

petroleum exports by penalizing those who buy Syrian oil or invest in its energy sector—an approach Congress has supported in the past against Iran.

I urge others to support this legislation and for the Congress to pass it expeditiously.

And when the crackdown in Syria began, I joined Senators LIEBERMAN, MCCAIN, CARDIN, KYL and at least 20 others on a Senate resolution condemning the violence. I understand that Senator PAUL has had a hold on that resolution for a number of months. I call on Senator PAUL to work with us on his concerns in a timely manner so we can move forward putting the Senate on record about these tragic events in Syria.

There is more still the international community can do.

Russia, China, India, Brazil and South Africa are still blocking a United Nations Security Council resolution that could impose more sweeping international sanctions on Syria. That some of these countries have emerged from decades under their own repressive regimes, only to sit silently as Assad slaughters his own people is extremely troubling.

Russia and China should also pledge not to purchase any surplus Syrian oil which is used by Assad to pay off his enablers and security henchmen.

Human rights monitors, humanitarian workers, and journalists must be allowed in the country.

And the International Criminal Court should look into indicting President Assad on war crimes.

This administration has shown great skill and diplomacy in navigating the turbulent calls for change in the Middle East.

These are demands from everyday people for a better life, for a chance to freely choose one's government, and to see hope and dignity for one's children.

The people of Syria should know that the rest of the world is watching and supporting their aspirations for freedom.

Saturday night in a suburb of Chicago I had a meeting with about 30 Syrian Americans, and we spoke at great length about the situation in the country of their birth. Many of them still have relatives, family, and friends, in Syria, and they are following on YouTube and through the international media the events of the day. They showed me on one of the computers nearby some of the YouTube footage which showed the Syrian security forces literally shooting a man dead, point blank. You could see him lying in the street, and you could see the blood flowing from his body.

To suggest that these peaceful protesters are anything else is to misstate the obvious. These people, by and large, in the streets of Syria are asking for the same thing that was asked for across the Middle East. They are asking for a chance for reform, for change, for self rule.

I promised my friends and people I represent in Illinois who have such

strong feelings about Syria that I would do my best when I returned to Washington this week. This floor statement is just the beginning.

A few moments ago, I got off the telephone, having had a phone conversation with Ambassador Ford, who is in Damascus. He has done an exceptional job for our country. He has risked his life to let those who are protesting peacefully know that the United States is in their corner. We talked about the situation on the ground. He is a man of great talent and experience in the Middle East, and he analyzed all the different forces at work.

We know that Iran is, in fact, the major supporter and promoter of Assad and his repressive regime. We know, as well, that these five countries in the United Nations—Russia, India, China, Brazil, and South Africa—are stopping the United Nations action when it comes to Syria. I find it hard to imagine how some of these countries, in light of their own history, could ignore the obvious: the killing of innocent people in the streets of Syria. It cannot be tolerated, should not be condoned, and should not be protected by their veto in the United Nations.

I am going to work with President Obama and this administration and my friends in Congress on both sides of the aisle to let the people of Syria know that what is happening there has not been ignored by the U.S. Congress. I hope Senator RAND PAUL of Kentucky will at least lift his hold on bipartisan legislation which we have pending here which will express that sentiment in the strongest of terms.

The people of Syria deserve that message, to know that the people of the United States, through their elected representatives in the Senate, understand their plight, stand behind them, and will work to bring justice to their country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

SOUTH BOSTON VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I rise to express my congratulations and best wishes to the people of South Boston,

MA, as they honor their community's long tradition of service to country on the 30th anniversary of the South Boston Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Thirty years ago, on September 13, 1981, the people of South Boston, led by their own citizens who had served in the Vietnam war, became one of the first communities in the United States to build and dedicate a permanent memorial in honor of those who had given their lives in Vietnam. I was privileged to be a speaker at the original dedication of the memorial, and I am honored to be returning to South Boston this year in order to once again pay tribute to those who served.

It is difficult for many of the generation that followed us to understand how bitterly our country had been divided by that war and how long it took to overcome if not resolve the divisions, often along class lines, that were left in its wake. I do not seek to reopen those wounds today, but it should not be forgotten that 25 young men from this solidly working-class community gave their lives in Vietnam, while Harvard College, located nearby on the far banks of the River Charles, lost a total of 12 out of the 11 classes from 1962 to 1972.

In building this memorial, the people of South Boston took it upon themselves to honor their own, and in so doing they reignited the spirit of service to country, not only here in Boston but elsewhere across our country. It was built through the dedication of friends and neighbors, acting together to honor and remember the service and sacrifice of those they knew and loved.

Many veterans from this community took strong roles in bringing the memorial to fruition, but I would like to extend a special recognition to Tommy Lyons, a Marine Corps veteran of Vietnam, who not only provided spirited and determined leadership on this Memorial but also went on to found the Semper Fidelis Society in Boston, which every November brings together more than 1,000 marines of all ages and wars for the most well-attended veterans' lunch in America.

Mr. President, 25 names are engraved on the South Boston memorial—all of them "Southie Boys," 15 of them marines, 9 soldiers, 1 airman. One of them was a lieutenant; the other 24 were enlisted men. All of them represent the best of citizen service, the willingness to put one's life on the line on behalf of our country.

In closing, I ask that the names of those inscribed on the memorial be printed below:

Joseph J. Agri, USMC
Charles A. Bazzinotti, USA
Richard J. Borovick, USA
John C. Calhoun, USMC
John H. Cole, USMC
Paul M. Daley, USA
Ronald L. Delverde, USMC
Joseph F. Desmond, USMC
Joseph W. Dunn, USMC
Devon M. Enman, USA
Gene D. Grover, USMC
Frank C. Hubicsak, USA

Douglas J. Itri, USA
 John P. Jacobs, USMC
 John G. Joyce, USA
 Edward W. Milan, USAF
 James E. O'Toole, USA
 Burton W. Peterson, USMC
 Paul H. Sheehan, USMC
 James J. Stewart, USMC
 Edward T. Stone, USMC
 Edward M. Sullivan, USMC
 Joseph E. Thomas, USMC
 Donald J. Turner, USMC
 James K. Wheeler, USA

REMEMBERING 9/11

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today on this most moving and memorable of occasions after we as a nation joined together to mark the solemn 10th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2001. Throughout my home State of Maine and across this great land, Americans are uniting as one nation indivisible as we pause to remember with the heaviest of hearts the tragedy that befell our nation 10 years ago—a morning that changed America—and Americans—forever.

We are all a different people in America—no matter our faith or ancestry—as a result of the horrific events on 9/11 that are ingrained upon the landscape of our consciousness for all time. We all know where we were and what we were doing at the precise time they happened. As many of us remember the assassination of President Kennedy, and some Pearl Harbor, our children will remember this day.

As we recall, that morning began with such remarkable blue skies, but ended with a Nation in mourning and stunned disbelief. In Washington, DC, I watched the images along with the rest of the world. Later, as the Sun set over the National Mall—still capped by smoke billowing from the wound in the side of the Pentagon—I will never forget gathering with my colleagues in the House and Senate on the Capitol steps to sing “God Bless America.” We sang to send a message to the country and to the world that we would never be deterred—that freedom would never be crushed by the blunt and remorseless instruments of terror.

The notes of “God Bless America” still reverberate, the resilience we recaptured as a country remains pressed upon our national psyche, and the memory of the inspirational sacrifices of so many heroic Americans who perished that morning will forever have a home in our hearts and our prayers.

On this September 11 as in all that have preceded it, we mourn the loss of those eight individuals from Maine who were taken from us all too soon—Anna Allison, Carol Flyzik, Robert Jalbert, Jacqueline Norton, Robert Norton, James Roux, Robert Schlegel, and Stephen Ward.

We remember the heroic acts of valor that will always distinguish the men and women of 115 different nations who went to work that day, or boarded a plane, or rushed to the aid of strangers whose lives they believed were as vital

as their own—and never returned home. If 9/11 was a snapshot of horror, it also became a portrait of consummate humanity. If it laid bare the unimaginable cruelties of which humankind is capable, it also etched forever within our minds the heights to which the human spirit can rise—even and especially in the face of mortality.

Each had a soul, and having visited Ground Zero in the aftermath, I can tell you their presence still triumphed over the twisted destruction—and it always will. We recall that during one of the darkest days in our Nation's extraordinary and storied history, we also witnessed our Nation's mettle and solidarity, the inexhaustible courage and undaunted bravery that provided us with boundless inspiration and hope that sustained us then and inspires us today.

And nowhere was that more evident than with the first responders who, in the face of unspeakable adversity and peril, heroically ran toward the very dangers others were desperately trying to escape, placing their lives in harm's way in the most courageous and valiant of endeavors to save others without regard for their own safety.

As Americans, we are awed by the noble examples of courage and selflessness that emerged. When the alarm went off in fire stations across New York, firefighters were changing shifts. If they were on the way home, they turned around. If they were finishing up at the firehouse, getting ready to leave, they stayed. Some were retired—veterans already at home—and they reported in. Many were to find themselves climbing higher and higher in those great silver towers toward a fate that must have become clearer with every step.

Their valiant service and sacrifice are also a vivid reminder of the remarkable men and women exceptional enough to don our country's uniform to serve and defend our nation. Whether on our shores or soil here at home or around the globe, their steadfast sense of duty and love of country are an inspiration to us all, their commitment fortifies our will, and their professionalism steadies our hands in an uncertain world.

As I gathered with Mainers across our State, I could not help but feel that inescapable, palpable sense of patriotism that binds us all together as Americans. It is also, I believe, a continuation of the heightened love of country all of us experienced when our Nation's bravest and finest—in this case our Navy SEALs—achieved what Americas detractors said was unachievable. They triumphantly rid the world of public enemy number one, and brought justice to the evil incarnate that was Osama bin Laden.

In speaking of bin Laden, I have often sounded the refrain that you can run but you cannot hide. Well, thanks to the combined might of our military, intelligence, and counter-terrorism professionals, the message sent to the

terrorists of the world with the death of Osama bin Laden is that America will prevail no matter how long it takes, whatever it takes, no matter where you are.

Though justice was finally rendered, the unending pain of loved ones lost does not ease with the passing of years, and yet out of these atrocities emerged heroes who were then and will forever be shining testaments to the very best of who we are as a nation. And so, today, we memorialize those whose lives were stilled on September 11, and at the same time, we cannot help but extol the courage and indomitable spirit they exhibited.

It was an unmistakable message to the world that we would never be deterred—that our freedoms could never be crushed by the cowardly instruments of terror that are no match against a resilient people certain in the knowledge that good ultimately triumphs over evil.

What better symbol could there be of our mettle as a people than the historic National 9/11 Flag initiative. Americans across our country are stitching together the tattered remnants of one of the largest flags that flew over the wreckage at Ground Zero. When our beloved banner of freedom arrived at the U.S. Capitol on July 14, I cannot begin to convey the sense of honor and privilege I experienced in contributing to its restoration. And to share in this event with first responders, 9/11 families, and veterans made this moment one I will treasure, always.

This expression of love for our homeland speaks to the inescapable belief that our strength as a nation has always emanated not from Washington, but from the people themselves—from tireless patriots of their own volition performing the most extraordinary of deeds.

Patriots like the exemplary Freeport Flag Ladies—Elaine Greene, Carmen Footer, and JoAnn Miller, who have waved American flags on Main Street every Tuesday morning, rain, snow, or shine, since 9-11 in tribute to those who have sacrificed for all of us—our brave servicemen and women and our first responders. It was the highest of honors for me to join them early Sunday morning on Main Street in Freeport to wave flags on the 10th anniversary.

Amid the trials and tribulations that this date in our history evokes, we take solace in the sacred truth that none of us grieves alone—that there are no strangers among us, only Americans. Indeed, out of the rubble rose our resolve, out of despair grew our determination, and out of the hate that was perpetrated upon us proudly stood our humanity. And so, we venerate the American spirit that is stronger than stone and mortar, tougher than steel and glass, and more permanent than any pain or suffering that can be inflicted upon us.