

Unlike past conflicts, Operation Iraqi Freedom was, for the 3rd Armored Cavalry, a battle of a different kind. It was for the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. It was securing the peace and preventing terrorist attacks. It was for rebuilding a nation devastated by war, brutality, and corruption.

The regiment was responsible for controlling about a third of Iraq, including the hostile cities of Ramadi and Fallujah and Iraq's western borders with Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria. Yet, the troopers performed their mission with excellence. They were determined in the face of opposition. They overcame unforeseen challenges. They worked as never before.

They also cared deeply about the Iraqi people. In one case, the regiment helped three rural villages in rebuilding their decimated communities. The troopers worked alongside families repaired and reconstructed facilities damaged and neglected for 30 years under the former regime. Schools, medical clinics and houses were rebuilt so that children could return to school and health care could be provided to all.

In other cities, troopers from the regiment helped build sewer and water projects, rebuild schools, and provide clothes, blankets, and food to needy adults and children.

These are only a few examples of the outstanding work these troopers did in Iraq. And, now, as these troopers reflect upon their service, they can say with pride that they accomplished their mission and made a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people.

However, their service did not come without a high cost.

PFC Armando Soriano joined the Army so that he could help his parents, who had immigrated to the United States in the 1980s. His goal was to save enough money to buy his parents and his four siblings a house.

Yet, it was his love for his comrades that made him stand out, and as a result, he became one of the best young soldiers in the 3rd Armored Cavalry. At 5 feet 6 inches, PFC Soriano weighed barely more than the 100-pound artillery shells he hefted as part of his job driving a 155 mm cannon through Iraq.

But that didn't stop him. He was faster than any of his comrades in lifting these huge shells.

He was known in the unit as a soldier who would do anything for his fellow troopers. He was always positive and kept everyone going despite the tough conditions. His fellow soldiers described him as "simply the best."

Sadly, PFC Armando Soriano died on February 2, 2004, in a truck accident in Iraq.

SP Brian Penisten, one of the unit's best mechanics, loved fishing, fixing cars and woodworking. He was a devoted family man with a 4-year old son. And, he was proud that he got to wear the uniform of the United States Army.

"He could make us look forward to doing our jobs every day," according to

one of his fellow soldiers. "He would be the one to make us shine and laugh and cry and everything else."

"He was always doing something to make things better," said another.

SP Brian Penisten was headed home for his wedding to his longtime girlfriend when his transport helicopter was shot down on November 2 by a guerrilla missile near the city of Fallujah.

He was buried on the day he was supposed to be married.

These are only two stories of the 49 soldiers from Colorado who have died while serving our Nation in Iraq. And, another 233 were wounded.

Despite the high cost, the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment embraced their mission and worked each and every day to better the lives of the Iraqi people.

Troopers like SFC Dean Lockhart have continued to demonstrate a devotion to the Army and our country despite the high price he has had to pay.

On July 23, Sergeant Lockhart was manning his Humvee machine gun when a roadside bomb demolished his Humvee. Shrapnel from the bomb pierced his back, shattering his pelvis and leg. After numerous surgeries and endless days of pain, Sergeant Lockhart is back in Colorado recovering from his injuries.

Despite the physical and psychological toll, Sergeant Lockhart has not given up. He still wants to spend 7 more years in the Army and he still believes in the U.S. mission in Iraq. He doesn't blame anyone for his injuries and has no regrets. If his unit was back in Iraq, he would return in a moment's notice.

Mr. President, I cannot begin to express to you and to the rest of my colleagues how thankful I am for the service these brave men and women from the 3rd Armored Cavalry have given to our country. Over 400 of these troopers earned medals of valor, including 200 Purple Hearts. They sacrificed much, but they never gave up. They accomplished their mission, fought with dignity and honor, and continued the heroic legacy of the 3rd Armored Cavalry.

Last week, I watched in amazement as the troopers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment were told that they had both literally and figuratively earned their spurs. Each of them are now allowed to wear those spurs in public in recognition of the unit's historic past and more, importantly, in appreciation for the unit's heroic service to our country in Iraq.

Mr. President, these are fine troopers who deserve our honor, our praise, and our admiration. I commend the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment for its service to our Nation, and I and the rest of the State of Colorado welcome them home.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time consumed during the previous quorum call be divided between the two sides; provided further that the time spent in additional quorum calls during this period of morning business be equally divided, as well.

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

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I express a deep sense of gratitude to all those involved in this magnificent recognition of those who served in World War II, not only the 16 million men and women in uniform, but the homefront by ten times that number. Every American was involved.

This weekend was magnificent. I was privileged to have a very modest role in this event with Senator Dole and many others, joining in the feature of the weekend, the afternoon, 2 to approximately 3:30, when on The Mall over 150,000 individuals gathered to pay their respects to what is referred to as "the greatest generation" and hear from those who had taken a leading role, including Senator Dole, the American Battle Monuments Commission under the former commandant of the Marine Corps, Fred Smith, who was a key part of the team that raised the money, and, of course, we were fortunate the President of the United States came and addressed not only the crowd, not only our Nation, but addressed the world as a reminder of the human sacrifice all over the globe as a consequence of that struggle for the preservation of freedom.

Of course, we all remember the United States involvement started on December 7, 1941, with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Prior thereto, the Nazi armies had marched into Poland in late 1939, and the war in Europe was well underway. Then on September 2, 1945, the Japanese signed the official surrender aboard the Missouri in Tokyo Bay, and prior thereto, May 8 or 9, or a little later, the formal recognition of the surrender of the German forces.

So the great war to end all wars, as it was referred—as was also referred in World War I—had come to an end, with 16 million uniformed, over 400,000 of whom died, and triple that number bearing the wounds of that war.

It is interesting how this all started. On May 25, 1993, nearly 48 years after the end of the war, Public Law 103-32 was signed, authorizing the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a World War II memorial in Washington, DC, or its environs to honor the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of those people. And 11 years have followed after that fundraising, design, selection, and debate.

It is legitimate and important that we have voices on both sides express their views with regard to the utilization of the precious few acres between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial and, indeed, the Capitol on the other end.

Primarily under the leadership of Bob Dole and Fred Smith—Bob Dole, having been an extraordinary hero in the closing days of World War II, having suffered wounds in Italy in September of 1945 that required him to undergo many years of medical treatment and sheer mental determination to survive and to go on and provide America with his very distinguished career, including a seat he occupied as majority leader once in the Senate. The design by Friedrich St. Florian, Rhode Island architect, was chosen after reviewing approximately 400 design submissions, and Leo A. Daley, an internationally known architect who resides in Washington, DC, a very distinguished American, was selected to give overall management to the project.

I also acknowledge the name Carter Brown. He was at that time the foremost figure at the National Gallery of Art for many years as its director. He had a keen sense with regard to artistic matters. I remember calling him—I think others did, too—but prevailing him to enter the debate about the design of this memorial.

Some years before, I had again been a participant in the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and it was a very strong and, at times, ferocious debate. In my office, as a U.S. Senator, right here in the Capitol, one time it erupted almost into fisticuffs over the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The debate on this memorial was equally serious, equally thoughtful on both sides, but, nevertheless, I have always believed that Carter Brown, through his strong hand and enormous respect, entered the fray and quelled the waters such that a design finally emerged. So we owe a debt of gratitude to so many.

Bob Dole and Fred Smith and others had raised more than \$195 million from the private sector, incidentally from more than 600,000 separate contributions; that is, from individuals, some of them for a dollar, some for many dollars, but that is an extraordinary number of individuals. I also recognize that every State in the Union, all 50 States and Puerto Rico, contributed \$1 for every citizen of that State who wore the uniform, male and female, in World War II. What a remarkable record of the breadth of participation across the land.

Some \$16 million was provided by the Federal Government, again not necessarily for the construction and design of the memorial, but really for a lot of the infrastructure that had to be put in place. I refer to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. On October 30, 2000, we were able to find within the Armed Services authorization bill some \$6 million to be

transferred to the American Battle Monuments Commission. I will put into the RECORD the technical details of how we did that and the purpose for the funds, but basically it was for infrastructure. Congress had a modest hand, but I believe the important emphasis should be put on how the private sector came forward to make possible the construction.

As I reflect on this weekend and my opportunity to observe and walk among the many veterans who were gathered there on Saturday afternoon, on a fairly warm and intense day, and the joy in their hearts—and of the 16 million, I think, somewhere between 6 or 7 million, perhaps, are still on planet Earth. So many of their colleagues, therefore, who had passed on in that period of time and since that period of time were on their minds. But there was joy in everyone's heart. It was a coming together, to use the words of Bob Dole, paralleled, really, only by the World War II period when all of America was so united strongly behind the men and women of the Armed Forces. It was a magnificent reenactment, so to speak, of that cohesion that prevailed throughout America in that critical period from 1941 to late 1945.

Those of us who were privileged to be part of it—and I was just a young sailor at the tail end of the war in training command, but, nevertheless, I remember so well how America opened its arms to the veterans of that period and how this country perhaps made its best investment, for educational purposes, the best investment in the history of the Federal Government's participation in education, which was the GI bill, from which I benefited and many others.

I have often said, standing at this very spot on the Senate floor, that I would not have been privileged to serve in the Senate had it not been for the GI bill I received for modest service in World War II and then modest service again in the second period during the Korean conflict, with service in the Marines. I mention that only in the context of the value of the GI bill to those of us who received that gift of the American people. That is why I try to work hard today with many others, particularly those on the Armed Services Committee, to do what we can for this generation of young men and women who are in the Armed Forces and their families as a means of payback for what was done for previous generations. I am proud of the record of the Armed Services Committee over the many years I have been able to participate and serve on that committee.

I will come to the phrase momentarily. Bob Dole said it I think best of all when we chatted together quietly, and I think he also said it publicly in a number of interviews he found the time to give; and that is, perhaps it is time to pass on the baton of the "greatest generation" to this generation of young men and women who are

now serving in the Armed Forces of the United States because the Nation, I believe, is behind them. It is strongly behind them. There may be differences of view, honest differences of viewpoints about the war—should we have done it, should we not have done it—but we will save that debate for a later date and just look forward.

It was remarkable when we arose this morning, after a weekend of deliberations by many people in Iraq, the United Nations, Ambassador Bremer, and others, that we suddenly realize that the Iraqi Governing Council, which I think has done some very credible work in its short lifetime, has suddenly decided to dissolve, pick a President, a Prime Minister, some 20-odd ministers, and begin to lay the foundation for Iraq to govern itself. I personally am very heartened by these moves, widely reported in today's press.

But also in today's press again is the expression of many—I am not suggesting it is thoughtless, but, nevertheless, it is strongly in conflict with my own views—that we ought to establish a pullout date. Our President has steadfastly said we are going to remain until such time as the Iraqi people have enabled themselves to establish their government, hopefully to hold an election, before any dramatic withdrawal of the coalition forces in large numbers because that security system must be in place.

These are going to be critical, stressful, and difficult times after the transition on July 1. But we have to all remain steadfast in our conviction that we have to give this fledgling new Iraqi government a chance to put its roots into the ground and grow and gain strength and train their own force structure for the purposes of security.

But, nevertheless, as widely reported, a number of groups say, let's establish an arbitrary date—well, maybe not arbitrary but establish a date for pullout. To me, that would be a grave mistake. It would set a target, and targets are not a wise step in these types of situations, not at all. It is better that we go day by day, week by week, month by month, and gradually see how quickly the Iraqi government can constitute itself, establish its training programs, and eventually establish its own security forces. In the meantime, citizens of this country and other coalition nations have provided the funds for the refurbishment and, indeed, the modernization of their economic infrastructure.

So this must go forward, recognizing, again, that it is going to be a stressful and dangerous period because there are, regrettably, many engaged in open warfare to stop the evolution of a new and free Iraq.

Mr. President, I close with those remarks, saying only that I believe it was an opportune time for this memorial to be dedicated this weekend, to bring America together, to instill in

America a consciousness of the sacrifice that has preceded in our own Nation. Hopefully that measure of sacrifice can be extrapolated into the challenges that face America today and the sacrifice now of over 800 young men and women who have died in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, primarily Iraq, and the many more thousands who have been wounded. Yes, that does not compare, certainly by way of numbers, with the over 400,000 in World War II, but in my heart it compares. Every soldier counts. Every sailor, every airman, every marine counts.

It is not just the total number. To the family who bereaves the loss of their loved one, it is painful, irrespective of the total. It is a big total in my judgment, a significant total, a serious total and a serious loss to the country. Each us in this Chamber deeply grieves those losses.

Coming together this weekend, focusing on the sacrifices, on where our Nation is today as the leader of the free world, I hope will better enable Americans to understand the sacrifice of these young men and women, be they killed or wounded, and the hardships to the family. It is worth it because it is all part of a long, step-by-step trek toward not only achieving freedom for other nations but maintaining our freedom here at home, freedom against terrorism and other threats throughout the world.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak for 5 or 6 minutes in morning business.

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

SEASONAL WORK PERMITS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to take a minute this morning to talk about an issue that has been of some concern for us in Wyoming, as the Presiding Officer knows, for some time; yet we have not been able to move forward on it. It has to do with work permits that allow people to come and work for a seasonal time, for a relatively short time, in our case, generally, for the tourism around Yellowstone Park.

In that business, they have offered these jobs to anyone, of course, over the years, but they have been filled largely by people coming from other countries—mostly Mexico—for a fairly short period of time on what is called an H-2B visa. This is a category of visa that allows for seasonal and temporary nonagricultural workers to come. These workers are employed in all

kinds of industries that include fisheries, timber, hotels, restaurants, and others. Even ice skating shows have been talked about recently.

Businesses must file a petition with the State department of labor to certify that no local workers are available. They have always done that, of course. Workers are certified for a specific period of time. When that time has expired, they must return to their home country. I think this program has been in place for a good long time. I think it is one of the unique ones where there has been a record of re-turning.

One of the problems is—and this has come up as a problem, of course, in the last several months or a year—there has been a lot of conversation about illegal immigrants in this country, and properly so. There has been a great deal of conversation about outsourcing and paying less because you can get people to come from other places. Those things are true, but they are not applicable in this particular instance because, No. 1, these people are certified to be here. They go back when the time is over.

In the past, they have been able to come back on the same permit over a period of time. It has kind of worked that way. The wages have been reasonable wages paid in these particular areas. It is a fact and it is true that the jobs are not always the kind of jobs that a lot of young people want in our country. They are working in hotels and motels; nevertheless, they are jobs that are available and reasonably paid.

I think, though, because of the situation we have had and other kinds of problems with immigrants and illegals, this has become a more realistic issue than it would have been otherwise. This year, the number of H-2Bs was capped, and the number happened to be 66,000 per year. The fact is, this is really the first time that cap has been enforced. It is the first time people have ever thought in terms of a cap. Much of it had to do with the timing. People were talking, as our folks do in Jackson, about the summer season. They had not worried too much about doing this until the spring when they have traditionally done it; and it turns out that because of the cap, those numbers had been reached in other places. Therefore, it excluded the involvement of any more H-2Bs.

This is not an issue that is unique particularly to Wyoming. Other States, such as New Hampshire, Maine, Alaska, Virginia, Ohio, and North Carolina, have specifically spoken out as we have about the problem that exists in Wyoming.

Last year, they had petitions roughly for 1,800 workers in Wyoming. About 1,600 went, as I mentioned, to Jackson Hole. So we tried to find a solution to this situation because it seemed, more than anything, to be a question of timing. If we are going to have a limit, that is fine, but the limit ought to be known so that people, if they are going

to need workers in the summer, can make application at an appropriate time earlier in the year so that the timing is not an issue. That is the way it has been this year.

So for the last number of months, since we all heard about this—the first was in March before we even knew about the limit—the Senators and staff have been working to address this issue in a fair and consistent manner, to make good immigration policy. None of us are looking for illegal immigrants who are trying to extend illegal opportunities. This is a program that has been in place, has been useful, and has been legal. These are legal people who come and then they return, so the question of illegal immigration doesn't really fit in here.

So I need to make the point that this is something that we could proceed with. As a matter of fact, there have been opportunities in the Senate to move forward, and many suggestions that have been made are reasonable. I am trying to emphasize the fact that we need to move to do this and not simply write off the 2004 season. I will have to admit it is now very late and people are looking for other ways to fill these spots, and some of them can be, and that is fine.

I was in Wyoming this weekend at a place where they have similar seasons. They had set up a parking lot beside this motel where people could bring their trailers and their travel vehicles and stay there during the summer. These were older folks, pretty much retired, who wanted to work part time in the summer, and they would bring their trailer and stay. Some of the jobs can be filled that way, and they are. The fact is, businesses are going to be hurt if we don't do something. Certainly, we need to do that. There are some propositions that have been put forward on the Senate floor. We have had a couple folks objecting to them, so nothing has been done.

I think it is time. If people want to change the proposition, they can do that if they are comfortable with it. But we ought to move forward with the problem, which we can fix or require to be fixed or ask to be fixed, so that there is a reasonable opportunity for people to continue in the business of doing the same thing they have been doing, where now they are prohibited because of the timing proposition.

So I am hopeful we can continue to take a look at it. If it is too late for this year, I am sorry, but we ought to fix it now. But if we are not able to fix it this year, we will know what we are faced with for the next year. I understand the system in the Senate, but it is too bad when we have something that affects most people, and it can be held up and not allowed to even be discussed and moved forward. I think this is under the leadership of the Senator from Utah.

Mr. President, I wanted to share some thoughts on that issue instead of waiting and letting this continue to be