

(B) his philanthropic endeavors throughout Chicago; and

(2) sends its deepest condolences to his wife, Christine, and to his mother and father.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider executive nomination No. 412, which are Army National Guard nominations reported by the Armed Services Committee on February 8.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

ARMY

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Robert L. Halverson, 0000

To be brigadier general

Col. Edmund T. Beckett, 0000
 Col. James J. Bisson, 0000
 Col. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., 0000
 Col. Daniel D. Densford, 0000
 Col. Jeffrey L. Gidley, 0000
 Col. Danny H. Hickman, 0000
 Col. James D. Johnson, 0000
 Col. Dennis M. Kenneally, 0000
 Col. Dion P. Lawrence, 0000
 Col. Robert G. Maskiell, 0000
 Col. Daryl K. McCall, 0000
 Col. Terrell T. Reddick, 0000
 Col. Ronald D. Taylor, 0000
 Col. John T. Von Trott, 0000
 Col. William H. Weir, 0000
 Col. Dean A. Youngman, 0000
 Col. Walter E. Zink II, 0000

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2000

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 10. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be

reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of S. 1287, the nuclear waste disposal bill, under the previous order.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that under this unanimous consent agreement that has been proposed, morning business will transpire after the unanimous consent agreement is entered, but that there will be a limitation in that Senators LAUTENBERG and ASHCROFT will be the only two Senators speaking as in morning business, and following their speaking the Senate will close for the day.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I haven't finished yet, but I believe that is going to be the result of the statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is objection withheld?

Mr. REID. I withdraw my objection to that part of the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Again, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 10. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of S. 1287, the nuclear waste disposal bill, under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MURKOWSKI. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will resume consideration of the nuclear waste bill at 10 a.m. By previous consent, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided between the bill managers for final debate. Also, by previous consent, a vote on final passage is scheduled to occur at 11 a.m. Therefore, Senators can expect the first vote to occur at approximately 11 a.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator LAUTENBERG and Senator ASHCROFT.

It is my understanding that tomorrow the two sides will have 1 hour equally divided. Sometimes we start a little late around here, in spite of our efforts.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I think I heard the Senator from Alaska say 10 minutes for each of us who were going to speak in morning business. I ask unanimous consent that up to 15 minutes be allocated to me.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I have no objection.

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

GUN SAFETY

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on April 20, we are going to mark a 1-year anniversary of the terrible tragedy that occurred at Columbine High School in Colorado. That was the day when two teenagers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, walked into the school and sprayed the library and cafeteria with gunfire, killing 12 classmates and a teacher and wounding many others. A few who were aware of what took place that day will never forget that horrible scene of a young man jumping out a window, people running, weeping, the whole place in disarray, students lying on the ground wounded, some fatally.

You would have thought by now, 9 months after that massacre, that Congress would have been able to get together to pass common sense gun safety measures. Some of my colleagues will say there is not much we can do about it.

No, we cannot go back and undo that tragedy, but we sure can do something that maybe will prevent something similar from happening in the future. It is preposterous to say we can't do anything better. We can do a lot about it. Reasonable gun safety legislation can make a difference.

For proof, I ask that we take a look at testimony of the young woman, Robyn Anderson, before the Judiciary Committee of the Colorado House of Representatives. In case the name isn't familiar, Robyn Anderson is the young woman who went with Harris and Klebold to the Tanner gun show in Adams County, CO. It was in late 1998. She wanted to help them buy guns.

Harris and Klebold were too young to buy guns because they had an 18-year age limit, but Robyn Anderson was 18. She bought three guns at that gun show, two shotguns, and a rifle, and immediately handed them over to Harris and Klebold. Four months later, Harris and Klebold used all three of those guns in their murderous rampage.

This is what Ms. Anderson said during her testimony:

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold had gone to the Tanner gun show on Saturday and they took me back with them on Sunday. . . . While we were walking around, Eric and Dylan kept asking sellers if they were private or licensed. They wanted to buy

their guns from someone who was private—and not licensed—because there would be no paperwork or background check.

That was her statement to the committee in the Colorado House. As all can see, they had one mission: to avoid a background check.

I am the author of a piece of legislation we tried to get through the Senate that said we ought to have everybody available for a background check. We know those unlicensed dealers who were able to sell at these gun shows—and there are over 4,000 gun shows a year—unless a State law says no, can sell guns to anybody who has the money. They can put them in the back of their car. They can carry them on their shoulder. Even someone who is listed on the 10 Most Wanted—criminals—could qualify to buy a gun from one of these dealers.

Tragically, these three young people found three gun dealers, and they bought their deadly weapons. This is what she had to say about gun sales at gun shows:

It was too easy. I wish it had been more difficult. I wouldn't have helped them buy the guns if I had faced a background check.

Robyn Anderson said that in front of the Colorado legislature. This shows clearly that background checks for gun sales can make a difference. They can keep guns out of the wrong hands.

When the National Rifle Association says that our gun laws are sufficient, it is wrong. They are simply out of line. There is a glaring loophole—the gun show loophole—which Congress must close.

There is no more time for delay. The American people are requesting action, demanding it, if you look at surveys. I hope my colleagues will complete action on the juvenile justice bill because it did contain a prohibition on gun sales that are done at gun shows without a background check. Now, that was knocked out of the House bill as it came over to the Senate for conference. But the fact is that it was in the Senate bill, and we ought to include it in any bill that finally passes. Let's do it before we mark the anniversary of that terrible day at Columbine High School, showing that we are serious and that we care about what happened.

In the nine months since April 20, we have seen more terrible shootings and bloodshed. In May of last year, a teenager in Conyers, GA, shot and injured six of his classmates. In July, a gunman in Ohio shot three teenage girls and the teacher of a Bible study group. In August, a white supremacist stormed into a Jewish community center near Los Angeles and shot two children and a senior citizen. Later that day, before this culprit was apprehended, he shot and killed a postal worker. In September, more gun violence—a gunman in Fort Worth, TX, walked into a Baptist church and

killed seven young people who were there for a prayer meeting before shooting himself. In November, the worst mass shooting in Hawaii's history—a Xerox employee killed seven coworkers. Yet another school shooting in December—a seventh grader in Fort Gibson, OK, takes his father's gun to school and wounds four classmates.

That is what we see. It doesn't matter what the heritage is of the individuals; race or religion doesn't matter. Everybody is subject to this kind of violence if they are in the wrong place at the wrong time. These are just the shootings that got the most attention. Month after month, the death toll from gun violence continues to mount. From Colorado to Georgia, from Ohio to California, from Texas to Hawaii, families across this country continue to mourn.

What do we do here in Congress about it? Nothing. It is a disgrace.

Of course, the Senate did pass several reasonable measures as part of the Juvenile Justice bill, including the amendment I mentioned before, which would prevent criminals from being able to buy guns at gun shows.

Technically, this legislation is stuck in a conference committee. For those who are not part of the structure here, the conference committee is where legislation is finally resolved when the House committee and the Senate committee, with similar jurisdiction, meet together and argue out the differences, if any, in a bill. But it would be more accurate to say that it is being held hostage by the extremists at the NRA and the politicians who march lockstep to their commands.

We have to free this legislation, and we dare not let the gun lobby prevail over the vast majority and the will of the American people who simply want to make their families a little safer.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in pushing the congressional leadership to finish work on the juvenile justice bill. We want to do it before there is another episode of gun violence, another loss of life that could be avoided. We have to do more to stop the gun violence, the epidemic that lies within our country. I hope we will be able to do it soon.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

REMEMBERING DERRICK THOMAS

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I come to the floor today. Just a few days ago, on February 1, I came here to talk about a professional football achievement, congratulating the St. Louis Rams on their Super Bowl victory. It was a tremendous victory.

Today, I come to the floor on what may seem to some to be another "football story," albeit one that is much more tragic. I want to make remarks

about my friend, Kansas City Chiefs' linebacker Derrick Thomas. I want to talk about more than just professional sports. I believe what is important in life is not what game you play but how you play the game to which you are called. I want to share my thoughts on a young man who was a true professional.

Yesterday, the Kansas City Chiefs' great linebacker, Derrick Thomas, died of cardiorespiratory arrest, a complication from a tragic automobile accident of January 23. The accident occurred on a snow and ice-covered stretch of Interstate 435 in Clay County, MO, as Derrick and two of his friends were headed to the airport to fly to St. Louis for the NFC championship game between St. Louis Rams and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. To Derrick's many loyal fans, the news of his death is stunning and saddening—profoundly saddening.

The life of Derrick Thomas, who lived but 33 years, should be celebrated. His accomplishments on the field and off the field were substantial. An All-American at the University of Alabama, he became an instant star with the Kansas City Chiefs after his selection in the first round of the 1989 draft. He was named as an All-Pro in each of his first nine seasons in the league. Derrick ranked ninth on the all-time list in career quarterback sacks.

Chiefs fans will never forget the day in 1990 when No. 58 set the amazing single-game record of seven sacks in a game against the Seattle Seahawks on Veterans Day. What some people don't know is that Derrick dedicated his efforts on Veterans Day to his father, an Air Force pilot killed in Vietnam in Operation Linebacker II when Derrick was just five.

The fighters from nearby Whiteman Air Force Base periodically do a fly-by during pre-game ceremonies. The planes, according to Derrick Thomas, reminded him of his father and provided inspiration for some of his greatest and most spectacular performances. I have been at Arrowhead Stadium before games for those pre-game ceremonies, when in the parking lot there was tailgating, with the smoke from the barbecue and the roar from the jets as they crossed the field in a fly-by. It is a moving experience, but it moved none of us as much as it moved Derrick Thomas, who set records based on the inspiration that reminded him of his dad.

Derrick will, no doubt, enter the pantheon of Kansas City's great athletes—George Brett, Tom Watson, and Len Dawson, just to name a few. But Derrick's accomplishments off the field are worthy of note as well. He was that kind of special star who took all that he gained from his talents and gave back with generosity, energy, and joy to his community. Very early in his career as a Kansas City Chief, he began