medical leave, and he stopped by my office on Monday. My entire staff sat in rapt attention for some time as Jason shared his experiences in the war on Iraq. Jason said while he was being treated for his injuries in a Kuwaiti hospital, Iraqi soldiers lay across the room from him, receiving the identical quality of medical care. Think of that—American soldiers recovering from battle wounds alongside Iraqi prisoners of war.

I remember the words from Jason. He said: We have definitely kept with the Geneva Convention.

Contrast that with what we have heard and seen of the Iraqi regime's criminal treatment of American POWs, including Jessica Lynch, not to mention the ghastly exhibitions of bodies of American soldiers in shallow graves

in which our soldiers found their fallen brothers and sisters.

Jason reported to us many Iraqi citizens are, to quote him, "definitely glad we are here." He told of seeing Iraqi mothers bringing children who had been ill for years to U.S. soldiers for medical care. One mother's child had had problems with her eyesight since birth, and that mother was full of hope as she carried her child to a U.S. soldier. Imagine that—Iraqi children receiving better medical care from our soldiers in the field than they got for years under a brutal dictator who built opulent palaces for himself.

We have seen news reports of the guerrilla tactics employed by Iraqi troops posing as civilians and then ambushing our soldiers. Jason said soldiers of the Iraqi regime stood out even when they were wearing civilian clothing because they appeared to be strong and healthy, and it was such a stark contrast to the malnourished, despondent Iraqi civilians Jason had encountered.

Jason said he had many opportunities to talk to Iraqi civilians, and he made it his mission to seek their opinions of Saddam Hussein. Without exception, he said, they all wanted Saddam Hussein to be removed from power.

An Arab-speaking man who had accompanied Jason's unit as an interpreter had a very personal reason for volunteering to serve with the U.S. forces. He himself had been abducted and tortured by the Iraqi regime after they had invaded Kuwait. Jason had been assigned to a unit that was to rebuild Iraq. He was not in a combat unit. When he was injured during an enemy attack, he was bedding down after helping evacuate about 500 Iraqi civilians who had been caught in the firefight from an Nasiriyah. This Sunday at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, the Commandant of the Marine Corps awarded Jason a Purple Heart.

Since Jason has been back in the United States, he has burned up the phone lines calling to check on family members of fellow marines. He said several men had missed the birth of their children, and he recalled one marine listening intently on a ship-to-shore phone as his wife tried to describe their newborn son to him.

That same marine was delighted when mail arrived with a CD-ROM video of his new baby as the ship steamed toward the Middle East. Jason had checked up on the marine's wife and many others because he said he and his fellow marines were so concerned about how their families were weathering the stress of the war.

As I e-mailed Jason on his trip over on the ship, I was amazed at the response in the e-mail I got back. It wasn't about him. It was about me.

He said: Senator, I want to lift up a prayer for you. He said: I am heading out to do what I am supposed to do. I want to lift up a prayer for you and all

Americans because we are getting ready to enter into something so important, sharing something with the rest of the world, particularly a people who have not and do not understand what freedom feels like.

How incredible of a young man that age, leaving to defend his country and, more importantly, what his country means to him.

He has asked me to encourage all Americans who know families of our Armed Forces to check in on those family members regularly because that show of support is the best way we can help our troops.

Senator HUTCHISON and I have come on different occasions to talk about this. We have lifted up one another's personal stories we have had from the war. It is important that the American families of our service men and women and that our service men and women who are there in harm's way understand as we lift up these tributes to our troops, we are not just talking about those we know the best and most intimately, those who are a part of our family, we as a body are lifting up our pride, our prayers, the honor we feel for each and every service man and woman who is there putting themselves in harm's way on our behalf.

It is so critical to take to heart Jason's words that those of us out there living in different communities know one of the best things we can do for our troops is to reach out to their families—families who are frightened, nervous, who may not be hearing as much as they want from their loved ones serving this great land.

I hope we all, both as Senators, as Congress in general, and more importantly, as Americans reach out to those very important families.

While Jason's mother and I shared a sigh of relief that Jason is temporarily back in the United States out of harm's way, this dedicated young man says he hopes to return to his unit until the job is done, the job of sharing those incredible treasures we, as the American people, hold so dear, to help share with the Iraqi people what freedom means, to be able to speak out your ideas, your thoughts, your prayers, and ideals, how you believe your country can be stronger and should be run—things that oftentimes, as we move about our busy lives, whether it is to the grocery store or to drop children off at school, we take for granted.

I am proud of Jason Smedley, whose courage and character exemplifies our U.S. soldiers; a young man who spent nearly 1 month on a ship en route to Kuwait; a young man who had the chance to take a shower just once a week in Kuwait and not once after entering Iraq; a young man who helped dig out his unit's camp in a former trash dump where even the roaches were dead; a young man who endured hot days and cold nights in stinging sandstorms; a young man who has been in five hospitals in the last 2 weeks, but always reaching out to the patient

next to him; a young man wounded in battle who saw his fellow soldiers lose their limbs; a young man whose wish is that he might get to go back and be with his unit to help rebuild Iraq for the oppressed people of that country.

I am so very proud of all of our brave and selfless young men and women serving in harm's way in Iraq and throughout the world, just as Jason Smedley has been—going with the spirit of America to share what each and every one of them holds so near and dear to their hearts: the freedoms and the treasures of being an American.

Madam President, may God bless them and bless our Nation as we continue to bring what democracy and freedom can share with the entire world. I thank you for this opportunity.

Again, I compliment my colleague from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON.

At this point, I will yield the floor to my colleague from Delaware, Senator CARPER, and thank him so much for taking the time to be here with us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COLEMAN). The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to Senator LINCOLN and Senator HUTCHISON for making sure we had this opportunity again today to remember those who are serving and their families who are here supporting them and pulling for them and praying for them.

The video from the other side of the world—the visual images from the other side of the world over the last 24 hours are extraordinary to us all and, for the most part, they are encouraging. While many of us are troubled by the scenes of looting that occurred in parts of Baghdad yesterday, we will remember for many years the scene of the jubilation where people were realizing a time of oppression in their lives was coming to an end when the prospect for greater personal freedoms and liberties was denied. I know not everybody in this country and in this body supported the notion of our engaging in an armed conflict with Iraq at this time. We all, regardless of how we felt as we approached the day of decision, celebrate how well and effectively our men and women have served in that conflict. We regret the loss of life in that conflict.

I want to talk about two young men from my State for whom the last respects will be paid this Saturday as we lay them to rest. Before I do that, I was privileged to be Governor of Delaware for 8 years. One of the things I liked most about being Governor was, as an old Navy officer, they let me be chief of the Delaware Army National Guard. In the last several months, we have had the opportunity to send off unit after unit within the Delaware National Guard, to be mobilized and, in many cases, deployed and, in some cases, closer to home and, in other cases, to be sent to the other side of the world. I want to mention some of

the work those men and women are doing. Some of them fly C-130 aircraft, which are part of the air bridge between America and the Middle East. The beginning of the air bridge, in many cases, is a C-5—we fly those out of Dover Air Force Base—which is the largest cargo aircraft in the world. They are being flown today by active-duty personnel and by the Reservists, and they fly very much as one team, one unit, literally as a wonderful, coordinated, combined team.

At the very end of the air bridge is, in many cases, the C-130s. They are flown by members of the Air National Guard out of Delaware, Alaska, Arkansas, Texas, and other States. Those men and women who are flying those, or maintaining those aircraft, or serving as military police, whether in this country or in the Middle East, and those people who are using heavy equipment, those who are providing health care—a number of those people come from my State of Delaware. They are male, female, officers, and enlisted. In many cases, they have left behind a spouse, children, their families, in order to serve us and, in some cases, they are doing so at great economic disadvantage to their families and, in some cases, at considerable danger to themselves.

We are grateful for their service. We are proud of each one of them. I say today to their family members—those who are tending the home fires and making sure the families stay together and the kids are going to school and are getting fed and clothed and all—a real special thank you for your willingness to share with us at a challenging time in our Nation your sons, daughters, husbands, wives, moms, and dads.

At the Dover Air Force Base, we traditionally carry a lot of the materiel and men and women who need to go around the world in support of our military actions. During the Afghanistan war, roughly 30 percent of the equipment that moved into Afghanistan in support of that conflict came through Dover Air Force Base and flew out on C-5s from there. We are continuing to carry a large part of the strategic airlift burden from Dover and places like Travis and other Air Force bases around the country.

There is another unit stationed at the Dover Air Force Base that gets probably even more attention these days than do the C-5 aircraft, and that unit is the mortuary. We hear almost every day of the remains of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, that are being returned to America and to their loved ones. En route to their loved ones, those remains come through the Dover Air Force Base and the mortuary there. I visited there last month and also in the past. While the people who work there get precious little recognition for the work they do, they do some of the toughest work of anybody in this country—military or civilian.

I stand here today and take my hat off to those men and women. Some are

active duty, some Reservists, and others have volunteered for the service. But there is no more emotionally demanding and draining work that you or I could do for our service men and women and their families. I really want to express my gratitude—and, I know, that of every Member of this body—for the work going on there at this moment.

Among the bodies that have been returned to their loved ones through that Air Force base in Dover through the mortuary are two young men, one 21 years of age from Seaford, DE, Army Ranger SP Ryan Long. Another is a young marine sergeant from New Castle, DE, who grew up in New Jersey and came to Delaware when he went to high school and married his high school sweetheart. He perished last week at the age of 23 on the other side of the world. His name is Brian McGinnis. As our Presiding Officer knows, one of the toughest tasks we do as Senators is to call families of those who have died and try to convey to them our anguish, grief, and our sympathy, and offer whatever we can to be supportive and encouraging in this tough time. As a father of two young boys myself, 13 and 14, I cannot imagine the difficulty of living with the loss of your child. Life prepares us to know that some day our grandparents will pass away, and eventually our parents, and maybe our siblings, and maybe even a spouse; but there is little in this life to prepare us to know that we are going to lose a child.

In this case, the Long family and the McGinnis family have lost their sons. They will be laid to rest this Saturday in the First State, Delaware.

I wish to mention the service of each of them. Ryan Long comes from a family that has served in our military for generations. He is fourth generation. While at Seaford High School, he was vice commander of the junior Navy ROTC unit. He ended up joining the Army and became a ranger.

He was at a checkpoint barely a week ago in an area northwest of Baghdad. A car driven by a woman went through that checkpoint. Out of that car emerged another woman who appeared to be pregnant. She came out of the car screaming, and three Army personnel approached the car. The car exploded, and the driver, the woman who had fled from the car, and our three Army personnel, including Ryan Long, were killed. The soldiers approached that car believing there was a problem and attempted to extend a helping hand. For that, they lost their lives.

I am sorry to say that the Ryan family has lost their son. To Rudy and Donna Long—I had the privilege of speaking with the dad who is a retired major—we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Seaford is the home of the first nylon plant ever built. It is the first ever built in the world. Ryan used to play golf at the Seaford Nylon DuPont Country Club. He played on the golf

team at school and did a lot of other activities in the community before he enlisted in the Army.

In the northern part of our State, there is a beautiful little town called New Castle. It has the largest high school in our State, the William Penn High School. Brian McGinnis went to William Penn High School, having grown up in New Jersey earlier in his life. At that school, Brian met a gal named Megan. He did not just meet her, he married her after school. He leaves behind a widow, a dad who lives in New Jersey, Bill McGinnis, and a mom, Mildred Williams, who now lives in Port Charlotte, FL.

Brian was flying a helicopter. The helicopter, as we have seen too often in this war—any aircraft, whether fixed wing or rotary—crashed. He was aboard the helicopter, a Huey, and his life was lost. He will be buried this Saturday in New Castle, DE.

I send to his dad with whom I have spoken, to his mom, and to Megan, his bride, our sympathies. My office, my staff is doing whatever we can to be of help and support to them. We remember them today. We feel their anguish. Our hope is time will heal some of that pain. Again, we stand ready to provide whatever assistance and comfort we can throughout our State of Delaware to help the two families who have lost their loved ones.

I close with a comment on the war itself. Many of us have said the toughest part of the war lies ahead. There is still fighting to take place in other parts of the country that are not under allied control. The tough part of the war does lie ahead. It is not just keeping the peace and restoring order in places such as Baghdad and to stop the looting, but it is helping to build a democratic institution within a country where there are disparate groups—Shiites, Sunnis, and the Kurds in the North.

There is a history of distrust and hatred. We need to help put to bed those generations of mistrust. That is not going to be an easy job. It is not a job we and the Brits should assume. This is a job which others should join in fulfilling, tackling, and also paying. We should welcome their involvement.

Mr. President, I yield back whatever time I have not consumed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, it is fitting that we reserve time each morning to pay tribute to the troops. I, too, mourn the loss of so many of our young men and women who went over to Iraq and will not be coming home. Our hearts go out to their families and friends and for these brave men and women who put their lives on the line for our freedoms.

To listen to the stories this morning, to hear the accounts of the two young men from Delaware who will not be returning home to their families, to sit in this Chamber and listen to Senators from the various States talk about

those who will not be coming home, as a country we mourn for them, but we also have cause to celebrate and be joyous with those who will be coming home.

I stand before you with a great sense of pride for a young man from Alaska who we just learned, quite honestly by way of a photograph that appeared on Monday, was pinned by General Franks with a Bronze Star for battle. It is one of those success stories; it is one of those tributes that is important to mention as we speak about those who have not only given their lives but those who have gone into battle and are coming back to celebrate the victories.

The young man from Alaska about whom I would like to speak this morning is SGT Lucas Goddard. He has been in the military for just 3 years. He is 21 years old. He is part of the Army's 327th 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. It was on Monday in Najaf that General Franks pinned the Bronze Star on Sergeant Goddard.

Imagine yourself, Mr. President, as a parent, as we both are, your son or your daughter is overseas. They are in a conflict and you have not heard from them in several months, not knowing their situation, not knowing whether they are safe, really not knowing where they are. Your eyes are glued to the coverage of the war to glimpse anything.

The parents of Sergeant Goddard received a phone call on Monday from a reporter who had seen the picture, saw that the young man had been identified as being from Alaska, and contacted Mrs. Goddard. The reporter said: So what do you think? Mrs. Goddard was speechless. She was so happy, she was so joyous, not necessarily that her son had received this incredible recognition, but that her son was alive.

The headline in the hometown newspaper that day was: "Medal and Media Images Mean Army Son is Alive in Iraq." Think about yourself as a parent wanting to know, waiting to know, getting a call from a reporter saying: What do you think? But the good news is that your son is alive and, on top of that, to be given a medal such as the Bronze Star.

I had an opportunity last evening to speak with Sergeant Goddard's mother, Kathy Goddard. She lives in Juneau. It was heartwarming to speak with her about the pride she has for her son and the sense of giving that she has as a parent. She said to me: It's not just Lucas; it is not just Lucas who is out there. There are other young men and women from Sitka, who are in Iraq, who are serving our country, and we are concerned for all of them.

Sitka is a very small community in southeast Alaska. It is an island of about 8,000 people. In that community in the grocery store, I understand from Mrs. Goddard that what they have done is put a list in the grocery store of the individuals who are serving our country right now so that people can get a

sense of who is out there serving, the men and women we honor.

I asked Mrs. Goddard: Can you tell us what it was that your son did to receive the Bronze Star? In the picture that we saw, there was no real recognition. It was just an acknowledgment that this young man had received the honor.

She does not know. Her comment to me was: It really does not matter what he was recognized for, but whatever it is, we are exceptionally proud. We cannot wait until he gets home and he can sit around the dinner table and tell us all that he has gone through.

She said he is a very humble young man and does not like to tout his accomplishments. She says he is probably going to be embarrassed over all of the hoopla that is going on right now, but there is good reason for hoopla. It is still very sketchy right now, but in referencing several of the newspaper accounts, we understand that General Franks awarded the Bronze Star for valor to two soldiers who had fought in the battle for Najaf. SGT James Ward led the team that stormed the military compound on the south side of the city, and SGT Lucas Goddard spearheaded the assault on the local airfield, taking direct enemy fire.

In further newspaper accounts, as best we have been able to tell, we understand they had captured a compound of weapons while under fire by AK-47s, grenade launchers, and rocket-propelled grenades. So our brave young man from Sitka did what he was trained to do and was recognized for it. He will be going home to Sitka to celebrate with his family.

I need to share a mother's intuition with the Chair and my colleagues. Mrs. Goddard said she woke up on Monday sensing that she was going to hear from her son that day.

She said: You know, you just sometimes get that intuition; I just felt something.

She had not heard from her son for upward of a month prior to this. That afternoon she received a phone call from a reporter asking: What do you think? We have seen the newspaper account.

Well, that was not a direct contact from her son necessarily, but she said: You follow that mother's instinct. I knew that I was going to hear from him today. And that is what she heard.

So to all of the men and women from Sitka, from all over my State, from all over the country, our hearts go out to you. We are extremely proud of all of you at this moment, like Sergeant Goddard, who so bravely is defending our freedom and our democracy. We must acknowledge all of our men and women for the sacrifices they are making for America's freedom, our freedom, the freedom of this Chamber, and the freedom of millions of people all over the world as we are protected by those who are serving in our Armed Forces.

Sergeant Goddard is an example to all of us. It is this rock solid courage

that we think about. This is what our military is all about, unfaltering bravery. So the recognition Sergeant Goddard received is one that we look to, we say thank you, and God bless.

I am going to share one last communication from Sergeant Goddard. This was in an e-mail message he sent to his family some months ago. It is a testament of his good will, and I believe his honorable service to our country. In his message, he stated:

I will be thinking of you all while over there. It is because of people like you that we fight the tyrants who stand in the way of freedom and peace.

So to Sergeant Goddard and all of those men and women who are serving us for our freedom, we thank you.

I yield the floor, and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until the hour of 12 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THOMAS. We are in morning business?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct.

ENERGY

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, I take a moment to talk about at least one of the pending matters. Certainly our focus is, and should be, on what is happening in Iraq, supporting our troops, so we can support whatever needs to be done now as this war, hopefully, comes to a successful conclusion. In the meantime, of course, while we are aware we are not yet at that point, we have to continue with strong support and praise of our men and women.

In addition, business goes on. Despite our interest in terrorism, despite our concern and support for Iraq, our lives continue. An important issue is energy. We have been through this a number of times before, and the unrest in the

Middle East has something to do with it, although it is not the exclusive reason. We need to find ways, as we look forward, to supply ourselves with our electricity needs.

Energy is at times taken for granted. We do not pay attention to it. Lights, automobiles, food—everything has to do with energy. As we all know, we depend on imports for 60 percent of our energy. Availability is threatened, from time to time, but economically we are better off producing here.

We are in the process of working on an energy policy. Last year, Members may recall, we began with no energy policy. For various reasons—organizations, committees did not get to the work—we had no policy. When we talk policy, we are talking broader than the details; we are talking about a vision, where we need to be and the best way to get there over a period of time. I know how difficult it is because we deal with issues before the Senate on a daily basis. However, the most important function of the Congress and the Senate is to make policy. Others do the details and the implementation. Our emphasis ought to be on where we want to go, where we want to be over a period of time and, in broad terms, how we get there.

We are now in the process, I am pleased to say, of coming up with an energy policy. Hopefully, it will be a broad policy that will include what we think our needs will be and then talk about how we get there. The policy will include, certainly, research. There will be new ways of generating energy for ourselves. We will be using different kinds of energy over time, including hydrogen. Certainly we will be looking at conservation. There is no question there are many ways we can save in the amount of energy we each use; we can reduce our demands on energy. There will be emphasis on alternative means, including hydrogen cars, and perhaps hydrogen for other purposes as well.

Most importantly, in the short term, we will look at increasing domestic production of energy. We have the resources in our country to have considerably more energy made available than we do now. When we do it, for instance, in the case of coal, one of the largest resources of energy we have, we have to continue to look for ways to produce it in a clean fashion so we can have good climate, clean skies.

I am hopeful we can continue to emphasize the future, where we need to be, how we are going to get there. We are going to have to recognize things have changed, for instance, in the area of electricity. Years ago, certainly, generators were also distributors of what they generated in their own retail markets. Now we have changed that and 40 percent of the generation is done by so-called marketing generators that do not distribute but sell it wholesale around the country. Obviously, to make that work, we have to have transmission and transportation. That