

amendment targets these flexibilities specifically to the area of aviation security so that we can immediately begin the process of ensuring the public's safety.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Before the Senator leaves the floor, we would like to report to him that I finished speaking with Senator HOLLINGS. Senator HOLLINGS and Senator MCCAIN have worked together in the Commerce Committee for many years now. I think the cooperation the two of them have shown during this difficult time of the past 3 weeks is exemplary. I personally appreciate the work the two of them have done, setting aside partisan differences and moving through difficult issues. I, too, hope we can figure out a way to move on to complete the work we have before us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I join my colleague from Nevada in complimenting my friend from Arizona. It is also very much my hope and desire that we can bring up the airport security bill and complete it tomorrow. I heard my colleague from Arizona say that both he and Senator HOLLINGS are willing to object to amendments that are not relevant to the underlying package. That is a concern of a lot of people. That will help streamline and finish the bill.

I hope and believe we will have the bipartisan leadership in agreement with that so that we can keep non-germane amendments off this package and we can pass the airport security bill. Then we can work on other issues together as well. I hope that is the case. We have had good progress in working in a bipartisan way on a lot of issues. I would like to see that the case on this package as well. Then we can take up the antiterrorism package next week and finish it as well.

I thank my friend.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REID). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR DOUGLAS P. PETERSON

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the

Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 167, submitted earlier today by Senators MCCAIN, KERRY, GRAMM, and myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 167) recognizing Ambassador Douglas "Pete" Peterson for his service to the United States as the first American ambassador to Vietnam since the Vietnam War.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, on behalf of the other Senators—and I know they are in various negotiations on other legislation; in Senator MCCAIN's case, the Airline Security Act, and in the case of Senator GRAMM, he is involved in the Intelligence Committee right now—I say on behalf of all of them, and for me, what a great privilege it is to recognize a public servant, Ambassador Pete Peterson, who served as a Member of Congress prior to being named by President Clinton as the first United States Ambassador to Vietnam.

We bring forth this resolution commending Ambassador Peterson because of his extraordinary leadership in helping bring about the Vietnam Trade Act, which this Senate passed earlier today. What is so poignant about this story of Douglas Pete Peterson is the fact that when he first went to Vietnam during the Vietnam war as an Air Force pilot, he was shot down and captured and held in captivity for over 6 years. He was able to return to that country as Ambassador and has won the hearts of the people of Vietnam.

I remember reading a story that absolutely gripped me about a few days before Pete Peterson departed as Ambassador to Vietnam, he had a reunion with one of his captors. This was a captor who, at a time of great stress, after Pete had been beat over and over again to the point of unconsciousness, and he did not know if he was going to live or die at that particular point, in his stupor of coming in and out of consciousness, he motioned to one of his captors that he was thirsty, and his captor brought him a cup of tea.

A couple of days before Pete was to depart as the first Ambassador from America to Vietnam, and a very successful Ambassador, he had a reunion with that captor, and that Vietnamese gentleman offered him a cup of tea again.

How times had changed and what a great leader for us to have representing America where he held no grudge; he did not want revenge. He offered the best of America showing that we are a forgiving people. After serving six distinguished years as a Member of Congress from the State of Florida, for Pete, a Vietnam POW, to return to that country that had held him captive the longest as one of the POWs, then to come back extending the hand of

friendship with no malice in his heart, was to win the hearts of the Vietnamese people. In the process, he negotiated and tweaked and nurtured the Vietnam trade bill, which we passed earlier today.

It is with a great deal of humility that I speak on behalf of so many others, including Senator MCCAIN. Although he was not in the same POW camp with Ambassador Peterson, he clearly knew of him and thinks the highest of him. My words are inadequate to express the thoughts of all these other Senators.

I want to say one thing in closing about Pete Peterson. He is not only a hero to so many in his public and professional life—his professional life as a military officer, as a Member of Congress, and as our first Ambassador to Vietnam—but he is also a role model as a human being. After he returned from Vietnam, he suffered through the years of a long and torturous process of cancer with his first wife, finally claiming her life, but Pete Peterson was right there with her the whole way. He had the joy in Vietnam of meeting an Australian diplomat's daughter of Vietnamese descent, his present wife Vi. They make an engaging and attractive couple.

Mr. President, I offer these comments of appreciation as we pass this resolution.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, four years ago, I rose in this body to encourage my colleagues to confirm the nomination of my friend Pete Peterson to serve as the American ambassador to Vietnam, the first since the end of the Vietnam War. When we confirmed Pete for this important assignment in 1997, many of us could not have foreseen his success in building a normal relationship between our two countries.

Indeed, the best measure of Pete's success is the fact that it seems quite normal today for the United States to have an ambassador resident in Hanoi to advance our array of interests in Vietnam, which range from accounting for our missing service personnel to improving human rights to cooperating on drugs and crime to addressing regional challenges together. That normalcy is due largely to the superb job Pete did as our ambassador to Vietnam.

As a former fighter pilot shot down and held captive for six and a half years, some would have assumed it was not Pete's destiny to go back to Vietnam to restore a relationship that had been frozen in enmity for decades. Indeed, there was a time in Pete's life when the prospect of voluntarily residing in Hanoi would have been unthinkable. Much time has passed since then. Our relationship with Vietnam has changed in once unthinkable ways.

Pete rose to the occasion and helped us to build the new relationship we enjoy today. Pete's willingness, after having already rendered many years of noble service to his country, to answer