I think it would be appropriate, Madam President, if the distinguished Republican leader wishes to say something about this tragedy, that after he does, I ask for a moment of silence for the faculty, the students, the administration, and everyone in Virginia Tech—and our country, really. A moment of silence.

Does the Senator wish to speak?

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

TRAGEDY AT VIRGINIA TECH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, let me just, on this side of the aisle, offer my condolences for this unspeakable tragedy to which the majority leader has been referring and join him in calling for a moment of silence. (Moment of silence.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

JACKIE ROBINSON

Mr. REID. Madam President, in July of 1944, 11 years before Rosa Parks became the mother of the civil rights movement, an African-American second lieutenant of the U.S. Navy was court-martialed on charges of insubordination for refusing to move to the back of a segregated military bus. Three years later, and 60 years ago yesterday, that second lieutenant was inducted for refusing to move to the back of a segregated military bus. Thirty years later, and 60 years ago yesterday, that second lieutenant was inducted for refusing to move to the back of a segregated military bus. Three years later, and 60 years ago yesterday, that second lieutenant was inducted for refusing to move to the back of a segregated military bus. Three years later, and 60 years ago yesterday, that second lieutenant was inducted for refusing to move to the back of a segregated military bus. Three years later, and 60 years ago yesterday, that second lieutenant was inducted for refusing to move to the back of a segregated military bus.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, when I was a youngster, I became a fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers for two reasons. One was because of Jackie Robinson. The distinguished majority leader is just referring to his history-making appearance in a Major League uniform for the first time. The other was for a Louisville teammate of his named Pee Wee Reese. He was the one who made the public display of welcoming Jackie amid some of the boos and catcalls he got in the early games when he first played.

Reese went over and put his hand on Jackie Robinson's shoulder. Since he was from the South, I think it was an indication that Robinson was certainly going to be accepted by his teammates and by the rest of the league shortly thereafter and certainly ought to be accepted by the fans as well.

It was a period during which the character of people was being measured. The character of Jackie Robinson was certainly in being willing to take on this challenge and tear down this barrier for the first time in American history, and the character of those with whom he was going to be playing. Would they accept him or would they not?

It was a great Kentuckian, Pee Wee Reese, who made it clear that Jackie Robinson was going to be accepted. It was the beginning of a great thing that our country did and, of course, was a breakthrough for many of the subsequent events that occurred over the years in improving race relations in our country. We are proud to honor the memory of Jackie Robinson.

The TRAVELING BOXER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women who fight to preserve it, a debt so great that a tribute befitting their sacrifice may well lie beyond our power to express it. Nevertheless, I ask that we pause today in loving memory of SPC Michael R. Hayes of Morgantown, KY. He was 29 years old.

Specialist Hayes of the Kentucky National Guard died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 5, 2005, when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his humvee while he was securing a roadside bomb site in Baghdad. Earlier that year, he had served valiantly in a brutal 30-minute firefight in which 10 guardsmen, including Hayes, were killed.

It is certainly sad but perhaps fitting that Mike would be taken from us while helping his fellow soldiers. Helping others was one of the defining features of Michael Hayes's life.

When Mike wasn't yet 5 years old, he was joined by his little brother, Jamie. Soon after returning home from the hospital, his mother, Barkley Hayes, heard newborn Jamie crying in his crib.

Before she could get to him, however, Mike met her in the hallway. Jamie in his arms, saying, "Mommy, help him to stop crying!"

Mike continued to look after Jamie and younger sister, Jamie, who all three served in the Guard's 617th Military Police Company and were stationed in Iraq at the same time. His loving relationship with his family was something Mike cherished.

So Mike was also part of another family, his soccer family. David Hocker, a friend that Mike was close to, described Mike's love for the game succinctly: "I have never in my life met anyone who loved soccer more than that man."

Mike was a member of the inaugural soccer team during his sophomore year at Greenwood High School in Bowling Green, KY, where he was born and raised. A leader on and off the field, he helped solidify the fledging program. He wasn't a bad goalie either. Mike earned All-Region and Player of the Year honors at Greenwood, and to this day remains the first and only member of the school's Athletics Hall of Fame.

According to his coach, Todd Tolbert, Mike was the kind of player that made a coach's job easier. Coach Tolbert wanted his other players to watch and emulate his dedication, effort and sportsmanship. In the words of Coach Tolbert, Mike "reached as far as he could reach and got there.

His determination and leadership, Coach Tolbert recalls, helped establish Greenwood soccer's reputation among...