

out by the facts. I will stand by GEN Colin Powell and others, people I admire, who have given so many years of their lives in service to this country who agree with President Obama to close the Guantanamo facility, trust our supermax facilities to hold these detainees if that is necessary, and be aware of the fact that if we should ship these detainees to some other country to be tried or for some other purpose, there is a serious question as to whether they will treat them the way they should be treated for the safety of the United States.

For many years, incidentally, President George W. Bush said he wanted to close Guantanamo. There were not any complaints from the Republican side of the aisle then. President George W. Bush could not get the job done. President Obama has said he will try to finish that job.

I hope some of these who are critical of President Obama and his position will not make a political issue about Guantanamo. If President George W. Bush and President Obama agree it should be closed, it is pretty clear to me that at the highest level of our government there is a bipartisan consensus. Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are criticizing President Obama when it comes to Guantanamo, but the fact is, they have no plan but to leave that facility open and continue to see it being used around the world against the United States and as a recruiting tool for terrorists.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join with GEN Colin Powell and join with those on their side of the aisle who understand that closing Guantanamo will make America safer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business and the time to count against closure.

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

(The remarks of Mr. KAUFMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1210 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, 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. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, on May 17, 2009, the President of the United States, the Honorable Barack Obama, delivered the commencement address at the University of Notre Dame, in South Bend, IN, the State I have the honor of representing in the U.S. Senate where I for a time served with then-Senator Obama.

Although I was not able myself to be present at this ceremony, my friend and former colleague, Dr. John Brademas, who for 22 years served as the U.S. Representative from the district centered in South Bend, was at Notre Dame for this occasion and has told me what a brilliant address President Obama offered.

Here I note that since 1981, John Brademas has been president or president emeritus of New York University where, as he did while a Member of Congress, he continues to give outstanding leadership to the field of education in our country.

President Obama was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of laws on this occasion by the Reverend John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., president of the University of Notre Dame, and was greeted as well by the Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of Notre Dame.

Because I believe my colleagues in Congress—and others—will be interested in reading President Obama's remarks at Notre Dame, I ask unanimous consent to have the address printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, congratulations, Class of 2009. Congratulations to all the parents, the cousins, the aunts, the uncles—all the people who helped to bring you to the point that you are here today. Thank you so much to Father Jenkins for that extraordinary introduction, even though you said what I want to say much more elegantly. You are doing an extraordinary job as president of this extraordinary institution. Your continued and courageous—and contagious—commitment to honest, thoughtful dialogue is an inspiration to us all.

Good afternoon. To Father Hesburgh, to Notre Dame trustees, to faculty, to family: I am honored to be here today. And I am grateful to all of you for allowing me to be a part of your graduation.

And I also want to thank you for the honorary degree that I received. I know it has not been without controversy. I don't know if you're aware of this, but these honorary degrees are apparently pretty hard to come by. So far I'm only 1 for 2 as President. Father Hesburgh is 150 for 150. I guess that's better. So, Father Ted, after the ceremony, maybe you can give me some pointers to boost my average.

I also want to congratulate the Class of 2009 for all your accomplishments. And since this is Notre Dame—we're following Brennan's adage that we don't do things easily. We're not going to shy away from things that are uncomfortable sometimes.

Now, since this is Notre Dame I think we should talk not only about your accomplishments in the classroom, but also in the com-

petitive arena. No, don't worry, I'm not going to talk about that. We all know about this university's proud and storied football team, but I also hear that Notre Dame holds the largest outdoor 5-on-5 basketball tournament in the world—Bookstore Basketball.

Now this excites me. I want to congratulate the winners of this year's tournament, a team by the name of "Hallelujah Holla Back." Congratulations. Well done. Though I have to say, I am personally disappointed that the "Barack O'Ballers" did not pull it out this year. So next year, if you need a 6'2" forward with a decent jumper, you know where I live.

Every one of you should be proud of what you have achieved at this institution. One hundred and sixty-three classes of Notre Dame graduates have sat where you sit today. Some were here during years that simply rolled into the next without much notice or fanfare—periods of relative peace and prosperity that required little by way of sacrifice or struggle.

You, however, are not getting off that easy. You have a different deal. Your class has come of age at a moment of great consequence for our nation and for the world—a rare inflection point in history where the size and scope of the challenges before us require that we remake our world to renew its promise; that we align our deepest values and commitments to the demands of a new age. It's a privilege and a responsibility afforded to few generations—and a task that you're now called to fulfill.

This generation, your generation is the one that must find a path back to prosperity and decide how we respond to a global economy that left millions behind even before the most recent crisis hit—an economy where greed and short-term thinking were too often rewarded at the expense of fairness, and diligence, and an honest day's work.

Your generation must decide how to save God's creation from a changing climate that threatens to destroy it. Your generation must seek peace at a time when there are those who will stop at nothing to do us harm, and when weapons in the hands of a few can destroy the many. And we must find a way to reconcile our ever-shrinking world with its ever-growing diversity—diversity of thought, diversity of culture, and diversity of belief.

In short, we must find a way to live together as one human family.

And it's this last challenge that I'd like to talk about today, despite the fact that Father John stole all my best lines. For the major threats we face in the 21st century—whether it's global recession or violent extremism; the spread of nuclear weapons or pandemic disease—these things do not discriminate. They do not recognize borders. They do not see color. They do not target specific ethnic groups.

Moreover, no one person, or religion, or nation can meet these challenges alone. Our very survival has never required greater cooperation and greater understanding among all people from all places than at this moment in history.

Unfortunately, finding that common ground—recognizing that our fates are tied up, as Dr. King said, in a "single garment of destiny"—is not easy. And part of the problem, of course, lies in the imperfections of man—our selfishness, our pride, our stubbornness, our acquisitiveness, our insecurities, our egos; all the cruelties large and small that those of us in the Christian tradition understand to be rooted in original sin. We too often seek advantage over others. We cling to outworn prejudice and fear those who are unfamiliar. Too many of us view life only through the lens of immediate self-interest and crass materialism; in which the