

I am proud to stand before you tonight and say without question that the tradition, the character, the fortitude, and the dignity displayed by those Marines at Iwo Jima 52 years ago lives on today. It lives on in the 174,000 men and women who serve in the United States Marine Corps.

They hold the torch of freedom. They are the ones who sacrifice each day so that this nation may live free. They are the ones who are on station at a distant shore, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year defending our liberty and preserving our security.

As you admire the parade this evening, I urge you to look closely at these young men and women. Look at their demeanor. Look into their eyes and you will see the spirit of those 80,000 Marines who served at Iwo Jima. Look into those eyes and you will see the pride, the discipline, the commitment to God and country that distinguishes our Corps of Marines from any other fighting force on Earth.

Look into those eyes and you will see a window into the soul of this great Nation.

As parents, one of the most important values that we can transmit to our children is to remember, and to honor, those who fought, sacrificed and perished on behalf of freedom.

As a United States Senator, I take great pride in having played a role in naming the LHD-7 the "Iwo Jima. From my perspective, as long as marines are deployed in defense of liberty, there must always be an Iwo Jima in the fleet.

This ship, the finest of its kind, will carry on the legacy of those fresh faced leather-necks who turned the tide of history 52 years ago. It is an event to be commemorated. It is a ship worthy of the distinction.

Sender Fidelis.

REMARKS OF HON. JOHN H. DALTON

Thank you General Krulak, for that kind introduction. Senator Smith, Assistant Secretary Stuart (Sandra Stuart, ASD—Legislative Affairs), Rear Admiral Ryan, Major General Haynes, Veterans, especially those Veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima (seated ahead and to your left) and serving members of our Armed Forces, ladies and gentlemen.

I am honored to be here, at this glorious moment, a bold and powerful testimony to the commitment and sacrifice of those proud Marines and Sailors who fought and died to preserve America's precious freedoms and liberties. The Iwo Jima Memorial commemorates a great moral and strategic victory in the Pacific campaign of World War II, and one of the fiercest fights in the annals of combat.

In this battle we took more casualties than the enemy, in this battle there were more medals of honor awarded than in any other battle in U.S. history. We simply had to have that island.

The outcome of that struggle was not only the preservation of the greatest Democracy and Nation in the world, but also the subsequent spread of democratic forms of government to distant and foreign shores.

In that light, Iwo Jima represents not just a single, costly battle, so long ago. It symbolizes also, the proud heritage of our Marines and Sailors who recognize a greatness beyond themselves and their service. Because of Iwo Jima and battles like it, the world can appreciate America's commitment to democracy and justice. It led nations toward a more peaceful world, a world in which we all pray there will never be another Iwo Jima.

I am constantly reminded of the Battle for Iwo Jima. In my office hangs a painting of Joe Rosenthal's famous photograph after which this memorial is sculpted. I have met

Joe Rosenthal and the sculptor of this great work, Felix De-Weldon. And just 2 years ago, I was honored to stand on the top of Mount Suribachi, and participate in a Memorial Service on the 50th anniversary of the battle.

But perhaps my greatest reminder of all are daily encounters with Marines and Sailors of today's Naval Service. These encounters give me total confidence that the supreme sacrifice of those who went before is embodied in the fighting spirit of today's Marines and Sailors.

My hope is that all Americans would have the opportunity to be reminded of their servicemembers' fighting spirit and willingness to sacrifice, as I so often am as Secretary of the Navy. That is why I am proud to announce today, that the Navy and Marine Corps' newest amphibious warship, the seventh of our WASP class LHD's, will be named U.S.S. *Iwo Jima*.

LHD-7, the U.S.S. *Iwo Jima*, to be christened at the turn of the century, will embody the most powerful technology and weapons capability available to our Navy and Marine Corps Team. U.S.S. *Iwo Jima*'s ultimate strength will be the ability to deter aggression. And her lifeblood will be our Sailors and Marines who man the deckplates, they will fulfill the tradition of sacrifice so honorably held by those who fought and died at the battle of Iwo Jima.

I think it is appropriate to recall the words of Chaplain Roland Gittelsohn when he dedicated the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima fifty-two years ago. On February 19, 1995, Rabbi Gittelsohn recalled his words when he participated at a ceremony here, commemorating that battle. He said then, and repeated 2 years ago:

"Here lie officers and men of all colors, rich men and poor men together. Here are Protestants, Catholics and Jews together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudice. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy.

Any man among us, the living, who failed to understand that, will thereby betray those who lie here . . . whoever lifts his hand in hate against a brother, or thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in a minority, makes of . . . their sacrifice an empty, hollow mockery.

Thus do we consecrate ourselves, the living, to carry on the struggle they began. Too much blood has gone into this soil for us to let it lie barren."

Those words spoken in honor of fallen Marines and Sailors hold a living truth. The truth is that we, the living, must carry on their struggle for liberty and freedom everyday, and in everything we do. I am confident that our Navy and Marine Corps Team embodies that continuing struggle. And I am proud that this great Nation will commission the U.S.S. *Iwo Jima* in the year 2000, to honor those of you who fought there, and the enduring legacy of our fallen comrades who so dedicated their lives to this great Nation. God bless this great memorial and the selfless sacrifice it represents. God bless our Navy and Marine Corps, and God bless America.●

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. KERREY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending business be set aside so I may speak on

a bill introduced earlier today on behalf of myself and Senator MCCAIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate currently is in a period for morning business. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. KERREY. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. KERREY pertaining to the introduction of S. 909 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I see there is no one still here on the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SENATE PAGES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I do not know whether the distinguished occupant of the Chair has noticed, but we have 20 new pages as of today. Every year I say they can't get any better, but they do. They are fine young people who come here from all across the country. They work hard, as they will discover as the days go by and the temperature gets hot in the debate, and messages will be floating back and forth like Tennyson's brook.

But I want you to know that here is one Senator who welcomes you. I am proud of you. I think you are going to enjoy your time in the Senate.

Mr. President, I hear from the pages, former pages, of years ago, with some regularity. They send me pictures of their new babies. They send me pictures of themselves and in their wedding gowns. It is interesting to track all these young people as they have moved into maturity and have become good citizens. I even know of two who are serving in State legislatures now. So, tempus fugit.

When I came on to the Senate floor from the cloakroom, I was told that the wrap-up material would be presented in about a minute. It will be here. And I am not going to suggest the absence of a quorum. So there.

These young people are lucky, I might add, because there is no school in the summertime, is there? But the rest of the year, they start school at 6:15 in the morning. Classes begin then. And unless the Senate runs past—what is it?—10 o'clock in the evening—the 6:15 a.m. time is still in effect for the pages.

So now I feel like I am back in television with producers standing in the background saying "Stretch it. Stretch it."

I guess I may as well suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.