

those tools. This bill aims to change that. This bill is a bill whose time has come. This bill is a necessary bill. And I, as a Senator from California, am happy to support it." (Senator Feinstein, Congressional Record, October 25, 2001)

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, May 31 is Memorial Day, the day we set aside each year to remember and to honor those men and women who gave their lives in service to our Nation.

Memorial Day used to be called Decoration Day in the old South—the day that we reminisce in our memories of our past, our locking with hands or words our lives with others, our children, grandchildren, and people whose voice is forever stilled.

This year, this day has even more meaning as we once again find our men and women in uniform engaged in hostilities in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Freedom does not come cheap. It is too often paid for not only in dollars but in the lives of America's best sons and daughters.

All across the Nation out there, all across the prairies, the plains, the green valleys, the mountains, the rivers, the rust belt, the East, the North, the South, and the West—all across the Nation, families will be visiting the gravesites of their loved ones.

Long, long be our hearts of such memories filled like the vase in which roses have once been distilled. You may break, you may shatter, the vase if you will, but the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

Among rows of tombstones adorned with small American flags, they will lay wreathes and pay their respects to those who have served our country with honor and distinction in our Nation's wars.

This national tribute will provide the opportunity for mothers and fathers not only to tell their children about the sacrifices of their ancestors and relatives but also to pass on valuable lessons about history and about humanity. But even when our world is beset with the worst of human nature, the best of human nature can rise above it all.

I am reminded today of the story of the "Immortal Chaplains" of World War II, Rev. George I. Fox, Rev. Clark V. Poling, Father John P. Washington, and Rabbi Alexander D. Goode. When the U.S. troopship *Dorchester* was torpedoed by a Nazi submarine, with only minutes to live, these four chaplains calmly handed out what life-

jackets there were on the ship to the panicking passengers, the soldiers and sailors. When they ran out of life preservers to hand out, what did these four chaplains do?

Can you see it? Can you envision a moment like that?

They took off their own life preservers and gave them away. They gave them to others so others might live.

Then, as the *Dorchester* was sinking, what did they do? They locked arms and prayed, and sank to their watery graves. They prayed, locked arms, and went to their watery graves.

While some among us might not hesitate to take off that life preserver and give it to our spouse, certainly, our child, or a parent, how many of us would give it to a stranger, as did the immortal chaplains. Self-sacrifice, unity, and respect for each other and each other's faith were the qualities they displayed that night, and in so doing these four chaplains of four different faiths demonstrated their deep faith in God and they honored the mission of our great Nation.

These four chaplains, as I say, were of different faiths. Two were Protestant ministers, was one a Jewish rabbi, and the fourth was a Roman Catholic priest. But they were united as one in their devotion to their Maker, their love for their fellow man, and their willingness to sacrifice so that others might live. It was these convictions that inspired one of the most memorable events not just of World War II but of all time.

Memorials in their honor have been built in the country. The U.S. War Department posthumously awarded them the Distinguished Service Crosses. The U.S. Postal Service issued a special stamp to commemorate their sacrifice. Congress has honored them by authorizing the Four Chaplains Medal and with a resolution designating a Four Chaplains Day.

Think about it. Amidst all the great and important military leaders such as Generals Patton, MacArthur, and Eisenhower, amidst all the great and powerful political leaders of that war such as Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, we also remember these four humble men of God.

Yes, think about it. Amidst all of the destruction and all of the carnage of that war, destruction, and carnage in the form of an Auschwitz, Pearl Harbor, Dresden, and Hiroshima, we remember the immortal chaplains for their act of kindness and mercy.

Yes, think about it. Amidst all the misery and tragedy of that war, amidst all the hate and all the horror of that war, we still remember the four chaplains and their act of heroism and love.

Today, a half century later, we again find ourselves in a terrified world, a world that we did not seek, a terrifying world, a world that we did not want but one in which we must endure if we are to prevail. War, disease, crime, and terrorism have transformed our land into a code red world.

Every generation has its turmoil. That is, sadly, the way of the world. And this particular terrifying era of adversity and challenge in which we now find ourselves, we would do well to bear in mind those immortal chaplains, the four who refused to succumb to fear and performed selfless acts of kindness and mercy.

They truly, truly personified the greatest of men in all generations. The sacrifice of those four men endures as an inspiring act of humanity. For as Jesus said: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for another.

So on this Memorial Day, we will pray as we remember those American service men and women who now stand in harm's way yonder on the other side, yonder in a faraway land. We will pray for those who are serving our Nation in the dangerous climates of Iraq and Afghanistan. They are doing their duty for the families they love, and we will pray for their families and for the families who have already lost loved ones, who daily see that empty chair at the table, the chair which never again will be filled, that place at the table which will forever be empty.

And as we pray, we will recall the words of the Scriptures from Psalm 127: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

So I close with lines written by Joyce Kilmer.

"DULCE ET DECORUM EST"

The bugle echoes shrill and sweet,
But not of war it sings to-day.
The road is rhythmic with the feet
Of men-at-arms who come to pray.
The roses blossom white and red
On tombs where weary soldiers lie;
Flags wave above the honored dead
And martial music cleaves the sky.

Above their wreath-strewn graves we kneel,
They kept the faith and fought the fight.
Through flying lead and crimson steel
They plunged for Freedom and the Right.

May we, their grateful children, learn
Their strength, who lie beneath this sod,
Who went through fire and death to earn
At last the accolade of God.

In shining rank on rank arrayed
They march, the legions of the Lord;
He is their Captain unafraid,
The Prince of Peace . . . Who brought a sword.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, Memorial Day is always a time for our country to gratefully remember the brave men and women and their families who risked their lives in defense of our country and our fundamental American values.

This year is a special time because we will dedicate a long awaited national memorial for the 16 million men and women who fought in World War II, including the 400,000 Americans who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country during the war. Almost 234,000 West Virginians served in World War II. At that time, it was 36 percent of the Mountain State's male population,