

and the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1853, a bill to extend unemployment insurance; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; the bill be read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On behalf of the majority leader, in my capacity as a Senator from Minnesota, I object.

Ms. CANTWELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have had a full day of debate on this very important conference report. We have had a number of Senators come to the floor in support of the bill and others who have used this as an opportunity to highlight their opposition to one aspect of the bill or another. The bill finally establishes a comprehensive energy policy, and I do urge my colleagues to look at the bill not just piece by piece but in its entirety. Chairman DOMENICI had to negotiate a whole range of tough issues to put together a bill that requires a very fragile balance, as people even more fully understand this and come to the floor to address different aspects of the bill.

I understand there are some Members who want to preserve their rights on this legislation and who don't want to allow a time limitation. But given the importance of the legislation, at this juncture I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate to the conference report H.R. 6, the energy policy bill to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Bill Frist, Pete Domenici, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Larry Craig, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Michael B. Enzi, Mike DeWine, Christopher Bond, Robert F. Bennett, Trent Lott, Pat Roberts, Jim Bunning, Mitch McConnell, Richard G. Lugar, Norm Coleman, Conrad Burns.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this cloture vote will occur on Friday of this week unless changed by unanimous consent. I hope that cloture is invoked and that the Senate can then act expeditiously to vote adoption of the conference report. Until that time, Mem-

bers will be allowed to come to the floor to express themselves with regard to this legislation. We encourage them to do so.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

IN MEMORY OF RUTH BURNETT, MAYOR OF FAIRBANKS AND BE- LOVED STAFF MEMBER

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, my heart became heavy with sadness as I learned this weekend of the death of my close personal friend Ruth Burnett.

Ruth Burnett was not only a person who gave me great support as the manager of my Fairbanks office, she, her husband Wally Burnett, Sr. and I became friends 50 years ago after my family and I moved to Fairbanks. As the years went by, we kept in touch and from the days of my earliest Senate campaign Ruth and Wally supported me.

Ruth's time as mayor of Fairbanks brought us even closer together and I was delighted when Ruth agreed to be my representative in Fairbanks. She worked tirelessly, without regard to office hours. And she was responsible for bringing to our attention the plight of thousands of interior Alaskans so that my staff and I in Washington, DC could try to help them. She gave me many ideas on where to send Federal money in the interior so that we could do the most good for the most people.

Ruth's whole family pitched in to support her. Wally Burnett, Jr. was a leading member of my Washington, DC staff and the Senate Appropriations staff. Public service has been a hallmark of the Burnett family—a family with a great Alaskan tradition.

Ruth will be dearly missed, but her spirit will live on through the great family she leaves behind and through the many lives she touched.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, in these difficult days when the brave men and women of our Armed Forces face such great dangers in Iraq, we continue to mourn the losses of our heroes who gave their lives in past wars. One of those heroes is Major Richard W. Cooper, Jr., of Holyoke, MA, and his loss is very much in our minds now. Major Cooper was a navigator aboard a B-52 bomber from Westover Air Force Base. He was on one of the final bombing runs in the Vietnam War in 1972, and his plane went down on December 19 of that year. He has been listed as Missing in Action ever since. The Air Force never gave up the search and re-

cently, his remains were discovered and identified through the Joint Task Force Full Accounting operation in Vietnam. Next month, on December 19, at long last, 31 years to the day after his final mission for our country, Major Cooper will be laid to rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Major Cooper earned many decorations for his loyal service to our country, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, and we honor his great courage. Our Nation has often called its sons and daughters into harm's way, and their families bear the scars of battle forever. America owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Major Cooper and his family, and our thoughts and prayers are very much with them now. Massachusetts is proud of him and so is our country.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I seek recognition to honor a Virginia Soldier, CWO Sharon T. Swartworth, who was tragically killed in action in Iraq on Friday, November 7, 2003. I want to express gratitude, on behalf of the Senate, for her service to our Nation. The American people, I am certain, join me in expressing their prayers and compassion to her family.

CWO Sharon T. Swartworth entered the Army shortly before her eighteenth birthday, her father signing the papers allowing her to enlist early. "She traveled around the world before she was assigned to the Pentagon." She understood the importance of her present assignment and despite the personal risk, wanted to serve the United States and the people of Iraq during this critical time.

A warrant officer of the Judge Advocate General's Corps, she served as the primary adviser to the judge advocate general on all matters concerning legal administrators in the Army. She was temporarily in Iraq to process awards for deserving soldiers and to ensure the legal needs of soldiers were being met.

CWO Sharon T. Swartworth leaves behind: her son, William III; her husband, William, a captain of the Naval Medical Corps; and her father, Bernard Mayo.

I, among many friends and colleagues, attended the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery. Her family, who has borne this tragedy with dignity, are brave souls who have sacrificed so much for this Nation. We owe them and the other families who have lost their loved ones a debt of gratitude.

She was an exceptional woman with a bright future and family in front of her. Her father related, "She did it all, and we can be proud of her. She was a soldier." I can not craft a finer eulogy. The Commonwealth of Virginia and the entire Nation shall mourn her loss.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened to learn yesterday of the death in Iraq of another of Vermont's sons. LT Pierre Piche of Starksboro, VT was one of 17 brave young soldiers who died in the crash of two Blackhawk helicopters last Saturday. This brings to five the number of

Vermonters who have given their lives in Iraq.

The newspaper articles reporting on the death of Lieutenant Piche, and also on the Nov. 7 death of SSG Scott Rose, a young man whose wife and parents in-law are from Springfield, VT, bring home the heart-wrenching pain felt by those who have lost a son or daughter, mother or father, sister or brother, or close friend in this war.

Lieutenant Piche was Lisa Johnson's only child. Ms. Johnson speaks of the daily anxiety she faced hearing the reports of dead and wounded and wondering if it was her son. At first, she turned for consolation to her father, a World War II veteran. Tragically, he died in July. Hearing reports of the helicopter crash last Saturday, she spent the rest of the weekend with her stomach in knots until she received a phone call from her daughter in-law, Cherish, with the simple, chilling words "They're here."

Army officers had come to Lieutenant Piche's home to tell his wife that the lieutenant was dead. An hour later, officers arrived at Ms. Johnson's home to deliver the same message.

Staff Sergeant Rose became a father for the first time on July 31. He never saw his child, though. He already had left for Iraq and was unable to get home on leave before the tragic crash that ended his life. His wife Michele Rose is now left to raise their infant daughter in his absence.

I have been concerned throughout this conflict, and most particularly during the recent debate on the President's request for an additional \$87 billion, that our focus on the financial costs and broader strategic and tactical questions associated with the war has blinded us somewhat to the brutal anguish faced by those who have lost a loved one in Iraq. We must never forget that each and every casualty suffered in Iraq delivers a crushing blow to many here at home. Moreover, we must have sympathy for the terrible anxiety faced daily by the families of men and women serving in Iraq. This war has many victims and we must not lose sight of their pain.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the two newspaper articles detailing this war's effects on the lives of these two Vermont families.

There being objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Nov. 18, 2003]

FIFTH VERMONT SOLDIER DIES IN IRAQ
(By Brent Hallenbeck)

STARKSBORO.—Pierre Piche last spoke to his mother a few weeks ago by phone from Iraq. He told her he wanted to come home to his wife of 3 years and earn his master's degree so he could become a teacher.

His mother had recently sent him a rubber koi fish, and he said he planned to have a pond filled with the tranquil Japanese fish. "He tried not to focus on how dangerous it was getting over there. He just wanted peace," his mother, Lisa Johnson, said Monday afternoon at her home in Starksboro.

"He was determined to do what he needed to do to keep his men safe and get home."

Piche, 28 and 16 of his fellow soldiers died Saturday when their Black Hawk helicopters crashed, possibly as a result of enemy fire, in Mosul, Iraq. The crash is the single deadliest incident since the war began in Iraq 8 months ago.

Piche, a first lieutenant with the Army's 101st Airborne Division, is the fifth soldier with Vermont roots to die in the war. He is the only child of Lisa Johnson, who has wanted to pull Piche back into her arms ever since he was deployed to Iraq a month before the war began.

"I wanted to take him home. When your child goes into something dangerous, a mother goes and gets him," Johnson said, fighting tears. "It's been a pretty hellish time since February."

Piche grew up in Colchester, where he attended Malletts Bay School. His mother remembers that Piche was a complex child who would ask heavy questions about the origins of the universe or the workings of the human body and expect, almost demand, an answer.

"When he was born I called him my Mr. Mago because he was this very serious little boy," she said, pointing to a photograph of her and her 2-year-old son sitting in the woods. The child was wearing an expression that was intense but wise. "He was like a little old man right away," she said.

He was also "full of all the right kind of mischief," according to Hugh Johnson, who became his stepfather when Piche was 6. He remembers once that his stepson tried unsuccessfully to ride his bike up a boat ramp on dry land. "Suddenly there was a great tumbling of boy and steel," Hugh Johnson said.

The family moved when Piche was 9 to South Hero, where he attended Folsom School. Lisa Johnson said he demonstrated his kindly nature by taking in all sorts of animals, from dogs and cats to iguanas, chickens and geese.

The family moved to Starksboro when Piche was 14. He went to private school in Connecticut, then college, including for a time the University of Vermont. He graduated from Middle Tennessee State in 1998 after majoring in political science.

Piche was always patriotic and believed in serving his country, his mother said. While in college he joined the Army Reserve and soon after entered the Army full-time, rising through the ranks of the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, KY, where he and his wife, Cherish, made their home.

Pierre Piche made his final visit to Vermont last Christmas. Friends and family came to Starksboro for festive holiday parties. He took Cherish Piche, who has lived in the South most of her life, out for snowmobile rides and sledding expeditions.

War in Iraq was looming last December, and Piche and his mother knew he was likely to be deployed. "I deliberately avoided that subject," Lisa Johnson said. "He didn't want to talk about it either. We knew, and there wasn't any point."

She held out hope he would be safe. Months earlier, he had switched jobs, from a command post to maintenance duties that would perhaps be less risky. "The idea was he wouldn't be out there on the front line," Hugh Johnson said.

Piche arrived in Iraq 9 months ago, and the Johnsons followed the news intently from Starksboro. Whenever Lisa Johnson heard a soldier died anywhere near where she believed her son was she would cry, and immediately struggle to gather her senses—as a social worker, she said it was essential to be composed.

Her father, Robert Fusco of Jonesville, would console her. A World War II veteran,

Fusco would tell her Piche was well-trained, smart and vigilant, and would make sure he and his soldiers would come home. "Anytime I got scared my father would tell me to toughen up," Lisa Johnson said. Fusco died of heart failure July 8, proud to the end of his grandson's accomplishments.

Piche e-mailed his mother often, and recently sent photos showing him in his cropped brown hair and brown camouflage while holding an automatic weapon.

Another photo showed him in uniform holding a dog. Lisa Johnson said he frequently discovered abandoned pets in Iraq and tried to find good homes for them. "Even in the middle of chaos he could find good things," she said. "That's what good guys do."

Piche's unit was being moved from one location to another Saturday, a move he was dreading. He told his mother that Iraq was becoming a more dangerous place—more aggressive, less predictable.

She heard Saturday about the two helicopters crashing in Mosul. "I spent the rest of the weekend in knots," she said. She and Cherish Piche spoke by phone all day Saturday, telling each other that they hoped by some fluke Piche was not on either of those helicopters, and just couldn't get to a computer to e-mail either of them to say he was safe. Then Cherish Piche called Sunday afternoon. Her words were simple: "They're here." Army soldiers had come to her home at Fort Campbell to say that her husband was dead.

An hour later, at 5 p.m., two soldiers came to the gray Cape Cod on Big Hollow Road to give Lisa and Hugh Johnson the same news. "I just said, 'No, no, no,' and I went outside and I was crazy," Lisa Johnson said. She wandered through the miles of woods behind her home. "I just cried and screamed—'No, it can't be, it just can't be.'"

Hugh Johnson said he knows that if he could, his stepson would have been trying to save his fellow soldiers until the last minute. Pride doesn't translate to solace, not when parents are mourning the loss of a son who was always giving to others. "It's such a waste," Hugh Johnson said. "He should have had another 60 years of doing that." "I'm proud of him and I'm proud of him no matter what," Lisa Johnson said. "That doesn't make his dying any easier."

The Johnsons and Piche's widow are making funeral arrangements while awaiting for his body to return home. Lisa Johnson said they hope to bury him near his grandfather, Fusco, at Holy Rosary Cemetery in Richmond.

Meanwhile, the family is welcoming a constant flow of visitors bearing generous amounts of food and any words of consolation they can muster. The food and the words are appreciated, Lisa Johnson said, but not important. "All that matters," she said, "is that they loved him."

[From the Rutland Herald, Nov. 18, 2003]

SOLDIER KILLED IN IRAQ WILL BE EULOGIZED
IN SPRINGFIELD

(By Susan Smallheer)

SPRINGFIELD.—An Army soldier who died in Iraq without ever holding his newborn daughter will be eulogized with full military honors Saturday in Springfield. Staff Sgt. Scott C. Rose, 30, whose wife, Michele, is from Springfield, will receive full military honors and a special farewell Saturday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, according to Rose's father, Alfred Rose of Fayetteville, N.C.

Rose was one of six soldiers who died on Nov. 7 near Tikrit when their Black Hawk helicopter came under attack, exploded and fell to the ground. He had been in Iraq since April. Rose was the crew chief.

Alfred Rose said his son and his wife met at North Carolina State University and married, living at Fort Campbell, Ky., the base of the 101st Airborne Division. Michele (Basso) Rose gave birth to their daughter Meghan Louise at Fort Campbell on July 31, and the baby never met her father, the elder Rose said.

Rose said that he was able to hook up a Web camera so his son could watch the baby over the Internet from Iraq, but that he died before he was able to get leave and come home to visit his new daughter. She is the couple's only child.

Rose said his son died with three of his fellow crew members, all of whom were very close friends. According to news reports, the Black Hawk was transporting two officials from the Army's Judge Advocate General corps from the Pentagon when the helicopter was hit.

Alfred Rose, himself a retired lieutenant colonel from the 82nd Airborne Division, said his son's mission on Nov. 7 was to transport "command and control" personnel from Mosul to Tikrit. His son was the crew chief.

He said his son was born in Attleboro, Mass., but grew up in North Carolina, attending high school in Fayetteville. He was captain of the wrestling team and also played soccer, was also involved in drama and debate. He graduated second in his class and attended North Carolina State on a full Navy scholarship.

But he switched to the Army even after receiving orders to the Navy's prestigious flight school in Pensacola, Fla., his father said, to combine his love of flying and his wish to be a family man. Navy flight training involves six month stints on aircraft carriers. "However, the world situation turned sour and he was deployed nearly continuously from Bosnia to the NCO School in Virginia and immediately to Iraq. Scott badly wanted to join his unit, which was already over there," his father recalled.

His father called him "the Tom Cruise of the Lancer flight line, he loved his work, he loved to teach others." "He was one of those rare great men, soldier, leader, husband, father . . . our son," he said.

The elder Rose said his son's unit was not expected back from Iraq until February or March 2004. According to an article in the Fayetteville Observer, Rose had started flying when he was 14 years old. In college, he started studying aeronautical engineering, but switched to history.

His son called his helicopter "Goat 26431." He named it so in honor of his grandfather's military aircraft, which was also nicknamed Goat. His grandfather also died on active duty.

The father said his son's helicopter came under fire the morning of Nov. 7. A second Black Hawk helicopter was following close behind and was not hit, but Rose said those in the second helicopter heard the impact of the weapon, saw flames erupt and his son's helicopter crash. At the time the helicopter was hit, they were about 280 feet above the ground and had slowed to make a landing in a designated area.

His son received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, as well as the Army Commendation medal. His wife's father and stepmother, Alfred and Paula Basso, live on Poppe Road in Springfield, according to William Young, director of the David Memorial Chapel, which is working closely with the military to plan Saturday's funeral. Details of the service are still being worked out, according to a spokesman at the funeral home.

Young said Rose would not be buried in Vermont as his remains were being cremated. The elder Rose said that a memorial account in his son's name has been set up to benefit his infant daughter at the Bryant Credit Union in Springfield.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On October 25, 2003, a Miami, FL, teen was charged with a hate crime after police say he harassed a 19-year-old woman driving with a gay pride sticker on her car.

The teen leaned out of his car window at a traffic light to make an obscene gesture toward the young woman and said to her, "We hate faggots . . . we kill people like you." The truck pulled up to her again at the next light where he continued to make lewd comments and gestures. The teen cut in front of the woman and hit his brakes, causing the woman's car to swerve, according to police. Police say the driver then swerved his truck three times towards the woman's car, running her off the road.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

SBA ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING HURRICANE ISABEL

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I wish to call to the attention of my colleagues the well-coordinated and rapid response of the good people from the United States Small Business Administration in the days and weeks that have followed the disaster caused by Hurricane Isabel.

Virginia is still recovering from this terrible natural disaster. In Virginia, initial assessments indicate that 1,062 homes were destroyed; over 8,800 homes sustained major damage; 1.8 million customers lost electricity of varying duration from a day to over a week; there were 28 deaths in the Commonwealth; crop losses are in the tens of millions; and total damages are in the billions to homes, businesses, transportation and other infrastructure facilities.

Our Commonwealth was devastated and the residents of Virginia, as they always do, have come together to help neighbors repair damages, to help families find housing and to console those who lost loved ones in their time of grief.

Soon after the storm cut across Virginia, and the economic impact began to be felt, I contacted Small Business Administration leaders, seeking to bring direct assistance to these affected businesses. On September 22,

SBA representatives responded quickly. My colleague, JOHN WARNER, and I toured the significant damage to many flooded small businesses in Old Town Alexandria, VA.

The quick response, expertise and enthusiasm of the SBA leaders gave hope to small business owners who were upset at the great losses and burdened by damage to their infrastructure, uncertainty when to reopen, loss of inventory, very little capital and lost incomes. The people saw that there was help, that it was not just their own sweat, worry and furrowed brows, but that the SBA was there to assist them directly.

Herb Mitchell, associate administrator for the Office of Disaster Assistance at the SBA, Anthony Bedell, associate administrator for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Sue Hensley, associate administrator for the Office of Communications and Public Liaison and their leader Melanie Sabelhaus, Deputy Administrator for the SBA walked with us while we viewed the damage first hand, talking with business owners who were able to ask specific questions and receive answers and solutions.

On the spot, Melanie Sabelhaus of the SBA also set up an onsite Business Disaster Recovery Center with the local Chamber of Commerce in Old Town Alexandria to help business owners who suffered loss. Our top priority was to get small businesses dried out, disinfected and back in business, and I am proud that this team effort has proceeded successfully. By getting our boots in the mud, we were able to get a direct, human response to promptly assist distressed small business owners, who are the backbone of the American economy.

Later the same week they answered my call and came with me again to southeastern Virginia, to places such as Burwell's Bay in Isle of Wight County, Suffolk and Wakefield in Sussex County. There we witnessed the terrible devastation. People there not only experienced great trauma, difficulty and loss, they were still without power, looking to the SBA for assistance, which was able to provide human, personal attention to help get them up and running again. Small businesses such as Cameron Chemical and the Marina Restaurant, whose owners we were able to talk with, which were forced to close their businesses indefinitely, and which together employ dozens of hard-working Virginians were given hands-on assistance by the SBA to reopen in a timely manner. Low interest loans, business disruption assistance from the SBA visibly cheered their faces with hope and gratitude. Traveling with me again was Melanie Sabelhaus, along with Anne Bradbury, assistant administrator for congressional affairs and Becky Brantley, assistant administrator for disaster assistance.

I commend the Small Business Administration's leadership, under the direction of Administrator Hector