

purchases. For example, we were able to reduce what we paid for lightbulbs in Virginia from 38 cents to 23 cents each. That didn't close a \$6 billion shortfall by itself, but we buy a lot of lightbulbs in Virginia, and I know they do in West Virginia as well.

Mr. Smith has taken a similar approach at the Federal level, and his accomplishment was no small feat. After analyzing the purchasing data at DHS, he identified several critical security problems and services that could be consolidated for purposes of purchasing, such as ammunition, uniforms, and communications equipment.

He brought together the program and acquisition staff of 22 DHS components, including the Transportation Security Administration and Customs and Border Protection, to agree to work together. Mr. Smith's supervisors said that he listened to the different needs of the DHS components and was able to lead them to common solutions to meet all their individual requirements under a new contract.

According to Nick Nayak, the DHS chief procurement officer, "Mr. Smith led a new way of doing business where agencies provided a letter detailing their financial and policy commitment to initiative to obtain the business pricing for the government." Mr. Smith's collaborative approach has been so successful that the White House has asked him to introduce his methodology to other larger agencies.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Smith for his excellent work. I am also proud to recognize him as a Virginian, a Marine Corps veteran, and someone who has dedicated the past 28 years to public service.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before I relinquish the floor, I do want to take a couple of minutes on two other items. No. 1, as the Presiding Officer this morning, I heard a number of Senators come forward and recognize, as others have over the last few days, that we are approaching the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

I am sure all of us here remember where we were that Tuesday morning. I personally recall I was in a campaign for Governor at that point. I had just gotten a haircut and a big debate was 3 days away when I first got the news. Suddenly the big debate didn't seem that terribly important. Within an hour I had been at my campaign headquarters, saw the plane crash into the Pentagon with smoke billowing out.

In the last 10 years I think this country has made remarkable strides in making sure Americans are safer than they were 10 years ago. We have seen a whole new series of collaborations between our intelligence service agencies. We have seen greater collaboration here at home amongst our law enforcement.

As we all come together on Sunday and reflect back on the last 10 years

and the horrors that were brought to this country, I hope we will all say a little prayer for those members of our military and those members of the intelligence community for the magnificent work they have done making our country much safer.

I think, as well, as we see reports even today of possible threats, we recognize we can never be 100 percent safe. I remember during my tenure as Governor, within the first year, we in Virginia and the District and Maryland were caught in almost 3 weeks of remarkable terror with what later became known as the sniper incidents. For a lot of that time we didn't know whether this was a possible terrorist incident or was it what it turned out to be, two deranged lone-wolf assassins wreaking havoc across most of the mid-Atlantic.

We need to bear in mind that while we and our government will do everything possible to keep us safe, we also have to rely upon individuals in collaboration with law enforcement as they spot incidents that seem unusual.

But even with that collaboration, there may be times that someone, whether home-grown or foreign, someone, a lone-wolf type assassin or terrorist, could slip through, and I think it is important that, 10 years after that enormous tragedy, we as a people be more resilient. We cannot allow a single act of terror to change the way we live, our freedoms, our civil liberties, because, candidly, there is no way any terrorist can inflict so much individual harm that it can do permanent damage to our country. But if they do spread fear or make us as a people change the way we interact, change the kind respect we have for each other, the respect we have for our freedoms, then they will be more successful than with any single incident of harm.

I know the Presiding Officer and many of the folks who work here and many of the young pages, as we go into this weekend of reflection—and I hope many of the folks who are listening today—will take a moment and not only reflect back on that 10th anniversary but also do an act of service. I think this is a great time for us as Americans to show service back to our communities.

I know I will be in the Pentagon Sunday morning, where we were hit in Virginia. The Pentagon is a national institution, but we in Virginia are proud it resides in the Commonwealth. I will be in the Pentagon Sunday morning to be with some who lost loved ones on that day. But I will also be doing acts of community service throughout this weekend as well, to make sure we show that great spirit of America.

INVESTING IN AMERICA

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I also wish to take one final moment, and I will be very brief. I want to echo something my colleague from Tennessee said. It is something the Presiding Offi-

cer has been very active with over the last few months. We all heard the President last night. Some of us may agree or disagree with all the actions the President laid out. I think there are things we can do as a government targeted to help spur economic growth and job creation that needs to be our top priority.

I do think we have to recognize there is not a single silver bullet, that the major tools the government uses during a period of economic turmoil we have actually already used. The central government can lower interest rates. The government can use federal stimulus. We have used both of those. There can be certain additional things we can do around the edges, but one of the most important things we can do to get this economy restarted is generate confidence, confidence amongst the American consumers and the American people that we in Washington are not going to mess things up any worse, confidence amongst our business community, particularly larger businesses that are sitting on \$2.5 trillion, and they are in a financially better position today than they were back in 2008 when we first experienced the beginnings of the financial crisis, to get that money off the sidelines and reinvest it in America.

One of the most important things we can do—and the President touched upon it last night, but there has been a group of bipartisan Senators that has been working on this for a long period of time—is to recognize that unless we get our long-term debt problems under control, then I don't think we will see the resurgence of confidence this economy and this country needs.

I look forward to working with the President and Members of both parties and targeting investments. I hope, as well, with the Presiding Officer, with my friend from Tennessee, with my friend, the Senator from Georgia, and others, that we can work with this so-called new supercommittee to urge them to be bold, and that if they will be bold and we put in place over a 10-year frame a long-term deficit reduction plan, I hope we reduce the deficit by at least \$4 trillion, encompassing what we have already done. That plan phased in over a decade will do as much to generate job creation in the short term as any other action. I look forward to that work ahead.

I look forward to reflecting back with all my fellow Americans upon both the sacrifice and tragedy, but also the amazing resilience of the American people in the last decade, and I compliment Mr. Smith and so many federal employees for the work they do.

FALLEN HEROES OF 9/11 ACT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1239, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.