

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader.

#### ARMY RECRUITING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we may not see it on the front page, but there is good news. Last Friday, the U.S. Army met its annual recruiting goal more than a week ahead of schedule. This will cap the Army's best recruiting year since 1997.

Let me repeat that. The Army will be completing its best recruiting year in almost a decade—this despite all the gloom and doom we have heard about young people not wanting to serve their country in the war on terror.

On Friday, in New York City, Shirley Salvi, a 23-year-old graduate of Rutgers, joined the Army as the 80,000th soldier to enlist this year. That is 80,000 soldiers this year. She will report to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri to become either an Army linguist or intelligence analyst.

In spite of all the danger and all the hardship and sacrifice involved, thousands of young Americans, such as Ms. Salvi, are stepping forward to say: I will defend my country.

We have an All-Volunteer Army, and it is the best in the world. While the enemy fights solely to instill fear and death, our soldiers fight for the hope and opportunity that only comes with liberty.

Before the fiscal year is over, the Army anticipates having a total of 504,000 soldiers—an increase of 12,000 from last year. The Army Reserve and Army National Guard also expect to meet their recruiting goals for this year. This increased recruiting comes even as administrators in a number of institutions of higher learning and even some high schools remain openly hostile to military recruiting on campus.

Retention in the Army also shows encouraging signs. In July of this year, GEN Pete Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army, noted that the reenlistment rate for two of the divisions deployed in Iraq was over 140 percent. One of those divisions, I am proud to report, is the 101st Airborne located in my home State of Kentucky.

I think what this good recruiting and retention news reflects is basically three things:

First, it reflects the patriotism and commitment of today's youth. The generation coming of age today has grown up with the war on terror, and they understand its importance. They understand the need to defend America's values. They understand what is at stake, and they want to do their part by volunteering to protect the Nation from al-Qaida and others who would do this Nation harm.

Second, I think this good Army recruiting news reflects the recognition

by today's youth that a career in the military is, indeed, a noble calling. In fact, it is hard to think of anything more honorable than serving and protecting America.

Third, the achievement of the Army's recruiting goal a week early sends a strong signal to our allies and our enemies in the war on terror. It shows that the American people are resolute in defending our Nation and in defending freedom.

I must say, I take some pride in this good news about recent recruiting numbers since the U.S. Army recruiting command is located at another base in my State, Fort Knox. The command is doing a great job for America.

I salute Ms. Salvi and the thousands of other volunteers like her who have joined the Army this year. I thank them for their patriotism and for their future service on behalf of our country.

#### OVERSIGHT HEARINGS ON IRAQ AND THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about oversight hearings on Iraq and the global war on terror.

Just last week, our good friend, the Democratic leader, complained that there has not been "a single oversight hearing, none." That was our good friend, the Democratic leader, saying there hasn't been a single oversight hearing on Iraq and the global war on terror. But the Senate has conducted scores of hearings on Iraq and related issues since 2003. For example, the Armed Services Committee held more than 20—hearings on such topics as military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, operations and strategy in Iraq, and Iraq-Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism. That is 20 hearings by the Armed Services Committee alone. The Foreign Relations Committee has held more than 30 hearings in the past 3 years, including hearings on post-Saddam Iraq, on the status of and prospect for Iraq reconstruction, Iraq's transition to sovereignty, and post-transition Iraq. That is 30 hearings by the Foreign Relations Committee on Iraq and the war on terror in the last 3 years. And then there is the Judiciary Committee, the Banking Committee, and the Homeland Security Committee hearings. All told, more than 80—80—hearings have been held on Iraq and related issues.

I ask unanimous consent that a listing of all of these hearings to which I just referred indicating the Senate has engaged in extensive oversight on the war in Iraq and the war on terror over the last 3 years be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS

UN Weapons Inspector's Report, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 1/30/2003)

Post-Saddam Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/11/2003)

Afghanistan and the War on Terror, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/12/2003)

Post-Conflict Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/26/2003)

Aid to Turkey and Issues in Northern Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/5/2003)

Reconstruction of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/11/2003)

Political Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/13/2003)

Diplomacy and the War on Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/18/2003)

An Enlarged NATO: Moving Forward on Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/29/2003)

Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/22/2003)

Repercussions of Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction Policies, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/12/2003)

Status and Prospects for Iraq Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/23/2003)

Review of Iraq Policy and Issues, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/23/2003)

Review of Iraq Policy and Issues Updated, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/24/2003)

Security and Democracy in Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 10/16/2003)

Afghanistan Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 1/27/2004)

Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/9/2004)

Effect of Madrid Attacks on U.S. European Cooperation, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/31/2004)

Iraq's Transition to Sovereignty, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/20/2004)

Iraq's Transition to Sovereignty, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/21/2004)

Iraq's Transition to Sovereignty, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/22/2004)

Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/12/2004)

Iraq: The Way Ahead, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/18/2004)

Iraq: The Way Ahead, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/19/2004)

Post-Transition Situation in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/22/2004)

Accelerating U.S. Assistance to Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/15/2004)

Reshaping U.S. Policy in Iraq and Middle East, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 2/1/2005)

Iran: Weapons Proliferation, Terrorism and Democracy, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 5/19/2005)

Iraq Ambassador Nomination, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 6/7/2005)

The Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/18/2005)

The Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/19/2005)

The Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/20/2005)

Iraq and U.S. Foreign Policy, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 10/19/2005)

Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 2/8/2006)

Iraq Update, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/13/2006)

SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS

Post-Conflict Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/26/2003)

NATO Enlargement Post-Conflict Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/10/2003)

U.S. Policy and Military Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/23/2003)

Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/6/2003)

Lessons Learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/9/2003)

Military Operations Briefing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/3/2003)

Iraq Briefing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/11/2003)

Operations and Reconstruction in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/25/2003)

Report on Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 10/3/2003)

Iraq Stabilization Report, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/30/2004)

U.S. Policy and Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/20/2004)

\$25 Billion Iraq Contingency Fund, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/13/2004)

Treatment of Iraqi Prisoners, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/19/2004)

Iraq Multi-National Force Commander Nomination, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/24/2004)

Transition to Sovereignty in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/25/2004)

Military Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 2/3/2005)

Iraq Issues, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 6/23/2005)

The War on Terror, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 6/30/2005)

Operations and Strategy in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 9/29/2005)

Defense Authorization: Contracting Issues in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings; 109th Congress (Event Date: 2/7/2006)

Iraq, Afghanistan and the Global War on Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 8/3/2006)

SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Consolidating Intelligence Analysis, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/26/2003)

Combating Terrorist Financing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/23/2003)

Terrorism Financing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/15/2004)

9/11 Commission Report, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 8/26/2004)

Improving Ability of Intelligence Community to Fight Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/8/2004)

Contracting and Procurement in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 8/2/06)

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS

War Against Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/4/2003)

Terrorism in the United States, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/26/2003)

Law Enforcement and Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/23/2003)

Terrorism in the Post 9-11 Era, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/10/2003)

Recruitment of Terrorists in Prisons and the Military, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 10/14/2003)

Efforts to Prevent Terrorism in the United States, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 10/21/2003)

Seaport Security Since 9-11, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 1/27/2004)

Cyberterrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/24/2004)

Preventing and Responding to Acts of Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/14/2004)

Bioterrorism Detection and Response, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/11/2004)

Department of Justice: Terrorism Oversight, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/8/2004)

Terrorism Oversight: Department of Homeland Security, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/9/2004)

Tools To Fight Terrorism Act, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/13/2004)

Patriot Act Reauthorization: Section 805, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 4/20/2005)

Intelligence Information Sharing, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 9/21/2005)

Saudi Arabia and the War on Terror, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 11/8/2005)

SENATE BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Financial Reconstruction in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/16/2003)

Prevention of Terrorist Financing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/25/2003)

Economic and Financial Reconstruction in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/11/2004)

Terrorist Financing and Counterterrorism Initiatives, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/29/2004)

Terrorism Risk Insurance, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/18/2004)

Terror Financing and Money Laundering, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/28/2004)

Terror Financing in the Middle East, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/13/2005)

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE SUPERDOME

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it is only 1:50 p.m. in New Orleans, but the bands have been marching since early

this morning, and the singing is joyful. People have been so excited not only in New Orleans but in all of Louisiana because tonight the Saints will be marching again into that grand, wonderful building we call the Superdome.

The Superdome has always been a special symbol to New Orleans, but tonight that symbol takes on a new meaning. It has been a symbol of pride in the past, and tonight it is a symbol of hope—a symbol of hope for the great rebuilding of our wonderful city, region, and State.

Just a year ago, the Superdome was a symbol of sadness, loss, confusion, and despair as New Orleans, the region, and our State faced the worst natural disaster in the history of this country. It wasn't just Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that caused devastation, it was also the levees that collapsed and put a great city and region under some 20 to 25 feet of water. It was in that overwhelming flood that people fled to the Dome looking for safety and security. All of America knows this sad story.

But I am here to talk about a story of recovery, a story of leadership. I want to thank the people who made the Dome's reopening possible—to thank the men and women who work at the Dome: the welders, the janitors, the cleanup crews, the construction crews, the managers, the architects, and the engineers.

They spent the whole year rebuilding this Dome on a schedule that no one thought was possible, at a cost that came under budget. A partnership formed between the NFL, the State of Louisiana, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to get this building back into shape and reopen tonight with 68,000 fans coming to watch the Saints play the Atlanta Falcons.

I want to remind the country that these employees showed up to work each day to restore the Dome, many of them traveling hours to get there in the morning and hours back in the evening because there were no nearby houses for them to sleep. Many of them lost their homes, their children lost their schools, and their churches were destroyed.

The successful rebuilding of the Dome is because of the people who showed up to work. Their journeys in the morning and their journeys home show a commitment to rebuilding a great city. Despite the criticism that the city, the State and the region have received, tonight is a symbol of all that is great about the spirit of the people who refuse to let this city die.

Desiree Jones, who lives in Violet, La., is the housekeeping manager for the Superdome. She started working at the Dome 25 years ago as a janitor. Every day for the past two weeks, she has been working to get the Dome ready for tonight. She knows the Dome's reopening is a signal of rebirth for our city.

I come to the floor to thank the thousands of men and women who worked on the Superdome. The were