

running under the New York Harbor. In July, we saw terrorists in India kill 300 innocent men, women and children and injure over 700.

If the unthinkable happens and we are attacked with a chemical, biological or radiological weapon, we must be prepared to respond. The WARN Act does this, establishing a system that represents a major advance in emergency management. One of the most effective ways to save lives is to keep people out of the impacted areas and efficiently evacuate those who are already affected. Under this new system, we will be able to tell some people to stay where they are if it is safe; others can be given instructions to evacuate in certain directions depending on their location and the direction of the wind or they could be told how to avoid the impacted area all together, preventing first responders from being forced to manage new victims.

While the system would be a crucial tool in saving lives in the event that there was an attack at one of our ports, the uses of this new national alerting system extend well beyond terrorists attacks, to manmade or natural disasters. A year and a half ago, a town in my State of South Carolina was exposed to a massive chlorine gas release. The train crash that caused the release occurred at 2:39 in the morning. Beeping television or radio is not much help when the owner is sleeping and the TV and radio are silent. What could have been helpful would have been if emergency managers in the area could have run the cell phones that were designed to turn on in emergencies so the individuals in the affected area could have been instructed to evacuate away from the path of the chlorine cloud and get to safer ground.

Finally, the new system set up by the WARN Act will have significant impact for the response to natural disasters. For example, in the Midwest, tornadoes pose a grave threat. Tornado sirens have a limited reach and can save some, but by leveraging the capabilities of cell phones, we can effectively direct individuals who are in the path of a tornado to take cover or get out of the way.

The applications are promising, as well, along the gulf and Atlantic coasts, where hurricanes often make landfall. This year could still be a strong hurricane season, with predictions of three or four major hurricanes category 3 or above. If one of these makes landfall, it will trigger a massive evacuation.

The system created by the WARN Act will provide crucial information to aid in evacuation and recovery. It will alert evacuees to the closest shelter with beds and where water and food is being distributed after the storm and what roads are not usable as evacuation routes.

We all hope and pray disasters—natural, manmade or terrorist—never happen, but we must be prepared. Today, I ask my colleagues to join in supporting this amendment.

Again, I thank Senator COLLINS and all those who have worked to bring up this amendment. This way we give first responders one of the more crucial tools they need to save lives and secure our homeland.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I spoke earlier in favor of the amendment of the Senator from South Carolina. While he is here, I again commend him for his effort, his leadership in this area, and for working with both the Homeland Security and the Commerce Committees to work out some technical issues. His amendment is going to make a big difference. All of us remember 5 years ago on this day how difficult it was to get information—our cell phones were not working; we did not have Blackberrys then. The Senator's approach will ensure that we use every possible means to inform the public when there is an incident that is a threat to public safety.

I salute the Senator for his leadership. This is an excellent proposal. I am pleased to support it.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY PROMOTION

Mr. INOUE. I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues, Senator STEVENS, Senator DEMINT, and Senator BEN NELSON, in working to build consensus on the pending amendment, which will improve our Nation's ability to transmit critical emergency information to the public in times of crisis. As we consider this amendment, however, I believe it is important for us to clarify that provisions in this act do not affect or in any way limit or impair the Federal Communications Commission's existing authority under the Communications Act to promote public safety. As my colleagues well know, one of the most fundamental and significant statutory mandates of the FCC is the promotion of safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communication.

As a result, while section 103(f) of the amendment makes clear that no new regulatory authority is granted to the FCC, other than to regulate compliance with its provisions and as specified in subsection 103(d) and (e), I would ask my colleague, Senator DEMINT, to confirm my understanding that the amendment will have no impact on the FCC's existing regulatory authority under the Communications Act to promote public safety through the use of communications technologies.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I agree with the interpretation and understanding of my colleague, Senator INOUE, and thank him for his assistance and support in working on this amendment.

Mr. STEVENS. I concur with Senator INOUE and Senator DEMINT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask consent at 12 noon tomorrow the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the

DeMint amendment No. 4921, as amended; further, that notwithstanding the adoption of the amendment 4927, the second-degree amendment be modified to reflect a perfecting amendment.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to 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.

#### REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, there are moments in every lifetime which defy words. For me, those moments are the attack on Pearl Harbor, the day President Kennedy was assassinated, the Good Friday earthquake in Alaska, my own airplane crash in 1978, and the day I viewed the Exxon Valdez oilspill. My most recent and most vivid memory is the helicopter trip I took over Ground Zero with my good friend, Senator INOUE, on September 13, 2001.

The total impact of what Senator INOUE and I saw just shocked the two of us. We both went through World War II and saw a lot of trauma, a lot of destruction. But nothing was more stark in terms of our memories, particularly mine, than what I saw that day in New York. Embedded in my mind then were the questions: Who would do something like this? And why? We would soon learn the answers, and those answers changed our Nation forever.

September 11, 2001, was one of our country's darkest days, but the worst in our enemies brought out the best in our citizens. Their efforts reflected the words of the author Henry James:

We work in the dark, we do what we can, we give what we have.

Following those attacks, Americans did everything they could to help those directly affected. Those of us in Congress almost immediately made \$40 billion available to initiate recovery.

Since then, our country has been fortunate. We have met the terrorists abroad rather than here on our soil, and we have accomplished this in a way consistent with our ideals.

Democracy is harder to move than a dictatorship. It moves slowly, but it moves surely. There is much more work left to do, but so far, we have been able to prevent another massive terrorist attack on our country.

The terrorists who attacked us 5 years ago thought they could defeat us. They questioned our resolve and our dedication to our principles. They were wrong. Our resolve is strong, and it has brought about a different response than the terrorists anticipated. The past 5 years have been a proving ground for our country's courage and commitment.