

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JOHN A. STROSNIDER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of John A. Strosnider, D.O., a respected Kentuckian who passed away on July 1, 2007, of cancer. Dr. Strosnider was the founding dean of the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine and also served as president of the American Osteopathic Association, AOA.

Dr. Strosnider accepted the challenge to create the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine in 1996. The school, located in eastern Kentucky, opened in 1997 with 60 students and has since produced more than 400 physicians. In keeping with the school's mission, many of them have stayed in the region to practice medicine. In fact, according to Pikeville College officials, 55 of the new physicians have opened offices within a 2-hour drive of the city.

Throughout his career, Dr. Strosnider was honored by several organizations for his dedication to the profession. At the time of his death, he was serving as president of the AOA, and, in 2005, he was named Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association Physician of the Year.

After being named AOA president, Dr. Strosnider said, "I hope to raise students' awareness and remind osteopathic physicians of the history and philosophy of osteopathic medicine. The osteopathic medical profession was built on a primary care philosophy, and we need to get back to those basics so that our patients in these areas have access to the distinctive health care promised by osteopathic medicine."

When Dr. Strosnider was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer earlier this year, he gathered his students and faculty together to inform them of his illness. He told the assembly he wanted to be open with them and remain optimistic. Shortly after his passing, Pikeville College President Hal Smith wrote a letter to colleagues and friends. In it, he wrote, "John's vision and work will continue to impact the lives of thousands of individuals he never knew."

I got to know Dr. Strosnider several years ago. Every year, he would bring a

group of his students to Washington, DC, and I had the privilege of meeting with him and his students on several occasions. I was always impressed with how Dr. Strosnider encouraged the future doctors to remain close to home and provide critical health care to the underserved people of eastern Kentucky.

Mr. President, I ask you to join me in remembering this outstanding Kentuckian. He is survived by his wife Jo Ann and three children, John Adam, Alisha, and Paul. He will be missed.

DARFUR

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the ongoing genocide in Darfur. As my colleagues know, the United Nations Security Council is currently hammering out the final text of a new resolution related to the expanded United Nations African Union hybrid force to protect civilians who have been victims of genocide in Darfur. This resolution represents the best hope for the international community to finally come together to put an end to the violence in that country.

This new U.N. resolution reportedly calls for a large increase in military and police personnel to be deployed to Darfur. It calls on member states to make commitments to contribute troops to the hybrid force, and for this bolstered hybrid force UNAMID to take command of the region by the end of the year. Importantly, it also calls on the Sudanese Government and all rebel groups to enter into peace negotiations to reach a political settlement which will ultimately end the conflict in Darfur.

If these reports are accurate, then we may be one step closer to ending the violence in Darfur. But in order to actually stop the violence, we must ensure that the hybrid force is large enough to effectively carry out its mission, and deployed quickly to stop the violence immediately. These increased forces are desperately needed to replace the currently under-funded and under-equipped paltry AU force of 7,000 soldiers presently in Darfur.

We simply cannot wait any longer to protect the hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians whose villages have been burned, who have been driven into refugee camps, and who have been raped and murdered.

I welcome the calls of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicholas Sarkozy for the United Nations to quickly adopt this new draft resolution, and I appreciate the leadership they have demonstrated in personally committing to ensure that the peace process moves forward, once the U.N. resolution has passed. Prime Minister Brown recently declared that "this is one of the great humanitarian disasters of our generation. It is incumbent on the whole world to act." I wholeheartedly agree and I urge President Bush to join with Prime Minister Brown and President Sarkozy in

personally committing to ending the conflict in Darfur.

Recent reports have also indicated that the text of the resolution relating to implementing multilateral sanctions has been softened due to the objections of some African member states, as well as China.

While I strongly believe that robust targeted sanctions should be implemented against members of rebel groups and the Sudanese Government, that we should curb the Sudanese Government's access to oil revenues, increase penalties on private companies operating in Sudan, and allow for the divestment of funds in Sudan, the sad truth is that what is most needed now from the international community is a legitimate U.N. mandate for a strengthened hybrid peacekeeping force.

But there is no reason why the United States can't move forward to implement unilateral sanctions against Sudan, even if the international community and the Bush administration refuse to do so. As chairman of the Banking Committee I have asked the majority leader to expedite Senate consideration and passage of S.831, the Sudan Divestment Authorization Act of 2007. The majority leader was prepared to do so, but the minority objected. I have also asked that the majority leader to hold H.R. 180, the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007, at the desk and attempt to pass this bill prior to the August recess. I am also planning to ask the majority leader to expedite consideration of S. 1563, the Sudan Disclosure and Enforcement Act of 2007. These three bills represent a good step towards applying targeted economic pressure against the Sudanese Government.

The implementation of robust and targeted sanctions is long overdue. In fact, the time to implement the sanctions was 4 years ago, and it should have been among the first components of the administration's Plan A, instead of the last resort of its Plan B—a plan which it has still failed to implement, despite Special Envoy Andrew Natsios's assurances over 7 months ago, back in January of 2007, that action was imminent.

Sudan's U.N. ambassador recently asserted that the text of the new U.N. Security Council resolution is "hostile" and full of "insinuations." He further declared that the language is "ugly" and "awful." Ugly and awful? Ugly and awful is the murder of 450,000 people in Darfur and the displacement of 2.5 million civilians. Ugly and awful is the Sudanese President, Omar al-Bashir, after his recent visit to Darfur, declaring "that most of Darfur is now secure and enjoying real peace. People are living normal lives," he said. Ugly and awful is the United States and the international community waiting one day longer to protect these innocent civilians.

The time for action is now. We must not allow the Sudanese Government to