

valuable statement. He is a highly valued member of the Armed Services Committee and comments coming from him will have an impact on this body. I am grateful.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of William J. Lynn, III, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense?

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, have the yeas and nays been ordered?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have not been ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of William J. Lynn, III, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Akaka	Ensign	Merkley
Alexander	Enzi	Mikulski
Barrasso	Feingold	Murkowski
Baucus	Feinstein	Murray
Bayh	Gillibrand	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Hagan	Pryor
Bennett	Harkin	Reed
Bingaman	Hatch	Reid
Bond	Hutchison	Risch
Boxer	Inhofe	Roberts
Brown	Inouye	Rockefeller
Brownback	Isakson	Sanders
Bunning	Johanns	Schumer
Burr	Johnson	Sessions
Burris	Kaufman	Shaheen
Byrd	Kerry	Shelby
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Snowe
Cardin	Kohl	Specter
Carper	Kyl	Stabenow
Casey	Landrieu	Tester
Chambliss	Lautenberg	Thune
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Levin	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Lieberman	Vitter
Corker	Lincoln	Voinovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner
DeMint	Martinez	Webb
Dodd	McCain	Whitehouse
Dorgan	McConnell	Wicker
Durbin	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—4

Coburn	Grassley
Cornyn	McCaskill

NOT VOTING—2

Gregg Kennedy

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative action.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate go into a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes.

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

THE STIMULUS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I wish to speak briefly. I know my friend from Oklahoma is going to come back and speak, but I wish to make a couple comments. I know there has been a deal reached on the stimulus bill. I wish to make a couple comments about that.

We have not received the bill. There are rumors going around about this, that, and the other. One of the details that seems to be coming out is that the housing portion of the stimulus bill has been cut down dramatically.

I had an alternative to the stimulus bill that focused on housing, to a great degree, and also targeted some tax cuts to families and small businesses to create jobs. The reason we focused a great deal of it on the housing problem was because the housing problem is the cancer that has dragged the rest of the economy down. It has spread throughout the rest of the economy.

As any person in the medical field understands that if you just treat the symptoms and not the underlying cause, the patient gets sicker and sicker. Unfortunately, the President is talking about fixing housing but certainly not at this point.

It is regrettable that we didn't take a big portion of the money that is being spent in this stimulus bill and actually fix housing. It is very disturbing because we are going to spend \$800 billion and who knows how much more in order to fix the housing problem. We are running up debt after debt on our children. This is their credit card we are running up, and they are going to have to pay higher taxes into the future.

Once we get the bill, we are going to have to take a close look over the next day or two and go through it. It is very disappointing, it appears, that this stimulus bill is going to do very little, if anything, to fix the housing problem in the United States. My home State of

Nevada leads the country in foreclosures. We understand what other States are starting to go through or just recently have been going through, and how severely it affects the economy. It is unfortunate that the stimulus bill that is supposed to fix the economy is not addressing the No. 1 problem we have in the United States.

LAS VEGAS TRAVEL

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, it seems as though reason and common sense are once again being tossed aside. I am referring to the recent remarks by President Obama when he singled out one of the most premiere cities in the world, Las Vegas.

When it comes to convenience and affordability, very few, if any, places in the world can compare to Las Vegas. It is home to more than 140,000 hotel rooms, millions of feet of meeting space, and a central geographic location that makes it easy for employees from around the country to come to meet.

It is no wonder so many businesses decide to have their conventions in Las Vegas. It is more than convenience, though. Las Vegas offers a value that is unique. For instance, the average hotel room today in Las Vegas is \$119 a night. That is why I find it disturbing that Las Vegas is being singled out.

It is more than that. Take Goldman Sachs as one example. First, it goes without saying that all companies that are receiving TARP funds must be responsible and not waste precious taxpayer dollars. Because of recent criticism, Goldman Sachs announced that it was moving a 3-day conference from Las Vegas to San Francisco. To do this though, they had to pay a \$600,000 cancellation fee, re-route flights, and re-book the same trip in another city, which is even more expensive than Las Vegas.

I ask, is that common sense? Let me repeat this. They had to pay more than a half million dollars in cancellation fees, re-route flights, and re-book the same trip in another, more expensive city. For what? So that Goldman can promote a false sense that it was spending the taxpayers' money more wisely. This is ridiculous. This is what the American people are sick of.

Is San Francisco a more affordable city than Las Vegas? Actually, it is much more expensive. I will shoot this straight. What Goldman Sachs did was purely a phony public relations gimmick, but it is not fooling anyone. The conference they booked in Las Vegas is still taking place. Now it is just much more expensive. This makes no sense at all. So let's cut to the chase.

Wherever these meetings take place, business takes place. Let me give you an example. The Consumer Electronics Show, known as CES: This is an annual business meeting in Las Vegas. CES attendees come to Las Vegas from over 140 countries around the world. They can conduct a year's worth of business

in one location, minimizing travel and saving energy in the process.

During the Consumer Electronics Show, approximately 1.7 million meetings are conducted. Transactions are ordered, commerce is buzzing, and the entrepreneurial spirit of business flourishes. This is economic activity that extends beyond whichever city serves as the host.

It benefits all of us when an opportunity for business growth and productivity takes place. So let's not lose sight of this fact, especially now. Business meetings are an important tool. Let's make sure we do not leave common sense off the agenda.

RETIREMENT OF GUY ROCHA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Guy Rocha, who retired from his post as Nevada State archivist on February 2 exactly 28 years to the day from the time he assumed this position. He began as the youngest State archivist in the Nation. At this time, only the New Hampshire and Maryland State archivists have served longer than him. His exceptional archival and research abilities have earned him an impressive reputation and have made him an invaluable asset to the State of Nevada.

Guy Louis Rocha was born on September 23, 1951. He grew up in Las Vegas and later moved to Reno. His first job with the State was with the Nevada Historical Society in Reno in 1976. He was appointed to be the State archivist in 1981. As the State archivist, Guy was responsible for managing Nevada's historically valuable records dating all the way back to 1851. For his longtime service, he received the Award of Merit for Leadership in History from the American Association for State and Local History.

Above all, Guy is known for his love of truth. He commonly corrects the inaccuracies of reporters and journalists. For 12 years he has written the "Historical Myth a Month" column for *Sierra Sage*, and since 2000 he has written a biweekly column in *Reno Gazette-Journal*. For his work in debunking popular Nevada myths he has come to be known as the "myth-buster."

His research expertise and impartiality have even been called upon to provide historical evidence in settling legal disputes. In addition to his archival duties, he has authored two books and many articles and book reviews and he has served as a rotating host for Reno's National Public Radio show "High Desert Forum." Guy also owns a production company that produces historical documentaries.

Guy Rocha has been rightly called a "State treasure." His contributions as the State archivist, as an historian, and as a writer form an impressive legacy to be honored by current and future generations. All Nevadans have reason to be proud of Guy Rocha, and I know I join them in congratulating him on a well-earned retirement from his duties as Nevada State archivist.

TRIBUTE TO GARY AND JONATHAN HARRIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to two heroic soldiers of the U.S. Army from my home Commonwealth of Kentucky, Gary and Jonathan Harris. Father and son, each was awarded the Silver Star for valorous acts in two separate wars.

The Silver Star is the Nation's third-highest award for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. Those rare few who receive it do so because of their display of selfless sacrifice and unparalleled courage under fire.

Jonathan Harris, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot holding the rank of chief warrant officer 2, came under attack near Gardez, Afghanistan, on July 2, 2008, while attempting to transport soldiers. His Blackhawk was attacked by the enemy with rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft gun systems. Jonathan was able to relocate and land the burning helicopter in a nearby field and safely evacuate the passengers. He then contacted another helicopter to extract his crew.

During the evacuation, while helping escort his wounded fellow soldiers to the new helicopter, Jonathan exposed himself to gunfire while protecting his wounded men and killing at least one attacker. Only after every member of the crew, ground forces, and extraction team were safely onboard did CW2 Jonathan Harris himself get into the helicopter. Because of these heroic deeds, Jonathan Harris is the first aviator to receive the Silver Star since the Vietnam war.

Gary Harris, Jonathan's father, was a staff sergeant serving in Vietnam when he performed the acts of gallantry that would earn him the same medal as his son's. Gary was a squad leader on August 15, 1969, when he and his fellow soldiers came under intense mortar and rocket fire while on combat patrol. He instructed his men to return fire and moved them into a more strategic position.

During the battle, Gary ran across the field of combat to assist medics while ignoring the risk to his own life from the enemy's gunfire. He helped transport the wounded to the medical-evacuation helicopter, saving the lives of many.

SSG Gary Harris received his original Silver Star in the mail, never having the benefit of a formal ceremony—until now. This past November, Gary Harris was honored at a ceremony in Fort Campbell, KY., while Jonathan Harris received his award at the Combined Joint Task Force-101 Headquarters in Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. They were able to view each other's ceremonies via video teleconference. At his ceremony, Gary Harris also received the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious service in Vietnam as well as the Silver Star.

As is typical of so many of the brave men and women in uniform I have had the honor to meet over the years, both

the father and the son insist that their own actions are not particularly remarkable. Each was quick to point to the other as more worthy of admiration and respect.

"For me, I feel like my grandfathers and my dad, those are the true heroes," said Jonathan Harris. "I would like to think that something was passed on to me."

Gary, on the other hand, recognized the value of the strong bond his son had with his fellow soldiers. "These guys really stick together," he said. "We did the same thing, but I don't think we were near as cohesive a group as they are. They are really gung ho about taking care of each other. . . . I know what it is like, every day facing death. It just tears your nerves all to pieces for a while."

Gary and Jonathan Harris are excellent examples of the brave and dedicated soldiers that make America's Armed Forces the best in the world. And clearly there is a strong sense of duty, honor and love of country that runs in the Harris family and has been passed on from father to son. Their spirit of service represents the very best of what Kentucky has to offer our great Nation.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing SSG Gary Harris and CWO Jonathan Harris for the many sacrifices they have made to our country. Kentuckians everywhere are honored to know and love such brave heroes.

IRAQ

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I call this body's attention to the recent developments in Iraq. Last month, Iraqis went to the polls to vote in the second provincial election since the hand-over of power in 2004. Elections were conducted peacefully under the watchful eyes of Iraqi security forces, and the results were quickly certified by the United Nations.

This peaceful expression of political will is yet another demonstration of political progress in Iraq. Less than 2 years after some were declaring the war lost and the surge a failure, violence has declined, and the world—most importantly the Arab world—saw Iraqis peacefully voting, their security ensured by an increasingly competent Iraqi army and police.

Not only was the election process successful, the results also merit attention. The Iraqi people voted in favor of secular parties competing with the Iranian-backed religious parties. These results in many ways represent a remarkable change from the 2005 provincial elections that strengthened many extremist and foreign-backed parties opposed to the central government. Sunnis, who largely boycotted the 2005 elections, participated broadly in January's election. Their involvement should enhance national reconciliation and bolster a more moderate and diverse government representative of the Iraqi people.