

I also know that Rob's friendly demeanor and unparalleled professionalism will be dearly missed here in Washington, DC. Rob McClintic is irreplaceable.

Mr. President, I am sad because I am losing my trusted and valued staffer who has worked with me for nearly a decade, but I am happy to see a dear friend move on to new challenges, and I wish him the best of luck.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN U.S. FOREST SERVICE FIREFIGHTERS FROM CALIFORNIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I have a very heavy heart as I pay tribute to five fallen U.S. Forest Service firefighters from California. It is an honor to talk about their heroic deeds, but it is heartbreaking.

These five heroes died in the line of duty while protecting families and homes in the Esperanza Fire west of Palm Springs. We deeply mourn the loss of Engine Captain Mark Loutzenhiser, Fire Engine Operator Jess McLean, Assistant Fire Engine Operator Jason McKay, Firefighter Daniel Hoover-Najera, and Firefighter Pablo Cerda.

Mark Loutzenhiser was 44 years old and had 21 years of firefighting service. He was a certified emergency management technician, EMT. He had previously worked as a hotshot crewman for the Vista Grande Hot Shots and also as a volunteer firefighter for Riverside County. He majored in fire science at Mount San Jacinto College. He was a longtime resident of Idyllwild, CA, and was a wonderful supporter and coach for the youth sports program. He is survived by his wife Maria Loutzenhiser.

Jess McLean was 27 years old and had 7 years of firefighting service. He had been a hotshot for 3 years with the Vista Grande Hot Shots. He graduated from Banning High School in 1997 and attended fire science classes at Crafton Hills College. He was a resident of Beaumont, CA. He is survived by his wife Karen McLean and his mother Cecelia McLean.

Jason McKay was 27 years old and had 5 years of Forest Service experience and 4 years as a volunteer firefighter in Adelanto. He also served on the Mojave Greens Type II crew. He was a certified EMT and earned an associate's degree in fire science. He was a resident of Phelan, CA. He is survived by his mother Bonnie J. McKay and his father Robert McKay.

Daniel Hoover-Najera was 20 years old and in his second season of firefighting. He worked on the Tahquitz Type II crew in 2005 and was a seasonal employee in 2006. He graduated from San Jacinto Mountain View High School in 2004. He was a resident of San Jacinto, CA. He is survived by his mother Gloria Ayala and his father Timothy Hoover.

Pablo Cerda was 23 years old and in his second season with the Forest Serv-

ice. He was previously of the Tahquitz Type II crew. He graduated from Los Amigos High School in Santa Ana in 2001 and attended Fire Academy of Riverside Community College. He was a resident of Fountain Valley, CA. He is survived by his father Pablo Cerda, Sr.

These five U.S. Forest Service firefighters on Engine Crew 57 on the San Jacinto Ranger District were dispatched early on the morning of Thursday, October 26 to fight the Esperanza fire. As the fire blazed out of control, they bravely fought it when they were overrun by flames.

Mark, Jess, Jason, Daniel, and Pablo are true examples of why we call firefighters heroes. They bravely and selflessly risked their lives time and time again trying to protect California. No more could be asked of anyone. Tragically, they have fallen in one of these battles. We know why their friends, family, and colleagues are so proud of them and so devastated by their loss. Their loss reverberates throughout California and our Nation.

I send my sincere condolences to their families, their communities, and all of the firefighters who had the honor of serving with Mark, Jess, Jason, Daniel, and Pablo over the years.

These firefighters are extraordinary heroes. And we will not rest until we have found those responsible for this horrific crime.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, as the session winds down I have been thinking back over the year. As always, there has been a lot more activity than action, but we are making progress on the people's business.

But not everything we do here is legislative in nature. Senator PRYOR and I had the opportunity to chair the National Prayer Breakfast in February, a nonofficial, nonpartisan, and non-denominational gathering of people from all over the world who are seeking better ways to connect with each other and find strength beyond ourselves. Many of our colleagues in the House and Senate participated. For their reference and for the benefit of other interested readers of this RECORD, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of a transcript of the event, including a very interesting talk by U2 lead singer and humanitarian Bono, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Senator Mark Pryor: Good morning. Thank you very much for being here. I am Senator Mark Pryor, from Arkansas, and I am one of the co-chairs of this event along with my very good friend Senator Norm Coleman of Minnesota. We are so grateful that you have come from every state in the Union, and from 160 nations around the world. To start us out on an uplifting and prayerful note, I am happy to introduce Karen Mason from Little Rock, Arkansas. She has a song to share today about grati-

tude, and it expresses how we all are feeling today.

Mrs. Karen Mason: Psalm 100 says that protocol for coming into the presence of our heavenly King is to enter into His gates with thanksgiving, to come into His presence with gratitude, with a heart of gratefulness, and this song is my song of gratitude to my heavenly King.

(Song.) (Applause.)

Senator Norm Coleman: Good morning, folks, I am Senator Norm Coleman, from the state of Minnesota, and before we enjoy our breakfast and more fellowship around the tables, I would like to introduce our head table's special guests and say a few words of grace. To my far left, Karen Mason, and the four women from Point of Grace, who will be introduced later in the program. Next to them is Senator David Vitter from Louisiana, then we have Senator Barack Obama, Illinois' new senator. Next to him is someone who we will introduce more fully later, for now one word will suffice—Bono. Next to him is my wife Laurie, whose love and support has brought me to this moment. On the other end, we have Congressman Lincoln Davis from Tennessee. Next to him we have Representative Tom Osborne of Nebraska, we will just call him Coach. Next to him is Senator Ken Salazar from Colorado. Then we have Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison from the great state of Texas. Next, a former main speaker at this event, Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, and next, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Michael Mullen. Finally, the spouse of my co-chair, Jill Pryor.

Let us pray to bless the food, which I will do in a moment. But first I would like to recite the most holy prayer in Judaism which is called the Shema, and I have prayed it since I was a little boy.

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Elohaynu, Adonai Echad—Hear O Israel, Adonai is your God, Adonai is your God. Barukh Shem k'vod malkhuto l'olam va-ed—Blessed is the Name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever. V-ahavta et Adonai Elohecha—you shall love the Lord your God—b-chol l'vavcha u-v-chol naf'sh'cha u-v-chol m'odecha—with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

We gather under the shelter of encouragement of Your love today, to return thanks, to seek unity, to help the suffering, and to work for peace. Almighty God, we thank You for this food for our bodies and our hearts which we are receiving this morning. Bless all who prepared it. Lord, change us, and send us out of here different people than we were when we walked in. Amen.

Enjoy the food and the fellowship around the table.

(Breakfast.)

Senator Coleman: We are going to begin the program. I am happy to introduce my good friend Mark Pryor. He is a Democrat from a red state.

Senator Pryor: And my good friend Norm Coleman who is a Republican from a blue state and maybe that is why we get along so well. (Laughter.)

Senator Coleman: We came to Washington together, and one of the first things we heard from our senior colleagues was Harry Truman's advice: If you want a friend in Washington, buy a dog. The hardest thing in public life is not making decisions, it is finding people you can trust to guide you and encourage you to do the right thing.

Senator Pryor: And that is a real challenge, because with every senator, every congressman, and every other leader who is here, we got to where we are because of our friends. Someone described public service as being like cutting flowers from a garden and