

of the options. In the meantime, we have the Real ID law in place with the estimate that it may cost up to \$11 billion, a huge unfunded mandate. We have States saying we are going to opt out of that program. If they do, that means the citizens of Maine or Montana or some other State will not be allowed to fly on airplanes, for example, because they will not be from a State that has an approved ID card. That will create a lot more confusion and a lot more angry constituents.

I am here today to wave a yellow flag, to remind Members of the Real ID issue. It may not be part of the 9/11 Commission recommendation when they come to the floor, but it is relevant and certainly germane. I hope the Senator from Maine will provoke a discussion of it, and we will move to delay its implementation until we can think this through and do it right.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article I wrote for the Washington Post on Wednesday, March 30, 2005, about the Real ID and my views.

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

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 30, 2005]

MUCH AS I HATE IT, WE NEED A NATIONAL ID
(By Lamar Alexander)

The House recently passed legislation requiring states to turn 190 million driver's licenses into national ID cards, with state taxpayers paying most of the cost.

The first thing wrong here is that the House stuck the ID card proposal on the appropriations bill that supports troops in Iraq and sent it over to the Senate. We should not slow down money for our troops while we debate ID cards.

The second problem is that states not only get to create these ID cards, they'll likely end up paying the bill. This is one more of the unfunded federal mandates that we Republicans promised to stop.

Supporters argue that this is no mandate because states have a choice. True, states may refuse to conform to the proposed federal standards and issue licenses to whomsoever they choose, including illegal immigrants—but if they do, that state's licenses will not be accepted for "federal purposes," such as boarding an airplane. Some choice. What governor will deny his or her citizens the identification they need to travel by air and cash Social Security checks, or for "other federal purposes?"

Of course, the ID card may still backfire on Congress. Some feisty governor may say, "Who are these people in Washington telling us what to do with our drivers' licenses and making us pay for them, too? California will use its licenses for certifying drivers, and Congress can create its own ID card for people who want to fly and do other federally regulated things—and if they do not, I will put on the Internet the home telephone numbers of all the congressmen."

If just one state refused to do the federal government's ID work, Congress would be forced to create what it claims to oppose—a federal ID card for citizens of that state.

Finally, if we must have a better ID card for some federal purposes, then there are better ideas than turning state driver's license examiners into CIA agents. Congress might create an airline traveler's card. Or there could be an expanded use of U.S. passports. Since a motive here is to discourage illegal

immigration, probably the most logical idea is to upgrade the Social Security card, which directly relates to the reason most immigrants come to the United States: to work.

I have fought government ID cards as long and as hard as anyone. In 1983, when I was governor of Tennessee, our legislature voted to put photographs on driver's licenses. Merchants and policemen wanted a state ID card to discourage check fraud and teenage drinking. I vetoed this photo driver's license bill twice because I believed driver's licenses should be about driving and that state ID cards infringed on civil liberties.

That same year, on a visit to the White House, when a guard asked for my photo ID, I said, "We don't have them in Tennessee. I vetoed them." The guard said, "You can't get in without one." The governor of Georgia, who had his photo ID driver's license, vouched for me. I was admitted to the White House, the legislature at home overrode my veto and I gave up my fight against a state ID card.

For years state driver's licenses have served as de facto national ID cards. They have been unreliable. All but one of the Sept. 11 terrorists had a valid driver's license. Even today, when I board an airplane, security officials look at the front of my driver's license, which expired in 2000, and rarely turn it over to verify that it has been extended until 2005.

I still detest the idea of a government ID card. South Africa's experience is a grim reminder of how such documents can be abused. But I'm afraid this is one of the ways Sept. 11 has changed our lives. Instead of pretending we are not creating national ID cards when we obviously are, Congress should carefully create an effective federal document that helps prevent terrorism—with as much respect for privacy as possible.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SENATOR KENNEDY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, President John F. Kennedy was fond of quoting the Biblical passage of the New Testament:

For unto whomsoever much is given of him shall be much required.

That was quoted from the 12th chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke, verse 48, the King James version.

When I think of that passage, I think of the life, the career, and the accomplishments thus far of my dear friend, my dear friend and colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY, who will turn 75 years old—Oh, to be 75 again—he will turn 75 years old, on February 22. The Senate will be out of session on February 22.

When TED KENNEDY came to the Senate in 1962, I would already have been here 4 years. So when he, TED KENNEDY, came to the Senate in 1962, much had already been given to Senator TED KENNEDY. He had been born into a wealthy and remarkably, remarkably talented family. His father, a financial genius, had been an Ambassador to England—think of that, Ambassador to England—and the very first Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

One of his brothers, one of TED KENNEDY's brothers, had been a Senator—I can see him now, as it were—and was then President of the United States, but had been a Senator. Another broth-

er was the Attorney General of the United States, and would eventually join TED in the Senate in 1965.

As for Senator EDWARD "TED" KENNEDY, himself, he had attended two of our country's premier educational institutions, Harvard College, and, yes, the University of Virginia. And he, TED KENNEDY, had already accumulated a lifetime of political experience by the tender age of 30 when he came to this Senate. How remarkable—just burst upon the landscape. I remember. Therefore, as the Scripture tells us, we had a right to expect much from TED KENNEDY when he came to the Senate. We had a right to expect much. What about our expectations? He delivered. He delivered.

In the Senate, TED KENNEDY became the heart and the conscience, yes, of American liberalism. And he has been one of the most effective—I know. I have been here. I have watched him. I did not particularly like him at the beginning. He did not like me. Each of us knew that. We did not care who else knew it. It did not matter.

In the Senate, Senator KENNEDY became the heart and the conscience of American liberalism. He has been one of the most effective national legislators—read the RECORD; read the history of the Senate—he has been one of the most effective national legislators of the 20th century. And as one who knows something about American history and the history of the Senate, he has been one of the most effective national legislators of all time in the Senate. I have not lived all time, but I know something about all time. I know something about the Senate and know something about the history of the Senate.

TED KENNEDY has been one of the most effective national legislators of the 20th century or of all time as far as this Republic stands. His imprint is on nearly every piece of progressive legislation crafted during the past 45 years. I will read that again. I want to make sure I believe that myself. His imprint is on nearly every piece of progressive legislation crafted during the past 45 years: the Occupational Safety and Health Act, OSHA; the Voting Rights Act; the Age Discrimination Act; the Freedom of Information Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act; health care reform; increases in the Federal minimum wage. These are but a few of his, TED KENNEDY's, legislative monuments. Additionally, he has been among those few at the very forefront of promoting women's rights and women's equality.

He, EDWARD M. KENNEDY, TED KENNEDY, is the Senate's Mr. Health Care. He is the Senate's Mr. Civil Rights, to a great extent. He is the Senate's Mr. Human Rights. As his Senate record reveals, Senator KENNEDY is a man—a Senator—of remarkable compassion, who has labored mightily on behalf of his fellow citizens.

Although born to a life of privilege, TED KENNEDY has dedicated his life—if

I ever saw a dedication to public service—dedicated his life to public service.

Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY, TED KENNEDY, has spent more than half of his life in the Senate. I have done that, too. I was just contemplating and figuring in my head. Yes, that is a long time. He has spent more than half of his life in the Senate, yes. Yes, I have spent more than half of mine, but I am not the subject of this.

He, TED KENNEDY, is now second in seniority in the Senate. He, TED KENNEDY, is the third longest serving Senator in the history of the United States of America.

As I wish my dear friend TED KENNEDY the happiest of birthdays, perhaps I should point out that our relationship—his and mine—did not begin—I think I have already hinted at that—on the friendliest of terms. I first encountered TED KENNEDY during the bitter and famous 1960 West Virginia Democratic primary. TED KENNEDY was in the State helping his brother John F. Kennedy, who was running for President. I, ROBERT C. BYRD, was supporting the other guy.

In 1971, he, TED KENNEDY, was running for reelection to his position as the Senate Democratic whip. Again, I supported the other guy—me.

In 1976, I was running for the position of Senate majority leader. This time, he, TED KENNEDY, was supporting the other guy.

This hardly seemed the beginning of a beautiful relationship, but it was.

During our service together in the Senate, I came to admire TED KENNEDY—yes, I came to admire him—as a dedicated Senator of incredible tenacity and admirable legislative skills. I found him to be an indefatigable worker who could accomplish, yes, what seemed to be legislative miracles. Sometimes they were.

I, personally, will always be grateful for the support, the unstinting support, that Senator TED KENNEDY gave to me during the years that it was my privilege to serve, yes, serve as the Senate Democratic leader. And I was. I was the leader, the Senate Democratic leader. When times got tough, as they sometimes do for a Senate leader, I knew that I could always count—I could always count; yes, even without asking him, I knew where he stood—I could always count on him. It may have been a needed vote. It may have been his assistance in building support for a legislative proposal. Whatever was needed, he, EDWARD M. KENNEDY, TED, was there. He was there, he was always there for me, and I am grateful. As a result, our friendship has developed and strengthened.

Today I am proud to call TED KENNEDY one of my best and dearest friends. I have to say he is my best and dearest friend. I will always value his friendship. I especially appreciate the way he has extended that friendship not only to me but also to all the people of West Virginia. And he did much of that before he became a friend of mine.

I close this brief statement about admiration for TED KENNEDY with these words:

“How far away is the temple of fame?”
Said a youth at the dawn of the day.
He toiled and strove for a deathless name;
The hours went by and the evening came,
Leaving him old and feeble and lame,
To plod on his cheerless way.

“How far away is the temple of good?”
Said another youth at the dawn of the day.
He toiled in the spirit of brotherhood,
To help and succor as best he could
The poor and unfortunate multitude,
In its hard and cheerless way.

He was careless alike of praise or blame,
But after his work was done,
An angel of glory from heaven came
To write on high his immortal name,
And to proclaim the truth that the temple of
fame

And the temple of good are one.

For this is the lesson that history
Has taught since the world began;
That those whose memories never die,
But shine like stars in the human sky,
And brighter glow as the years go by,
Are the men who live for man.

Senator TED KENNEDY is a public servant. He is a dedicated legislator. He is a great Senator of our times who endeavors to live for his fellow man.

Happy birthday, TED KENNEDY. God bless you. Because of you, we are a better country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

HONORING VINCE KIROL, DARCY DENGEL, AND PAUL ERICKSON

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of three Montanans, three true public servants and American heroes who passed away last week in my home State of Montana.

Today, Senator BAUCUS and I grieve with the city of Great Falls and the State of Montana. I ask that we keep the families of the three victims of a Mercy Flight air ambulance crash in our thoughts and prayers. Their colleagues at Benefis Hospital in Great Falls and across my State are mourning, remembering, and honoring the lives of Vince Kirol, Darcy Dengel, and Paul Erickson.

Vince, Darcy, and Paul died when their plane went down on a routine flight from Great Falls to Bozeman Tuesday night to pick up a patient. I ask that we in this body hold these three in highest esteem as public servants who selflessly risked their own lives to help others.

Vince Kirol was a pilot for 40 years. He flew for Mercy Flight the last 12 of those years. Vince has left an everlasting footprint on Montana.

Darcy Dengel, a registered flight nurse, was only 27 years of age. She was engaged to be married to a Great Falls police officer. Darcy will not be forgotten.

Paul Erickson was a Great Falls firefighter and paramedic. We will never forget the service Paul left behind. It has changed lives forever.

In this body, we speak often of the value of public service. These three Montanans lived it every day. Too often, we are reminded of the sacrifices of our first responders, firefighters, police officers, nurses, and doctors. I ask my colleagues and all Americans to take a moment, when we can, to thank those who put their lives on the line serving this country at home. We owe them so much.

With great respect for these fine three Montanans, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

SENATOR KENNEDY

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from West Virginia for his comments about my colleague, Senator KENNEDY, who I know, if he were here, would be equally grateful. I am not going to be addressing the issue of Senator KENNEDY's birthday today. I will do so tomorrow. But we are all grateful for Senator BYRD and what he represents in the Senate. There is nobody who knows the record of my colleague better, who has served with him longer, or who has been through more battles with him than Senator BYRD. We are grateful for those comments.

IRAQ

Mr. KERRY. Four years ago, as we all know too well, we sent our young men and women to Iraq for a war that many of us now believe was a grave and tragic mistake. Day after day, month after month, the administration has repeatedly exacerbated that mistake by leaving our soldiers in the field without the equipment and without the protection they need and deserve, knowing full well what the lethal consequences would be.

There will be and there is disagreement in this body over the next difficult steps to take in Iraq. We can disagree on troop numbers. We can disagree on a timetable. We can disagree on the shape of a future political settlement in Iraq. Surely, we can all recognize those are honest differences of opinion. But there is no difference of opinion and there is no disagreement here that we ought to be giving our troops absolutely everything they need in order to accomplish this mission. There is no disagreement that those troops deserve everything they need to be as safe as possible, and there should be no disagreement that when we ask young men and women to leave their families to fight deadly foreign enemies halfway across the globe, when we ask them to put their lives on the line, the least we owe them is the equipment they need to protect themselves and get the job done. One soldier dying from a roadside bomb because he or she does not have the body armor is one too many.

The fact is, when it comes to body armor, when it comes to armored vehicles in Iraq, our troops do not have