

each other across the aisle if you are going to get something done. It is not enjoyable when there is a lack of comity, where harsh language is used, when you see things done purely for political purposes. Then it is not fun. I think we would all rather look forward coming to work in the morning. And it certainly is better when we go home and report to our constituents that we were able to get something done.

I am sure the distinguished majority leader would agree with this comment that MITCH MCCONNELL made this morning. He said:

... as we open this session, I stake my party to a pledge: when faced with an urgent issue, we will act; when faced with a problem, we will seek solution, not mere political advantage.

I think that is the credo all of us pretty well agreed to at the end of that very special meeting we had this morning: that we need positive solutions to real problems. We need to act in a spirit of comity. All of us need to stop the finger pointing, the negativity, the taking advantage for political purposes, and the setting up of each other in a way we would fail rather than finding a way that we can both succeed.

In fact, one of our colleagues made a comment almost exactly to that effect: We need to both succeed in what we do. Since we now have divided Government, there is an incentive for us to work with each other to do that.

There were, of course, some of our colleagues who reminded us that realistically this would not be easy, that there would be a great tendency to slip back into old habits and to fight politically, and we know that to be true. But there are some things—at least one of our colleagues made this point very strongly—on which we have to act in a united way and that starts with our national security, meeting this threat of terrorism. The distinguished Republican leader made that point. Among the things he suggested we would have to work on, he said:

America has not seen a domestic terrorist attack since we committed ourselves to the global war on terror. That's not an accident, some quirk of fate. Rather, it is due to the hard work of spotting and disrupting threats before they strike.

Much of that capability was granted by the Senate and the House and the President in reorganizing our intelligence agencies, reorganizing some of the laws under which our intelligence agencies and law enforcement work. So we have helped to keep the American people more secure. We should continue that hard work.

He concluded on this point:

Al-qaida is not a threat to Republicans, it is not a threat to Democrats, it is a threat to America. And the Senate must work together as we prepare for the long struggle ahead.

There were many other issues that have been discussed, things we can work together on, things we are going to have to work together on. I close

with one example that, to us in this body, we know this for a fact. That is the confirmation of judges. When you have a President of one party nominating judges and the majority in the Senate is of the other party, obviously something has to give. You have to work together. It was the hope of the Republican leader, I am sure, speaking on behalf of the President of the United States as well, that we would find ways to work together, Democrats and Republicans in this body, to give a fair chance to the President's nominees. He is, after all, elected President. He has the authority under the Constitution to nominate judges. Our responsibility is to check them out, to hold the hearings, and to question their qualifications but if in fact they are qualified, to give them a chance to be put on the bench with an up-or-down vote. I hope we could do that for the vast majority of the judges the President has nominated and for the other executive branch nominations of the President as well.

These are good examples of areas in which, without cooperation, the Government for the people does not function well. So, as we end this day I ask us to reflect on some of the words of our leaders, HARRY REID and MITCH MCCONNELL, today and our colleagues in that historic meeting this morning when we talked a good game about recommitting ourselves to bipartisan solutions to problems, to work on behalf of the American people with more comity in this body, in a way which will make us feel much better amongst ourselves and make our constituents much happier than they are when they see us fighting and bickering all the time. It is fitting to end this day on that note.

I commend the majority leader, HARRY REID. I commend the Republican leader, MITCH MCCONNELL, for serving as examples for all Members in the leadership they exhibited in starting the Senate off this way.

I see the distinguished majority leader now. We can conclude this day on that high note, giving some hope to the American people that we are committed to working on their behalf for a better future, a better America.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL CLINTON JON (C.J.) MILLER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from Greenfield, IA, LCpl Clinton Jon (C.J.) Miller, who was killed while serving his country as part of an improvised explosive device detection team in Iraq. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Jackie, his mother Susan, his father Kerby, and all his family and friends. I am sure I speak for all Iowans when I say that I am proud to call C.J. one of us. By all accounts, he was a fine marine who felt called to, and liked, military service. Family members say that he joined the Marines during wartime because he just felt he had to serve. Where would our country

be without patriotic young Americans like C.J. who feel a call to serve their country? All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to this brave Marine. As his father said, "He was a hero." Lance Corporal Miller's tremendous service and sacrifice should never be forgotten.

SERGEANT JAMES P. MUSACK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to SGT James P. Musack of Riverside, IA, who tragically died as a result of a noncombat related incident while serving his country in Iraq. I am sure that all Iowans shared the same sense of sadness I felt when learning of the death of this young Iowa native. According to family and friends, he had found his calling in the military and all Americans owe him our deepest thanks for his service. Everyone joining the military knows the risks involved, but all Americans are indebted to brave patriots like James Musack who voluntarily assume those risks in order to defend our freedom and way of life. My prayers go out to his mother Yvette, his father Jim, and all his family and friends.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL J. FINKEN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to LTC Paul J. Finken who has given his life for his country while serving in Iraq. He was 40 years old. Paul Finken was raised in Earling, IA, and I know all Iowans share my pride as we also mourn his loss. As a career Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Finken had dedicated his life to the service of his country and we can never thank him enough for his service and his final sacrifice on behalf of our freedom.

In remembering Paul Finken, his family said, "Paul was a devoted husband, loving father and respected leader. He loved being a soldier and respected the soldiers he worked with. He always set the example and would never ask his soldiers to do anything he wouldn't do himself. He will be greatly missed by his family and by all who knew him." My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Jackie and his three daughters, Emilie, Caroline, and Julia, for their loss. I hope it will be of some comfort to them to know that Paul died a hero.

#### COLORADO WEATHER

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I come today to discuss the situation in Colorado and surrounding States that has captured national attention. Over the last few weeks Colorado and its neighbors have experienced two record-setting blizzards. In some parts of Colorado these storms dropped almost 5 feet of snow and have created a nightmare situation for many in rural America. Thousands of head of cattle and other livestock are currently stranded without food or water. Only recently have some of these animals begun to see relief with supply drops via helicopter.

The aftermath of these devastating blizzards continues to paralyze many