

hope when the time comes we can work to craft an amendment that would right this wrong, that would ensure that ethanol is treated the same as any other fuel that we have in the country, and that would improve the quality of this legislation before it passes the Senate, if it is able to do so.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business.

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

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the other morning, as I read the clips from the Anchorage Daily News, I was taken by a report of an event that took place when President Bush landed on the aircraft carrier off of San Diego.

I ask unanimous consent that this Anchorage Daily News article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks on this subject.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. STEVENS. This article referred to Petty Officer 3rd Class Francis Cushingam IV, who met and shook hands with the President three times while he was on the aircraft carrier. It describes how this 21-year-old Alaskan from Eagle River and his 5,000 shipmates played host to President Bush and what they did.

President Bush was on board all day getting to shake hands with almost every member of the crew. As the article says:

Trust an Alaskan to make the most of opportunity. Despite an uncertain start, Cushingam managed to shake Bush's hand three separate times, get his picture taken with the President, and appear in a background shot on the Today show.

The article goes on to say that Cushingam considers it to be proof of his few moments of glory and has a quote from him:

It's something I'm going to keep to show to my children and my grandchildren. I can say, "Hey, I met the President."

There are people who criticized the President for having landed on that aircraft carrier. As a pilot, I envy the opportunity he had to land on that aircraft carrier and I certainly do not criticize the President for his visit.

Our battle carrier groups are tremendous examples of the ability of the United States to project force to all

corners of the globe. What better way to show the world that force than to have the President of the United States land on this aircraft carrier as it returned to its home base?

In fact, before the President landed on that carrier, the basic air combat groups on board the carrier had left. They fly ahead of the vessel as it goes into home port so they can go have their reunions with their families at the air bases, which reflect their duties. The sailors' families meet them as they come in to port. In this instance, it was San Diego. I have witnessed some of those real amazing events when a major ship comes back into port.

This visit of the Commander-in-Chief was accomplished within normal allocation of training flight hours to the pilots who flew him there. He was a passenger. He, as well as I, would like to experience landing a plane on an aircraft carrier but we know we cannot do that.

Very clearly, the President was carrying out the tradition of every President since John Tyler in 1844. President Eisenhower visited aircraft carriers after World War II. In 1980, Jimmy Carter visited the Nimitz, and in 1994, President Bill Clinton, on the George Washington, went from England to France for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Normandy. I do not remember any criticism of that. In fact, to the contrary. I think Americans are proud of the fact their President goes out to greet the troops as they are coming back and spends time with them.

As this article points out, this Alaskan greeted the President as he came out of the gym. He had gone to work out with some of the guys and gals on board. I cannot think of a better way for a Commander-in-Chief to demonstrate the great confidence we have in the young men and women who performed their duty in Iraq.

I ask unanimous consent that another article which I have printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 2.)

Mr. STEVENS. This is an article from the Copley News Service entitled "Bush Continues Seagoing Tradition." It points out the number of times that Presidents have gone on board aircraft carriers.

Long before I came to the Senate, I remember when Adlai Stevenson came to Alaska. He was just a Presidential candidate. We traveled miles and miles to see him, although I was a Republican candidate for office at the time. I think every American wants to see the President and is totally honored to ever be in the presence of the President. That person represents the honor of our country, and I cannot think of a better way for a President to do it than to go out and land on an aircraft carrier and honor those who have served our country so well in Iraq.

I do congratulate the President and I hope he keeps it up. I hope he visits every naval vessel he can visit and every military base he can visit.

This generation has done a tremendous job for us in Afghanistan and Iraq. My generation was referred to as "the greatest generation." I think these young people far surpass what we did in terms of their ability to follow orders, to achieve the goals that are set for them, and to do it in a very humane and humanitarian way.

Again, I think the President did the right thing by thanking the soldiers and sailors and marines on that aircraft carrier in person. I again repeat, I hope he will do it again.

EXHIBIT 1

AFTER SHAKY START, ALASKAN GREETES BUSH THREE TIMES

(By Sheila Toomey)

Petty Officer 3rd Class Francis Cushingam IV was so nervous about meeting the president that he almost blew his first opportunity.

"I'm all freaking out. I was basically scared to meet him. I mean, he's like basically the most powerful person on the planet," Cushingam said by phone Friday from San Diego, where the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln is docked.

The 21-year-old from Eagle River and his 5,000 shipmates played host Thursday to President Bush, who declared victory in Iraq in a speech broadcast from the carrier as it approached the California coast. The ship, which left the United States in July, was returning from duty in the Persian Gulf.

Bush was on board all day, and getting to shake his hand became a ship-wide obsession.

Trust an Alaskan to make the most of opportunity. Despite an uncertain start, Cushingam managed to shake Bush's hand three separate times, get his picture taken with the president and appear in a background shot on the "Today" show.

"I'm basking in it," Cushingam said. "Everybody was honored and excited. There's a lot of people who didn't get the chance to shake his hand, and they're all bummed out."

The first occasion was outside Cushingam's work station, a room of computers used in navigating the massive ship that's located along a corridor leading to the captain's cabin. When a bunch of Secret Service agents appeared, signaling the president's approach, Cushingam said he got nervous and turned to leave. A colleague stopped him, and the first shake took place.

"I said, 'How are you, sir?' It's a pleasure to meet you, sir." He said, "Thank you for your service to your country." I swore my face was the brightest hue of red you could possibly muster, but my friend said I didn't look nervous."

An hour later, Bush was returning from the ship gym, wearing workout clothes, needing a shower, friendly and shorter than he looks on television, the 6-foot-3-inch Alaskan said.

"He stood in the doorway, saw all of us with our cameras, and pretty much offered a photo op right there. . . . He said, 'Who has a camera? Who am I standing with first?'"

"I shook his hand about 4:20 in the afternoon," Cushingam said. "Pacific time."

The third shake was up on deck, after Bush's speech. Now a pro, no longer nervous, Cushingam maneuvered to be among the group Bush was scheduled to shake hands with in the afterglow of the international media event.