

table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5365) was read the third time and passed.

#### PEARL HARBOR DAY

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, where were you on December 7, 1941? There are some of us who can remember that day. I was around 6 or 7 years old. I remember being on that small farm where I was raised. We were doing the evening chores when my mother—we did not have electricity in those days so you had a battery-operated radio and you did not turn on the radio until the evening. But mom had turned on the radio and the newscast was that Japan had attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor. When she told dad about that—I remember dad had two feed buckets in his hands—he said: “Where in the world is Pearl Harbor?” We did not even know where it was.

At 6 o'clock in the morning, Pearl Harbor time, 183 Japanese aircraft were launched from six major fleet carriers and flew toward Oahu. At 7:02 a.m. Honolulu time, the Japanese aircraft were spotted on their approach to Oahu, and they were mistaken for a flight of B-17 Flying Fortresses on an approach to the islands. At 7:15 a.m., a second wave of 167 Japanese planes departed the fleet carriers for Pearl Harbor. At 7:55 a.m., the attack on Pearl Harbor began, with the first Japanese dive-bomber appearing over Pearl Harbor. It was followed by a first wave of nearly 200 aircraft, including torpedo planes, bombers, and fighters.

The ships in our fleet were sitting ducks, all gathered up in one place. The anchored ships in the harbor made perfect targets for those bombers, and since it was Sunday morning—a time chosen by the Japanese for maximum surprise—they were not fully manned. In fact, back in those days in the Navy, half of the crew on the ships was on liberty.

Most of the damage to the battleships was inflicted in the first 30 minutes of the assault. The *Arizona*, which still lies in state, so to speak, at that harbor, sank. The *Oklahoma* was captured. The *California*, *Nevada*, and *West Virginia* sank in shallow water. In all, more than 180 aircraft were destroyed. U.S. military casualties totaled about 3,400.

That was a fateful day in 1941. Tied up to the *Arizona* was a ship, the *USS Vestal*. A good friend of mine, a member of our church, and his two brothers were on that ship. It was a repair ship. They were working on the *Arizona*. He said he remembers that day like it was yesterday. Glenn Sahlgren is gone now. I spent many hours on the Big Horn River fishing with him. I told him: When they find our bones one of these days, they will be down here on this river with a fly pole in our hand. He said: CONRAD, every day since Decem-

ber 8, 1941, has been a bonus to me. He and his two brothers were raised in Saco, MT. All three of them were in the Navy and on that ship, and it too sank. All three survived that fateful morning.

They were young Americans, hit by surprise. Now we are talking about another intelligence bill on the heels of 9/11. There were 3,581 killed, missing, and wounded. In my State alone, on the *USS Arizona*, Montana lost seven of its finest: Lloyd Daniel, Jerald Dillum, Joseph Marling, Earl Morrison, Robert Pearson, Harold Scilley, and George Smart.

Of course, that attack launched America into World War II where it suffered even more losses. Thousands of men and women died in World War II, but it changed the face of the world and gave us the freedoms we enjoy today. None of us here earned those; we inherited them. What Tom Brokaw called “the greatest generation” is a true statement. For after that attack, this country bound up its wounds and didn't look back. We honored those who were lost, and we built a better peace.

As this holiday season approaches and we gather around friends and family, it is important that we count our blessings. Most of those blessings were inherited and not earned. We remember those who went before us. We turn to this holiday and think about those families who are missing someone either because a family member died for their country or he or she is standing tall on foreign soil around the world.

One characteristic about Americans, we have always thought about the next generation. Those who answered the call in 1941 knew full well it was worth the sacrifice so that their families, their children and grandchildren, would never be vulnerable to anything like that again. We are witnessing today's greatest generation also. They understand the risk and the mission, but they also understand their families and what this great country stands for—we tend to forget that every now and again—because they, too, think it is worth the sacrifice so their children and grandchildren will not live under the pall of terrorism, perpetrated on the world from the shadows by faceless people. Today we have brave military men and women again, just as those who have gone before them, standing on alert, securing our freedoms, guarding the innocent abroad. I salute their bravery and their sacrifice, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

This December 7 is a reminder of where we have been, how we reacted, what we have done, and the challenges to be faced in the future by young folks who are willing to pay the price.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO LES BROWNLEE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes to speak about a truly remarkable American who, after serving his country with remarkable competence and quiet excellence, has moved on with little fanfare.

I am talking about Les Brownlee, a man we worked with very closely for a long period of time. So often you learn to love these people when you work with them over the years, and then they move on and you prepare to miss them, as we will.

Les Brownlee would probably not want me to talk about him. He normally avoids that type of thing. He shunned public recognition for his achievements, while compiling a stellar record of support and leadership for the men and women of the U.S. Army.

Mr. Brownlee was a highly decorated Vietnam veteran and executive officer to Army Under Secretary James Ambrose when he retired as a colonel in the U.S. Army in 1984. The experience he gained during his time in uniform made him an attractive candidate to advise my colleague from Virginia, Senator WARNER.

Mr. Brownlee served on Senator WARNER's staff for several years before joining the Senate Armed Services Committee as a professional staff member, where I worked with him for 7 years. From 1994, when I first came from the House to the Senate, until 2001, when he accepted a job as Under Secretary of the Army, Mr. Brownlee proved his expertise again and again while deflecting the accolades he deserved.

It is hard to conceive of a more tumultuous time for an acting Secretary of the Army to hold that position. From the events of 9/11, which helped convince Mr. Brownlee to take the Under Secretary position, to the campaigns of Afghanistan and Iraq, to the myriad challenges faced by the Army today, these times are like no other. In the face of these daunting events, Mr. Brownlee provided incredibly strong leadership from the top without losing touch with the personal integrity that characterizes the finest members of the Army he oversaw. Moreover, while executing the high-level concerns of his office, he also worked to ensure that the pressing needs of individual soldiers were met. He reflected on the old days, and he knew he had the instinct as to what those needs were. I am thinking particularly of the need for more and better body armor for our troops.

My only disappointment now is that Mr. Brownlee is moving on. It is clear his successors will have big shoes to fill, and the trajectory that Mr. Brownlee set for the service and coordination with the Secretary of Defense

and Joint Chiefs is one that will lead to transformation and victory in our current engagements and dominance in the decades to come. Perhaps more importantly, Mr. Brownlee has established a gold standard for character to which all of our military personnel should aspire.

I thank him for his service, the time he spent, and the dedication and commitment he made to his country.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL LAMONT NOEL WILSON

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I stand today to honor a brave young American who gave his life defending our Nation. He felt a call to serve his country, to be part of something bigger than himself, and, ultimately, paid the highest price.

LCpl Lamont Wilson, of Lawton, OK, was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, from Camp Pendleton, CA. His parents, Lanny and Florence Wilson, still live in Lawton, where he graduated from Eisenhower High School in 2003. By June, he was already serving as a marine, fulfilling a military dream Lamont kept alive since childhood. When asked why he joined the Marines, Lamont explained it was to make his father proud.

On September 6, in Fallujah, Lamont was killed in combat. He gave his life for the freedom of millions of Americans and also for the peace and prosperity of the Iraqi people crippled by a totalitarian regime. His funeral, held at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Lawton, was a joyous celebration of Lamont's life and service to God and country. Although the loss of this young man is a loss we all feel, our thoughts and prayers are especially with his family and friends.

Lamont's dedicated service showed the spirit that drives us to fight oppression around the world. He knew that he and his fellow marines were fighting to protect America, to keep their Nation safe. The way Lamont signed letters he wrote home—"Sleep Well, America"—embodied the noble spirit of sacrifice in the hearts of the men and women in our Armed Forces. It is for men like Lance Corporal Wilson that I am proud to be a part of this great country. He was a special marine but, more importantly, a special man.

Several of us who have spent time over in Afghanistan and Iraq have talked to these young people there, the young troops. They sometimes ask the question: Why is it that people don't appreciate us? It is because they get kind of a perverted media over there that doesn't really understand what the war is all about. I gave them my assurance that we understand the sacrifices they make, that we are at the most threatened position today this country has ever been in, and it is people like you who are keeping and preserving our freedom.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES "BEN" ALLEN

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is not very often that one has the opportunity to talk about someone they knew personally. We have so many fallen heroes in Iraq and in this war on terror. Those who have spent any time on the Armed Services Committee know that right now we are in the most threatened position our country has ever been in.

Today, I honor the memory of a really remarkable man whom I had the honor of meeting. In fact, I had the honor of meeting this man over in Iraq. It was around the time the U.N. building was bombed and I happened to be there at the time. He was over there with General Griffin, and I am speaking of BG Charles "Ben" Allen. He was a classic Oklahoman, a hard worker and leader who was dedicated to his family, his faith, and his country.

General Allen was an assistant commander in the 4th Infantry Division and was killed along with six other soldiers in the Blackhawk helicopter crash in central Texas.

Although he was born in Alaska, Ben Allen grew up in the Lawton/Fort Sill, OK, area, an Army town where the artillery is king of battle and familiar to all.

The son of an Army colonel, he graduated from Eisenhower High School in Lawton and went on to study at Lawton's Cameron University where he graduated from the ROTC program and was commissioned into the artillery.

General Allen's career was a long and distinguished one and included assignments with the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, WA, the 70th Field Artillery Detachment in Greece, the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Ord, CA, and the 9th Field Artillery in Heilbronn, Germany, the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY, where he was the operations officer for division artillery during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and the 24th and 3rd Infantry Divisions at Fort Stewart, GA.

Allen then served as the J5 Balkans Branch Chief for the Joint staff at the Pentagon, after which he commanded the 4th Infantry Division's artillery and served in several positions under the Army deputy chief of staff for programming before returning to the 4th ID.

It is often said that when a soldier chooses a branch of service, he also is choosing the hometown of his future wife. Ben changed the order of that expectation. He and Cindy were college sweethearts at Cameron. In college,

Cindy was a serious student who shared Ben's competitive spirit. For fun, the couple would compete for the highest GPA.

When Ben graduated from Cameron's ROTC program, he asked Cindy to marry him. She has been a partner, a friend, and a source of strength and truth, a cherished wife and beloved mother.

Cindy is a teacher by trade. For her, life in the military was a positive challenge which she took on with the same focused energy Ben showed whenever the Allens arrived at the new assignment. Cindy educated herself about each new duty assignment. She managed each move in an organized and disciplined way.

A lot of people do not understand what this is like for a family to be moved around this way, but Cindy handled it very well. Her leadership, responsibility, duty, love, and calm made her the perfect partner in life and love for this soldier. Even in this dark hour, Cindy is strong, dignified, and helping others cope with their losses as well.

Although General Allen was a man who faced the foes of the world with steely resolve, he stood no chance when it came to his only daughter, Laura, who is a 20-year-old student at George Mason University. Ben and Laura had a special father-daughter relationship fortified by great humor, warmth, understanding, and natural affection, a bond that will endure in her heart forever. She will always be his little girl.

I remember talking to him about this because my youngest daughter Katie and I also have that. To this day, I still call her my little girl. That is the relationship Ben had with Laura.

As the saying goes, like father like son, we likewise send our heartfelt condolences to General Allen's son Brian who is attending the University of Virginia on an ROTC scholarship. So we are talking now about the third generation. Brian and Ben shared many great times together watching their favorite teams, the Boston Red Sox and the Dallas Cowboys, and of course the University of Oklahoma, the No. 1 team in the Nation.

Whatever career path Brian chooses, he will have the life and accomplishments of a great and courageous man to serve as a bright and shining example for selfless service.

I will also share several thoughts about GEN Ben Allen that I have heard from some of my constituents who knew him. Many of these folks attended the memorial service held yesterday at Fort Sill. I was unable to be there because of votes here but I believe their comments say even more about the man, Ben Allen, than the long record of honorable service I just read.

Here are their words:

Ben Allen was known to be a soldier's soldier. He cared about his troops and he enthusiastically led his troops to achieve victory both on and off the battlefield. He was also a soldier's son. Ben was the beloved son of a career Army officer.