

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half.

The time for morning business has been extended until 12:30.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I see my two colleagues from Connecticut on the Senate floor. I know they are here to speak about the horrible tragedy in Newtown last Friday. I will abbreviate my remarks on the floor, and I commend both of them for extraordinary statements last night at a memorial service. I will never forget some of the things they shared with us about this terrible tragedy.

I come to the floor this morning for a few moments to pay tribute to one of my great friends and one of my great colleagues, DANNY INOUE, who passed away yesterday. The majority leader has done such an extraordinary job recounting his life, and I think back to what it must have meant to him as he witnessed Pearl Harbor at the age of 20. He said that he realized at the time that the pilots in those planes that were bombing his family and others in Hawaii were people of the same ancestry as his father, and it hurt him. It hurt him as well to be branded as suspect because of his Japanese origin and to see literally tens of thousands of Japanese Americans interned in camps because their loyalty was questioned.

He took the opportunity to volunteer and serve our Nation to prove his loyalty and that he was willing to risk his life for America. He served in one of the most highly decorated units in all of World War II, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was comprised of Japanese Americans who fought in the European theater. They recently came to Washington to be honored. Senator INOUE was there, and it was a great moment to see these men of the "greatest generation" who have proven to America their love for this country, and none more so than DANNY INOUE.

Senator REID has recounted in detail the incredible story of his bravery that earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor, but he was such a humble man. When we look back on his life, there were so many aspects of it that were historic in nature, and one would never know it in conversations with him or working with him.

Senator REID had the same experience I did. I visited Senator INOUE's office, and it was unusual by Senate standards. I looked across the office, and there were no pictures of DANNY INOUE on the walls, and there were no

awards for this man who served more than half a century in Congress.

I said to him: It is interesting that your office has a lot of artwork and photos but nothing about DANNY INOUE.

He said: No, I didn't want to put those things up. I wanted everyone to feel at ease coming in here. I didn't want to talk about my party affiliation or what I had done. I want them to feel comfortable and to know this is a welcoming office.

That is the kind of person he was. Time and again, he proved it.

He started off in the territorial House of Representatives in Hawaii. When Hawaii became a State, he served in the Congress and later in the U.S. Senate. He was there from the beginning, and what a dynamic leader he was for his State of Hawaii. He did so many great things over the years.

I was at the same Prayer Breakfast Senator REID recounted. There was one other story he told, which I will only refer to in the most abbreviated form. He talked about his experience as a sniper and how he still had in his mind the images of those enemy soldiers he shot down. After 50, 60 years, he could not get those images out of his mind.

He talked about befriending one of his fellow veterans in the Michigan veterans hospital. He told me this great story he shared at the Prayer Breakfast. He said that when he was an officer, he would spend his weekends in the great city of Chicago at the Knickerbocker Hotel. He said that was the hotel for officers.

He said: I would come into Chicago and have a great time on the weekends and head back to the veterans hospital.

Well, he finally talked one of his fellow Hawaiians—a man whose face had been literally burned off—into joining him on one of his trips to Chicago. The man was embarrassed by his appearance and didn't think anybody would want to be around him or talk to him. DANNY INOUE prepared all of these different places where they would stop in during their visit, and every one of them greeted Senator INOUE and his friend in a warm fashion.

The story goes on from there, and I won't go into the details, but he was a man who always looked to help someone else. He talked about how this man who had been so brutally injured in the war returned to Hawaii, raised a family, and was DANNY INOUE's friend for life, as so many of us were.

I think back as well to Senator Robert C. Byrd's funeral in West Virginia. It was one of the hottest days I can remember. We were up there baking in the sun at this memorial service for Robert C. Byrd. I intentionally picked a seat next to DANNY INOUE. I had to take off my jacket. I was mopping the perspiration off, and I looked at him in his dark suit without a bead of sweat.

I said: How do you do that?

He said: Well, you know, the Asian religions are very important in my life, and they believe mind over matter can

achieve great things. I can visualize myself sitting in a deep freeze now, and I am not hot at all.

I thought, this man is amazing in so many different ways. When he is done with his life, those stories—some serious, some lighthearted—will reflect so well on this man and what he meant.

One of the most important things I have on my agenda is the passage of the DREAM Act. I have worked on it for 11 years, and there was a time on the floor of the Senate—September 21, 2010—when I could not break the Republican filibuster on the DREAM Act, and I was pretty despondent over it. Senator REID came to the floor and said a few kind words about my efforts, but then out of nowhere Senator INOUE sought recognition. He knew that I was trying to get for millions of these young people living in America a chance to serve their Nation, prove their love, and become legal citizens in America. I will read what he said because it touched me. He said:

Madam President, I wish to step back in history, if I may. On December 7, 1941, something terrible happened in Hawaii—Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese. Three weeks later, the Government of the United States declared that all Japanese Americans, citizens born in the United States or of Japanese ancestry, were considered to be enemy aliens. As a result, like these undocumented people, they could not put on the uniform of this land.

Senator INOUE went on to say:

Well, I was 17 at the time, and naturally I resented this because I loved my country and I wanted to put on a uniform to show where my heart stood. But we were denied. So we petitioned the government, and a year later they said: OK, if you wish to volunteer, go ahead.

Senator INOUE said:

Well, to make a long story short, the regiment I served in, made up of Japanese Americans, had the highest casualties in Europe but the most decorated in the history of the United States.

He turned and said:

I think the beneficiaries of the Senator from Illinois—

And the DREAM Act—will do the same.

It was the type of short statement that in a few words captured his life, his sacrifice, and what he had proven by risking his life for this country. There is a reason we honor him this morning.

I close by saying two things. First, Senator AKAKA came to the floor last night—his colleague of so many years—and put in a few words. He said on the floor last night:

Tomorrow will be the first day since Hawaii became a State in 1959 that DAN INOUE will not be representing us. He really worked to shape Hawaii and this great country.

He went on to say:

You will be missed in Washington as much as you will be missed in Hawaii. Rest in peace [Senator INOUE].

That was DANNY AKAKA's farewell tribute, and it summarizes how much he meant to Hawaii and how much he meant to America. His last word:

“Aloha.” As Senator REID said, it is so appropriate that this kind and gentle American hero would leave the message of love for everyone else. That was his life.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the eloquent remarks made by my colleague Senator DURBIN, Senator REID, and all those who have come to praise a one-of-a-kind Senator and extraordinary human being, my friend DAN'S INOUE.

I was telling Senator LIEBERMAN that when the Senate put on a little retirement dinner for our retiring Senators—including Senator LIEBERMAN—there was Senator INOUE. When we look back, it was only 2 weeks ago. We know he could not have been strong, he was not well, but he came to that dinner and sat at that table because of the love and respect for the individual Senators and for this institution.

As for me, I will miss DANNY'S sonorous voice, his big heart, his self-effacing manner, his integrity, and his patriotism.

Over the years, so many of us have worked together on so many issues with DAN. I worked on bringing a state-of-the-art, first ever comprehensive casualty care center to my State to take care of the wounded vets who were coming home without their limbs, post-traumatic stress, and all the problems they had. There was no such place on the west coast, and with DAN'S help—and we worked with Senator Stevens—we got it done. Now that facility really stands as a tribute to DAN'S INOUE.

In 2010 I had a very difficult campaign, as most of us did at that time, and DAN'S said: I am going to come out there and help you. I was under fierce attack, and we had an event for veterans. DAN'S was a speaker, and I was a speaker. As I was speaking, we heard these voices of screaming demonstrators yelling things that were not complimentary toward me, let's put it that way. It was very loud, and I was so humiliated and embarrassed. Here was this amazing patriot, and they would keep screaming when DANNY was speaking about my work and his work for veterans. Sure enough, the demonstrators kept it up, and I was so upset.

I went up to him and I put my arm around him when he was finished and said: DAN, I am so embarrassed. I am so sorry.

He said: BARBARA, they are not going to beat you by screaming. Don't worry about it.

He went on to go to a couple of other events, and he took his wife to them. He was extraordinary.

I loved DANNY with all of my heart. Every time I looked at him, I smiled because he was so good. He was such a good person, and I pay tribute to him today. I don't think we will ever replace him. We will never replace this

remarkable American. He personified the meaning of love and the meaning of country.

I send my love to his family.

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT TRAGEDY

Mrs. BOXER. In my remaining remarks, I want to talk about what happened in Connecticut.

First, to the Senators from Connecticut, I send all my strength. I have gone through things like this, although not quite the same. As a mom and grandma, I know all of our hearts are broken. So many people are touched by gun violence.

I want to go back to July of 1993. A gunman with an assault weapon walked into a law office in San Francisco and killed eight people and wounded six. Just as we see in Connecticut, the stories of heroism came forward. One of the people who was killed was a brave young lawyer who threw his body over his wife's body, sacrificing his own life to save hers. That young man was one of my son's best friends. This was so long ago, but it feels like yesterday because time stops when these things happen.

I know without a shadow of a doubt how these horrific and senseless tragedies live on with the survivors and all of us forever. The psyche of the parents, the spouses, the children, the families, and the friends is pierced forever.

Yes, as human beings, after these tragedies we come together. We try to find meaning, we try to find justice, and we try to find love in the midst of the mayhem. Some find solace in their faith and their God, some find solace in their communities, and some never find solace.

The slaughter of the innocent must stop. I say to my colleagues in Connecticut how deeply everyone has been touched by this tragedy. In my communities at home, people are running up to me and saying: Our hearts are breaking. He killed babies. They were barely on this Earth. They trusted us, and we failed them.

Some of the people coming up to me are proud gun owners, and they are saying: Why couldn't we stop a sick person like this from getting a high-capacity clip? The gunman didn't even have to reload his weapon until he fired off 30 shots.

There is the whole issue of protecting our schools, which is something I have cared about. I have a school safety act. I have introduced it so many times, and I will introduce it again.

Instead of having an appointment with a mental health professional, this mentally ill young man had an appointment with death. People say: Don't talk about doing anything about this now; it is not the time. To them I say: When is the time?

If we go back to 2009—that is the last year we have records—31,347 people died from gun violence in our Nation.

That is 87 people every day of the year. Another 73,000-plus were injured. So 87 people a day are killed by gun violence. When is the time to speak out? Because every day there is another tragedy.

Without going into specifics, there are certain things we need to do.

First, we have to take the weapons of war and high-capacity clips off our streets; second, we have to ensure that local law enforcement is involved in concealing carried permits; third, we have to close the gun show loophole so background checks are conducted; fourth, we have to keep guns out of the hands of the mentally ill and get them the help they need; five, we need to keep our schools safe by utilizing all the law enforcement tools at our disposal.

We have failed our children. We have to stop worrying about our political skins because judgments will be made about us. So let's pull together. Let's show our children we love them, not just by telling them we love them—we must do that—but by showing them we will protect them.

I send my love to everyone in Connecticut trying to pull themselves together. I send my love and support to my colleagues whom we will hear from now.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

I also wish to thank my dear friend and colleague from California for her words of support and comfort and resolve. We appear to be in one of those periods of time where we are walking too often through the valley of the shadow of death. Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have come to the floor to speak about the tragedy that occurred; the senseless, horrific attacks on innocent people in Newtown, CT, last Friday.

Mr. President, I note with extraordinary respect and a sense of loss the death of our truly beloved colleague Senator DAN INOUE of Hawaii. America, as Senator REID and Senator DURBIN made so clear, has lost a true hero, a patriot. This Senate has lost a great leader—a leader whose accomplishments have been literally historic. I think all of us have lost a friend.

Last evening, Senator AKAKA spoke about how DAN INOUE'S legacy—I am paraphrasing—was all around Hawaii and all he had done for the State. The truth is I think most every State in the country is full of legacies of the service of DAN INOUE. I know it is true of Connecticut.

It was truly my honor to serve for 24 years with DAN INOUE. He was exactly the opposite of all the caricature pictures people have of Congress today and particularly about the rabid partisanship and personal incivility. DAN was a great gentleman and the most civil of people, the kindest and most decent of people. As Senator REID said, he was a proud Democrat, a faithful