

will work fine provided we get votes and move along and follow in an orderly process. But if that breaks down, the Senator from Texas has a point, that we need to get some amendments in the queue and try to handle them as rapidly as we can.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the Senator from Texas raised probably four or five points that I know of in the course of these discussions. We are familiar with the general subject matter.

If I could have the attention of my colleagues, he had raised probably four or five issues that related to the title II. I listened to him this morning at the breakfast, and he raised a point on title II. So if he wants to, we are prepared to move ahead with the Senator's amendments. We are familiar with the general area. I know there are going to be drafting issues, but we are glad to accommodate that. We don't want the technical aspects to slow the process.

So we are familiar with those subject matters. The Senator could get a hard look maybe over tonight about the particular areas and then talk with us tomorrow, and we will make sure we have the time and that we are prepared to go ahead. We are more than ready to be here. We had a good afternoon. We enjoyed it. We started on it at a quarter to 3 and worked until 6:15. We are prepared to go this evening or tomorrow or tomorrow night or the following night. We are not trying to rush anybody, but we are prepared to do business.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I enter this statement in the RECORD in support of the Dorgan-Boxer amendment to strike the temporary worker program from S. 1348. While we certainly should fill jobs for which there is a shortage of American workers, it should be done on specific needs and based on traditional visas. I believe that the introduction of a large stream of low-skilled foreign workers would have a negative impact on the wages of American workers. Finally, I fear that the inherent flaws in this proposed system will, in time, recreate the very same undocumented worker crisis this bill seeks to eliminate. A graduation event for my daughter requires me to be away from Washington, D. C. on the afternoon of May 22, 2007, and regrettably prevents me from officially registering my support of the Dorgan-Boxer amendment.●

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, unfortunately, I had to miss today's vote on the Dorgan amendment to strike the new Y visa worker program in the bill. As currently designed, the temporary worker program in this bill is designed to fail.

The program in the bill proposes to create a new 400,000 person annual tem-

porary worker program that could grow to 600,000 without congressional approval. It expands the existing seasonal guestworker programs from 66,000 up to 100,000 in the first year and 200,000 after that. At the end of their temporary status, almost all of these workers would have to go home. That means at the end of the first 3 years, we would have at least 1.2 million of these new guestworkers in the country with only 30,000 having any real hope of getting to stay.

As we have learned with misguided immigration policies in the past, it is naïve to think that people who do not have a way to stay legally will just abide by the system and leave. They won't. The current group of undocumented immigrants will be replaced by a new group of second-class workers who will place downward pressure on American wages and working conditions. And when their time is up, they will go into the shadows where our current system exploits the undocumented today.●

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL NICHOLAS J. DIERUF

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 2 days ago, family and friends gathered at the Dieruf family farm near Lexington to celebrate a birthday and continue an annual tradition.

If this year was similar to years past, they played games and shared stories around a bonfire. But unlike years past, one man was missing. That man is CPL Nicholas J. Dieruf, a U.S. marine.

Corporal Dieruf was taken from us on April 8, 2004. It is his birthday that brings so many people together, a tradition that started when he was in high school.

Corporal Dieruf was mortally wounded in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. As the gunner of a light armored vehicle, his vehicle was in the lead of a convey when terrorists attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms. He was 21 years old.

For his valorous service, Corporal Dieruf received numerous medals and awards, including the Purple Heart.

As the youngest of four brothers—where the eldest and youngest are separated by only 4 years—Nich learned quickly how to get along with others.

His mother Barbara sheltered him from the youthful pranks that his brothers, Charlie, Matthew, and Paul, tried to play on him, like when they almost convinced him to swallow an earthworm fresh from their mother's rose bed.

But Charles Dieruf, their father, instilled confidence and self-respect in his sons and reminded them that the only thing you will ever have in life is your brothers. By the time the boys reached grade school, they had developed a respect and admiration for one another that persists to this day.

Nich became especially close to Matthew, the second oldest brother, with a spirit and a temperament much like Nich's. In high school, Matt and Nich would take what they called "fun runs," jogging through the bluegrass countryside. Runs that started as training for the cross-country team soon became what Matt calls "a chance to get out and talk about stuff." Barbara says Nich always looked up to Matthew and valued his advice.

After graduating from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, in his hometown of Lexington in 2000, Nich enrolled in classes at Lexington Community College that fall. That October, however, he joined the Marines.

That decision was an important step in Nich's transformation, as his older brothers watched the youngest brother who looked to them for advice become the man they themselves would turn to for counsel.

"When Nich was in town, everyone would come around," says his brother, Matthew. "People just gravitated to my brother."

Nich deployed to Iraq for the first time in early 2003 and quickly acclimated to the 14-hour workdays. His commanding officers noted his leadership qualities, and when his platoon commander had to break in a new staff sergeant, he assigned the sergeant to Corporal Dieruf's vehicle, to learn from the best.

The trust Corporal Dieruf's commanders placed in him with this decision became clear when you realize that a staff sergeant is two full ranks above a corporal. Another marine who worked with Nich, SGT Joseph Leurs, had this to say:

Corporal Dieruf was extremely tactful. If he saw me doing something differently than how it was normally done, he would suggest we get a drink, and only then would he propose that I try it another way.

Sergeant Leurs went on to say that Corporal Dieruf earned the respect of those he served with, and never soured on his duties to the Corps.

Shortly before his first deployment, Nich gave a young woman named Emily Duncan a pearl ring—a promise