

That is the role he continues to play with an adult parish in one of the most active communities in my State. The Greek-American community is small in our State, but it is extremely vibrant. Similar to many communities, the heart and soul of it is the church. The heart and soul of it is not only the spiritual center of the community, it is the political center of the community. I mean that in a nonpartisan way. It is the social center of the community. It is the community. It is the embodiment of community.

We have very important business this morning, and I will yield to my distinguished colleague, Senator CARPER.

I can say to Father, it is an honor to have him here this morning. I hope he has an even greater impression than I know he possessed when he came, of the majesty of this place. This is the people's Chamber. They talk about the people's House, this building, this Senate, all of the Capitol. Every time people come to visit, I remind them that this belongs to them. This is theirs. We are only here as hired hands for a while. I hope Father takes back to his parish the notion that there is an awful lot of good that can be done here.

I am delighted he took the time this morning to remind us of the relationship between temple, Government, and the spiritual leadership that comes directly and immediately from God. I thank him for that. I thank him for his generosity and leadership back home in our community beyond Holy Trinity. Thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I add a couple of comments to the words of our colleague, Senator BIDEN, in welcoming Father Christo to the Senate Chamber today.

We are proud of our Constitution. Delaware was the first State to ratify the Constitution of our country. The Constitution calls for separation of church and state. Some people may find, given that as our heritage, it is unusual we begin each of our sessions in the Senate with an opening prayer.

Today, we are honored for all in Delaware, for everybody in the Greek community in our State, and everyone in the country, to be able to welcome one of our own to open the Senate in prayer.

I am struck by the number of times I talk to people in my State and around the country who say: We pray for you—not just me as an individual but for us as a collective body, as we meet. I always say: We welcome your prayers; keep praying. We certainly need those prayers.

I asked my staff to give me a little bit of background on Father, to say a few words. I have 10 pages of accomplishments. What a remarkable tale of accomplishment—and still a young pup.

I am honored you are here. Thank you for coming and starting our day on the right foot.

I would say to those people from other States, in talking to the Presiding Officer before the session began, he was asking where the Greek Church is in our State. If you come through Delaware on I-95, and a lot of people do, in the early part of June, you get off on Pennsylvania Avenue and head north a couple of blocks, make a left turn on Broom Street, you will find the Greek Church. They hold a great festival there. It is not only a church where people go for their souls, but three nights in the early part of June you can go there and enjoy great Greek food, dance, and drink. It is a wonderful time of fellowship with people who are Greek their whole lives and people who are Greek for a night or two.

We are honored by your presence, Father, and thank you for embracing us and thank you for your warm and wonderful prayer.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 15 minutes to speak in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CPL PHILLIP BAUCUS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, west of Baghdad in Iraq's Al Anbar Province, the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion of the 1st Marine Division rested for the night. On Saturday, June 29, a suicide bomber crashed his vehicle into a barrack. The structure collapsed. Four marines died. Among them was a 28-year-old corporal named Phillip Baucus. He is my nephew.

When I first took my wife Wanda to the family ranch many years ago, about 23, young Phillip, 5 or 6 years old, received Wanda. He walked up to Wanda and said: Wanda, welcome to the ranch. He had a wildflower in his hand and he gave it to Wanda. That is how he was.

Wanda and I had the sad duty at Dover Air Force Base to receive Phillip's casket. When we asked, they said, no, we could not touch his casket, but they reconsidered—the colonel did—and said, yes, it was all right for Wanda and let Wanda touch Phillip's casket. Beneath the flag that draped the casket, Wanda slipped a wildflower. That is how she is. North of Helena, in Montana's Lewis and Clark County, Phillip came to his final rest. On the afternoon of Sunday, August 6, more than 500 Montanans gathered under the willow trees of the family ranch to remember Phillip.

A Chinook helicopter flew overhead, a massive American flag draped below it. White doves were released into the sky. A bagpipe played "Amazing Grace," and the "Marine Corps Hymn." Bugles played "Taps." The funeral ended with a family tradition, a tradition that Phillip loved. We packed 2 pounds of black gunpowder, fired an

anvil weighing about 60 pounds several hundred feet into the air. It fell to the ground with a heavy thud.

Marines folded the flag that had covered Phillip's casket into a triangle and handed it to his widow Katherine. Phillip and Katherine had been married at that very same place less than a year before. Phillip's Marine colleague, Sergeant Raymond Rios, spoke to Phillip saying: "Baucus, you will always be here with every shadow, the sun shining and the trees blowing."

My brother John and I planted two trees there a few weeks ago on the ranch in memory of Phillip. They will blow in the winds and grow in the sun there in his memory. It was at that ranch where he was laid to rest on the same mountain where my father lies.

In the days since, I have been moved by the hundreds of handwritten notes I have received from Montanans, friends, and colleagues. I have been moved by these many tributes. In the Native American culture there is no greater honor than dying for your community, being a warrior. American Indians have answered this country's call to service in numbers far greater than their fair share of the population. When injured or killed in war, Native American service men and women are honored as fallen warriors. Their praises are sung before every powwow and special occasion.

I visited several Indian tribes last August. Time after time, I was honored when the tribal leaders honored Phillip as a fallen warrior. Following one tribal council meeting, an elderly grandmother asked if she could honor Phillip. She told me she had two grandsons in Iraq. She wanted to express her condolences to my family. She had made a quilt with the American flags interspersed throughout the quilt for the fallen warrior. She asked me to turn around. And reaching on her tiptoes, she draped the quilt around my shoulders. Then she embraced me.

(The remarks of Mr. BAUCUS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3865 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BAUCUS. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, coincidentally, coming to the floor this morning, I signed two letters of condolences to families, one in northern Nevada—Silver Springs, NV—and one in Las Vegas, NV, to parents who lost young men in Iraq during the last week or so. I have signed lots of these letters for Nevadans, but signing one of these letters in the future will never be the same after listening to my friend from Montana.

When I first learned of Phillip's death, I said on the Senate floor: MAX BAUCUS has a son. I know him, a wonderful young man. But this nephew of Senator BAUCUS was like his second son. So in the future, when I sign these letters, I will think of MAX BAUCUS because it is easy, it is human nature, to

feel sorrow when we sign these letters and see these names—approaching 2,700—but when you have actually experienced the loss, I know, having witnessed the distress my friend has gone through, I repeat, signing that letter to one of these families will never be the same.

So I say to Senator BAUCUS, who is part of the Senate family, one of the senior Members of the Senate, the thoughts of every Senator go out to you, MAX. And you did today what your heart said you should do. I wish we could convey to everyone in America, through you, what is going on in our country and what sacrifices families are making. We have to make their sacrifices stand for something.

Again, it is wonderful to have MAX BAUCUS as our friend. And more especially to me, on a personal note, it is important he is my friend.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I thank my very good friend from Nevada. I thank you very much. And I thank all my colleagues very much. We are one big family here in the Senate and in the country, and we are a great country. We will see our way through all this.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, we have just heard a very powerful and moving statement from the senior Senator from Montana, and we all understand he has suffered a deep and personal loss. I heard about the very close relationship Senator BAUCUS had with the nephew he lost, and he should know that his friends and his colleagues share that loss, that we grieve with him and we grieve with the family, that we especially appreciate the very moving statement he made.

It is our obligation—it is our obligation—to make certain these losses mean something and that, in the end, our country is successful against this threat.

I think every Member of this Chamber recognizes there is a real threat to our Nation and that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to those who answer the country's call, who come forward and serve when they are asked. This Nation owes much to those who have sacrificed, and we should never forget it.

Senator BAUCUS, you should know that your friends and your colleagues—this is a family—mourn with you and grieve with you and your family.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time for morning business allotted to the minority has expired. The majority controls 15 minutes.

Who seeks time?

The Senator from Kentucky.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the issue of national security. Safety and security of the American people must be our Govern-

ment's top priority, and we must not lose sight of the threat that faces our Nation. As we approach the anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, I wish to remind all Americans that these were acts of war against the United States.

Since then, the United States and our coalition partners have fought back.

Despite what some might say, we have seen many successes. We have dismantled al-Qaida's terrorist network in Afghanistan and helped democracy rise in its place.

We are working with our allies to secure a united, stable, and democratic Iraq.

We have led an international campaign against terrorist financing, freezing over \$1.5 billion in terrorist assets in the United States alone.

Since September 11, there have been no terrorist attacks or acts on American soil. Our intelligence system has prevented 15 major terrorist plots that we know of and likely many others that are undisclosed. We have convicted over 261 defendants in terrorism-related cases and charged more than 180 others.

While we are continually working to make America safer, we still face serious threats from our enemies both at home and abroad.

To win the war against the Islamic fascists, we need an effective intelligence system that is lawful but also provides us with the necessary information to prevent attacks before they occur.

Only last month we were once again reminded that there are people out there who want to kill us and what we stand for. Fortunately, with the help of our British allies, we were able to prevent the terrorists from killing innocent civilians. These threats are real, this war is real, and the outcome will be determined by the action of our Congress and our people, and it will determine the future of our Nation.

This war is unlike any other war we have ever fought. It is both a battle of arms and a battle of ideas. This war of ideology is not an easy one and requires an advancement of freedom.

I know it is often difficult to turn on the news and hear reports from Iraq and Afghanistan and question what type of effective democracy we have in place. Have we so quickly forgotten the image 9 months ago of Iraqis waving their blue fingers in the air after they had voted in the first free elections in their nation's history? Have we forgotten the images of women and children sitting in classrooms in Afghanistan, free to learn without the fear of persecution or execution?

These are images I will never forget. They are images of democracy at work.

Just this morning we saw democracy at work when coalition forces in Iraq handed over control of the Iraqi armed forces to the Iraqi Government.

Effective democracies do take time and hard work. They cannot be created

overnight, but in the end they combat the ideology of Islamic fascists.

These terrorists recognize this and because of it are willing to kill innocent people to stop the spread of freedom.

I urge my colleagues not to let them succeed in their efforts and to join me in maintaining a united front against these terrorist nations and the terrorists across the world as we press ahead with important national security legislation in the coming weeks.

While we may disagree about different policies in our war against these terrorists, we must not lose sight of what is at stake for our country. We owe it to future generations—my 35 grandkids, 4 great-grandkids, 9 children, and their spouses—we owe it to all Americans because the cost of failure is too great.

I, for one, will not back down from the challenges and look forward to working with my colleagues on this matter.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Kentucky in commenting this morning during morning business on our efforts to protect against the continuing threats to our Nation, specifically protecting ourselves against the continuing threat from terrorists.

I am pleased to see President Bush in recent days presenting to the American people and the world what the facts are, what we have achieved in our efforts to defend our country against the terrorist acts and to protect against those who would harm American citizens around the world.

I am pleased to see that we have the strong leadership of the President on this issue and those who are working with him in the administration to carry out his policies and the policies we have identified here to support through votes in the Senate and the House.

Secretary Rumsfeld has come under a lot of criticism recently. Many people have been making speeches, calling for his resignation. I think he has done a good job. I think he has been a solid performer to carry out the mission that we have to perform to succeed in the war on terror.

The Congress has approved appropriations bills, authorizations for the work that is being done in this very difficult and challenging area. We now have before us in the Senate another appropriations bill providing funds for the Department of Defense. We have a bill that has been approved by our Appropriations Committee funding the Department of Homeland Security. In both of these measures, we have outlined an aggressive effort that should be carried out by our Government to protect our country, and the efforts that we have made and the administration has made are working. They are doing a great job.