Most recently the United States formed the wedge of the United States and the Soviet Union. The two superpowers were at war. The war ended in 1990, but the tension between the two countries remained. The war was a result of the Cold War, which lasted from 1947 to 1991. The United States and the Soviet Union were the two superpowers during that time, and they were in a constant competition for power and influence. The war ended in 1990, but the tension between the two countries remained.

Korea. It was the bloodiest armed conflict in which our nation has ever engaged. In three years, 54,246 Americans died in Korea—more than twice the number of Americans who were killed during the 15 years of the Vietnam War.

The nobility of their sacrifice is now recorded for all of history in the Korean War Veterans Memorial. As you walk through the memorial and look into the faces of the 19 soldier-statues, you can feel the danger surrounding them. But you can also feel the courage with which our troops confronted that danger. It is a fitting tribute, indeed, to the sacrifices of those who fought and died in Korea.

But there is also another tribute half a world away. And that is democracy in the Republic of South Korea. Over the last five decades, the special relationship between our two nations that was forged in war has grown into a genuine partnership. Our two nations are more prosperous, and the world is safer, because of it.

The historic summit in North Korea earlier this month offers new hope for a reduction in tensions and enhanced stability in the region. We can dream of a day when Korea is unified under a democratic government and freedom is allowed to thrive.

As we continue to move forward, however, we pause today to remember how the free world won an important battle in the struggle against communism in South Korea. Let us not forget that it is the responsibility of all those who value freedom to remember that struggle and to honor those who fought it. The enormous sacrifices they made for our country should never be forgotten.

REMEMBERING KOREAN WAR VETERANS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this weekend we will commemorate an important day in American history. June 25th, the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, will provide all Americans the opportunity to pause and remember the men and women who fought and died in the Korean War.

Some historians refer to the Korean War as the “forgotten war.” Perhaps the reason the Korean War has receded in our memories is because it was unlike either the war that preceded it or the war that followed it. Rationing brought World War II into every American home. And television brought the Vietnam War into every home with unforgettable images and daily updates.

But Korea was different. Except for those who actually fought there, Korea was a distant land and eventually, a distant memory. Today, as we remember those who served in Korea, it is fitting that we remember what happened in Korea, and why we fought there.

The wall of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, bears an inscription that reads, “Freedom is not free.” And in the case of South Korea, the price of repelling communist aggression and preserving freedom was very high indeed. Nearly one-and-a-half million Americans fought to prevent the spread of communism into South Korea.
IN SUPPORT OF UNDERGROUND PARKING FACILITIES

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, today on the East Front of the Capitol ground is being broken for the new Capitol Visitor Center, a project that will take at least five years and hundreds of millions of dollars to complete. Nearly a century ago, in March 1901, the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia embarked on another project. The Committee was directed by Senate Resolution 139 to “report to the Senate plans for the development and improvement of the entire park system of the District of Columbia ** *, (F)or the purpose of preparing such plans the committee ** may secure the services of such experts as may be necessary for a proper consideration of the subject.

And secure “such experts” the committee did. The Committee formed what came to be known as the McMillan Commission, named for committee chairman, Senator James McMillan of Michigan. The Commission’s membership was a “who’s who” of late 19th and early 20th-century architecture, landscape design, and art: Daniel Burnham, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Charles F. McKim, and Augustus St. Gaudens. The commission traveled that summer to Rome, Venice, Vienna, Budapest, Paris, London, studying the landscapes, architecture, and public spaces of the grandest cities in the world. The McMillan Commission returned and, building on the plan of French Engineer Pierre Charles L’Enfant, fashioned the city of Washington as we now know it.

We are particularly indebted today for the commission’s preservation of the Mall. When the members left for Europe, the Congress had just given the Pennsylvania Railroad a 400-foot wide strip of the Mall for a new station and trackage. It is hard to imagine our city without the uninterrupted stretch of greenery from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, but such would have been the result. Fortunately, when in London, Daniel Burnham was able to convince Pennsylvania Railroad president Cassatt that a site on Massachusetts Avenue would provide a much grander entrance to the city. President Cassatt assented and Daniel Burnham gave us Union Station.

But the focus of the Commission’s work was the District’s park system. The Commission noted in its report:

“...as we break ground for the Visi-
tor’s Center—on a project currently being designed: an underground parking structure.

One year ago the Architect of the Capitol received approval from Chair-
man McCONNELL of the Rules Com-
mittee to proceed with preliminary de-
sign for an underground garage to be located on Square 724, which is just North of the Dirksen and Hart build-
ings. This garage will replace the existing lot of surpassing ugliness. By getting cars off the streets and un-
derground it will bring us nearer to the pedestrian walkways and parks McMil-

The final garage will include three levels with capacity for 1200 parking spaces. The 1981 report on the Master Plan identified Square 724 as the site for a future Senate office building. Thus the garage will be designed and constructed to accommodate an eight story office building on top of it, should the need for such building ever arise. The current plan, however, would be to top the garage with a simply landscaped plaza. Upon approving advance-
ment with the design of the new structure, Chairman McCONNELL stated that, “Square 724 appears to offer the most cost-effective opportunity for phased growth of Senate garage parking within the Capitol Complex.” I under-
stand that this time next year, after I have left this Body, the Architect of the Capitol will ask Congress to appro-
date the funds needed to actually build Phase I of the garage, which will accommodate 500 cars. And then fund-

ing will be crucial—with the Russell garage in dire need of renovation and the Capitol Visitor Center expected to displace some parking. I urge you to support the Architect in his request.

Today, as we break ground on a new project, one that will nearly double the size of the Capitol, let us not forget the grand vision of the McMillan Commis-
sion. Washington is the capital of the most powerful nation on earth, and deserves to look it.

THE F.I.R.E. ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to America’s local fire fighters who put their lives on the line every day protecting the lives and properties of their fellow citi-
zens. When the call comes in, they answer without question or hesitation. Unfortunately, local and volunteer fire departments are in dire need of finan-
cial support. The health and safety of fire fighters and the public is jeopardized because many departments cannot afford to purchase protective gear and equipment, provide adequate training, and are short staffed. It is time for Congress to lend them a helping hand.

That is why I have cosponsored a bill in the Senate that would authorize a pro-
gram granting up to one billion dollars for local fire departments across our great country. The money would be available to volunteer, com-
bination, and paid departments. It would help pay for much needed equip-
ment, training, EMS expenses, appa-
ratus and arson prevention efforts and a variety of education programs.

Wildfires across America and Monta-
na are a growing threat. The FIRE Act is especially critical for rural states such as Montana as we rely heavily upon our volunteer firefighters

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise to announce that the Architect of the Capitol has approved the design of the underground parking structure that will be constructed on Square 724. This garage will include three levels with capacity for 1200 parking spaces. The 1981 report on the Master Plan identified Square 724 as the site for a future Senate office building. Thus the garage will be designed to accommodate an eight story office building on top of it, should the need for such building ever arise. The current plan, however, would be to top the garage with a simply landscaped plaza. Upon approving advancement with the design of the new structure, Chairman McCONNELL stated that, “Square 724 appears to offer the most cost-effective opportunity for phased growth of Senate garage parking within the Capitol Complex.” I understand that this time next year, after I have left this Body, the Architect of the Capitol will ask Congress to appropriate the funds needed to actually build Phase I of the garage, which will accommodate 500 cars. And then funding will be crucial—with the Russell garage in dire need of renovation and the Capitol Visitor Center expected to displace some parking. I urge you to support the Architect in his request.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

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