

shown the world the “stuff” of which Americans are made: an unquenchable love of freedom and an unwavering commitment to democracy. I have heard it said that 9/11 did not test America’s character; it revealed it.

For the better part of the 20th century the United States and our allies fought a successful battle against the genocidal forces of fascism and totalitarianism. We defeated the Nazis. We won the Cold War. In the bloody struggle between ideologies, democratic governments triumphed over repressive regimes.

Since that day, we have consecrated the time and place where these terrorist acts occurred. We have commemorated the brave and dedicated individuals who faced 9/11 and its consequences head-on. We have honored and laid to rest our fallen war heroes. We have rebuilt the mangled section of the Pentagon, honored Flight 77’s bravery in the Pennsylvania countryside and returned Ground Zero in New York City to the world’s vibrant center of economic activity. When I think of these locations, I am reminded of the words President Lincoln delivered at Gettysburg that “we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract”.

We have also made mistakes but we acknowledge and learn from those mistakes.

I believe we will prevail against this enemy for the same reason we have been victorious in previous conflicts: the overwhelming majority of people in the world want freedom and justice and dignity and opportunity. I am confident because America remains a beacon of hope to the oppressed everywhere. I am confident because I know this generation will meet all challenges and threats we face as a Nation as successfully as we met the challenges and threats of the last century. We must remain clear-eyed as to identity and objectives of our enemy and the distinction between us. We cannot shrink when the oppressed cry for freedom and the enslaved call for justice.

The 9/11 anniversary is especially poignant this year as it falls just 3 days short of the bicentennial of the Star-Spangled Banner, our National Anthem. The greatest navy in the world bombarded Fort McHenry for 25 hours, starting on September 13, 1814. British troops were poised to move into Baltimore after Fort McHenry fell. The Nation’s capital was in flames; the Nation’s future was in grave doubt. And then, an amazing thing happened: Fort McHenry did not fall to the British. A huge, glorious flag was flying over the fort as dawn broke on September 14, 1814. The British forces retreated. One of the darkest hours in America’s history turned into one of its brightest moments, and Maryland lawyer Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the Star-Spangled Banner.

We will have additional challenges in the months and years ahead. But we must never forget the sacrifice previous generations of Americans have made to safeguard our liberty. And we must never forget that our enemies fight because they have so little freedom while we Americans fight because we have so much freedom and that makes all the difference.

RECOGNIZING CANYONLANDS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, thank you for the opportunity today to pay tribute to a timeless feature of Utah’s beautiful geography: Canyonlands National Park. This week, citizens of Utah and friends around the United States join together in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Canyonlands National Park. As one of the “Mighty Five” national parks in Utah, the Canyonlands celebrate a landmark anniversary, and are a source of great pride for Utahns and the outdoors community nationwide.

Canyonlands National Park is located in the southeast of our State where the otherworldly cliffs, recesses, and red rock attract climbing, mountain biking, and rafting enthusiasts from across the globe. Anyone who walks down Main Street in Moab can hear languages from German to Japanese to English, as well as accents from all over America. People plan and save for years to visit Utah to behold the invulnerable landscapes of the Canyonlands. As one stands on the edge of a 1,000-foot cliff, while seeing hundreds of miles in all directions, nature somehow puts life in perspective.

This perspective gained should not be underestimated. There is a story in common between those who visit the park and the land they experience. It is a story told in rock layers that echo ancient seas, coastal mud flats, braided streambeds, and wind-blown dunes hundreds of feet thick. It is the story of time and change, to which all of God’s creation is subject. Clues to this past lie preserved in stone, along the walls of deep gorges where great rivers once roared. The three main regions of Canyonlands: the Island in the Sky, Needles, and the Maze, were once an environment quite different and more lush. In what is now desert, shallow seas once ebbed and flowed. In many ways the story of Canyonlands is a story of transformation, and this is something to which we can all relate. We are reminded of the hunter-gatherer peoples who once flourished in Canyonlands by the Native American rock art, in the “Great Gallery” region, that dates back as early as 2000 BC. When I consider those painted figures together with the mosaic of colors, shapes, and pinnacles of Canyonlands, I, like many others, recall the enduring relationship between man and nature. It is this continuing legacy that we call our attention to today.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the people, both elected officials and citi-

zens, who possessed the foresight to recognize the value of Canyonlands and created the park 50 years ago. These efforts did not come without controversy and today much controversy remains. The area around the park holds diverse importance to the local community and a variety of stakeholders. Many spend their free time exploring over 2,500 miles of roads around the park in four-wheel drive vehicles while others find a special peace in the solitude of the Canyonlands desert. These interests may seem in conflict, but the vast lands of Utah amply accommodate the equally vast spectrum of pursuits.

For several years now, the Utah congressional delegation has been developing a public lands bill that will bring certainty and balance to the areas around Canyonlands and other landscapes in Utah. The land surrounding the national park would be protected with designations to ensure that our grandchildren can stand on the same red rock cliffs to look at the glorious sunsets that our pioneer ancestors saw and view vistas people from around the world come to see today. The bill will benefit our children by exchanging State lands in areas that do not produce revenues, with Federal lands that can be developed responsibly. The revenues derived, as a result of the thoughtful development enabled by these exchanges, will benefit school children in Utah. Only Congress can make these changes to the way our public lands are managed. At a time of congressional dysfunction, this is one area of positive happenings.

What better way to celebrate the anniversary of Canyonlands National Park than by bringing certainty to a region that has been denied stability for one-half century? I am proud to be a part of this ongoing process to protect the land surrounding Canyonlands National Park.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps program.

I want to take a moment to say thank you—thank you to all of the volunteers and service workers out there. They are selflessly taking time out of their lives to help their fellow Americans in times of need. They are the ones out there building homes, clearing thousands of acres of forest burnt by wildfires, tutoring and mentoring our children, and assisting the elderly. They are unflagging, unflinching, and determined to make a difference.

National service has always been a passion of mine. When we started in the 1970s with the establishment of a domestic volunteer corps—similar to Peace Corps—I wanted to capture the fervor, the passion, and dynamic qualities of a social movement that would bring people to arms wielding change. At some point, it seemed we lost sight of what Alexis de Tocqueville called