

the whole purpose was to move this bill forward and find out what amendments are coming from both sides. I don't know about amendments from people who are not here.

I object to that proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me say, it is a funny way of wanting to move forward on this bill by stopping cloture twice during the last 30 hours. I repeat, I said anybody who wanted to could offer amendments. We sat for 2 days doing nothing, for 30 hours doing nothing.

I hope the distinguished Senator from Missouri and my friend, my dear friend for life, the junior Senator from West Virginia, can work something out. That is why I moved to reconsider. I hope that on this very important piece of legislation, we are able to move forward. This has nothing to do with partisan politics. This is the security of our Nation and much of the world.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, as I indicated earlier, I want to see this bill move forward. It is open for amendment and debate. I will work with the chairman, with the leaders on both sides to come to a short time agreement with amendments to be considered. If that cannot be accepted, if we have any indication that this bill is going to be drawn out, then I will work with the leadership to get us to a position to vote on the bill. I remain committed to seeing this bill go forward, but I believe we have the need for at least a day's debate. The objection to proceeding on the bill was withdrawn. There could have been debate on Friday, but we weren't in. Now we are back in session, and I hope both sides can come forward and offer their amendments and offer their debates, and have votes and move this bill to final passage and send it to conference.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. We weren't in session because there was no activity on this bill. No one was offering amendments. I would go one step further than the distinguished Senator from Missouri suggested. The amendments have been filed. Why don't we do the relevant amendments? I don't know how many there are. Let's do the ones that are in keeping with the rules of the Senate, go ahead and handle those, starting in the morning.

That is all I have, Mr. President.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DAVID NEIL SIMMONS

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Kokomo. Neil Simmons, 20 years old, was killed on April 8 while deployed in Baghdad, when his convoy encountered an improvised explosive device and insurgent fire. He had been in Iraq for less than 2 weeks. With his entire life before him, Neil risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Neil attended Kokomo's Northwestern High School and followed the example set by his father and uncle by enlisting in the Army a few months before graduating in 2005. He enjoyed the structure of the military and felt a sense of duty to serve his community and country. His father described Neil as "an avid outdoorsman who was happy and always had plenty of friends."

Neil was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, in Fort Benning, GA. Neil's father reflected on his son's death, asking, "What's the odds of, among 160,000 troops your only child is there one week and gets killed?" Private First Class Simmons leaves behind his father David and uncle Jim Simmons.

Today, I join Neil's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Neil, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Neil was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Neil will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Neil's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our

poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Neil's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of David Neil Simmons in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Neil's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Neil.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity today to solemnly commemorate the 92nd Anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

The Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century. From 1915 until 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were brutally killed by the Ottoman Turks in a systematic effort to eradicate the Armenian people. There were unbearable acts of torture; men were separated from their families and murdered; women and children were put on a forced march across the Syrian desert without food or water.

Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913 to 1916, recalled:

When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact . . . I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.

However, we were to witness other such horrible genocides later, including the Holocaust and the genocide in Darfur, which is happening today.

As with later genocides, some have tried to deny that the Armenian genocide happened. Shamefully, the Government of Turkey still refuses to admit that genocide occurred.

In order for democracy and human rights to flourish, we must not support efforts to rewrite and deny history. In the United States, we strive to make human rights a fundamental component of our democracy. It is long overdue for our nation to demand that the truth be told. We must recognize the Armenian genocide in the name of democracy, fairness and human rights.

At the beginning of the 21st century, as genocide is waged in Darfur, it is

even more critical to recognize the first genocide of the 20th Century. We must send a message that genocide and genocide denial will never be tolerated.

To that end, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of Senator RICHARD DURBIN's S. Res. 106, calling on the President to accurately characterize the Armenian Genocide in his annual message around April 24 and to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian genocide.

It is important that we recognize the Armenian genocide while its survivors are still with us to tell their stories. We must recognize the genocide for the survivors. We must recognize the genocide because it is the right thing to do. We must recognize the Armenian genocide to help shed light on the darkness and move toward a more humane world.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to explain to the Senate my absence during today's vote to invoke cloture on S. 372, the Intelligence Authorization Act.

I am in Florida, and my flight was due to arrive in Washington this afternoon. However, because of the inclement weather, my flight was delayed and I am still in Tallahassee.

I am a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and I have already voted in favor of this measure. As such, had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye" on the resolution.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GERALD E. HARMON, M.D.

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Dr. Gerald E. Harmon, MD, on the occasion of his retirement from the South Carolina Air National Guard, SCANG. A native South Carolinian, "Gamecock Doc" joined the military in 1973 as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force, USAF after graduating from the University of South Carolina USC. He began studying medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina through the Air Force Health Professions Scholarship Program achieving his M.D. in 1976.

Dr. Harmon completed his family practice residency at Eglin AFB in Florida. After fulfilling several USAF flight surgeon assignments in Texas and South Carolina, he transferred to the SCANG to serve as the commander of the 169th Tactical Clinic at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. Under his leadership, his unit was

twice awarded the SCANG Outstanding Unit award and received "Excellent" evaluations by the USAF Inspection Agency.

In 1992, President George H. W. Bush recognized Dr. Harmon for his medical humanitarian work in Africa, and both in 1998 and 2003 the South Carolina General Assembly recognized him as the Doctor of the Day for his unselfish duty and devotion to the medical profession. Dr. Harmon was also a recipient of the American Heart Association Research Grant at the USC School of Medicine and was recognized as the Air National Guard's 1993 National Physician of the Year.

Over the last 7 years, Dr. Harmon served as the Air National Guard Assistant Surgeon General for the USAF providing critical advice and information on Air National Guard medical activities to the United States' Surgeon General. Part of his responsibilities included coordinating medical policies, plans, and programs for the Air National Guard. Dr. Harmon is the first South Carolinian to serve as the Air National Guard Assistant Surgeon General.

Dr. Harmon is currently a family practitioner the Waccamaw Medical Center on Pawleys Island, where he and his wife of 35 years reside. He is also President-elect of the South Carolina Medical Association having served on its board directors for many years.

A true patriot and a fine American, Dr. Harmon formally retired as a major general with over 700 flying hours on February 16, 2007. His military career will forever be marked by his extraordinary vision, sacrifice, and community spirit. I wish Dr. Harmon the very best in his retirement and ask that the Senate join me in thanking him for his service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761 and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the British-American

Interparliamentary Group: Mr. CHANDLER of Kentucky, Chairman.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. OBERSTAR of Minnesota, Chairman, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Vice Chairman, Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York, Mr. STUPAK of Michigan, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. HODES of New Hampshire, Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1469. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs; 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program" (RIN0560-AH45) received on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1470. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2006 Emergency Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs" (RIN0560-AH62) received on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1471. A communication from the Regulatory Contact, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice Governing Proceedings Under the Packers and Stockyards Act" (RIN0580-AA97) received on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1472. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving exports to India; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1473. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; State Implementation Plan Corrections" (FRL No. 8300-1) received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1474. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Renewable Fuel Standard Program" (FRL No. 8299-9) received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1475. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the integration of mental health services into daily activities of Service members; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1476. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the TRICARE Program for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.