World War II, the “ancient” war. In that war, over 10 percent of our Nation’s young men stepped forward to put on the uniform of the armed services. Today, fewer than 1 percent have done so.

Today’s military force is an All Volunteer Force. But beyond that, there are other vast differences.

In your youth, only 4 percent of my regiment had dependents. The remaining 96 percent were single men. Today, the average is about 70 percent with dependents. Therefore, it is essential that we provide in areas that were not considered during World War II, such as day care centers and hospitals.

In the hospital in which Senator Stevens and I spent some time, there were just men—men in uniform. It may be of interest to Members to note that today at Walter Reed, 14 percent of the beds are occupied by active-duty personnel, and 86 percent are occupied by dependents and retirees. There are more gynecologists in hospitals today than orthopedic surgeons, and there are more pediatricians than orthopedic surgeons. That is a difference of which most Members of the Senate, and I believe most Americans, are not aware.

The largest cost of defense is not missiles; it is not bullets; it is not ships; it is personnel; it is people. If we want the best military, men and women who are willing to step forward in harm’s way and, if necessary, give their lives for our Nation, then we should be able to provide the very best—not just in pay, but make certain that their health care and educational system are the finest.

We use the phrase “quality of life” quite often. If quality of life is not what the people receive, then I don’t think we can anticipate the very best—not just in pay, but make certain that our country will be able to provide the very best—not just in pay, but make certain that their health care and educational system are the finest.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the general provisions, add the following:

SEC. 8106(a) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1997 (titles I through VIII of the matter under section 101(b) of Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-111; 10 U.S.C. 133 note), is amended—

(1) by striking “not later than June 30, 1997,”; and

(2) by striking “$1,000,000” and inserting “$500,000”.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be temporarily set aside.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for a few minutes in morning business.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, we have no objection. How long does the Senator desire?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I think I can do this in 5 minutes.

Mr. STEVENS. I remind Members of the Senate desiring to offer amendments that we could discuss today, we are prepared to take some. There will be no votes on this bill today, but we do hope to have a vote on an amendment starting in the morning so we can get the bill expedited.

We have no objection to the Senator’s request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I call the Senate’s attention to the fact that yesterday, June 6, marked the 31st anniversary of the death of a former Member of this body, Senator Robert F. Kennedy. I can think of no more fitting way to remember Robert Kennedy’s legacy than to recall some of the words he delivered to students at the annual Day of Reaffirmation of Academic and Human Freedom at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

Ironically, this speech was delivered June 6, 1966, just 2 years before Robert Kennedy’s death. I will read portions of the speech:

Our answer is . . . to rely on youth. The cruelties and obstacles of this swiftly changing planet will not yield to obsolete dogmas and worn-out slogans. It cannot be moved by those . . . who prefer the illusion of security to the excitement and danger which comes with even the most peaceful progress.

This world demands the qualities of youth: not a time of life but a state of mind, a tem-}