be in mine.

Mike’s brother Jamie told the Butler County players at Mike’s funeral, “He talked about you guys in his down time more than you guys will ever know.”

Mike’s commitment to his players knew no bounds. On what would be his last trip home, he spent 12 of his 15 days playing soccer with them.

And Mike’s influence in his players’ lives extended far beyond the soccer field. On more than one occasion, he intervened to help a player be removed from a troubled home or beat an addiction problem.

The night before leaving for Iraq, Mike sat down with his players, addressing them as his “ladies,” like always. He told them he was going to Iraq because he wanted his players to be able to walk out onto the soccer field and not be afraid.

Specialist Hayes joined the Guard in 2002 and completed more than 135 missions, including over 30 actions with the enemy, during his service. MG Donald Storm, Kentucky’s adjutant general, described the consummate soldier, always in the right place doing the right thing.”

When the battles were over, Mike enjoyed playing soccer and baseball with Iraqi children during his down time. He would bring them Cokes, chips and candy. It has even been suggested that with time, he might have started a soccer program for Iraqi children.

Soon before he left Kentucky for Iraq for the last time, a friend asked Mike in confidence if he thought we really ought to be involved over there. Mike told his friend of the women he saw wearing colorful clothes and no veil, smiling as they walked down the street.

He recounted watching young children running to school with pencils and paper and his smiles. “Yes,” he told his friend unequivocally. “We’re doing good there.”

Although Specialist Hayes can no longer be with us, or his beloved family, he is loved and remembered by his mother Barkley, his brother, Mike’s sister Melissa Stewart, his nieces Charlette Stewart and Jocelyn Hayes, and other beloved family members. I want to thank his mother Barkley for sharing her memories of Michael with us, and for traveling to the Capitol to meet with me today.

Specialist Hayes struck everyone he met with his selflessness, dedication, and devotion to helping others. Although he is gone, the example he set for others won’t be forgotten. Not by his family. Not by his fellow soldiers. And not by the young children he taught to play his favorite game, whether in the rural bluegrass of Kentucky or the desert sands of Iraq.

I ask my colleagues to keep the family of SPC Michael R. Hayes in their thoughts and prayers. I know they will be in mine.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 20 minutes. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, would the Senator yield to me for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, the mandatory quorum call required under rule XXII is waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

The motion to proceed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion is withdrawn.

The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

VIRGINIA TECH MASSACRE

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, the Virginia Tech community is grieving this afternoon, and our country grieves with them. To see so many young people taken from us with their lives ahead of them is an unspeakable horror, one that words simply cannot capture.

Oregons saw a horrible school shooting in 1998, and I know that across my State, Oregons this afternoon are sending their prayers to the Virginia Tech community. I join with those Virginians in sending our prayers to the Virginia Tech family, and on behalf of the people of my State, I want those at Virginia Tech to know they are in our hearts and minds at this critical hour and during this time of unspeakable tragedy.

(The remarks of Mr. WYDEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 372, are printed in today’s Record under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WEBB). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

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

TAX REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oregon. I walked in on the tail end of his remarks, but he