



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003

No. 97

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 7, 2003, at 2 pm.

Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003

The Senate met at 10:15 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Before the Congress of the United States leaves to celebrate Independence Day, we pause to pray to You, Lord God, for the repose of the soul of Senator Strom Thurmond. Lord, reward this most senior statesman for his many years of pledged service to this country.

As the Source of life and justice that will last forever, You have inspired the Founders of this Nation, individuals such as Senator Thurmond and citizens across this land, to continually seek what is right: to pursue lasting values for themselves and for all their brothers and sisters; and to pray always that they may grow in virtue and so strengthen this democracy.

Our national celebration this year is an occasion for us to thank and praise You for this form of government, for its leaders and for the natural and human resources with which You continue to endow this great Nation.

May we also take this moment to pray for the new Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Chaplain Barry Black. Guide him by Your holy inspiration to ably respond to the needs of the Senators and this community. Gift him with the spirit of wisdom and prayer. And may

he always find joy in serving You by serving in this august chamber. You, Lord God are America's boast now and forever! Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as Senator from Alaska, I note there is no quorum. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will begin a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF STROM THURMOND

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes at this time to express my sympathy to the family of Senator Strom Thurmond, one of America's most dynamic leaders in this past century, a man who lived through extraordinary change in his life, a man whose commitment to his country was unwavering.

I had the opportunity in 1997 to travel with him to China. He was 94, I believe, at that time. His vigor and his strength were extraordinarily impressive to me and all of us who traveled with him. He wanted to see The Wall. He wanted to meet the people of China. He would tell them: America and China are friends. We want to be better friends. He made very perceptive and appropriate remarks.

Then we met Jiang Zemin at his resort in the month of their vacation time and Strom made an extraordinary speech that reflected so well America and had so comprehensive an understanding of the relationships of our countries. That just struck me particularly.

We went out to a Chinese army base. He trooped the line of a group of Chinese troops. I remember saying to him afterwards that I never thought I would be in Communist China, seeing Strom Thurmond, the great cold warrior, troop the line of a group of Chinese troops. But he was extraordinary in that way.

I had come up to this Senate in the mid-1980s as a nominee and it wasn't a very pleasant experience. I will never forget and will always appreciate his

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S8819

courtesy and support for me at that time and enjoyed responding a little bit to that when I was able to come back to this Senate and he was leader on the Senate Judiciary Committee, chairman of the Armed Services Committee. It was just a pleasure to work with him.

He lived through a complete change in the South. He reflected the change that went on in our region of the country. I think he did it in a positive and especially important way. His leadership in moving from the days of segregation to a new era of relations between the races was very important and positive throughout the South.

He served his country in an almost unprecedented way. He was 40 years old when World War II began. He was an elected judge in his home State and he was an army reservist. He insisted that he be allowed to be on active duty and they allowed him to do so. I understand at first it wasn't going to happen.

He ended up in England when they were planning for the Normandy invasion. A number of people were called upon to fly gliders in during that invasion at the time. He volunteered to fly on a glider, one of the most dangerous missions there could be. The planes would pull up these gliders and get them going and just let them go and they would have to find a place to land down behind enemy lines—extraordinarily high risk. Many were killed on landing. Many were killed in combat, many were separated, many were injured. That is the kind of man Strom Thurmond was.

I asked him one time: Strom, did you stay in until Germany surrendered?

He said: Oh, yes, we stayed until Germany surrendered and we were on a train coming back when they declared the war on Japan was over. We were being sent to the East.

He was prepared to go there. As long as this country was in combat he wanted to be there, committing his life, his every effort to the defense of this Republic. He did so in the Senate and he did so in uniform and as a leader in South Carolina.

He was beloved in his State, respected to an awesome degree. He won his Senate race on a write-in vote with a substantial majority, the only Member, I believe, in the history of this Senate ever to be elected on a write-in vote. That shows the power and the energy and the vigor and the leadership of this man. I have appreciated his friendship.

I know his family is hurting at this time and my sympathies are extended to them. I know the great members of his staff, Duke Short and the whole team that worked with him for so many years, are hurting today and our sympathies go out to them as well as to the family.

Mr. President, I know you served with Senator Thurmond so many years. The two of you together have conducted a remarkable effort to maintain our military strength and leader-

ship in the world. He was certainly committed to that.

There are many other things I could say. I will not at this time. I just express my sympathy to his family, his friends, the people of South Carolina, and those around this great country who will mourn his passing.

I thank the President and yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. May the Chair request the Senator to occupy the Chair so this Senator may speak about Senator Thurmond?

Mr. SESSIONS. I will be honored to. Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, next Tuesday it will be my honor to be part of the funeral delegation to South Carolina to attend the funeral of our departed President pro tempore. When I first came to the Senate, I was in the Gallery up there watching the debate on the Alaska statehood bill. A filibuster was being led against that bill by the Senator from South Carolina. As a matter of fact, he held up the bill for a considerable period of time.

Because of his opposition, we developed a strategy of trying to get the bill passed by the Senate without amendment—passed by the Senate as it had come to us from the House, without amendment. It was, I think, the only statehood bill in history that ever passed both Houses in identical form without amendment by the Senate. We did that because we knew if the bill went to conference and came back, Strom Thurmond would have another shot at the bill and another filibuster.

I remember that today because I remember how, when I did finally arrive here in 1968 as a Member of the Senate, Strom came up to me and said: I remember you, boy.

And he remembered I had been part of the group from the Eisenhower delegation that worked on our bill. We formed a friendship that day that I never expected to have.

Strom was, as I have said, a distinguished member of the U.S. armed services. He was the oldest officer to land in Normandy. As we all know, he landed in a glider. The pilot was killed. I talked about that with Strom because I had been trained to fly gliders. Even though I was a pilot, some of us were trained to fly gliders in case they needed glider pilots and I had anticipated I might have gone to Normandy. Instead, I was sent to China. When I returned and was a Member of the Senate here, we often discussed our wartime service. Of course, he was considerably older than I was and his experience was entirely different. But over the years I grew, really, to have great fondness for Senator Thurmond, despite our original, really, antagonism. Believe me, as an advocate for statehood for my State, anyone who was going to filibuster that bill was not exactly a friend at that time. But as we grew together and grew older together here in

the Senate, Strom became a person who did give me a lot of guidance. At one time he was chairman of the Armed Services Committee and I was chairman of the Defense Subcommittee for Appropriations, and we did a lot of work together.

But my memory of Strom really goes back to the time after 1981 when we had a dinner for the new President pro tempore as we had taken the majority in the Senate. Strom became President pro tempore. I was the assistant leader. Senator Baker was the leader. We had a dinner at one of the local hotels. Senator Baker and his wife Joy and I and my wife Catherine were at the head table. When it became Strom's time to thank the people there for honoring him, he started talking with the people at the head table, and he came to me. I had just been remarried. Catherine and I were married in December of 1980. Just before that dinner, she had informed me we were going to have a child.

Strom stood up and was introducing people. He came to me and made some kind remarks about me. And he turned and said: Here is his lovely lady who has now joined our family. She is a beautiful woman, and isn't it nice that she is with child?

I thought Catherine was going to break my arm and bust my head. I grabbed Strom and asked him to come over and tell Catherine I had not told him that. She did listen to him for a moment or two. And he smiled, and said: Child, he never told me. He never told me anything about that. He said: I just looked at you. I can tell when a woman is in flower.

Mr. President, being from Alabama, you can understand the way he pronounced that.

It is something I will never forget. When our child came, he became Uncle Strom to Lily Stevens. Every day he sat here in that chair, he would ask me about Lily. Lily, as a matter of fact, last evening had a tear in her voice as she called to tell me she had heard about Strom.

Strom was really a member of this Senate family. He got to know every one of us in a way that I think no one else did because no one else was near 100 years old. He was like a 1,000-pound gorilla around here; he did what he wanted to do, but he did it in a way which really reflected his southern heritage. He was a southern gentleman to the core.

I have to tell the Senate that there are many things Senator Strom Thurmond did in his life with which I didn't agree. There were many votes he cast here on the floor that I opposed. But I can't think of a person who more epitomized being a Senator and what it meant to be a Senator. He lived up to his principles, and he lived up to the idea of what this democracy is about. He was, I believe, one of the finest Senators who will ever serve in this body.

I am honored, following him as President pro tempore, to go back and participate in the services and to once

again remind his people who sent him to the Senate that he was a person who became a very distinguished Senator whom history will always admire.

Thank you very much.

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

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am deeply moved this morning, as are Senators all over America today—not only those who are present in the Senate, but so many who have gone on from the Senate to other careers—about the loss of our distinguished colleague Senator Thurmond. I think it is coincidental, and indeed most fitting, that the Presiding Officer in the Chamber this morning is the son of the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island, Senator John Chafee.

I first met Senator Thurmond when I joined then the Secretary of the Navy, John Chafee, as his principal deputy and in later years to succeed him. Really, our first call was to come to the Senate to meet with Richard Russell, John Stennis, Strom Thurmond, John Tower, and Barry Goldwater. I remember our calls as the brand-new team of the Secretary of the Navy during the height of the war in Vietnam—at least one of the periods of great intensity—was in 1969. Senator Thurmond greeted us in his office in the same way that he greeted me throughout my 25 years in the Senate. Each of those years—except since his retirement in January that I shared with him, as did John Chafee and others—it was a learning experience every day you were with him.

I stop to think of the men and women of the Armed Forces today all across the world, engaged in fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, and guarding the outposts of freedom. They have not lost Strom Thurmond because they have the wealth of the memories of him. I don't know of any class of individual—perhaps other than his immediate family—for whom Senator Thurmond had a deeper or more abiding love and devotion than those in uniform.

This record last night covered briefly his distinguished military career, and I don't doubt others will address that. But we always remember that he was a judge in the State of South Carolina. By virtue of his age at that time—I think right on the brink of 40, give or take a year—he would not have been subjected to the draft. He would not, by virtue of his judicial position, have had to leave that position and go into the Armed Forces—other than by his own free will. He resigned his judicial post to go into the ranks of the U.S. Army, where he served with great dis-

tingtion, going in on D-Day with the airborne assault divisions, landing, helping those who were wounded—that was his first call—and then marshaling the forces to mount the offensive against the German army, and going through those matters until victory in May of 1945.

When we walked into his office, two things always struck me. One was the portrait that was obviously painted in the period when he was Governor—straight, tall, and erect, eyes that were penetrating, eyes that reflected a tremendous inner confidence and conviction, but eyes that had a soft side, because he did have a soft side. He loved humor. He was very often the object of a lot of humor, including respectfully from this humble Senator. But what a tower of strength. I served with him these many years on the committee as really an aide-de-camp—yes, a fellow Senator, but I was happy to be “general” Strom Thurmond's aide-de-camp on many missions—missions that took me abroad on occasions when he was chairman, and missions from which I learned so much at the hand of the great master on the subject of national events. He was unwavering in his steadfast support of Presidents, be they Democrat or Republican, and unwavering in his resolve for the care of the men and women in uniform on active duty, their families, the retirees. And, oh, Mr. President, did he love the National Guard. There wasn't a bill that went through the Armed Services Committee and conference when he wouldn't tug on my shoulder and say let's beef up a little bit for the Guard and Reserve here. Remember, in times of crisis, they are among the first to respond.

That bit of wisdom has proven ever so true. Going back to the Balkans campaign, the Guard was actively engaged at all levels of that campaign. The Air Guard, for example, flew so many of the missions carrying food, medicine, and other supplies to the ravaged civilians and others in Sarajevo. I remember I joined one time in one of those missions. I remember it so well because the plane behind ours was shot down and lost—just to point up the risks that those Air Guard took on those missions.

Now, today, in Operation Iraqi freedom, worldwide against terrorism, once again the Guard and Reserve are in the forefront—a Guard and Reserve that have benefited through the many years of Strom Thurmond being a Senator and receiving a fair allocation of equipment and money, often in competition with the regular forces.

But Strom Thurmond was there with his watchful eye on the Armed Services Committee to ensure that degree of fairness for the Guard and Reserve. He rose to the rank of major general. I mentioned his portrait as you walked in. Then, in a very discreet way, there was a large frame that contained all of his many decorations. He rarely talked about them. As a matter of fact, only

after one tried to elicit facts from him would he share facts about the combat of war and what he received in World War II, and the other recognitions by our Government and other governments for his contribution to freedom worldwide.

So I say to my dear friend—really a big brother—I thank him for all he has done for the world, for the Nation, for this humble Senator and, I daresay, many others of my contemporaries, as we came along in this institution on the learning curve that was often at the hands of Strom Thurmond.

My final thoughts are with his family, his wife and children, all of whom I have known throughout these years, and with whom I have had the privilege so often to be photographed, from little sizes all the way up, as we do through the years with our colleagues. But I know the Presiding Officer's father, were he here today, would join in the most fervent and heartfelt expressions with regard to our comrad, our colleague, our dear friend, Strom Thurmond.

ONGOING MILITARY OPERATIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this morning we had another meeting organized by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, with Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Staff, General Pace, together with representatives from the intelligence agencies.

This is the third time Secretary Rumsfeld has been to the Senate this week. He has been in close consultation with the Senate during these perilous days for our Armed Forces around the world, and most particularly in Iraq. Our discussions, by necessity, were largely related to classified matters and were behind closed doors.

I do share with my colleagues two thoughts. I sensed by those colleagues—quite of number—who joined us this morning a heartfelt concern for the men and women of the Armed Forces who, around the clock, 7 days, 7 nights, are in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, most particularly, and we share in the bereavement of their families for those who are lost from time to time.

Steadfast this Nation must remain in its resolve to bring to a conclusion the hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan, such that the peoples of those two countries can themselves create a government free of oppression and persecution to enable them to have a very large measure of freedoms, freedoms we enjoy in the form of democracy, beginning with speech, privacy, and a sense of security in their homes, in their workplaces, and in the nation.

This is a long and courageous struggle worldwide, headed by, if I may say most respectfully, a very strong and courageous President of the United States, George Bush, and those principal deputies and many others right