

the Chinese philosopher whose "Art of War" speaks to us today as it did centuries ago. As Sun Tzu said:

If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the results of 100 battles.

In fact, some might suggest we are learning about our enemy too late in Iraq today.

The point I make is this type of attack has no place, it does not conform to history, it undercuts the spirit of that moment, a moment in which every American came together as one people, indeed, as the world responded to us. That unanimity may have lessened over the last several months, but it was there. To view September 11 any other way is a gross distortion. Mr. Rove should apologize for it.

He went on to attack my colleague, the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN. Senator DURBIN has apologized for his comments, and that apology is appropriate. But to continue to attack this individual does nothing to advance any of the ideals or aspirations or policies that we must be engaged with. What it does is distort a person, someone I have come to know, respect, and admire. Someone who is caring and concerned for people, whose thoughtfulness, whose intense commitment to doing what is appropriate for all Americans, and who is particularly sensitive to the needs of our military forces has impressed me.

Like anyone who has had the privilege of serving and understanding in the U.S. Army or any uniformed service, I had the privilege of commanding paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division. We understand the extraordinary courage and bravery and valor of those individuals.

I have been impressed many times with Senator DURBIN's commitment to help those individuals in meaningful ways by providing the equipment they need, by ensuring that our veterans who have served with distinction are not ignored. The attacks on him are without correlation to the person and to the service of this individual.

I hope Mr. Rove would apologize for these remarks and would refrain in the future from distorting the historical record. I don't think that is too much to ask of someone who is in such a position of power in the White House.

At this point, it is sufficient to conclude by saying I hope, indeed, that we can avoid this kind of personalized attack, this gross distortion, which is untrue, misleading, and divides a nation and does not unite it. I hope we move on to substantive policy as we face real problems that face this Nation.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent there now be 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.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FIRST LIEUTENANT NOAH HARRIS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise today to read from an e-mail sent to me in May of this year:

Our presence here is not just about Iraq. It is sending a message to the oppressed peoples of the world that freedom can be a reality. Freedom is the greatest gift that we, the U.S., have been granted, and as such, it is our responsibility to spread it. For it to become a permanent fixture in our future and our children's future, we must give it to all those that desire it.

Mr. President, that is an e-mail to me from 1LT Noah Harris, of Ellijay, GA, from Baghdad, Iraq.

On Saturday of this past week, First Lieutenant Harris died in the service of his country. His e-mail to me expressed democracy and freedom far better than I am capable of doing.

Noah Harris served as an intern in Congressman DEAL's office 2 years ago, which is where I had the occasion to meet him.

When I received his e-mail, I sat down at my desk in my office and wrote him a note thanking him for his service to his country and his fellow man.

This morning, I rise to pay tribute to the life that has been given on behalf of the greater good. Noah Harris was the type of young man who serves without desire for credit or acclaim in Iraq today but on behalf of his country and everything we stand for.

At the age of 23, he embodied the hope of the future. His sacrifice, in fact, ensures that the future for others will be brighter.

He captained his high school football team, was never beaten in the State in wrestling, went to the University of Georgia and captained the cheerleaders at that institution.

He came to Washington to serve as an intern. Shortly after September 11, 2001—struck, as all of us were, by the tragedy of that day—Noah Harris volunteered to serve in the U.S. military and, to the greater good, the people of the world.

On Saturday, at noon of this week, in Ellijay, GA, I and hundreds of other Georgians will pause in the northwest Georgia mountains to pay tribute to the life of Noah Harris.

I am privileged and pleased to stand on the floor of the Senate today in advance of that to acknowledge our thanks, on behalf of this Senate, and all who serve in this Congress, and our President, for the life, the times, the service, and the gift of 1LT Noah Harris.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I stand before this body tonight with a

heavy heart. One of Georgia's best and brightest young soldiers has paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country in the War on Terror. Tonight the people of Ellijay, GA are grieving the loss of one of their bravest sons on the battlefield of freedom.

In our Nation's noble struggle to spread democracy, First Lieutenant Noah Harris gave his life in Baqubah, Iraq.

Noah, a member of the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, died of wounds suffered as a result of an explosion near his armored vehicle around midnight, June 17, 2005.

Noah's death came one week before his birthday. Most young men his age would be making plans for a celebration; however, this young hero choose the battlefield instead.

Nearly 24 years old, this brave patriot was eager to serve his country and to spread our message of freedom and democracy to oppressed nations. His tragic and untimely death is a testimony of his passion and dedication to freedom's call.

The only child of Rick and Lucy Harris, Noah was a state champion wrestler and the captain of his high school football team. A natural leader and athlete, Noah took these skills to the University of Georgia where he was the captain of the cheerleading squad.

As a 1999 graduate of Gilmer High School, Noah's gifts were not merely athletic. He was honored as a scholar athlete during the Peach Bowl. These are but a few of the admirable accomplishments and achievements that endeared Noah to all of those with whom he came in contact.

While a student at UGA, Noah was motivated by the attack on our country on September 11th. Noah walked in to the ROTC office immediately after 9/11 asking to serve. Told he was too far along in his studies, Noah persisted until he was allowed to join the ROTC. You see, Noah believed passionately that there were no exemptions from serving in the cost of freedom.

A personal longing to promote liberty and help the Iraqi people who had long suffered under Saddam Hussein were a constant theme in Noah's letters home to his family and friends, but ever humble, Noah shrugged off the gravity of his commitment adopting the simple mantra "I do what I can" in response to being called a hero.

Noah believed that a greater good was worth fighting for and recognized the power of leading by example which exemplifies the qualities in each one of our Nation's treasured soldiers.

Noah's vision and passion to achieve a greater good for the people of Iraq is an excellent model for those who come after him to continue the fight against freedom's foes.

Noah aspired to serve in public office, and he was also interested in real estate as a personal career. A passionate advocate for the mission in Iraq, Noah expressed the urgency of the cause

when he was home visiting friends and family during his leave in May.

It is clear that Noah had a caring heart, as his friends recount that he was known to give Beanie Babies to the children in Iraq.

In tribute to Noah, members of the Gilmer County community will assemble at Gilmer High School Friday June 24 at 2 p.m. to distribute yellow ribbons across Gilmer County in preparation for the celebration of Noah's life on Saturday June 25, what would be his 24th birthday.

The ribbons will line highway 52 East in Ellijay to Highway 515, which stretches from the county line to the Ellijay First United Methodist Church, the site of the memorial service.

Another soldier in the vehicle was killed, and the driver was injured severely in the explosion. Noah and his fellow soldiers were transporting two captured insurgents during night operations in the Baquba neighborhood of Buhritz.

Noah's fellow soldier, Corporal William A. Long of Lilburn, GA, also died from injuries sustained in the blast. Three years ago, after talking with his stepfather and stepbrother, who are former members of the military, William joined the Army.

After his enlistment expired, he was very aware that his unit would be deployed to Iraq. His desire to serve our country and free the Iraqi people, however, led him to re-enlist.

A resident of Atlanta for most of his life and a Berkmar High School alumnus, William was well-mannered and well-liked by all. His family describes him as a "perfectionist" and "basketball-lover."

Ironically, before going to Iraq, William participated in more than 700 funerals as a member of the prestigious "Old Guard." Many of those funerals were held at Arlington National Cemetery, the cemetery where William will be buried.

President Ronald Reagan once said:

Putting people first has always been America's secret weapon.

That secret weapon drives the American spirit to dream and dare, and take great risks for a greater good. Noah and William represented the true heart of servant leadership. Their desire was to first, serve others, not themselves.

My wife Julianne and I wish to extend our sympathies and our prayers to both Noah's and William's family, friends, and fellow soldiers. Their sacrifice will not be lost or forgotten. May God bless Noah Harris and William Long.

IRAQ

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this morning in the Armed Services Committee, Secretary Rumsfeld and Generals Myers, Casey, and Abizaid briefed us on the status of the war effort.

Secretary Rumsfeld said, once again, that it is a tough road ahead but that we must persevere and he sees reasons

to be hopeful. Secretary Rumsfeld was describing a different war than most persons are concerned about. The war in Iraq they see is one of mistake after mistake. Whatever our position on the Iraq war, we should all be concerned that the administration has not handled it competently.

Secretary Rumsfeld needs to see what the American people see very clearly: The President does not have a winning strategy in Iraq. Our troops have been asked to do more with less. Our current strategy isn't working and the Congress and the American people know it.

Secretary Rumsfeld insists today that it is false to say the administration is painting a rosy picture. But that is exactly what he continues to do. It is time for Secretary Rumsfeld to take off his rose-colored glasses and admit to the American people and to our men and women in uniform who are paying the price with their lives for its failures that he had no realistic strategy for success.

It is time to level with the American people instead of continuing to paint an optimistic picture that has no basis in reality because of his failed strategy. And it is time for Secretary Rumsfeld to resign.

Despite the elections last January and the formation of a new transitional Iraqi government, many are increasingly concerned that the administration has no effective or realistic plan to stabilize Iraq. It continues to underestimate the strength and the deadly resilience of the Iraqi insurgency and it has failed shamefully to adequately protect our troops. More than 1,700 American service men and women have been killed in Iraq so far and over 13,000 more have been wounded. The families of these courageous soldiers know all too well that the insurgents are not desperate or dead-enders or in their last throes, as administration officials have repeatedly claimed.

Instead, General Casey indicated that the insurgency is around 26,000 strong, an increase over the 5,000 the Pentagon believed were part of the insurgency 1 year ago.

As General Myers said in April, the capacity of the insurgents "is where they were almost a year ago." General Abizaid told the committee today that the overall strength of the insurgency is "about the same as it was" 6 months ago. Looking ahead, as General Vines said this week, "I'm assuming that the insurgency will remain at about its current level."

In the last 2 months, America has lost an average of three soldiers a day in Iraq, and no end is in sight. As General Myers said on May 12.

I wouldn't look for results tomorrow . . . One thing we know about insurgencies is that they last from . . . three, four years to nine years.

Because of the war, our military has been stretched to the breaking point.

The Department of Defense has had to activate a stop-loss policy, to pre-

vent service members from leaving the military as soon as they fulfill their commitment.

Nearly 50 percent of the persons serving in the regular Armed Forces have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since December 2001, and nearly 15 percent of them have been deployed more than once.

Thirty six percent of all those serving in the Armed Forces, including in the National Guard and the Reserves, have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan of since December of 2001.

The alarm bell about the excessive strain on our forces has been ringing for at least a year and a half. In January 2004, LTG John Riggs said it bluntly:

I have been in the Army 39 years, and I've never seen the Army as stretched in that 39 years as I have today.

As LTG James Helmley, head of the Army Reserve, warned at the end of 2004, the Army Reserve "is rapidly degenerating into a 'broken' force" and is "in grave danger of being unable to meet other operational requirements."

These continuing deployments are taking their toll not only on our forces in the field but also on their families here at home. The divorce rate in the active-duty military has increased 40 percent since 2000.

The war in Iraq and the casualties and the strain on families have seriously undermined the Pentagon's ability to attract new recruits and retain members already serving. Both the Regular and Reserve components of the Armed Forces are increasingly unable to meet recruitment goals. MG Michael Rochelle, head of the Army Recruiting Command, stated the problem succinctly in May when he said that this year is "the toughest recruiting climate ever faced by the all-volunteer Army."

In March, the Pentagon announced it was raising the maximum age for Army National Guard recruits from 34 to 39, and was also offering generous new health benefits for Guard and Reserve members activated after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Despite these facts, Secretary Rumsfeld insisted today that we will not have a broken Army as a result of the war.

The severe strain the war is placing on our Armed Forces and on our ability to protect our national security interests in other parts of the world concerns us all.

The Army has been forced to go to all-time new lengths to fill its ranks. In May, it began offering a 15-month active duty enlistment, the shortest enlistment tour in the history of the Army.

To recruit and retain more soldiers, the National Guard has increased its retention bonus from \$5,000 to \$15,000. The first-time signing bonus has gone up from \$6,000 to \$10,000. GEN Steven Blum, Chief of the Army National Guard, said:

Otherwise, the Guard will be broken and not ready the next time it's needed, either here at home or for war.