

there is still nothing that inspires me more, nothing that spurs me on more, nothing that fills me more with positive feelings than the power of freedom.

Chancellor Merkel also spoke very graciously of her gratitude, of Germany's gratitude to America. "I know, we Germans know," she said, "how much we owe to you, our American friends." She recalls President Kennedy's trip to Berlin shortly after the construction of the Berlin Wall when he declared his solidarity with the people of Germany with his famous words: "Ich Bin ein Berliner." And she recalled President Reagan's 1987 trip to Berlin when he made a clear and direct appeal to the Soviet Premier for openness with the equally famous words "Tear down this wall."

Freedom has its own imperatives. It demanded that the Berlin Wall come down, and 20 years ago it did. It was a remarkable time. After decades of oppression, which the United States met with a sustained strategy of containment, the world witnessed the relatively peaceful liberation of a continent. But for most of us, the most remarkable moment from those days was the moment we saw one of the most potent symbols of the Communist era, the Berlin Wall, come down, piece by piece. We celebrate this great anniversary with all the free peoples of the world, mindful of those who still yearn for the same freedom Chancellor Merkel dreamed of as a young girl. May they all know the freedom that is the birthright of every man and every woman.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will be a period of morning business until 3 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Connecticut.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, before the Republican leader leaves the floor, let me thank him for his comments about the Berlin Wall, which are very appropriate. I still have on my desk in my office in the Capitol a large piece of stone from the Berlin Wall. I was there a few weeks after the wall came down. It took a long time for it to come down. The symbol of that I look at every single day as a reminder of what all of us knew for so many years; that is, there is something terribly wrong about a system that creates a wall to keep in its people.

So I appreciate the comments on the 20th anniversary, and I think it is appropriate to recognize the great

achievement that occurred 20 years ago when that wall did come down, much to the surprise of many that something like that could ever occur.

Today, Mr. President, I want to speak, if I may, for a couple of minutes and to share some brief thoughts in honor of our veterans on Veterans Day. It is a day, of course, to acknowledge the sacrifice of those who have served and those who have given their lives to secure the very liberty we enjoy as Americans.

Forty-three members of the U.S. military from my home State of Connecticut have made that ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past several years. They are all deeply missed, and today our thoughts are with them and their families and friends. This Veterans Day, we feel an additional sense of loss in the wake of the shocking slaughter at Fort Hood last week. Our anger and bewilderment at this horrific act of violence are matched only by the sadness of the loss of these young, brave men and women. We keep the wounded and the families of the victims in our prayers and our minds.

Mr. President, we are proud to be a nation with an All-Volunteer military. No one comes to your door and tells you that you have been chosen to shoulder the burden of protecting that which we all hold dear. It is a burden welcomed by our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen. If all they did was to raise their hands, we would owe them a profound debt of gratitude. But for those who do volunteer, military service isn't just a patriotic obligation, it is an honor, and it is a way of life.

Our men and women in uniform fulfill their duties with unparalleled skill and pride. They represent the greatest fighting force the world has ever known, but also the finest core of infantrymen, pilots, drivers, mechanics, and logistical support staff you will find anywhere in any enterprise. If you visit with our troops, you meet all kinds of men and women: first generation Americans, those with a long family history of service, members of every race, religion, and, yes, even gays and lesbians serve as well, as we all know. Most of them seem impossibly young to me. All of them are unmistakably proud to be serving the United States of America.

Some of them will come home to a hero's welcome, applauded at the airports and greeted by the warm embrace of children who seem to have grown a foot while their mother or father was overseas. Some will come home with wounds that will require a lifetime of recovery; sometimes they are wounds we cannot see. Some of them will come home to find that the home they once knew is gone, and they will need a tremendous amount of our help and support to get back on their feet. All of them, of course, Mr. President, deserve our gratitude. All of them need our support, and all of them deserve to

know, as they risk their lives, that the benefits they have earned will be there for them when they return.

Although I know we all share a deep appreciation for our men and women in uniform, the sad truth is that some in Washington have in previous years treated veterans' benefits as a line item like any other, subject to the political whims of the annual budget battles we have.

Let's be clear, if we can. Those benefits aren't a gift from a generous Congress. Those benefits are earned by our veterans, earned with sweat and blood and tireless duty. They represent the most sacred of promises, and they are promises we must keep.

That is why I have always fought for funding of veterans' benefits, including the best health care we have to offer, so that when our troops incur medical costs in defense of our Nation, they do not have to pay them out of their own pockets. That is why I have supported the post 9/11 GI bill, so that troops can continue their education, and fought to include military families under the Family and Medical Leave Act, so the burden of caring for a loved one doesn't crush a family who has already sacrificed so much.

We make these commitments to our troops in recognition of the commitment they have made to us. Today is a day to celebrate that commitment and to mark the many sacrifices it entails. Today, we think of young men and women across our Nation, just out of high school in many cases, sitting down with their parents to tell them they have heard the call to serve, pushing through the difficult days of basic training, facing that very first deployment to the battlefield. Today we think of those families they leave behind, as they pray for the safe return of their loved ones.

Today we will all think of those who have come home draped in the flag they have sacrificed their lives to defend, and those whose lives have been forever changed by the injuries they have suffered in defense of our liberties and freedoms. These are our sons and daughters, our fathers and mothers. They are neighbors of ours and friends and colleagues. They are truly our fellow heroes.

Today we thank them for their service, we mark their sacrifice, we take pride in their remarkable courage, and we reaffirm our commitment to keeping the promise we made when they raised their hands and volunteered.

Mr. President, I know I am not alone in my gratitude for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coastguardsmen. I certainly know I am not alone in my pride in our talented and dedicated military. I hope the troops who are away from home this Veterans Day, those who have returned, and the families who have helped carry their burden, will know they are not alone either. We all stand with them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

COLLAPSE OF THE BERLIN WALL

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, on this 20th anniversary of the Berlin Wall's collapse, I would like to say a few words about the Cold War and the lessons we should take from it.

It is often said that President Ronald Reagan won the Cold War without firing a shot, and that is true. Unfortunately, the current administration seems to have forgotten the overarching lesson of President Reagan's legacy.

Reagan's predecessor had urged Americans to abandon their inordinate fear of communism, but Reagan was determined to infuse U.S. foreign policy with a sense of moral clarity, which had been lost during the 1970s. The Reagan administration championed the cause of democracy activists in Russia and Eastern Europe, and it did not shy away from highlighting the Soviet Union's complete denial of personal freedom.

In 1982, when the United States was mired in its worst recession since World War II, President Reagan defied the pessimism of the day, and he predicted:

The march of freedom and democracy which will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash heap of history as it has left other tyrannies which stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of their people.

Roughly a year later, he called the Soviet Union what it so obviously was, an "evil empire." The "evil empire" speech drew criticism from many of Reagan's domestic political opponents, and it greatly angered the Kremlin. But it also galvanized Soviet dissidents who were encouraged that a U.S. President had been bold enough to denounce the moral bankruptcy of communism.

One particular Soviet dissident, Natan Sharansky, found Reagan's speech deeply inspiring. Sharansky read about it in the pages of Pravda, the Soviet propaganda newspaper, while he was imprisoned in a gulag prison camp on the Siberian border. Years later, Sharansky described his reaction to the speech and the reaction of his fellow prisoners:

Tapping on walls, word of Reagan's provocation quickly spread throughout the prison. We dissidents were ecstatic. Finally, the leader of the free world had spoken the truth—a truth that burned inside the heart of each and every one of us.

Mr. President, this past June, when prodemocracy rallies broke out in Iran following a fraudulent election, I hoped the current administration would follow President Reagan's example of American leadership and offer strong support for the Iranians who took to the streets and risked their lives to oppose a tyrannical regime. But the President's statement at the time, expressing "deep concerns about the election," lacked the moral fortitude the world has come to expect from America, the world's standard bearer of freedom and democracy.

New antigovernment protests began last week to mark the 30th anniversary

of the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Still, the White House failed to use the opportunity to make the moral case for freedom over totalitarian oppression. In a message to the White House, demonstrators could be heard chanting: "Either you're with them, or you're with us."

The President's decision on how to respond should be easy: the administration should stand with democracy and use this opportunity to underline the moral failings of Iran's dictatorship.

Anthony Dolan, chief speechwriter for President Reagan, wrote in the Wall Street Journal today:

Reagan spoke formally and repeatedly of deploying against criminal regimes the one weapon they fear more than military or economic sanction: The publicly spoken truth about their moral absurdity, their ontological weakness—their own oppressed people.

Moral clarity helped Ronald Reagan bring down Soviet totalitarianism during the 1980s, and it can help us bring freedom to Iran today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this morning, I woke up in Chicago, got dressed, came downstairs, met a staffer, went off to a breakfast, out to the airport, and then here to work in Washington on Capitol Hill. It was a fairly normal day for Members of the Senate and Congress. We move about and don't think twice about restrictions on our movement or problems that we might have in getting from place to place except for traffic, perhaps a delayed airplane. But for 6,800 veterans, they woke up this morning in a hospital bed at home or went from that bed to a wheelchair and will stay in that house today and every day.

There are 6,800 seriously disabled veterans who are not in veterans hospitals or in nursing homes but at home—at home with someone who loves them very much.

Yesterday, in Chicago, I had a press conference with a young man named Yuriy Zmysly. Yuriy Zmysly is a veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, who came home, and during the course of a surgery at a Veterans Hospital, after he was home, had a serious complication—a denial of oxygen to his brain—and he has become a quadriplegic. Yuriy has no family, but he had a devoted and loving young woman in his life—Aimee. After he faced quadriplegia, Aimee said she wanted to marry him. So Aimee married Yuriy during his struggle with this health issue and now has given her life to him every day, every minute, every hour. She is a caregiver who is there for her husband, a veteran.

Mr. President, repeat that story 6,800 times, and you will find husbands and wives, parents, brothers and sisters, who are giving their lives every single day to disabled veterans who are at home surviving because of the love and concern of people like Aimee Zmysly.

I think of Ed and Marybeth Edmondson, whose son Eric was the victim of a traumatic brain injury in Iraq. Ed quit his job, his wife gave hers up, and they moved in the house to take care of Eric and his wife and little baby. That is their life, their commitment to them.

I tell you these stories this week as we celebrate Veterans Day because I believe these caregivers deserve something special from us, from the American people, and from our government. That is why I picked up a bill introduced by Senator Hillary Clinton that provides a helping hand for caregivers such as those I have just described.

It isn't a lot, but it could make a big difference. It says we will offer them the very basics in training so that these home caregivers, these family caregivers, know what to do—how to change dressings on wounds, how to administer an intravenous formula or prescription, how to give an injection, how to move a patient from a bed to a chair and back again.

It provides also a monthly stipend for them—not a lot of money but something to help them get by because, for most of them, this is their life, this veteran they are working for every day to keep alive and as comfortable and happy as that person can be. It gives them 2 weeks of respite so they can take off and put themselves back together after all of the stress and strain, fiscally and mentally, of caring for this person they love.

I was so glad that DANNY AKAKA, who is chairman of the Senate Veterans' Committee, not only considered this bill but made it his own, added good things to it and reported it out of his committee and brings it to the floor where it sits on our calendar of business, a bill to help veterans caregivers, some 7,000 veterans caregivers who give each day to these veterans we treasure so much for their service to our country.

Sadly, this bill has been sitting on the calendar for weeks because one Senator objects to it. That is the way the Senate works—one Senator. This Senator's objection has held up this bill and held up our effort to provide a helping hand to these veterans caregivers. I would say to that Senator or any Senator, if you object to it, vote against it. If you want to offer an amendment, offer an amendment. But for the thousands of people who give this care, who sacrifice so much each day for these veterans who gave our country so much, we owe them a vote. I hope this week, even this short week before Veterans Day, we can move this bill for veterans caregivers across America, to give them a helping hand.

HONORING COACH DAN CALLAHAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an outstanding person in Illinois. His name is Dan Callahan. He is the head baseball coach at Southern Illinois University. I have known