Arabs are welcome in all segments of Israel’s political life.

Mr. Barak is a true son of Israel and a worthy leader of the only democracy in the Middle East. Born on a Kibbutz six years before Israel’s independence, he has served his country well as its most decorated soldier. Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces, Member of the Knesset, Minister of the Interior and Foreign Minister.

After the polls closed on May 17th, when it was clear that he had been elected, Mr. Barak traveled to Rabin Square in the center of Tel Aviv. Standing just feet from the spot where an assassin's bullet struck Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin three and a half years ago, the Prime Minister-elect renewed his commitment to the Peace Process Prime Minister Rabin courageously began. It was a fitting tribute to Israel’s fallen leader.

Making peace is not an easy endeavor. Indeed, it is often more difficult to make peace than to wage war. As Prime Minister Rabin often said, one does not make peace with one’s enemies; one makes peace with one’s enemies. Barak, like Rabin, has proven himself a great general on the battlefield. Now he must prove himself worthy of the even more exalted title of peacemaker. I am confident that Ehud Barak will indeed earn that title, making Israel’s second fifty-years devoid of the wars which characterized its first fifty years.

Mr. President, the United States is one of Israel’s closest allies. Under the stewardship of Mr. Barak, I am confident that relationship will only grow stronger. I look forward to a close collaboration between our two nations on issues ranging from security to trade. Most importantly, however, is the struggle to bring peace to a region which has seen far too many wars.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I received a very touching letter from a Vietnam Veteran from my state who was recently awarded the Silver Star for his bravery during the Vietnam Conflict.

Helping Al Myers get that Silver Star and the recognition he deserved for so long was a very rewarding experience. Al sent me this letter. It is a fictional remembrance of a soldier who’s name is on the Vietnam Memorial.

The letter defines the importance of paying tribute to our nation’s honored soldiers who have fought for, won, and kept our freedom, whether that tribute comes in the form of our nation building a great "Black Granite Wall," or simply a family member putting flowers on a beloved white tombstone at a veteran’s cemetery. It exemplifies the strength, dedication, and sacrifice our nation’s military men and women, and their families, make. We are forever indebted to them, and it fills me with great pride and humility to honor those who have sacrificed their lives for the benefit of our nation and the sacrifice to preserve our way of life as Americans.

I thought it was very important to read it in honor of the Memorial Day Observance on Monday. It touched my heart and made me want to share it here on the Floor today. It is called "The Wall from the Other Side."

THE WALL FROM THE OTHER SIDE

(Pat Comunes)

At first there was no place for us to go until someone put up that “Black Granite Wall.” Now, every day and night, my Brothers and Sisters wait to see the many people from places afar file in front of this “Wall.” Many people stopping briefly and many for hours and some that come on a regular basis. It was hard at first, not that it’s gotten any easier, but it seems that many of the attitudes towards that Vietnam War were in the way that the people who lived it and the ones on the other side have learned something, and more “Walls” as this one, needn’t be put up with such pride as the others.

Several members of my unit, and many that I did not recognize, have called me to The Wall by touching my name engraved upon it. The tears aren’t necessary, but are hard even for me to hold back. Don’t feel guilty for not being with me, my Brothers. This was my destiny as it is yours to be on that side of The Wall. Touch The Wall, my Brothers. Send a letter home, call your bro-memories that we had. I have learned to put the bad memories aside and remember only the pleasant ones that we had together. Tell your other Brothers out there to come and visit me, not to say Good-bye but to say Hello and be together again... even for a short time... and to ease that pain of loss that we all still share.

Today, an irresistable and loving call sums mons to me. As I approach, I can see an elderly lady... and as I get closer I recognize her—It’s Momma! As much as I have looked forward to this day, I have also dreaded it, because I didn’t know what reaction I would have.

Next to her, I suddenly see my wife and immediately think how hard it must have been for her to come to this place, and my mind floods with the pleasant memories of 30 years past. There’s a young man in a military uniform standing with his arm around her—My God!—he has to be my son! Look at him trying to be the man without a tear in his eye. I yearn to tell him how proud I am, seeing him stand tall, straight and proud in his uniform.

Momma comes closer and touches The Wall, and I feel the soft and gentle touch I feel my tears that had not flowed for so many years, form as if dew drops on the other side of The Wall.

They slowly move away with only a glance over their shoulders. My son stops and slowly returns. He stands straight and proud in front of me and snaps a salute. Something draws him near The Wall and he touches his hand upon its surface and it touches my tears that had formed as dew drops on the face of The Wall... and I can see the pride in his presence and the pride and love that I have for him. He falls to his knees and the tears flow from his eyes and I try my best to reassure him that it’s all right, and the tears do not make him any less of a man. As he moves back wiping the tears from his eyes, he silently mouths, "God Bless you, Dad..."

We meet someday, but in the meanwhile go on your way... there is no hurry at all.

As I see them walk off in the distance, I yell loud to ’Em and Everyone there today, as loud as I can: Thank You For Remembering... Thank You All For Remembering... and as others on this side of The Wall join in, I notice the U.S. Flag, Old Glory, that so proudly flies in front of us every day, is flapping and standing proudly straight out in the wind from our gathering numbers this day... and I shout again, and... again... and again... Thanks for Remembering! Thanks for Remembering! Thanks for Remembering!

THE CONTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICA’S ARMED FORCES

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, with Memorial Day soon upon us, I wanted to share with my colleagues some of the testimony from yesterday’s Senate Immigration Subcommittee hearing on “The Contribution of Immigrants to America’s Armed Forces.” It featured some dramatic testimony from both immigrants and native-born individuals.

Let me begin by quoting the testimony of Elmer Compton, a native of Indiana who served in Vietnam.

On March 16, 1966, Al Rason was with the Recon Platoon on a search and destroy mission known as Operation Silver City. My