And there are other families with their own stories. Michael J. Fox and his family are waging war against Parkinson’s, Tyler Moore and her family are fighting diabetes. Christopher Reeve and his family are searching for a cure to paralysis. And millions of other families across the United States are fighting their own battles against AIDS, sickle-cell anemia, Lou Gehrig’s disease, Alzheimer’s and the many, many other diseases that take our loved ones away from us.

What I’ve come to realize in my fight against cancer is the crucial role the federal government plays in funding basic medical research at the National Institutes of Health, and how important basic research is to finding breakthroughs not just for cancer but for all of the diseases which affect our families.

For several years now, doubling funding at NIH has been a primary goal of mine in the Senate. The Federal Government, mainly through the NIH, funds about 36 percent of all biomedical research in this country, and plays an especially large role in basic research.

Recently, the Joint Economic Committee, released a first-of-its kind study: “The Benefits of Medical Research and the Role of the NIH,” which examined how funding for the NIH cuts the high economic costs of disease, reduces suffering from illness, and helps Americans live longer, healthier lives. And I’d like to take a moment, Mr. President, to share with my colleagues some of the findings in this extensive report.

According to the JEC, the economic costs of illness in the U.S. are huge—approximately $3 trillion annually, or 31 percent of the nation’s GDP. This includes costs of public and private health care spending, and productivity losses from illness. Medical research can reduce these high costs. But, the NIH is fighting this $3 trillion battle in partnership with the American people—both the public and the private sector.

In addition to lowering the economic costs of illness, advances in medical research greatly help people live longer and healthier lives. A recent study found that longevity increases have created “value of life” gains to Americans of about $2.4 trillion every year. A significant portion of these longevity gains stem from NIH-funded research in areas such as heart disease, stroke and cancer.

I have often heard it said that the NIH funds about 23 percent of all basic medical research in the United States, and that the NIH is the laboratory for the next generation of medical breakthroughs. In fact, one study found that $1 in every $5 for basic medical research comes from NIH.

Medical advances will help cut costs by reducing lost economic output from disability and premature death. For example, new treatments for AIDS—some developed with NIH-funded research—caused the mortality rate from AIDS to drop over 60 percent in the mid-1990s, thus allowing tens of thousands of Americans to continue contributing to our society and economy.

And medical research isn’t just about reducing the enormous current burdens of illness. The costs of illness may grow even higher if we fail to push ahead with further research. Infectious diseases, in particular, are continually gaining ground.

The recent emergence of Lyme disease, E. coli, and hantavirus, for example, show how nature continues to evolve new threats to health. In addition, dangerous bacteria are evolving at an alarming rate and growing resistant to every new round of antibiotics.

This report extensively shows the benefits of medical research and reaffirms the enormous benefits we achieve from funding the National Institutes of Health in our fight against disease. But there is still a lot more work to be done. I am hopeful my colleagues will take a few moments to look at this report and recognize the important work done by the scientists and researchers at the NIH. It can be read in its entirety on the JEC website at: jec.senate.gov.

Funding for NIH is really about—hope and opportunity. The challenge before us is great, but America has always responded when our people are behind the challenge. America landed a man on the moon. We pioneered computer technology. America won the Cold War. Now it is time to win the war against the diseases that plague our society. We have the knowledge. We have the technology. Most importantly, we have the support of the American people.

I ask my colleagues to join me in the effort to double funding for the National Institutes of Health. It’s good economic policy, it’s good public policy, and most importantly, it’s good for all Americans.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend John Chafee.

On Sunday June 25, 2000, an article appeared in Parade Magazine entitled, “Let Us Salute Those Who Served.” The article profiled the service in the Korean War. I ask that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

He Was the Most Admiring Man I’ve Ever Known

(By James Brady)

(Official Secretary)

(Reads article)

The Korean conflict was a brutal, primitive war in which Genghis Khan called “the land of the Mongols,” a war in which I served under the most admirable man I’ve ever known, a 28-year-old Marine captain named John Chafee.

Most of us who fought the Korean War were reservists: Some of us, like me, were green kids just out of college. Others were combat-hardened, savvy veterans blooded by fighting against the Japanese only five years before—men like Chafee who would become a role model for me.

But there is a war that we all share: The war against the diseases that plague our society. We have the knowledge. We have the technology. Most importantly, we have the support of the American people.

I ask my colleagues to join me in the effort to double funding for the National Institutes of Health. It’s good economic policy, it’s good public policy, and most importantly, it’s good for all Americans.
When I got there as a replacement rifleplatoon leader surviving the week of
1951, the 1st Marine Division was hanging on to a mountainous corner of North Korea
along the Musan Ridge, about 3000 feet high. It took us a couple of hours to hike uphill,
lugging rifles and packs along a narrow, dirt path to where the rifle companies were dug in. As fresh meat, not knowing the terrain and nervous about mines, we followed close on the heels of Marines returning to duty after being hit in the hard fighting to take Hill 749 in September. In Korea they didn’t tell you the names of the men who died, so they could patch you up to fight again. These Marines, tough boys, understandably weren’t thrilled to be going back. But they went. Dog Company of the 7th Marine Regiment needed them. There was already a foot of snow on the ground. When I think of Korea, it is always of the cold and the snow. Yet the fighting began in summer on a Sunday morning—June 25, 1950—when the Soviet-backed army of Communist North Korea smashed across the 38th Parallel to attack the Republic of Korea with its U.S. trained and equipped (and not very good) army. Early in the war, Gen. Douglas MacArthur had bragged: “The boys of the Christmas generation were the best; boys would be in Korea three Christmases— courtesy of the Chinese Army. Every soldier thinks his own war was unique. Korea has done it’s homework—proving a UN army could fight; ending MacArthur’s career with a farewell address to Congress (“Old soldiers never die. They just fade away.”). I was 21, helping elect Eisenhower who pledged in ’52, “I will go to Korea”; demonstrating that Red China’s huge army could be stopped; insulating Japan from attack; and ensuring the South Korean republic. It was a miracle. But the war’s lack of a clear-cut winner and loser may have set the stage for Vietnam.

As a junior officer, I had little grasp of such strategic matters. I commanded 40 Marines, combat veterans who had fought both the Chinese and the North Koreans. Captain Chafee, who was the staff officer for the 3rd Battalion, General Simons, Mack Allen and I were three rifle-platoon leaders.

Guided by Chafee, I saw my first combat. Mostly it was small firefights, patrol ambushes, usually by night. I learned about staying cool and not doing stupid things. When darkness fell, we sent patrols through the barbed wire and down the ridgeline to kill them. It took us a couple of hours to hike uphill, slogging up a Korean hill. You can visit it at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. It was an uneasy truce: Today, 35,000 American troops still are dug in, their weapons pointing north.

As the survivors grow older, we stay in touch: Jack Rowe, who won a Navy Cross and lost an eye, teaches school and has 10 children; Taft Sceva, still back-packing in the Himalayas; Bill Simonis, Mack Allen and I drove up. The President has characterized this information relating to

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SPECTER did so this past week when he announced publicly confidential Justice Department information relating to a special counsel. He sought to muddy the waters and twist the facts. I would like to cut through this political haze and set the record straight.

These are rumored recommendation to appoint a special counsel. It is not the “established custom” and “practice” of the Judiciary Committee or its subcommittees to announce publicly confidential Justice Department information relating to pending matters. Although Senator SPECTER did so this past week when he held a press conference and spoke on national television about a reported recommendation of the Justice Department’s Campaign Finance Task Force Chief Robert Conrad, that disclosure was highly unusual. Although the Senator has characterized this information as obtained by way of “official investigation,” such information or its source has been shared with me or, to my knowledge, with any Democratic Member of the Committee or the Senate.

The only public statements of Mr. Conrad were made at a Judiciary Subcommittee hearing on June 21, 2000. In response to questions from Senator SPECTER regarding recommendations to the Attorney General with respect to the Illinois Senator’s campaign finance investigations and independent counsel decisions. She did so with her typical candor and integrity.

Not willing to settle for the fact that this hearing revealed nothing new, certain Republican Members have today sought to muddy the waters and twist the facts. I would like to cut through this political haze and set the record straight.

Separating facts, from partisan smoke.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Attorney General of the United States testified yesterday for almost 4 hours before the Senate Judiciary Committee to answer yet more questions about campaign finance investigations and independent counsel decisions. She did so with her typical candor and integrity.

Not willing to settle for the fact that this hearing revealed nothing new, certain Republican Members have today sought to muddy the waters and twist the facts. I would like to cut through this political haze and set the record straight.

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