

enable us to know when the end comes. You do not have a strategy if you cannot articulate the end point.

We have another very serious problem with respect to our presence in Afghanistan, and that is all of the logistical lines into Afghanistan are in areas that could cause the United States great concern.

This—I am going to draw a circle around it on this busy map—is Afghanistan right here. Afghanistan is a landlocked country, as everyone in this Congress surely knows. The supply routes into Afghanistan are principally through Pakistan: from Karachi up into Peshawar, through the famed Khyber Pass, which caused the British such problems and difficulties more than 100 years ago, in through the mountainous areas of the federally administered tribal regions and the Northwest Frontier Province very lawless areas where al-Qaida and the Taliban operate heavily. So 80 percent of the supplies that go into Afghanistan go via land through Pakistan.

To the north, Uzbekistan has indicated it probably will not allow alternate supply routes if problems occur in Pakistan. Iran, obviously, is not going to allow supply routes to go in to supply our troops in Afghanistan, which leaves Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan is very close to Russia, which we have been in very difficult relationships with, particularly since the incidents in Georgia last summer.

So what does this mean? There is an old saying—Frederick the Great, supposedly, was the first to say it—and that is: Without supplies, no army is brave.

If you look at this route in Pakistan, over the past 6 months this is what has happened:

In March, there were attacks in the Khyber region that set fire to 40 to 50 oil tankers. These are convoys that are not protected by the American military because the American military does not operate in combat areas in Pakistan. So in March: 40 to 50 oil tankers.

In April, Taliban raiders stole military helicopter engines valued at \$13 million.

In November, 12 vehicles were hijacked near the Khyber Pass. Two humvees were included in the hijackings.

Last week, 22 more vehicles were destroyed at a truck stop between Peshawar and the Khyber Pass.

Yesterday, 145 vehicles, trailers, and containers were destroyed in a warehouse just outside of Peshawar.

Today, there was a separate attack at a shipping terminal near Peshawar which destroyed 50 trucks carrying containers.

This is millions and millions of dollars worth of equipment in an area where we in our present policy cannot provide military security. We have Pakistani security forces, we have Pakistani truck drivers, and we are in a very delicate relationship with Pakistan itself.

I am hoping that in this type of situation, where 80 percent of our cargo is coming in through Pakistan, and where our ability to resupply our military from other areas depends on our relationship with Russia, that our new administration and the leadership in the State Department and the Department of Defense will take a very hard look at how many military people we want to have in Afghanistan, what it is we want them to do, how we are going to resupply them, how we are going to conduct our relationships inside Pakistan, what our alternatives might be if those convoys continue to be interrupted, and, finally, how we will know when we have concluded our strategic purpose in this part of the world.

With that, I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

TED STEVENS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise once again to honor a distinguished colleague and the longest serving Republican in the history of this body, Senator TED STEVENS.

I said it this morning. I will say it again: In the history of this Nation, no one man has done more for one State than TED STEVENS—no one. His commitment to the people of Alaska has been as constant as the Northern Star. And the list of things he has done on their behalf in a remarkable 40-year career is as vast as the State itself.

Today we remember that legendary service, and the man who achieved it.

Born in Indianapolis 85 years ago this week, TED STEVENS made his mark early. At 19, he was flying C-46 transport planes over the Himalayas in support of the legendary Flying Tigers. His appetite for adventure took him to Oregon and Montana for college, and then to even more exotic places as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. For his bravery, TED would receive a Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal. It was the first of many, many honors.

A decorated war veteran by his early-twenties, TED returned to California to resume his studies, and later enrolled at Harvard Law School. After law school, TED came to Washington, married a girl named Ann, and then set out on a new adventure in the vast expanse of the Alaska territory.

He would go on to devote the rest of his life to helping the people of Alaska achieve the same rights and privileges that those in the lower 48 took for granted. And today, the name TED STEVENS is synonymous with the State he loves. It always will be.

Who else can say that they helped draw the borders of the State in which they live? Well, TED can. As Senator MURKOWSKI put it: “for forty years, TED STEVENS has been Alaska.” He was there at the creation. And an entire generation of Alaskans have grown up not ever knowing the Senate without him.

TED will tell you he works so hard because there is so much work to do.

Alaskans don't have the benefit of centuries of infrastructure and planning that much of the rest of the country does. Of the giant State's more than 200 villages, only a handful had running water when TED came to the Senate. Thanks largely to him, roughly half of them do now.

No one has done more for the U.S. Armed Forces than TED STEVENS. He secured funds for the F-117, to replace Air Force One, for unmanned aerial vehicles like the Predator and Global Hawk, and for a replacement Coast Guard icebreaker and the F-16 program. TED was instrumental in ensuring funds for early military research on everything from breast cancer to AIDS.

TED STEVENS once said:

They sent me here to stand up for the state of Alaska.

For 40 years, he fulfilled that charge with passion and purpose. And the Senate will never forget TED STEVENS.

GORDON SMITH

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to honor my friend and colleague from Oregon, Senator GORDON SMITH.

I have worked with GORDON since coming over to the Senate in 1998. It has been an honor and privilege to serve on both the Senate Finance Committee and Energy and Natural Resources Committee with him. GORDON has a long list of accomplishments to show for the people of Oregon and the Nation. He has served the people of Oregon well, and I know they are proud to call him one of their own. His leadership in the Senate will be missed, and it has truly been an honor serving with him.

I thank GORDON for all of his contributions to the U.S. Senate, and I wish him and his family the best of luck in their future endeavors.

ELIZABETH DOLE

Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my distinguished colleague from North Carolina, Senator ELIZABETH DOLE, who will be retiring from the Senate at the conclusion of the 110th Congress.

I have worked with Senator DOLE since she was elected to serve the people of North Carolina in 2002. I have also had the privilege of serving on the Senate Banking Committee with Senator DOLE. She has dedicated her adult life to serve her country proudly. Senator DOLE has had the distinct honor to serve in several capacities such as Deputy Assistant to the Nixon administration for Consumer Affairs, as a member of the Federal Trade Commission, Secretary of Transportation under President Reagan, and Secretary of Labor under President George H.W. Bush. Her heart and character can also be summed up by her work as the President of the American Red Cross and the impact she has had, on not only the lives of Americans, but also those abroad. A person of that caliber will be missed in the Senate.

I am honored to know her and to have worked with her. I would like to thank Senator DOLE for her contributions to the Senate and to the country we both love. I wish her and her family the best in all of their future endeavors.

JOHN E. SUNUNU

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to join my fellow Senators to honor a colleague and a friend, Senator JOHN E. SUNUNU, who is departing the Senate at the close of this Congress. I have enjoyed working with Senator SUNUNU over the years—first in the House of Representatives and later in the Senate.

While in the Senate, I have had the great fortune of serving with JOHN on the Senate Finance Committee. He is a revered advocate of fiscal discipline, personal responsibility, and free markets. The two of us have stood together on numerous issues—most notably tax—and I have always believed that we could accomplish any goal because I had his voice of conviction and intellect by my side.

Representing New Hampshire, Senator SUNUNU has proven to all Granite Staters that he will fight for the simple motto that reads on their State license plate: Live Free or Die. Whether the item of the day was social security, trade, or any other topical issue, including the original intent of the Constitution, Senator SUNUNU has proven that he is up for any debate.

The U.S. Senate will not be the same without Senator JOHN SUNUNU. In a time when many politicians try to increase the role of government in American life, Senator JOHN SUNUNU has always bet on the American people rather than government. I will miss JOHN SUNUNU.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, four of our most valuable Senators will not return next year and we will miss them.

ELIZABETH DOLE

ELIZABETH DOLE began her career in public service at about the same time I did. We were both in the Nixon White House in 1969, and since then I have enjoyed following and watching and occasionally bumping into her remarkable career. She began that career at a time when women, even if they graduated from Harvard Law School as she did, had very few options. ELIZABETH made her options—in the Cabinet, heading the American Red Cross and pioneering in a Presidential race in 1999. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with her, as well as knowing even better Bob Dole during these last 6 years. She truly is one of America's most admired women.

GORDON SMITH

GORDON SMITH is the most eloquent among us Senators. Every Republican Senator would say that, and any Democrat who had heard him would agree. He has a quiet way, an intelligence and a way of speaking that commands attention and respect. He has his feet

firmly planted on the ground in Pendleton, OR. He understands the private sector. He has been courageous in his willingness to support and chide and criticize his party when needed. He will be sorely missed.

JOHN SUNUNU

I met JOHN SUNUNU when he was a college student and his father and I were Governors of our respective States. He arrives and leaves as the youngest member of the Senate. But, in our caucus, his voice is one of the voices most carefully listened to. His intelligence, his philosophical integrity and his persistence have made him a most valuable player in our Republican Conference. He has a bright career ahead of him.

TED STEVENS

I have often thought that I should write a book called "some things you don't know about the people I work with." Someday I will. And I will start with TED STEVENS, who flew the first cargo plane into Peking, as it was then called, at the end of World War II. This was a dangerous, bold mission. It helps to explain the life of this remarkable man who helped Alaska become a State and then has defended and supported it in the Senate for 40 years. With the departures of TED STEVENS and two other Senators of whom I have already spoken—PETE DOMENICI and JOHN WARNER—the Senate loses more than 100 years of service. More than that, this country loses three men whose view of America was rooted in the last years of World War II and the remarkable ascendancy of our country since then. Looking around the Senate, it will be difficult to find many among those of us who remain with the breadth of vision and old-fashioned patriotism that these men have contributed.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CAPTAIN ROBERT YLLESCAS

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I wish to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army captain Robert Yllescas. Captain Yllescas, a native Guatemalan and graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, died on December 1 from injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device in the mountains of Afghanistan on October 28. He was 31 years old.

After spending the first 18 years of his life in Guatemala, Captain Yllescas moved to Nebraska, where he enrolled in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and joined the ROTC. He married his wife Dena in her hometown of Osceola, NE. A graduate of Army Ranger school, Captain Yllescas' service included two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, where he proved to be an exemplary leader. As the commander of B Troop, 6-4 Cavalry of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, he led 90 U.S. and 200 Afghan soldiers in Nuristan province. He was awarded the Purple Heart by President Bush on November 10.

All of Nebraska is proud of Captain Yllescas' service to our country, as

well as the thousands of brave men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Captain Yllescas is remembered as a devoted husband, father, and son. In addition to his wife Dena, he is survived by his daughters, Julia, 7, and Eva, 10 months; and parents Otto and Barb.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring U.S. Army CPT Robert Yllescas.

67TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, yesterday, December 7, 2008, was the 67th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor in which more than 2,400 courageous sailors, soldiers, and marines died. To those in Hawaii who, like me, witnessed the attack, the events of 67 years ago have a deep personal significance. I will never forget the courage and commitment of the soldiers, sailors, and ordinary men and women who did not hesitate to defend our Nation despite the enormous personal risk. For all Americans, young and old, it is important to remember that out of this dark hour arose the courage and strength of a unified Nation. I honor the memories of all the survivors of the attack as well as the fallen heroes who fought to defend our Nation's principles of democracy and freedom that day.

This year, with so many of our troops serving overseas, I would also like recognize our armed services families by honoring the sacrifices of those who lost loved ones during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Our Nation owes these family members a debt of gratitude for their strength and perseverance during such a grievous time. I want to thank all the members of our armed forces—those that served in World War II, all those that have served since, and those who still serve today. Your daily sacrifices protect and strengthen our country and allow us to enjoy the freedoms symbolic of the United States. Your courageous and dedicated efforts humble me, and may God bless you and your families as together we remember Pearl Harbor.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA LE

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service Linda Le provided to the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship over the past 4 years. Linda is a dedicated individual whose penchant for critical insights and creative solutions will be sorely missed.

Linda first joined the Senate Small Business Committee staff in 2004 as a staff assistant. She had previously gained invaluable experience on financial matters during her career at Fidelity Investments. Through hard work and determination here in the Senate, Linda rose through the ranks, first as a research analyst and finally as a professional staff member. Over the years,