

destroys bliss at its very apex. In other words, everything that is mortal must come to an end, and therefore we can take no joy in the experience.

I used to dabble with such thoughts as a young college student, but 40 years of experience have taught me differently. We have loved this job, knowing that this day would one day have to come. We have loved not this job, but this opportunity to be in the presence of heroes—to walk and to sail and to soar with eagles.

So what do I feel? I feel honor, to be sure, but most of all, an unqualified sense of awe. When I'm in the presence of men and women who serve and sacrifice themselves and their families for our freedom, I am in awe. I've had the privilege of meeting with kings and queens, and presidents and prime ministers, and princes and sultans and emirs, and yes, parliamentarians the world over. But nothing has ever been more rewarding than to visit our troops in Bosnia, in Kosovo, Korea, Kuwait, or Saudi Arabia; to land on a carrier in the Persian Gulf where the temperatures can run 120, 130, 140 degrees, and to see our sailors and Marines carrying out their duties in that heat; to watch our Air Force put steel on target or deliver humanitarian relief to helpless victims of hurricanes, earthquakes or other natural disasters; to witness our Coast Guardsmen protect our shores or rescue those who are caught up in those perfect storms.

I marvel at your raw courage and your willingness to constantly train and prepare to fight the wars that can't be prevented. And I am touched to the core when I visit you at Christmas time, knowing what a special moment it is for you, how far away you are from your families, what spirit you show in your very loneliness as you're surrounded by your comrades, what pride you take in knowing that you save lives, that you've touched hearts of total strangers, and that you've given them something more precious than gold.

And as I reflect on the swift passage of time these past four years, all of these moments and memories come rushing at me with a terrifying velocity. But I'd like to share one of my earliest with you.

On our visit to Eagle Base in Bosnia on Christmas Eve three years ago—as we have done every holiday since that time—we joined hundreds of soldiers to share songs and love and levity and laughter, and to bring them just a touch of home. As we left around midnight, we passed along the perimeter and came across three young soldiers for whom Christmas Eve meant manning a security post that was fashioned from wood. They were out there in the mud, in the cold, in the darkness, standing guard in the night.

As we expressed our gratitude for their service and conveyed our sorrow they couldn't be home with their families, one of these soldiers looked at Janet and he offered a response that we will never forget, so eloquent in its simplicity, so profound in its sincerity, "That's all right, ma'am. Somebody has to do it. And besides, I think we're making a difference here."

Men and women of the United States Armed Forces for the past four years, we've been blessed to serve with you as you stand guard in the night, and as you continue to make an extraordinary difference the world over. Because of your patriotism and professionalism, because of your dedication and your daring, more people today sleep under the flag of freedom than at any time in history.

So the poet asks, "How should we presume?" I was recently asked, "What's your

legacy? What can you point to with pride that you've helped to make happen on your watch?" Well, I'd never really given any thought to legacies. I simply tried to keep the faith of all who have come before me and those who come after.

The Chairman stole my thunder here, because I was going to engage in just a touch of immodesty, but he already outlined everything we've done. We have managed to secure an additional \$227 billion for future years defense spending. Four years ago we were told there wouldn't be any increases. We now have an additional \$227 billion coming to our armed forces. That's a remarkable achievement that this team has produced.

We've had the largest defense spending increase in 15 years, the largest pay raise in a generation, retirement benefits back up to 50 percent, the elimination of housing inequities for those who live off-base, overhauling the health care system to make sure that we give decent health care for the men and women who are serving us and those who have retired and their families-care that's worthy of this nation.

We conducted the most successful air campaign in the history of warfare. We drove Milosevic out of Kosovo, and hopefully into oblivion, or at least to The Hague where he can stand trial. We kept Saddam Hussein in his box and out of his neighbors' oil fields and homes. We've enlarged the NATO family with three new democracies. We've strengthened our relationships in South America, in Africa, the Gulf States, South Korea, Japan, and all of the Southeast Asian countries. We've reduced nuclear weapons in Russia. We have established military to military ties with China.

We created the Joint Forces Command, preparing to deter and counter those who plot our destruction with weapons of mass destruction. We have reoriented the Space Command to ensure that we remain as dominant in space and cyberspace as we are on the battlefields. We've accelerated that Revolution in Military Affairs, transforming our forces so we can marshal and match the power of our technology with the force of our ideals.

And I want to mention one other thing—we've kept our promise to help reconnect America to its military, to remind the American people that we must take care of those who take care of us and that freedom can be lost just as easily through indifference and neglect as it can through warfare.

In his wonderful book, *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace*, Donald Kagan talked about Athenian democracy. He said that in the end, more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security. And when the Athenians finally wanted not to give to society, but for society to give to them, when the freedom that they wished for was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free. We should never let that happen to the United States of America.

General Shelton, you quoted Chamberlain, one of my heroes. And I would suggest that no words better describe those that we serve. On countless occasions I've been asked by foreign leaders. "How can our military be more like America's?" I'll repeat here today what I've said time and time again. It's not our training, although our training is the most rigorous in the world. It's not our technology, although ours is the most advanced in the world. And it's not our tactics, although ours in the most revolutionary in the world. We have the finest military on Earth because we have the finest people on Earth, because we recruit and we retain the best that America has to offer.

So as I prepare to leave public office, I want to take this final occasion to remind all of America: take a look at the leadership that we have, take a look at what you see arrayed before you here. Be inspired by their character and their devotion to duty. Stand in awe of their courage and their professionalism and their ability to maintain bravery in the midst of tragedy and loss.

When we stood on the tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base to welcome home the flag-draped coffins of those that we lost in our embassies in East Africa, when we stood on the pier in Norfolk with the wounded sailors and the families of those who perished in the Cole, when we learned of those who were lost aboard the Osprey, and whenever the phone rang at midnight or in the early morning hours telling me of an accident that would not make the headlines, but that would rip a hole in the hearts of the families who were affected, then we understand why these brave men and women and their families truly are patriots among us—the pride of America, the envy of the world.

Finally, I'd like to pay special tribute to the most remarkable person in my life. When you think of Janet Langhart Cohen, you think of passion, of fire, of spirit. Creative ideas spring from her like the cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin, only it's not just in the spring time, they're always springing forward. And it's not just the creativity, it's moving from the creation of the idea to the actuality of the event.

I think of all she has been able to do—creating that first Family Forum or the Pentagon Pops, helping to organize those holiday tours overseas, creating the new USO Corridor in the Pentagon and a new liaison office in the Pentagon, hosting that Special Assignment television program that goes worldwide to our troops, receiving the VFW Award, then just last week the Zach Fisher Award, being recognized by the United States Chamber of Commerce for her work on behalf of all of those in uniform, and yes, named the First Lady of the USO. But I would say most of all, she has loved our men and women in uniform with a zeal that transcends any ability of mine to describe. I have never felt more alive—or more ignored—than when she's out there with the troops. Lou Gehrig was wrong, I'm the luckiest man alive.

So it's time for the two of us to take our leave. We have a new President who has assembled a great new national security team and they will, with your help and God's help, continue to make the United States of America the greatest force for freedom in the world.

I'd like to close with the paraphrased words of the poet Tagore. "When one comes and whispers to me, 'Thy days are ended,' let me say to him, 'I have lived and loved and not in mere time.' And he will ask, 'Will thy songs remain?' And I shall say, 'I know not, but this I know. That often when I sang, I found my eternity.'" Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE VICTOR BORGE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, one of the great joys of being a United States Senator from Connecticut is the privilege of counting so many extraordinary individuals as my constituents. One of the most extraordinary of them—Victor Borge—passed away quietly in his Greenwich, Connecticut, home last month at the age of 91. He

will be missed by millions of fans the world over, including me.

Victor Borge often famously told his audiences that “the shortest distance between two people is a smile.” Indeed, the entertainer known the world over as the Clown Prince of Denmark was singularly responsible for millions of upturned lips—and untold bouts of hysterical laughter—during a magnificent career as a comedian and musician that spanned almost a century.

I’d like to take a few minutes today to remember the remarkable life and laughter inspired by Victor Borge, an entertainer who gave new meaning to the expression “tickling the ivories” by combining comedy and classical piano as no one else ever has. He was a one-of-a-kind keyboard ham who enjoyed making his audiences laugh as much as he enjoyed making music.

He was a classically trained concert pianist who could be in the middle of a breathtaking rendition of Strauss’ “Die Fledermaus” and suddenly fall right off the side of his piano bench, sending his audience into hysterics. Or in a similar stunt, while in the middle of conducting an aria, a soprano’s high note might blast him right off his stool, and he would stoically climb back on, only this time wielding a safety belt to bolt himself to his seat. Sometimes Victor would intentionally strike the wrong pitch at the piano, only to brandish the sheet music and a pair of scissors and literally cut out the offending note.

He’s the only musician I know who could begin a solemn rendering of Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata,” then seamlessly slide into Cole Porter’s “Night and Day.” To say nothing of his ability to morph Mozart into “Happy Birthday.” Sight gags and musical quirks were only part of the act. Borge always had a stable of rhetorical flourishes at the ready, such as, “Mozart wrote this piece in four flats, because he moved three times while composing it.”

I felt lucky to count Victor as my friend. I’ll never forget the many times I tried to give a speech to a roomful of people, only to find myself drawn into the role of his straight man as he joked with the droopy-faced delivery that made everyone laugh until in hurt.

His comic genius hid the life story of a European Jew who narrowly escaped Nazi persecution. Borge was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, to a father who was a violinist in the Royal Danish Philharmonic. The younger Borge was a child prodigy concert pianist, debuting at age 8, and a Scandinavian star by his early 20s. By 1940, he was at the top of the Nazis’ extermination list because he poked fun at Hitler and the Third Reich in his act. Ultimately, though, his music helped save his life when two Russian diplomats who were fans of his show helped smuggle him on a ship bound for Finland, where Borge

found his way onto the S.S. *American Legion*, one of the last boats out of Europe.

Victor Borge arrived in New York penniless and speaking no English. But he quickly learned the language by watching 10-cent movies in midtown Manhattan theaters. In less than two years, he had adapted his act to the English language and debuted on the Bing Crosby radio show. Within a decade he had appeared on Ed Sullivan and been offered his own radio program. By the end of his career, Borge’s one-man Broadway show, “Comedy in Music,” had logged 849 performances, which is still a record today.

Over the last half-century, he also developed credentials as an orchestra conductor, directing the London and New York Philharmonics, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Boston Pops. He also raised millions of dollars for worthy causes such as Thanks to Scandinavia, a scholarship fund to commemorate efforts to help victims of Nazi persecution. Victor was knighted by all five Scandinavian countries for his life’s work, and was honored by the United Nations as well as the U.S. Congress.

I will never forget the night of December 29, 1999, right here in Washington, when Victor received the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors along with Jason Robards, Sean Connery, and Stevie Wonder. President Clinton hung a medal around his neck that night in recognition of his life achievements, and Borge—clowning around into his 90s—showed up at the reception afterward in a red clown nose.

Years ago, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, the New York Times wrote an editorial calling Victor Borge, simply, “the funniest man on earth.” To me, he was also eloquently warm, gifted, and brilliant—a bright and irrepressible star who lit the world around him. We shall miss him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD METREY

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, Mr. Richard Metrey, who retired last week after 41 years of Government service in the United States Navy.

Throughout his career, Richard Metrey has distinguished himself through his leadership, commitment and dedication to public service, and by making government work better and more efficiently. Beginning as a project engineer in the Ships Machinery Division of the former Bureau of Ships, he swiftly worked his way up through the ranks into positions in senior management, including Head of the Combat Systems Branch in the Naval Sea Systems Command and Pro-

gram Manager for the Navy Advanced Prototyping Program.

For the last fifteen years, Mr. Metrey has served as Technical Director of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, where he has had a profound impact on the Navy’s approach to researching, developing, testing and evaluating naval vehicles. During this time, Richard was directly responsible for the Division’s entire technical program—its planning, execution, and staffing of current programs, as well as strategic planning and new starts. Prior to that, Mr. Metrey also served in the Navy Secretariat in a range of important responsibilities from Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Surface Warfare to principal advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Surface Warfare Research and Development and Acquisition.

Mr. Metrey’s colleagues attest to the ingenuity and integrity he has brought to the positions in which he has served. His contributions and accomplishments have been recognized through many prestigious awards, including the Presidential Rank Meritorious Executive Award, the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award and numerous Outstanding Performance Awards—to name only a few. He has also been selected to serve as the United States representative on several international forums, and on high level committees, including the Congressionally established Advanced Submarine Advisory Panel.

I came to know Richard Metrey in the early 1990s during the Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) process. Having had the opportunity to work with him during the BRAC and on other matters, I can also attest firsthand to his professionalism and deep commitment to our Navy and its mission. It is my firm conviction that public service is one of the most honorable callings, one that demands the very best, most dedicated efforts of those who have the opportunity to serve their fellow citizens and country. Throughout his career, Richard Metrey’s commitment and remarkable talent have enabled him to go beyond meeting this demand. So I want to extend my personal gratitude to Richard for these many years of hard work and dedication and I wish him well in whatever endeavors he seeks to undertake in the years ahead.●

ROBIN COMSTOCK

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to honor Robin Comstock of Nottingham, New Hampshire, the newly appointed President and CEO of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, whose enthusiasm, leadership, and dedication have earned her the respect of her peers and the admiration of this state.

Robin has served for the past six years as President and CEO of the