

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

## HONORING ELIZABETH MCGARR

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I think we all agree how important it is for our young people to understand the history of our nation and how the events of the past have helped to shape our country today and will continue to shape it in the future.

On August 3, 1949, Congress designated June 14 as Flag Day. Last week, a Dallas Morning News editorial reminded us of the origins and meaning of this national day of commemoration. Flag Day was established to ensure that each year on that day we recall our nation's proud history and its role as a symbol of freedom and democracy to our citizens and to people around the world fighting for justice. I was much surprised to discover that this editorial, written with great wisdom and eloquence, was penned by Elizabeth McGarr, an intern at the Dallas Morning News in her first week with the newspaper.

America is a diverse and culturally rich country, but as Elizabeth points out in her editorial, we are all able to unite around the flag and celebrate our commitment to the ideals embodied in the Declaration of Independence: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Elizabeth, who has just graduated from the Hockaday School in Dallas and will attend the University of Texas in the fall, is an outstanding role model for her peers and every American.

I ask unanimous consent that Elizabeth McGarr's editorial be entered into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Dallas Morning News, June 14, 2000]

## FLAG DAY: CELEBRATION HAS EVOLVED OVER NATION'S HISTORY

On June 14, 1777, almost a year after the Declaration of Independence was signed, the Continental Congress proposed that we should display our own flag instead of flying the British Union Jack. Our own national flag. One that would symbolize the life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness that the Founders emphasized in the Declaration of Independence. One that would represent America through battles foreign and domestic, through victories and defeats.

Each year on June 14, on Flag Day, we celebrate the "birthday" of our nation's flag.

On the 100th anniversary, in 1877, Old Glory flew outside every government building to honor the adoption of a national flag. Philadelphia observed the first official Flag Day in 1893, and New York followed suit in 1897. In 1916, President Wilson proclaimed June 14

National Flag Day, and some states and communities did celebrate this anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777. Yet it wasn't until 1949 that President Harry S. Truman finally authorized June 14 as Flag Day nationwide.

The American flag is one of the most complex flags to make, as evidenced by the 64 pieces of fabric needed to put it together. Its red, white, and blue parts stand for courage, purity and justice, respectively.

But on Flag Day, we celebrate more than the colorful cloth. We celebrate our struggles, trials, travails and victories from the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli. And most important, America celebrates all that the country has accomplished and all that it can achieve with a positive attitude and an optimistic spirit.

Often concerned with political correctness or societal standards, we too quickly judge people on the basis of skin color, religion or background. In truth, we are more alike than we are different. Is there a more united scene than a crowd of people at a baseball game removing their hats for "The Star Spangled Banner," or schoolchildren placing their hands over their hearts to recite the Pledge of Allegiance? Where the Stars and Stripes is concerned, we are as united as can be, and on this June 14, we celebrate our devotion to country and the patriotic unity that arises when witnessing Old Glory wave in the wind.

## EXPLANATION OF VOTES—S. 2549

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, yesterday a delayed flight due to weather and the closing of flights through Chicago caused me to miss votes on the Murray Amendment (No. 3252), the Hatch Amendment (No. 3473) and the Kennedy Amendment (No. 3473) to S. 2549 the Department of Defense Authorization Bill. I would like to state for the record what my votes would have been had I been able to make those votes.

## MURRAY AMENDMENT NO. 3252

Had I been present, I would have voted to table the Murray amendment. I do not believe we should turn our military medical facilities into abortion clinics. The Senate rejected this amendment last year, and I see no reason why the Senate should change its position.

Though military facility abortion advocates try to present the situation as otherwise, it is not the case that women in the military are deprived of the option of getting an abortion, if they chose to have one. They are simply not able to obtain an abortion in a military facility as an elective procedure.

Furthermore, as Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee, I know our military medical resources are spread too thin as things are. Not only is allowing abortions in military medical facilities an insult to many of the taxpayers who have paid for those facilities, it forces the hospitals to divert resources that could have been used for preserving life to do the opposite. This amendment does nothing but support an agenda

that promotes abortion. To that I am opposed.

## HATCH AMENDMENT NO. 3474

I realize that many in the Senate viewed the Hatch Amendment as a viable alternative to the Kennedy Amendment on hate crimes.

As with the Kennedy Amendment, the Hatch Amendment gives statutory credence to creating a special class of protections for crimes committed against a behavior driven lifestyle. To place sexual orientation on par with race, color, gender, religion, and national origin is simply a terrible precedent for the Senate to be setting.

Before anyone accuses me of supporting violence directed against any particular person or group of persons, let me say clearly, I unequivocally oppose violence against anyone. Any crime of violence is a hate crime and should be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

I appreciate the Senator from Utah's efforts to provide what he sees as an alternative to what I think we would both agree is a worse piece of legislation. However, had I been present, I would have opposed his amendment.

While some may say that my NAY vote on the Hatch Amendment would have changed the outcome, the fact is this issue will be rewritten during conference.

## KENNEDY AMENDMENT NO. 3473

I would have voted against the Kennedy amendment on hate crimes because I do not believe it is Constitutional, nor do I think it is good policy.

As with the Hatch Amendment, to place sexual orientation on an equal level with race, color, gender, religion, and national origin is wrong.

Again, I unequivocally oppose violence against anyone. Any crime of violence is a hate crime and must be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

As a conferee on the Department of Defense Authorization bill, I will work vigorously to drop this language from the bill.

## HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, Tony Snow wrote an editorial in the Washington Times. In this editorial he captures the very essence of service to this Nation by those who have worn the uniform of our Nation throughout its history.

This weekend, I and others will be attending ceremonies in recognition of those who served in the Korean war. A few days ago, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Presiding Officer, I, and other Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives attended a magnificent ceremony in honor of those who served during the Korean war.

I was privileged to be in the Marine Corps and served in the 1st Marine