

Instead, we pressed on, pushing every hindrance aside with resolve, calling upon our most fundamental beliefs about America, many going back over the ensuing days addressing what makes us uniquely American.

We pressed on, coming together and sending forth thousands of those first responders, thousands of those policemen, paramedics, construction workers, and other rescue workers to Ground Zero and the Pentagon.

I remember a few days after the Pentagon was struck going out and welcoming an entire delegation of first responders from Tennessee, with that American flag displayed so proudly and that Tennessee flag right next to it.

We pressed on, facing down that economic shock and developing new respect for our economy's natural resilience and a new respect for the economy's ability and resiliency to bounce back.

We pressed on, immediately in this body, addressing issues of intelligence, of making sure we not only mobilized our troops but we supported them with the very best equipment that we could.

We pressed on by taking the fight to the enemy because we knew that if we did not, that fight would come to us.

With the passage of 5 years' time, some things begin, inevitably, to blur. That is why in some ways it is so useful to have remembrances like what we have had over the course of today.

We forget a time when we had a great fear of even boarding airplanes. We forget a time when we held our children—and those days, weeks, and months afterwards; it was so, so, so close—but we forget that time of holding our kids just a little bit longer with that hug before they went off to school. And we forget a time when we felt that hatred in the heart of our enemy. The feelings that were once so vivid, so sharp—that shock, that anger, that fury—the fear began to lose the jagged edge with time. In part, that is part of this Nation's healing—coming together, responding in a healing way to a catastrophe—because we should not live in fear. We cannot be a nation that lives in fear. Salesmen go out traveling on business, families who are out traveling on vacations should not fear boarding that plane to fly. Parents loading their children on a bus, they should not fear sending them off to school.

But there is also a danger in forgetting. There is a danger in having time pass and letting those memories fade because as time fades we also start to forget the enemy who took those 3,000 lives so prematurely. We forget the intentions they harbor and the agenda they champion.

There was a stark reminder for me yesterday, as I joined Senator McCONNELL and Senator SPECTER, as we went to Guantanamo Bay, to the detention facility there. And when you walk those grounds—a remarkable place in and of itself and the entity itself in terms of treating those detainees in a

safe and humane way, which is very possible—in walking those grounds, it causes you to think back to 5 years ago, to what precipitated that event which caused the loss of 3,000 and destroyed the lives of so many thousands of others.

We cannot become complacent because if we do, we will be struck again. Our enemy remembers. Our enemy plans. And I was reminded again and again yesterday, as I toured those grounds, our enemy continues to plan, continues to plot, continues to conspire—conspires to see us lose in Iraq, plots to drive us out of Afghanistan, plans to attack us here, right here, again in the United States. We know that because over these last 5 years, at least 11 times such plots have been promoted. That is why we cannot afford to grow complacent. We cannot afford to let our resolve waiver. We have to continue to press on. We have to continue to strengthen our security.

That is why on this floor, in the bill that has been talked about this afternoon and the bills we will address over the coming days, we are focusing on a security agenda. It is an agenda that includes replenishing our critical supplies for troops on the ground—we just finished the Department of Defense appropriations bill on the Senate floor last week—eliminating vulnerabilities and closing the gaps in port security, the bill on the floor today; and, indeed, in the near future, creating military commissions to try the enemy combatants, the terrorists who are captured on the field of battle, and bolstering the terrorist surveillance program to make sure our law enforcement and our Government are appropriately equipped to be able to detect terrorism before an event happens.

Here in the Senate we have worked tirelessly to ease the burden on our memories. That is why we are safer now than we were 5 years ago. Consider there has not been a successful terrorist attack against the homeland.

But safety and security are not static points in time. They are not static statistics. They are dynamic, in constant flux. So as we take time today to remember the horror as well as the courageous actions of 5 years ago, let us also remember there is much more we can and we must do to bring the terrorists to justice and to ensure the events of 9/11 are never repeated.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE UPON THE FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 565, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 565) expressing the sense of the Senate upon the five-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 565) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 565

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four civilian aircraft; crashed two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City; and crashed the third into the Pentagon outside Washington, DC;

Whereas the fourth hijacked plane, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, near the town of Shanksville, after the passengers and crew of that flight struggled with the terrorist-hijackers to take back control of the plane, ultimately preventing the flight from reaching its likely destination in Washington, DC;

Whereas the heroic actions of the rescue workers, volunteers, Federal, State and local officials who responded to the attacks with courage, determination, and skill is to be commended;

Whereas thousands of innocent Americans, and civilians from many other countries, were killed and injured as a result of these attacks;

Whereas Congress declared, in the aftermath of the attacks, September 12, 2001 to be a National Day of Unity and Mourning;

Whereas there has not been a terrorist attack on the United States homeland since the terrorist attacks five years ago; but al Qaeda has perpetrated terrorist attacks throughout the world against U.S. persons, facilities, and interests, as well as U.S. allies during that time; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate:

(1) commemorates the life of each individual who died as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001;

(2) extends its deepest condolences to the victims of these attacks, as well as to their families, friends, and loved ones;

(3) once again condemns in the strongest possible terms the attacks, the terrorists who perpetrated them, and their sponsors;

(4) commits to support the necessary steps to interdict and defeat terrorists who plot to do harm to the American people;

(5) recommits itself and the nation to bringing to justice the perpetrators of the attacks, along with their sponsors;

(6) honors and expresses its gratitude to members of its Armed Forces, law enforcement personnel, first responders, members of intelligence community and others who have bravely and faithfully participated in the War on Terrorism since September 11, 2001;

(7) declares September 11, 2006, to be a National Day of Remembrance, in commemoration of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001; and

(8) declares that when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to each individual who died as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001.