

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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 223RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY
 

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Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, for almost two and one quarter centuries, the United States Army, more than any other American institution, has stood at the forefront of protecting the borders, people, and ideals of our nation. Today, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the Army on the 223rd anniversary of its founding.

Formed on June 14, 1775, the United States Army is older than the nation itself, and for more than two centuries, its soldiers have stood tall as they carried out their duties patriotically and selflessly. In the history of the Army, more than 42 million Americans have raised their right hands, both in times of crisis and peace, to take an oath to protect and defend the nation from all enemies foreign and domestic. In that time, soldiers have been called to arms numerous times in order to preserve this Republic. From the Battle of Cowpens during our War for Independence, to Bosnia, where our troops help to maintain a fragile peace, those who serve prove that there is no finer citizen, no better warrior, and no more compassionate peacemaker than a soldier in the United States Army.

The success and excellence of our soldiers and Army are due to many contributing factors, but certainly the most important is that we live in a nation founded on the ideals of a democratic government. We have created a society that truly affords more liberties, more freedoms, and more opportunities than any other nation in the world. While we may have some differences amongst ourselves, and some problems which must be resolved, no quarrel or dispute will ever undermine the unity of our 50 States. It is this Constitutionally mandated, democratic form of government, where every citizen is free to speak his or her mind, where every American is protected by the laws of the land, and every person has the chance to succeed that makes the United States a promised land to people throughout the globe. All of us recognize this is a nation and system worthy of defending, and our soldiers are the men and women who have volunteered to carry out this critical mission.

While our soldiers have always been "America's Finest", those who serve in today's Army are truly a breed apart. These are men and women who are well educated, well trained, and well equipped. They are individuals who

possess a desire to serve, a strong sense of patriotism, and a willingness to make sacrifices so that others may be safe. We have created a fighting force that uses its mind as much as its might. A force that is able to adapt to fluid contingencies just as effectively as it is able to stick to a battle plan. There is no military force in the world that can match the abilities, capabilities, and spirit of the American soldier or the United States Army, there never has been and there never will be.

The very history of this nation and its Army helps to forge the spirit of the modern soldier. The soldier of today can look back on more than 200 years of heritage and fighting spirit that helps to mold the mettle of those who stand firm for democracy and the safety of our nation. Rogers' Rangers, who fought in the New Hampshire mountains during the French & Indian Wars are the forefathers of today's Ranger Battalions. The same grit and determination that saw the first American soldiers through a brutal winter at Valley Forge was evident in Bastogne, Belgium in 1945 when the 101st Airborne Division, though surrounded and outnumbered by German Forces, refused to surrender and by stubbornly standing fast, they helped to win the Battle of the Bulge. The bravery demonstrated by Captain Roger Donlan, a Special Forces Officer who commanded Camp Nam Dong in the I Corps Tactical Zone in 1966, who was repeatedly and seriously wounded while battling off an enemy battalion of superior size was recognized by his winning the first Medal of Honor awarded during the Vietnam conflict. Twenty-seven years later, two Special Operations soldiers were decorated with the Medal of Honor for making the ultimate sacrifice in the streets of Mogadishu, Somalia fighting to protect a critically wounded American helicopter pilot. Their sacrifice allowed that pilot to live, and their actions proved that there is no greater bond than the one between soldiers.

Throughout the Army's history, success has been based on an ability to resist complacency, and while today's soldiers are justifiably proud of their past, they are looking and working toward the future. In battle labs across the nation soldiers, strategists, scientists, and designers are working in concert to field an Army that will be able to dominate the battlefield of the next century. Revolutions in weapons, communications, tactics, and strategy are taking place and are being incorporated into Army Doctrine. By the Year 2000, the Fourth Infantry Division will become the first fully digitized division in the Army, and by 2004 the Army will have its first digitized corps. These digitized forces will ensure that commanders know where they are, where their troops are, and where the enemy is, and with this information, dominate the battlefield. Through research and development efforts like the ones that led to the digital division, we

are assured that we will remain one step ahead of any nation that might threaten our security, and that we will truly have a force capable of meeting and defeating any threat to our nation, her people, and our interests.

As we mark this 223rd anniversary of the United States Army, it is an appropriate time to celebrate the successes of that service; the sacrifices made by millions of soldiers, including the ultimate sacrifice; and the invaluable contribution these men and women have made to keeping the United States and her citizens safe and free. Indeed, the history of our Army is a proud one, and as we approach the 21st Century, I know that its future will eclipse all its previous accomplishments.

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 DEATH OF MAJ. GEN. JIM PENNINGTON
 

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Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was known to many of us in this Chamber, retired Major General Jim Pennington, who passed away on June 5, 1998.

Those of us who worked on national security and veterans related matters knew General Pennington very well. He served as both the President of the National Association for Uniformed Services and the Administrator for the Society of Military Widows. In those capacities, he was an able and effective advocate for a strong defense and for providing for an appropriate quality of life for those who serve and have served the Nation as members of the armed forces.

General Pennington had an impressive career as a soldier. He joined the Army on June 6, 1944, the day the Allies invaded Normandy and began their march toward Germany and victory, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. In his more than 37-year career, Jim Pennington rose from the rank of private to sergeant major, and then ultimately major general, the rank he held when he retired from military service in 1981.

As many tens of thousands of other World War II veterans did, Jim Pennington used the G.I. Bill to get a college education. This was an invaluable program that not only provided an important benefit to those who spent years of their lives in military service, but it created a generation of Americans who possessed the skills and knowledge required to make the United States the world's leader in matters of commerce, global security issues, and technology.

I had the pleasure of working closely with General Pennington on a number of issues throughout his tenure as the President of the National Association of Uniformed Services and the Administrator of the Society of Military Widows. I always welcomed his advice and insight, and without question, he served the members and organizations he represented well. Jim Pennington