size office day in and day out for all those 25 years. Each day, he did what he could to keep the faith and honor his commitment to those taxpayers.

Then came another fateful day: September 12, last year. That was the day Judge Bryant, after 25 years, pulled the plug on Ernie's court order, precipitating another crisis in Ernie's life and bringing us to this place in time.

I feel like we have arrived at a very important point in time. We didn't make it to the Rose Garden this time, but we came pretty close. So we are making progress. Maybe next time.

Earlier, I promised to explain how we came close to the Rose Garden. On Monday, February 27, this year, the inspector general at the Defense Department presented our most famous whistleblower, Ernie Fitzgerald, with the Distinguished Service Medal. I do not know if anything like this has ever happened before. As I said a moment ago, Ernie is retiring with honor and dignity. One person has made all this happen: Mr. Tom Gimble, acting inspector general at the Department of Defense. After Judge Bryant struck down Ernie's court order after those 25 years, it was readily apparent that Ernie was in another tight spot. However, Ernie was willing to retire under the right conditions.

Tom Gimble, as acting inspector general, seized the initiative. He took charge of the negotiations between Ernie and the Air Force. He kept them moving in the right direction. He did everything he could to ensure that Ernie was treated fairly and given the full protection of the law. Under his able leadership, those negotiations were brought to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Gimble effectively brought Ernie in under the protective umbrella provided by the Office of Inspector General. He gave Ernie a safe haven in the IG's building—a place to work. He had Ernie's entire collection of official records moved to that secure facility. With the help of a team of document specialists provided by Mr. Gimble, Ernie was able to get the job done.

All of his records now have been shipped to the National Archives—400-plus boxes in all. In time, Ernie's papers will be open to the American people. They will be able to judge Ernie's work for themselves.

From the beginning of this process to the very end, all sorts of little kinks kept popping up all along the way. But Mr. Gimble was always there ready to step in and help iron them out. Mr. Gimble is the first inspector general to personally reach out to Ernie and help him in such meaningful ways.

Mr. Gimble, I stand before all my colleagues and say thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did to help Ernie in these closing days of his career—after 42 years working for the Federal Government. I thank you for doing what inspector generals should do. You did that.

And Ernie Fitzgerald, I thank you, too, for what you did and for your courage and dedication to make our Government stronger and better and to help restore the public trust. I salute you as a person who more Americans ought to follow, that one person determined to make a difference can, in fact, make a difference.

I yield the floor.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006—Continued

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of S. 2349, the lobbying reform legislation; provided further that the substitute amendment be agreed to, and that it be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendment.

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

The amendment (No. 2907) was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS OF JACK HANNA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, from the tender days of his youth growing up in Knoxville, Jack Hanna knew he was destined to work with animals. His commitment seemingly knew no limits as he would eagerly climb aboard public buses to nurture his budding interest by working at a local animal clinic for a meager $10 a week.

Yet back then, even he probably couldn't sense that his unique passion would one day blossom and inspire him to a career as an acclaimed author, television host and animal conservationist who would touch the lives of millions.

After stops at Muskingum College and then Florida, it wouldn't be long before the man now affectionately nicknamed ''Jungle Jack'' was serving as executive director of the Columbus Zoo in Ohio. When he first arrived, the zoo was in poor shape. Attendance sagged, and the animal habitats were outmoded.

Yet over time, molded by his steady hand, the zoo was gradually revitalized and restored. And with Hanna at the helm, the Columbus Zoo grew into the world-class facility it is today.

He maintains a relentless travel schedule—wearing a beaten path to exotic locales all over the globe. But no matter whether he is visiting with the bears and whales in the frigid arctic or the cheetahs in the lonesome wild of Africa, he remains fueled by a genuine love of animals and a deep passion for sharing the majesty of nature with children and adults in communities throughout the world.

No matter whether an animal prowls, stomps, slithers or crawls, Jack Hanna craves the opportunity to share its unique importance with any and all who will listen. He is a fervent advocate for conservation, and his efforts have broadened the horizons of untold millions of readers, listeners and viewers.

While Jack Hanna is no stranger to big name stages—he is a regular on mainstream media shows like ''Good Morning America'' and ''The Late Show with David Letterman''—it is not the fame or excitement that has drawn him onto TV and into the homes of millions of Americans. Rather, it is the opportunity to educate people across the Nation about the magic and wonder of the animal kingdom.

He rejects the notion of his celebrity, insisting he serves only as an ''ambassador for animals in the wild.''

Not surprisingly, Hanna's altruism extends far beyond animal interests. He is passionate about addressing the needs of the human condition as well. He has shown a true commitment to helping communities in some of the most impoverished and war-torn regions of the world. During a recent taping in Rwanda, he reminded fans that ''if you don't help the people first, you won't be able to help the animals, either.''

Just last December he made a point of halting his manic travel schedule to share his love of animals with patients at the Walter Reed Medical Center right here in suburban Washington, DC. His eager and youthful style was a tremendous hit among the troops. The visit shared the healing presence of animals and buoyed some of our Nation's finest men and women's spirits.

The Knoxville News Sentinel aptly describes Jack as ''a whirlwind of activity, always on the go.'' But looking beyond his busy exterior, it is clear to all that Jack Hanna is a man of deep humility and genuine compassion.

His work has heightened appreciation for untold numbers of animal species from all regions of the world. And his efforts have enriched the lives of humans and animals alike. He is a special individual and an embodiment of the Tennessee volunteer spirit.

NOMINATION OF JUDGE JACK ZOUHARY

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in strong support of the nomination of Judge Jack Zouhary, whom the President has nominated to be U.S. District Court Judge for the

Northern District of Ohio. Judge Zouhary currently is serving on the Lucas County Common Pleas Court. His service there has been outstanding and is an excellent indication of the type of judge he will be on the Federal bench.

I would like to share with my Senate colleagues just a few of the numerous admirable qualities that make Judge Zouhary such an outstanding nominee. Both as a professional and as a person, he is exactly the sort of individual we want to be serving on the Federal bench.

Judge Zouhary grew up in Toledo. He is a first-generation American, whose parents immigrated from Lebanon to the United States and instilled in their son a respect for the values of education, religion, and community service. After graduating as the valedictorian of his high school, he attended Dartmouth College, where he received his undergraduate degree before returning to his hometown to earn his law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law. Judge Zouhary then embarked on what would become a long and accomplished legal career—a career with 30 years of legal experience that has given him the background and understanding of our legal system to successfully take on the role of a Federal judge.

He began his legal career with the law firm of Robison, Curphey & O'Connell, where he worked as an Associate and then as a Partner. During his 23 years there, he had a varied practice, representing individuals and businesses on a range of legal issues, with an emphasis on civil trial practice and corporate matters. In 2000, Judge Zouhary became the Senior Vice President and General Counsel for S.E. Johnson Companies, Inc., a large highway contractor and asphalt producer.

In 2004, Judge Zouhary accepted a position as ''Of Counsel'' with the law firm of Fuller & Henry. He remained with Fuller & Henry until 2005, when Ohio Governor Bob Taft appointed him to the Lucas County Common Pleas Court. In Ohio, the Common Pleas Court is the highest State trial bench and hears all major civil and criminal cases.

During his time as an attorney in private practice, Judge Zouhary distinguished himself as an excellent litigator and was honored by being selected as a member of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. Membership in the American College of Trial Lawyers is by invitation only and is limited to the best of the trial bar.

Judge Zouhary has long been committed to the ideals of civility and professionalism in the legal field. Friends and colleagues often describe him as ''a gentleman.'' I agree with that assessment. He is well regarded for his honesty, his integrity, and his intelligence, and those who have known and worked with him through the years speak warmly of his even-temper and cordial demeanor.

Not surprisingly, given his interest in preserving a less combative approach to the law, Judge Zouhary frequently has presented lectures focusing on legal ethics and civility in the practice of law for Continuing Legal Education Seminars. His commitment to serving the community as a professional also is exemplified by his membership in the Toledo Rotary Club, as well as his participation in a broad array of other charitable activities, ranging from pro bono work for a local church to service at a community soup kitchen.

Judge Zouhary has certainly distinguished himself on the bench. He has worked diligently to clear a very large backlog of cases from his crowded docket and has made a good deal of headway in that effort. Most important, attorneys who have appeared before him—criminal and civil, prosecution and defense—speak in glowing terms of his talent, fairness, and excellent judicial temperament.

With Judge Zouhary's impressive record as a legal professional and community leader, it should come as no surprise that the American Bar Association was unanimous in giving him its highest rating of ''well-qualified.'' Judge Zouhary is in every way an outstanding nominee, who will serve the people of Ohio and of this country well.

Mr. President, I strongly support the nomination of Judge Jack Zouhary as a Federal District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

I thank the Chair and yield the Floor.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MARINE CORPORAL ANDRE L. WILLIAMS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Ohioan—an honorable young man who lost his life while protecting the freedom of others. Marine CPL Andre L. Williams died on July 28, 2005, when his convoy came under attack with small arms fire from enemy forces in Western Iraq. He was 23 years old.

Mr. President, Corporal Williams was a brave Marine from the Columbus-based Reserves' Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment unit. Born on August 9, 1981, in Galloway, OH, Andre—fondly referred to as ''Dray'' by his friends and family—lit up the lives of his family and friends with his shining smile. As his older sister Robyn Williams recalled, ''His smile was angelic. There's no other way to describe it.''

Andre was friendly, level-headed, and sensitive to those around him. He was always willing to help resolve disputes between the people he cared about. According to his friend Harry Cuccio, ''It didn't matter what kind of mood you were in, if he was smiling you were smiling.'' Many people described Andre as having infectious optimism. His mother, Mary, recalled that her son ''loved to make other people laugh and make them feel good.'' She also said that ''if there was anything he could do to make someone's life better, that's what he would do.''

Mr. President, Andre Williams was an ambitious and determined young man, with a talent for drawing and a love for OSU football and the Cincinnati Bengals. Graduating from Westland High School in 1999, he hoped to attend college after his service in Iraq, and one day open his own successful night club.

Andre's brave spirit and unwavering patriotism compelled him to join the Marines after the September 11 terrorist attacks. He felt a strong duty to protect his country and his family—especially his young daughter, Lea Lea, and young son Dominique Juan.

Andre was loved by his family and by many close friends, evidenced by the over 300 people who attended his funeral service. It was standing room only. As Andre's father, Robert, remarked, ''Seeing how many people he touched [was] unbelievable.'' At the emotional ceremony, Andre's mother said that Andre was [her] hero before he ever joined the Marines, and now, he's the world's hero.

Andre's parents have two other sons in the military—Army SGT Robert Leslie and Air Force Technician SGT Robert Williams. Both were able to come to their brother's funeral. Two of Andre's other brothers, Kevin and Joshua, chose to wear Andre's dog tags instead of neckties.

One of Andre's best friends with whom he served in Iraq was Sergeant Justin F. Hoffman, who was among 10 Ohio Marines killed just 3 days before Andre's funeral. Justin had hoped to fly home and pay his respects to his close friend, but 5 days after Andre's death, Justin also lost his life. Robert Hoffman, Justin's father, attended Andre's funeral in his son's absence—a promise he made to Justin, just in case he wasn't able to return home for the services.

Another good friend, Ron Cunningham, expressed his appreciation for Andre's friendship. This is what he had to say:

> I would like to give thanks for Dray being such a good friend to me and to so many other people. He was a great person, and I am glad that he was a part of my life. He was very close to me, my family, and to my cousin who served with him in Iraq. You're a true hero my friend. It hurts that you're gone, but I know you're in a good place and don't worry, I'll see you again.

Teresa Norris, mother of one of Andre's best friends, Gary Norris, and his proclaimed ''second mother,'' offered thanks for Andre's heroic actions and reminisced about the special times they used to spend together. She has this to say:

> Dray, you are a true Hero, and will always be my Hero. How I will miss that beautiful smile, and our long talks. You will never be forgotten, honey. I am honored to have been a part of your life, and will keep you a part of mine forever. We love you and always will.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude my remarks with a poem that was posted on an Internet website in