

believe the jury delivered the just and appropriate verdict and I thank them for their service to their country.

In April of last year, Moussaoui pleaded guilty to conspiring with al-Qaeda to commit acts of terrorism using weapons of mass destruction and other terror-related crimes. He shares responsibility for the most heinous act of terrorism against America: Three thousand innocent Americans were murdered. Their loss is still a gaping wound in our hearts.

Nothing will ever bring these innocent Americans back, but today Zacarias Moussaoui received what he would deny all of us. Today justice was served.

TENNESSEE STORMS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I end tonight saying a few words about the devastating storms that occurred last night in my home State of Tennessee. First and foremost, I offer my deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones last night. My heart goes out to those families who are reeling in the aftermath of this sudden and totally unexpected tragedy. The people of Tennessee grieve with you and our prayers are with you through this painful ordeal.

I let my fellow Tennesseans know I requested that the President have a quick review and approval of the State's request for assistance. I have also taken the opportunity to talk directly with acting FEMA Director David Paulison to expect my clear support for the State's request. Director Paulison is looking into the matter, of course. We had a good exchange. I appreciate FEMA's strong support.

Senator ALEXANDER and I stand ready to assist the State and local officials in any way possible to ensure our communities have the resources they need. We will pull together as Tennesseans and neighbors and together we will get through this awful crisis. Our thoughts and our hearts and prayers go out to others who have been affected by the storms in other States.

When I talked to Director Paulison today, he was describing that those storms were northwest of Tennessee, as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, last night, severe tornadoes and strong storms swept through west Tennessee. Dyer and Gibson Counties were the hardest hit. According to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, at least 23 individuals lost their lives in just those two counties. One of those killed was Jane King of Newbern, TN. She was a relative of Congressman JOHN TANNER, and our thoughts are with JOHN and Betty Ann Tanner and all of Jane King's family.

At least 70 people have been injured as a result of the storms. TEMA expects that number to rise. There is damage to at least 11 other counties in

west Tennessee. Thousands of Tennesseans have lost their homes and their livelihoods. TEMA reports that 1,200 buildings were damaged or destroyed in the town of Bradford alone.

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency officials are on the ground in the counties affected. They are helping to survey damage. They are offering assistance. A state of emergency is in effect. The biggest need thus far is to get the roads clear. GEN Gus Hargett has assigned 30 members of the 230th Engineer Battalion of the Tennessee National Guard to assist with debris removal. The Dyersburg Armory is being used as a Red Cross processing site.

This afternoon, Senator FRIST and I sent a letter to President Bush asking for speedy review and approval of the State's request for Federal disaster assistance. I ask unanimous consent that letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,

WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 3, 2006.

THE PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Last night devastating tornados swept through several West Tennessee communities. In Dyer and Gibson counties at least 23 individuals lost their lives. Many others lost their homes and livelihoods. State and local officials currently are assessing the damage. Many of the affected communities are in rural areas and it could take some time before the full extent of the damage is realized.

In anticipation of Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen's request for Federal disaster assistance, we respectfully urge you to act as expeditiously as possible and approve Tennessee's request for federal assistance. It is our understanding that there is significant damage in many areas of West Tennessee, and local emergency responders and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, TEMA, are working to provide assistance to survivors. They will soon begin the process of assessing the damage to affected communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our request on behalf of Tennesseans suffering from these devastating and unforeseen events. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM H. FRIST, M.D.,
Majority Leader, U.S.
Senate.

LAMAR ALEXANDER,
U.S. Senate.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, tomorrow Governor Bredesen and Congressman TANNER will be on the site. We will continue to be in touch with Governor Bredesen and provide whatever assistance we can. We will work closely with State and local officials.

My prayers are with the families who have suffered tremendous loss as a result of these storms, and I know we will see shining examples of the Tennessee volunteer spirit and neighbor helping neighbor as west Tennesseans rebuild their homes, their businesses, and their lives.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak about this important amendment on the Western Hemisphere travel initiative.

The Western Hemisphere travel initiative was authorized in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 based on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission.

It mandates that the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, implement a new documentation program validating citizenship by January 1, 2008. Once executed, all U.S. citizens crossing the Canadian or Mexican Border into the United States will be required to carry a passport or other accepted documentation, such as a passcard, in order to verify their citizenship.

The DHS and the State Department are in the process of promulgating rules to implement this initiative and are considering executing the air and sea portion of this initiative by next January.

While the need to tighten security at our borders is an important undertaking, I am concerned that in their haste to accomplish this mission pursuant to a congressionally mandated timeline, DHS and the State Department may be overlooking serious concerns about the implementation of this initiative raised by border States and Canada.

They are evaluating two options in order to identify citizenship. The first would require a person entering the United States to present a passport. However, passports are expensive and require weeks to acquire. The second alternative is the issuance of a passcard, which would be slightly cheaper but would still require a background check and could only be used for travel between Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Each of these options assumes that DHS and the State Department are able to process the flood of requests for passports and passcards. There is no reasonable way they could get all of these requests processed by the deadline, thereby adversely affecting travel and business for millions.

Take for example a military family reassigned from the lower 48 to Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, who has to drive from the lower 48 through Canada with all of their belongings. This family may not have the opportunity or funds to acquire passport before traveling.

Alaska is the only State in the Nation that you have to pass through a foreign country to get to by land. I have a lot of concerns about how this initiative will affect travel.

Each year, a large number of people travel to Alaska from the lower 48 on the Alaska-Canada Highway, also known as the Al-Can. Each summer, we routinely see large numbers of RV's on the road with license plates from New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, California, everywhere. They are now going