

the networks and organizations that flow money, supplies, people, and information to the terrorists.

Here at home, the defense and intelligence capabilities of the Federal Government have been reorganized more sweepingly than at any point since the 1940s, to prepare them for this, the first war of the 21st century. We have created a Department of Homeland Security and are currently weighing how best to strengthen our intelligence services to deal with today's threats.

Finally, America has reaffirmed her commitment to liberty across the world. Despite the negative words of a few naysayers in high places, most people around the globe draw strength from America's commitment to lead the global war on terror. Over 30 nations joined us to liberate Afghanistan and Iraq. We have never wavered in our pledge to root out the terrorists and punish the states that may harbor them. The world has been reminded that America lives up to its word.

We have made great progress in 3 years, and will continue to make great progress. The president has told us that this will be a long struggle lasting years, perhaps decades. We cannot be sure when the war may be won. But we can be sure that it will.

For nearly 50 years, America grappled with another seemingly entrenched enemy—the Soviet Union and the spread of communism throughout the world. For much of the cold war, the struggle seemed to be without end. Some said it couldn't be won. Some said coexistence was the best America could hope for. Some even morally equated American freedom with Soviet tyranny, and refused to take sides.

But today, schoolchildren learn that the Soviet Union collapsed, rotten from the inside, as an inevitable fact. We take our victory in the Cold War for granted today, but it took decades of resolve, perseverance, and faith that our way of life was superior to totalitarianism. Well, the American way of freedom—freedom to worship, freedom to speak, freedom to vote—is still the best way of life on Earth.

Today's generation must maintain that same faith. We cannot lose on the battlefield. We cannot lose the war of ideals. As long as we maintain our will to win, we will prevail.

ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I cannot let September 11 pass without reflecting on this painful anniversary, and heralding the strength of our Nation in the three years that have passed since that terrible day.

Three years ago, a global network of terrorists attacked our country, taking the lives of nearly three thousand innocent men, women, and children. Today, we are still angered by the cruelty of these attacks. We are still awed by the courage of our first responders, and of the everyday Americans who were he-

roes on that day, whose acts of bravery and kindness were a source of solace for the Nation in the days after the attacks. Their strength became our strength, and with each passing day, and each passing year, our resolve to stop the forces of terror has only deepened.

This month, as the Senate moves forward to address the critically important recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, we mark the third year that has passed since the attacks. But this anniversary is not simply about the events of a single day. It is about our continued sadness and grief, and our overwhelming pride in the way our Nation responded to the tragic events of that day. It is also about the abiding strength of our convictions; our deep and profound commitment to fighting the forces of terror, to making our families safer, and to preserving the freedoms at the heart of our national character.

We remember September 11 every day. On this anniversary, we simply share in that remembrance—both with other Americans, and with people around the world who stand with us in the fight against terrorism. Today I pay tribute to the lives we lost, and I honor the men and women across this country who give this Nation its greatest source of strength: our faith in our country, in our communities, and in each other.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT BRUCE J. POLLEMA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to SSG Bruce J. Pollema, a fellow Iowan originally from Hull, IA. The Iowa National Guard regrettably announced the death of Staff Sergeant Pollema when he was killed on August 27, 2004 along with fellow soldier, Spc. Dustin S. Colby, when their military motor vehicle rolled over into a ditch near Camp Dodge. Staff Sergeant Pollema was a heavy vehicle operator with the 2168th Transportation Company, based in Sheldon, IA. Staff Sergeant Pollema is survived by his wife, Teri Winter, father and mother, Wilmar and Betty Pollema, his older brother, Waylon, and his twin brother, Brandon. This brave soldier was thirty years old.

The family of Bruce Pollema issued the following statement in response to the news of their son's death: "Our hearts, minds, spirits and prayers are with the rest of the Troops and we wish them God speed. We will be there for them when they come back."

It is fitting that we should honor Staff Sergeant Pollema today for his service to our country. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends. I know his memory will live on in the hearts of everyone he knew.

TIME IS RUNNING SHORT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in less than one week, the 1994 assault weap-

ons ban will expire and our Nation will once again be vulnerable to guns known to most in the law enforcement community as "the weapons of choice for criminals." If the ban is allowed to expire on September 13, potential criminals, including terrorists, could have access to 19 of the highest powered and most lethal firearms capable of being produced. These guns have no sporting purpose and no place on our streets.

In addition to banning 19 specific weapons, the current ban also includes prohibitions on semiautomatic weapons that incorporate a detachable magazine and two or more specific military features. These features include folding/telescoping stocks, protruding pistol grips, bayonet mounts, threaded muzzles or flash suppressors, barrel shrouds, or grenade launchers. Common sense should tell us that there is no reason for civilians to have easy access to guns with these features.

Los Angeles Chief of Police Bill Bratton has said the following about these weapons: "Since the Assault Weapons Ban was passed in 1994, we have seen a 66% decline in the frequency of assault weapon use in crime. Violent criminals love these weapons because they give them far more firepower than conventional weapons that greatly increases their capacity to kill. We cannot allow these weapons to get back into their hands."

It is important to listen to Chief Bratton and other law enforcement officials who support an extension of the assault weapons ban. The ban is important for the safety of all Americans but is especially important for the safety of our police officers.

In 1994, I voted for the assault weapons ban and in March of this year I joined a bipartisan majority of the Senate in voting to extend the ban for 10 years. Unfortunately, despite Senate passage of the amendment, it appears that this important gun safety law will be allowed to expire. The House Republican leadership opposes reauthorizing the law and President Bush, though he has said he supports it, has done little to keep the law alive.

Time is running short. We should support our law enforcement officers and reauthorize this common sense ban on assault weapons. Congress needs to act immediately to reauthorize the ban. I ask unanimous consent that a list of some of the organizations supporting this legislation be printed in the RECORD.

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

International Association of Chiefs of Police
Major Cities Chiefs Association
Police Foundation
Police Executive Research Forum
International Brotherhood of Police Officers
National Association of School Resource Officers
National Fraternal Order of Police
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association