

favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:58 a.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 10:59 a.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ISAKSON).

RECOGNIZING SENATOR SALAZAR'S READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I take a moment to recognize Senator SALAZAR, who just read Washington's Farewell Address to the people of the United States. This is an honor that is bestowed alternately between Republicans and Democrats on alternate years. By his selection to deliver Washington's Farewell Address, we are all very proud. We feel, by honoring him, you honor the people of Colorado. We thank the leadership in the Congress for bestowing that honor on my colleague from Colorado, as well as the people of Colorado.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes each.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Colorado.

ESSAY OF AIR FORCE CADET

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I received a letter from the director, legislative liaison of the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, on behalf of the Air Force Chief of Staff. He called to my attention an essay that was written by a fourth class cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy. His name is Joseph R. Tomczak. I was moved by this essay to the point that I want to take my time this morning to read it to Members of the Senate because it articulates, in a very succinct way, why our young people today look to the Armed Forces as a career, and why they make the decisions they do to fight for freedom and to fight for this country.

We all greatly respect all people who take the time to serve in our Armed Forces, whether it is during a short enlistment period or they make it their lifetime career. This essay is well stated, and I think not only does it speak as to why a cadet would decide to serve in one of our academies—in this case, it happens to be the Air Force Acad-

emy—but it gives us insight as to why people would pick the Armed Forces to serve in during part of their adult lifetime or why they would dedicate their entire life to a career in the U.S. Armed Forces.

So here is the essay. It is titled, "Winter Break."

So after our sunburns have faded and the memories of our winter break have been reduced to pictures we've pinned on our desk boards, and once again we've exchanged t-shirts and swim suits for flight suits and camouflage, there still remains the question that every cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs has asked themselves at some point: Why did we come back? Why, after spending two weeks with our family would we return to one of the most demanding lifestyles in the country? After listening to our friends who are home from State or Ivy League schools chock full of wisdom about how our war in Iraq is unjust and unworlly, why would we return? And after watching the news and reading the papers which only seem to condemn the military's every mistake and shadow every victory, why would we continue to think it is worth the sacrifice of a normal college life?

Is it because the institution to which we belong is tuition-free? Anyone who claims this has forgotten that we will, by the time we graduate, repay the U.S. taxpayer many times over. In blood, sweat, and tears. Is it because the schooling we are receiving is one of the best undergraduate educations in the country? While the quality of the education is second to none, anyone who provides this as a main reason has lost sight of the awesome responsibility that awaits those who are tough enough to graduate and become commissioned officers in the U.S. Air Force.

I come back to the academy because I want to have the training necessary so that one day I'll have the incredible responsibility of leading the sons and daughters of America in combat. These men and women will never ask about my academy grade point average, their only concern will be that I have the ability to lead them expertly—I will be humbled to earn their respect.

I come back to the academy because I want to be the commander who saves lives by negotiating with Arab leaders . . . in their own language. I come back to the academy because, if called upon, I want to be the pilot who flies half way around the world with 3 mid-air refuelings to send a bomb from 30,000 feet into a basement housing the enemy . . . through a ventilation shaft 2 feet wide. For becoming an officer in today's modern Air Force is so much more than just command; it is being a diplomat, a strategist, a communicator, a moral compass, but always a warrior first.

I come back to the Air Force Academy because right now the U.S. is fighting a global war that is an away game in Iraq—taking the fight to the terrorists. And whether or not we think the terrorists were in Iraq before our invasion, they are unquestionably there now. And if there is any doubt as to whether this is a global war, just ask the people in Amman, in London, in Madrid, in Casablanca, in Riyadh, and in Bali. This war must remain an away game because we have seen what happens when it becomes a home game. . . I come back to the academy because I want to be a part of that fight. I come back to the academy because I don't want my vacationing family to board a bus in Paris that gets blown away by someone who thinks that it would be a good idea to convert the Western world to Islam. I come back to the academy because I don't want the woman I love to be the one who dials her

frantic cell phone call while huddled in the back of an airliner with 100 other people seconds away from slamming into the Capitol building. I come back to the academy because during my freshman year of high school I sat in a geometry class and watched nineteen terrorists change the course of history live on television. For the first time, every class currently at a U.S. Service Academy made the decision to join after the 2001 terror attacks. Some have said that the U.S. invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan only created more terrorists. . . I say that the attacks of September 11th, 2001 created an untold number of American soldiers; I go to school with 4,000 of them.—And that's worth missing more than a few frat parties.

That essay has been submitted by Joseph R. Tomczak, cadet fourth class, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM A. ALLERS, III

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to reflect on the tremendous dedication and sacrifice that our country's soldiers exhibit every day. In particular, I want to call to my colleagues' attention a personal portrait of a young man who laid down his life defending freedom—a freedom this country has known for centuries, and that the people of Iraq have recently embraced.

While words cannot soothe the anguish of those who knew and loved him, they can help explain the heroism of his sacrifice, and so we pause today to remember and celebrate the life of SSG William A. Allers, III.

Sergeant Allers was accustomed to combat situations, as the battle-hardened veteran of more than 150 combat patrols and 50 security escorts while serving in Iraq. In fact, Sergeant Allers served valiantly in more than 25 combat engagements in his time there.

On Tuesday, September 20, 2005, a Kentucky National Guard armored Humvee ran over an improvised explosive device on a dusty road near Al Khalis, Iraq—a dangerous city located within the Sunni Triangle, known as the hideout of killers and criminals who kidnap innocents for ransom. The Guard unit was patrolling the streets of this city, located about 40 miles north of Baghdad, when they were attacked. Three soldiers from the distinguished 617th Military Police Company were in the Humvee. Of the three, two were injured, and Sergeant Allers was killed. He was 28 years old.

For his service to a grateful Nation, Sergeant Allers was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge. He had also received the Army Commendation Medal