

very quickly with a minimum of excess effort, almost always satisfying the interests of the constituent or the person with whom we were trying to work.

It is with mixed emotions that today I pay tribute to Jeanine Esperne on her next to last day on my staff as she moves on to another opportunity. I do so not only because she has worked for me in a way which exemplifies the way most Members would have their staffs work with them, but I think it is important for our constituency to know that we have very fine staff in the Congress, that our work could not be done without that staff, and that when we take the opportunity to praise the staff, it is really to praise their exceptional abilities and the way in which they have served our constituents.

In the case of Jeanine Esperne, I certainly express all of those sentiments, wish her very well in her new endeavors, and certainly suggest that occasionally those Members who are so busy doing jobs here take the time more often to thank those staff who, after all, are responsible for so much of our success.

Jeanine Esperne, good wishes and thank you for all of your services on behalf of the U.S. Government, and on my behalf specifically.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### KOSOVO

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the agreement signed yesterday between NATO and Yugoslavia is hopeful news as we move toward our goals of ending the atrocities and genocide in Kosovo and bolstering stability in southeastern Europe. The vote by the UN Security Council today authorizing an international peacekeeping force in Kosovo is yet another hopeful sign.

This agreement is a victory for freedom. It is a defeat for dictators around the world. NATO's resolve to halt and redress Milosevic's crimes against humanity sends an important message to world leaders who engage in ethnic cleansing and other atrocities. NATO's victory over Yugoslav aggression also sends a positive signal to the forces of democracy in the region.

President Clinton deserves immense credit for his leadership throughout this 11-week military operation. When so many said it was impossible, he kept a 19-member NATO alliance intact. When so many said it would never work, he stuck to the air campaign that led that NATO alliance to victory.

The President never wavered in his commitment to the alliance's goals of ending the atrocities in Kosovo, forcing the withdrawal of Serb forces from the

region, and ensuring the safe return of Kosovar refugees to their homes. President Clinton's steadfast resolve, together with our NATO allies, forced President Milosevic to back down and accept NATO's conditions for a halt in the bombing campaign.

It would appear that some of those who were most critical of the President's Kosovo policies were more concerned with waging a political assault than in stopping the Serbs' military assault on Kosovo. But now that the Serbs have conceded defeat, one can only hope that those who were so harshly critical of the President might concede they were mistaken.

Our NATO allies also deserve great credit and much gratitude. They understood the long-term implications of failing to address the Yugoslav threat to Kosovo and to regional stability. They met the challenge head-on and showed that NATO remains the most formidable military alliance in the world.

And the front-line states—Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Romania—were forced to experience firsthand the consequences of Milosevic's ethnic cleansing. They, and the Republic of Montenegro, should be commended for accepting hundreds of thousands of refugees and enduring the instability caused by the actions of the Yugoslav government.

Of course, those truly on the front lines were our U.S. military forces who contributed so skillfully to the success of the air campaign. They deserve our full support and our thanks for carrying out their mission so bravely, and for achieving our military goals with virtually no casualties.

It is now vitally important that the United States and our NATO allies remain vigilant to ensure that the Serbs live up to their agreement so that the Kosovars can return to their country and their homes, and rebuild their lives. They have a right to live in peace without fear of further atrocities.

The agreement reached yesterday is cause for great hope that we can achieve those goals, and I want to again commend the President, our troops, NATO, and those front line countries who gave so much for the success and the victory that we celebrate today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I commend the democratic leader on behalf of the entire country for the statement he has just made. Think for just a minute what has taken place: Thousands and thousands of individual sorties by 19 member nations. There are some, who were detractors, who referred to this as Clinton and GORE's war. No, it was not Clinton and GORE's war, but rather a war of those people of good will around the world, and certainly in this country, who detest evil, repudiate ethnic cleansing, and, in short, believe that atrocities by bullies like Slobodan Milosevic should be no more.

So, I am confident and hopeful this will send a message to those around the world who feel they can maim and kill and displace those people with whom they disagree for purposes only they understand—the color of their skin, their religion—a message that this will no longer happen.

So I, too, applaud the Commander in Chief. I especially applaud Secretary of Defense William Cohen for his leadership and commend all the American forces deployed in the Balkan region who have served and succeeded in the highest traditions of our country, and, finally, I wish to thank the families of the brave service men and women who participated in Operation Allied Force, who have borne the burden of being separated from their families for these many weeks.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—KOSOVO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of a Kosovo-related resolution; that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc; and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have to object at this time, not that I will object to it in the end. The Senate will go on record on this matter, but we just saw the language 15 minutes ago. I have already initiated a process to have it reviewed by the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, the chairman of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, and other interested Senators, to make sure they are comfortable with the language, because it does go beyond just the resolution we see underway now concerning Kosovo and the withdrawal of the Serbian troops and, hopefully, the return of the Kosovars. It also goes into some language with regard to what should happen in Kosovo now and also language with regard to President Milosevic.

All I am saying is we want to review the language and make sure all interested Senators are aware of it. We will be glad to work with Senator REID, Senator DASCHLE, and others to have a statement by the Senate on this matter, as we usually do when there are events such as this.

I do want to go ahead and say for the Record, as others have, that the Senate is, I am sure, and I personally am very pleased an agreement appears to have been worked out and appears to be going forward.