

floor today to speak of the tragedy that struck the Kennedy family last Friday night. I offer my condolences to the Kennedy family, and in particular to my friend and colleague, Senator KENNEDY of Massachusetts, who has lost a beloved nephew.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Kennedy and Bessette families as they struggle to cope with the loss of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister Lauren Bessette. While we as a nation mourn the loss of a young man who had so much yet to offer the world, these families must suffer the private pain of the loss of their beloved brother or sisters, their children, their cousins, their friends.

The late John F. Kennedy was a genuine inspiration to me and so many of my generation. I am grateful for the hope and the direction that President Kennedy gave so many of us when we were young, and I know that in his own way John F. Kennedy, Jr., carried on his father's work to inspire young people to public service, or to otherwise serve the public good, throughout his lifetime.

There can perhaps be no comparison to the contributions the Kennedy family has made to our country, or the sacrifices the family has endured, and sadly continues to endure with the death of John F. Kennedy, Jr. Like his father and his uncle Bobby, John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s life was cut tragically short, but like them he lived his life to the fullest, with the vigor and dedication that marks the Kennedy legacy.

Recently I had the honor of receiving the Profile in Courage Award from the late President Kennedy's family, and had the pleasure of meeting and spending time with John F. Kennedy, Jr. I was impressed by his kindness, his dignity, and the keen grasp of both politics and policy which he so often displayed as editor of *George* magazine. John reflected all the best hopes we have for our country, as did his father before him.

In a speech I gave at that time, I chose one of the many beautiful memorials I have heard about President Kennedy to express my own feelings. The following passage from *Romeo and Juliet* was previously used by Robert F. Kennedy himself at the 1964 Democratic convention to memorialize his brother:

and, when he shall die,  
take him and cut him out in little stars,  
And he will make the face of heaven so fine  
That all the world will be in love with  
night

And pay no worship to the garish sun.

These words both pained and consoled us as we remembered John F. Kennedy then, and they do the same today as we mourn the loss of his son, John F. Kennedy, Jr.

Mr. President, again I offer my condolences to all those who have been affected by this tragedy. I yield the floor.

#### THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO 11 LUNAR LANDING

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution that I offered yesterday with Senator SESSIONS and many of my colleagues which recognizes the 30th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Lunar Landing.

Mr. President, for thousands of years, men looked to the sky and were fascinated by the moon. To our forefathers it was a source of wonder, hope, curiosity and fear. Near enough to draw their attention, yet so far beyond their reach to remain a constant mystery, the moon was an unattainable destination for the people of earth.

Undaunted by the significance of the task, President Kennedy called upon our nation "to commit itself to achieving the goal . . . of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth." With this challenge, a goal that had previously exceeded the grasp of every generation, became the mission of the United States to achieve within ten years.

Facing this great endeavor, the men and women of the American Space Program set to work with steadfast conviction. While their efforts produced steady results, there were tragic losses and technical setbacks that tested their resolve. Brave men gave their lives. Brilliant men and women spent countless hours trying to work through the numerous difficulties associated with such a complex undertaking. However, all remained dedicated to the goal of landing a man on the moon.

On July 20, 1969, 30 years ago yesterday, that goal was achieved. On that day, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin closed the timeless breach that had separated the earth from the moon and landed on the Sea of Tranquility. With Neil Armstrong's first step on the lunar surface, the American Space Program met the awesome challenge set by President Kennedy. This important event marks America's ascendance to the preeminent role that it occupies today as the world's leader in space exploration.

While yesterday was an important anniversary for all the people of the world, it was especially important for the people of the United States. Landing men on the moon represents a great triumph of American endeavor. As the Spanish could be proud for having built the great ships that carried Columbus on his voyage of discovery, American scientists and engineers can feel equally proud for having built the Saturn V Rocket, the vehicle that carried the astronauts to the moon. That no other nation has produced a similar vehicle is a testament to the unparalleled achievement of our Space Program.

This resolution celebrates the anniversary of the great achievement of landing men on the moon. It celebrates the efforts of the many men and

women who defied the odds and helped to make what was once believed to be impossible, possible. Finally, it celebrates the courageous spirit of the American people.

#### PENDING NOMINATION OF BILL LANN LEE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today in communities all around the country and here at the United States Capitol, Asian Pacific Americans are leading all Americans in a demonstration of our commitment to one America, equal opportunity and equal justice under law by urging the Senate to vote on the nomination of Bill Lann Lee to head the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. I hear the call of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for prompt Senate consideration and a vote on this highly-qualified nominee and dedicated public servant. I commend the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and their Chair Daphne Kwok, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium for their leadership in connection with this matter and their commitment to fundamental fairness.

Today is the second anniversary of the initial nomination of Bill Lann Lee to the office of Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. I repeat today what I have said before: It is past time to do the right thing, the honorable thing, and report this qualified nominee to the Senate so that the Senate may fulfill its constitutional duty under the advice and consent clause and vote on this nomination without further delay. Two years is too long to wait for Senate action on this important nomination.

Yesterday, I was privileged to attend a meeting with the President of the United States in the East Room of the White House in which he issued a challenge to the lawyers of our country to rededicate themselves to help build one America and realize the American dream of equality for all under the law. What kind of message is the Senate sending when it refuses to act on the nomination of this outstanding Asian Pacific American?

After Bill Lann Lee graduated from Yale and then Columbia Law School he could have spent his career in the comfort and affluence of any one of the nation's top law firms. He chose, instead, to spend his career on the front lines, helping to open the doors of opportunity to those who struggle in our society. His is an American story. The son of immigrants whose success can be celebrated by all Americans.

In my view, Bill Lann Lee should be commended for the years he worked to provide legal services and access to our justice system for those without the financial resources otherwise to retain