

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we are now on the floor considering the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. This is an extremely important measure to everyone here and to the country, with important investments in our roads, bridges, highways, airports, housing, and infrastructure across the country. My ranking member, Senator BOND, and I are here ready to go and ready to work. We are waiting for our colleagues to come to the floor to offer their amendments, and I encourage them to do so.

The majority leader has asked us to move this bill as expeditiously as possible. We need to finish all of our appropriations bills by October 1 of this year in order to make sure people have the funding they need and so they know where we are going.

So we again ask our colleagues to come to the floor, and if they do have amendments, offer them, or if they do not, allow us to continue to finish this bill.

If there are no Members here seeking recognition at this point, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask the Senator to withhold the suggestion of an absence of a quorum.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I withhold.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I add to what the Chair, Senator MURRAY, has said. We are open. We are ready to do business. We have, I believe, close to two dozen amendments that have been filed. This would be an ideal time for people to come in and discuss their amendments, to bring them up. We are scheduled, I believe, to have votes on pending HUD amendments on Monday afternoon when we return, and it would be good for people, without time constraints, to come in and explain why they wish to amend the bill, and to allow us to debate those amendments and be ready for votes.

But we know there is interest. We know amendments have been filed, and we will have at least this morning to consider those amendments. I assume the majority leader will bring us in Monday afternoon. So I urge my colleagues, if you have an amendment to be seriously considered, whether it is on this side or the majority side, please bring it forward and let us have an opportunity to look at it, review it, debate it, discuss it, and prepare it for a vote.

With that, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICA'S WAR ON TERROR

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, today marks the eighth anniversary of America's war on terror—the day we began to fight back. But 9/11 was not the day the war began. Radical Islamic terrorists were at war with the United States long before that harrowing morning 8 years ago. That is crucial to remember now as the terror and tragedy of that day recedes into the past.

This war did not begin with the 9/11 attacks or when we sent troops to Afghanistan and it will not end when we defeat terrorists on any battlefield. Our goal cannot be merely to end one war but to win the war on terror. We will not win by trying to appease the grievances of our enemies. They do not hate our policies—they hate us, our freedoms, and our way of life.

The 3,000 on 9/11 were the consequence of a broad bipartisan failure of American leadership to understand that hate. The consequences of forgetting now will be far worse. Our enemies' strategy is based on what they see as our short memory. As the terrifying images of 9/11 fade, our enemies believe we will lose our nerve and retreat back into the false sense of security they exploited with those four jetliners on 9/11.

We cannot let that happen. If we lose our resolve and surrender our vigilance, the next attack might not be in airplanes but something far more devastating and lethal. Their plan depends on us forgetting, and so our challenge is to never forget.

We have sacrificed in blood and treasure. Thousands of families have lost what can never be replaced. From the men of Flight 93 to the mountains of Afghanistan to the sands of Iraq, heroes have fallen. Today we mourn their loss, honor their memory, and recommit to finish the work they began, not just in foreign theaters of war but here at home. The challenge of 9/11 is not just to win a war but to prevent the next one. We will do that by remem-

bering that our enemies are still hating and still planning. We must never forget.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### AMERICAN CHALLENGES

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, there are a lot of things happening in the United States and the world today. There are many issues and challenges we face. Obviously, the issue of health care reform has dominated the news and our attention. We had a somewhat interesting joint session of Congress the night before last.

But there are also other issues facing the Congress and the Nation. One of them, of course, is our strategy in Afghanistan. My colleagues have been discussing and debating that, and we will, as has the President, continue to debate and discuss as the President makes some very tough decisions concerning Afghanistan.

I have the greatest respect and regard for my colleague and friend, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He and I are in agreement on many issues. It is very clear that Senator LEVIN wants a larger Afghan National Army. I have long maintained we need a larger Afghan Army. But I believe it is a false choice to try to grow the Afghan National Army while holding back on any additional U.S. combat troops.

I remind my colleagues that the lesson of Iraq, and the one General McChrystal wants to put into place in Afghanistan, is we do not get very far merely by putting individuals through a training course and releasing them into combat. As a matter of fact, when we examine the history, the very unhappy history of our engagement and involvement in Iraq, there was a time when the Iraqi Army was built up to a very large size—as I recall, around a couple hundred thousand—and then it basically collapsed, totally collapsed in the face of attacks from both Shia and Sunni extremists.

I think the buildup of the Afghan Army is an important component but remember, the lesson of Iraq was that our troops went out and fought and lived and spent 24/7 with the Iraqi military and gradually, over time, they became a far more capable fighting force and one of which all of us can be proud. It is mentorship at every level, including partnership in joint operations with U.S. forces, that will build a robust and capable Afghan military and pave the way for our eventual successful exit from Afghanistan. To do this