

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to offer my thoughts on the eve of the third anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Rather than show divisiveness and criticism, or talk about politics, I think it is important to reflect on how much that tragedy has changed our lives and challenged all of us—not just Republicans, not just Democrats, but all Americans—to do all that we can to protect all that is good and wholesome about America.

Tomorrow, Saturday, American families will be doing what they have done for generations in the early fall. In Charlottesville, the University of Virginia will be hosting the Tar Heels from North Carolina; in Columbia, SC, the University of Georgia football team will be playing the Gamecocks of South Carolina; in Richmond, Saturday night, there will be more than 100,000 fans there for the big NASCAR race; at the wonderful and traditional Wrigley Field in Chicago, the Cubs will be playing the Florida Marlins; and families, in the afternoon, will be having cookouts in their backyards; others will be gathered as a family at their dinner tables.

During all of these wonderful, truly American events, we will all pause to remember a day when such innocence was shattered by the vile, hate-filled attacks on our homeland that manifested themselves so viciously in New York City, at the Pentagon in Arlington, VA, and in Somerset County, PA. We will remember the loss of 3,000 Americans that day, and we will pray for their souls and certainly pray for their families. We will remember friends and we will remember neighbors lost on that day.

At all of those sporting events, when the National Anthem is sung, I venture to guess that song will be sung with greater vigor, more loudly, and with greater patriotism than one would normally hear. When they conclude those final lines talking about how we are the “land of the free,” and because we are the “home of the brave,” we will be thinking of our troops who are serving and protecting us in precarious positions in Afghanistan, Iraq, and prosecuting the war on terrorism.

In some ways, September 11, 2001, seems a long time ago. Yet we have done so much in only a few years, and we will continue to do so in the future, to prevent such attacks on America.

Our focus in Government and our private lives has obviously profoundly

changed. We see it with our fortified airports, greater protection in our public buildings, our shipping ports, and even cyberspace.

We have strengthened and updated law enforcement capabilities and intelligence, and our work on the Senate floor in the next few weeks will further enhance those efforts with meaningful improvements and the use of innovations of technology to better gather and analyze counterterrorism information.

We have been more vigilant in watching enemies and threats at home and abroad. We have intercepted financial assistance to terrorists.

Yes, through it all, the fabric of our Nation has become stronger and more appreciated as we face these unprecedented challenges. Our resolve and our focus is more clear. Our determination to protect freedoms here and around the world is greater than ever before.

We are so appreciative of the men and women in uniform who are protecting us, whether in Afghanistan or Iraq or on ships around the world. For our security, they are taking the offensive to the terrorists overseas. We are grateful for those who are active or maybe in the Guard or in the Reserves, or their employers here at home. Of course, we are so grateful to their families who have sent their sons and daughters, their loved ones and their friends overseas to protect us.

Our economic ingenuity, our competitiveness, our strength is being rekindled and reignited by free people and free enterprise. In many ways, those who brought us harm on September 11 surely miscalculated the character of the American people. We are a Nation of bravery and heroism.

I will never forget the stories about the first responders in New York City going into the Trade Centers, breathing their last breaths of life trying to save a few more innocent victims. The same with the Pentagon. The responders came in not only from Arlington but all over northern Virginia, from Maryland, and even some from the District of Columbia, rushing into acrid, toxic air, trying to save those who had been hit, whether on the plane, but mostly those who were the surviving or people working at the Pentagon. These people ignored their personal safety. They rushed into harm's way to help their fellow Americans on that day.

Yesterday, I was at the Pentagon. In fact, I went in through the side of the Pentagon where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into it. It is all rebuilt. It is strong, in fact stronger than ever. The reason I was at the Pentagon is the Secretary of the Navy, Secretary England, decided to name two new marine landing ships. They are named the USS *Arlington*, because that is where the Pentagon is and was hit, and Somerset after Somerset County, PA, to honor the victims of 9/11 who died in Pennsylvania and Virginia. These two ships will be a tangible demonstration of our shared resolve in this country.

For our friends, neighbors, and loved ones who lost their lives, they will be fitting reminders of their sacrifice.

One of those who lost their lives was a captain of American Airlines Flight 77, Captain Chic Burlingame. He had with him a wonderful poem. It is a poem his brother and sister gave to me. We were making sure he was properly buried at Arlington Cemetery, and I have kept it in my pocket until the Phoenix Project had the rebuilding of the Pentagon. Where I get my neckties and get dressed every morning, I have this picture they gave me. The picture is important, but also what is important is what is on the back of it, and that is a poem Captain Burlingame had on him when they crashed into the Pentagon. It is entitled “I Did Not Die.”

I will share the poem with my colleagues.

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the autumn's gentle rain.
When you waken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I did not die.

Tomorrow, we will be coming together, as is our tradition, to be cheering teams, grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, gathering around tables with those we love and those whom we cherish even more and, yes, indeed, we will pause. We will remember. We will never forget.

Three years after that terrible day that changed our lives, America has come back strong. Everything that makes us good is more appreciated than ever. We are resolved more than ever to stand strong for freedom. I am confident that with the wholesome character of our American people, justice will prevail and liberty will endure.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HEALTH CARE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, while Congress was in recess, the news media have reported several important studies in the field of wellness and disease prevention. Collectively, these studies are another loud wake-up call. It is time for fundamental change in our approach to health care in the United States.

I have been saying for years that currently we have a sick care system, not a health care system. We have a system that, if you get sick, you get care.