

say how September affected them." Usually everybody kind of sinks down and doesn't want to be the one to volunteer in front of a few hundred people. But hands shot up, and people spoke from the heart about how September 11 affected them each in individual ways, but with a common theme coming back of appreciation for what this country has given us and the importance of our doing everything we can to protect the freedom and liberty upon which this country has been founded and of which we take advantage.

Also, 40 minutes ago I had the opportunity to go to the West Front of the Capitol and look out over The Mall, with the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument—again, not too many yards from where we are today—to have the lone bugler quietly—right at 6 o'clock tonight, 40 minutes ago—play Taps with a clear sky—the Sun was just beginning to go down—to express our appreciation, our love, and our feeling for the many families who have been affected by the tragedy of September 11.

Again, I want to add that people continue to sacrifice and fight for that very same freedom. It is appropriate that we use this day for a day of reflection.

We continue business. I think that is important. A lot of people said we should stop all business in the Senate. No, I don't think anybody from September 11 would say stop the Nation's business. In effect, they would say continue the Nation's business. Indeed, we made real progress today and continued the work of the Senate well into last night as well.

Americans all over the country—and indeed all over the world; indeed, not just Americans—I know spent the day kneeling, praying, going to synagogues, mosques, and churches, holding services like the many services we have had here in Washington, DC. A large part of that I think is reflected in the power of faith and the fact that faith has that power to help heal, to help explain the questions of "Why?" that continue to arise: Why did things happen on that fateful day? Power to console, faith to reassure—both right now and as it did 2 years ago on that fateful day.

Although 2 years later memories are a little bit fainter and our pain may be just a touch more distant, we still ask questions, questions of "Why?" In that answer of the "why," I think it makes all of us a bit more determined, a bit more focused, and a bit more appreciative of what we have.

We do put our trust in providence. It is hard to be in this body for very long and not realize the importance of faith and providence in the Senate and in our Founding Fathers and the democracy we share today.

Abraham Lincoln, in his second inaugural address after 4 of the most traumatic years in U.S. history, said: "The almighty has His own purposes."

I thought of that today while sitting through one of the ceremonies. It does

help that question of "Why?" Clearly, in Abraham Lincoln's time, faith was able to support, console, and give strength to our Nation. Clearly, that is the same thing today as we look at the various services. Our Founders had a belief. They believed—they knew, and believed—that our Nation was founded with divine purpose. During some of the most difficult moments, with the odds being against us at certain points in time, our leaders turned to faith. And indeed God has watched over this Nation. Although we asked, "Why?" on September 11, God was watching over us on September 11.

Over the course of the day, it came up to each of us in different ways. And Lisa Beamer—the world knows now because she was able to articulate and put a face that expresses what we are all trying to describe—said of her husband's flight on that day, September 11:

The courageous actions of the passengers and crew reminded me that on the day when people around the world felt violated, helpless, alone and afraid, there were still people of character, people who in the midst of crisis dared to live to the last second with hope.

She captured it.

We all have to ask ourselves: Where did those heroes on Flight 93 reach to get their courage? We answer: "Family." That is where we get our strength. They answer: "Faith." There is no question that each individual's faith almost certainly played a role.

Todd Beamer said what is probably the most inspirational thing many of us have heard in our lives. He was talking to the telephone operator and said: "Let's roll." But what he said a few seconds before that was the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

A few days after September 11, Billy Graham, in the national prayer service at the cathedral, along with folks here looking at the lessons of the "why," said:

The lesson of this event is not only about the mystery of iniquity and evil, but . . . it's a lesson about our need for each other.

I was thinking about that when I was at the Senate service about an hour ago with the Senate family. Regardless of whether we are staff, or a Member, elected official, worker, Democrat, Republican, whether we are in our first term or seventh term, those in the room there, that common bond is a calling to public service. We believe in the greatness of this institution.

As you look at the inscriptions all around—the inscription on the east doorway that we come through every day, or that most Senators come through—the inscription written up there is the English translation of the Latin, "God has favored our undertakings."

We start coming back to those "why's."

I will close. But I think, clearly, my final reference today, after coming in 11 hours ago for what has been a meaningful day for me, is a wish and a prayer that God continues to watch over

the family members of the victims of September 11, that God heal their wounds as time goes forward, and that God continue to shine on America and indeed on this Senate.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know the majority leader is about to take us out of session, but I just wanted to take a moment to thank him for his truly inspirational remarks about the events of today which I had an opportunity to hear over the last few moments and also to thank him for his extraordinary leadership of the Senate.

You make us proud every day; particularly you make us proud today.

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#### THE SENATE WEEK

Mr. FRIST. I close with some announcements. We had a good, productive week. We completed the Labor-HHS appropriations bill after 7 days of consideration. We had 68 amendments considered. We disposed of all 68 amendments. We had 25 rollcall votes. I congratulate both of the managers who did just a superb job in staying focused, handling some very difficult situations but allowing time for debate and votes. We have completed that bill. Both Senator SPECTER and Senator HARKIN did a superb job.

Senator ALLEN helped clear the way for Senate action on H.R. 978 with regard to the disability compensation computation bill which can now go to the President's desk.

Earlier today the Senate spoke with a voice vote as it unanimously adopted S. Res. 224 relating to the second anniversary of September 11.

Next week I look forward to beginning a fresh week and continuing on our appropriations process. Again, we have a number of appropriations bills to address. We have made real progress; in fact, five appropriations bills. If you look at the overall amount of money, that is probably 70 percent of the overall amount of money appropriated. So we are making progress. It is tough—slower than I would like, but we are making steady progress.

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#### DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the passage of H.R. 2660, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, it be in order to consider the amendment I now send to the desk, that the amendment be considered and agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 1649) was agreed to, as follows: