

Without their effort I could not have survived the political fire storm that burns around me.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:29 p.m., recessed until 2:17 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. VOINOVICH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2005—Continued

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, we are setting the priority of amendments now and consulting. We will have that decision made in just a bit. We want to work on that. We have a lot of work to do this afternoon and on into the evening. There have been some changes as far as amendments that have been offered.

In the meantime, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON, be allowed to speak as in morning business for 10 minutes, followed by Senator MURRAY—how much time will the Senator need?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, 15 minutes.

Mr. BURNS. Fifteen minutes, and after that, Senator KERRY will be recognized, and Senator AKAKA needs about 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, as a Senator from Ohio, would like to know where I fit into that schedule.

Mr. BURNS. Right after the chairman is done with his duties.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is that 3 o'clock?

Mr. BURNS. Yes.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if I might make a point, because of the way the order is established, it could be 5 minutes after 3, but the Senator from Ohio will be in line following the Senators who have just been described by Senator BURNS as having time. It should turn out 10 minutes, 15, 10, and 10, and it should turn out to be just about the time the Presiding Officer leaves the chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. BURNS. First let me add something, if the Senator from Massachusetts will withhold?

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I wish to speak. It is a little longer than 10 minutes. I do not know exactly how long.

Mr. BURNS. Then the Senator will follow the Chair.

Mr. KERRY. I appreciate that. I will follow the Senator from Washington.

Mr. BURNS. And Senator VOINOVICH of Ohio, and Senator AKAKA is after Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Senator KERRY—

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the understanding was the Senator from Washington, the Senator from Hawaii, the Senator from Massachusetts, and then the Chair. It should be around 3 o'clock, and if the Senate proceeds now, we should be able to get there.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me see if we can clear this up without taking more substantial time. Senator ISAKSON wants to speak for 10 minutes in morning business. We decided following that Senator MURRAY would be recognized. She sought 15 minutes to speak on her amendment. Following that, Senator AKAKA was to have been recognized for 10 minutes. At that point, before Senator KERRY came in, we had indicated the Senator from Ohio would be recognized, and then Senator KERRY from Massachusetts has asked to be recognized without a time limit.

The one thing that is unclear to me is how much time the Senator from Ohio wishes. I know he wants to speak on his amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No more than 10 minutes.

Mr. DORGAN. I think we can lock all of that in understanding the Senator from Ohio could take the 10 minutes and then Senator KERRY from Massachusetts would be recognized. I think that actually works out to about 3 o'clock, in any event.

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

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I thank the chairman and ranking member for allowing me this time.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to take just a minute to address 48 extraordinary hours in my life this past weekend I spent with the men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces, first on Saturday in Ellijay, GA, at the funeral of 1LT Noah Harris of the U.S. Army, and then 24 hours later at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where I spent the day with U.S. Armed Forces in the work they are doing with the detainees in the war on terror.

I wish to do the best I can today to speak for those with whom I talked. I take responsibility for every word I say, but they are every bit a message from the people with whom I talked and who shared with me.

First, at the funeral of 1LT Noah Harris, I eulogized Noah on last Thursday and made a promise that I would make it to Ellijay, GA, on Saturday to be at his service. He was a distinguished Georgian, and like every other soldier who served and sacrificed, we mourn his death but we praise his service to our country. But this was an extraordinary funeral service.

A thousand Georgians—500 in the high school gym and 500 in the First Methodist Church—attended a 2½ hour service that passed in a microsecond, a service not by ministers but by laymen, Americans, citizens of Georgia to praise Noah Harris but also to praise our men and women in harm's way.

When the service came to a conclusion, it was his mother Lucy and his dad Rick who talked for the last 20 minutes. To honor what they said and their son to the best of my ability, I want to recount it to all of you.

Lucy stood up before that crowd of 500 and said: You know, when we got the word of Noah's death, I knew I had two choices: I could mourn and I could be sorrowful and I could grieve, and I have done all those, but I could also do the good and the godly thing, and that is to praise my son and all those other men and women who fight in Iraq on behalf of freedom and democracy.

She gave a beautiful and eloquent statement about the tribute her son's life was to that for which our men and women fight.

Then her husband stood up and asked rhetorically: What was it the American press is really writing about today? Everything you hear about what is going on in Iraq is negative and wrong, questioning our motives and our reasons for being there. Yet in this church in quiet Ellijay, GA, in northwest Georgia, thousands had come to honor a man who had sacrificed his life in harm's way for the people of Iraq and the principles of this great Nation.

Rick Harris asked the question: Have we forgotten 9/11? Have we forgotten that since that date there has not been an attack on American soil? Since we went after terror, wherever it exists, and since we committed the resources of our country, our Nation has been safer. And what we are doing is right—is not only right morally, but it is right for the future of peace and freedom and democracy.

So for Lucy and Rick Harris, on behalf of their son, I rise today in this Senate and send that message loud and clear that I got last Saturday from a thousand Georgians proud of their native son's service, sorrowful for his loss but appreciative of living in a country that has been willing to make the commitment we have made on behalf of freedom and democracy around the world and on behalf of the security of the United States of America.

And then, Mr. President, I went to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. I went with two other Members of the Senate. I went with a specific desire in mind: the desire to go and see for myself that which I heard so many people talk about and have seen so much about on television.

I learned something very interesting. There must be two Guantanamo Bay, Cubas—the one I visited and the one all the news media talks about because they did not resemble one another. I thought when I landed at Guantanamo Bay and went to visit the detainees that I would see men incarcerated in cyclone fences with razor wire on top of it. That does not exist anymore. That was Camp X-Ray. It was closed 3 years ago. It was the original temporary place we took the enemy combatants to until we could spend the millions of dollars to build the buildings that now house them.