

floor in an office, and miraculously this flag had not burned. He wanted to get to it, so he got somebody to take him up in a crane in a basket, and he retrieved this flag.

As he held this flag proudly, on his way to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, he said to us: They couldn't destroy this flag, and they can't destroy this country. And I thought, wow, what a thing to say. This morning I woke up and looked at the Washington Post, and there is a full color picture of this young Marine holding that U.S. Marine flag as he came away from that building. It was just before he came over to greet us on his way to the Marine Corps Commandant.

It was but one act—a symbolic act, in many ways—of a young soldier who used that flag that he saw, that had survived the fire and survived the carnage—the one flag that was left standing—to make a point that those who committed these heinous acts, those madmen who perpetrated these acts of evil that murdered so many innocent men, women, and children in this country, could not destroy that flag and cannot destroy this country.

As I said the other day, all of us are heartbroken in America today. We express that in many ways. Prayer services across the country, recommended by our President, have reflected a common understanding—the ability to grieve together and the ability to come together. It was important to do that. It is important to do that.

But there is something else that is important for us to understand. The terrorists did something they could never have possibly imagined: They created in this country a togetherness that has not been here for some long while. People want to show the flag these days.

My 12-year-old daughter yesterday said: Dad, let's put out the flag. People all over this country are putting an American flag out in full view. And people around this country are doing things that we know represent the inherent goodness of people.

Within hours of the terrible tragedy at the World Trade Center—within hours of those evil acts—we had scores of people lining up to give blood in this country. I saw the interview of one person who was in a 5-hour line, and she was asked: Why are you in line 5 hours waiting to give blood? And she said: Because it's the only thing I can do, and I want to do something today.

The terrorists could not have possibly imagined what their acts would do to bring Americans together. This country has a common purpose. Yes, it has a great deal of grief and, yes, our heart is broken, but our spirit is not broken.

The common purpose in this country is to grieve together, to pray together, and then understand that we want to—and we must—find those who planned

and committed these acts, and those who harbored them, and punish them and at the same time take the kind of precautions we know we must take to prevent this from happening again.

It is a free country. We are proud of that freedom and liberty. And it is also understood by everyone that we have the risk of acts of terrorism committed in free countries precisely because of that freedom. Perhaps we can never make certain that we will not ever see a terrorist act again. Perhaps we can never do that. We can certainly exert all the energy and all the genius available to all of us in this country to take the steps we think can try to prevent these acts again.

But notwithstanding the challenges and the tragedies, and notwithstanding the common grief that was born of these evil acts, this country will remain a free country. We will remain a country of which all of us are enormously proud.

There is a spirit about America: A spirit to prevail, a spirit to build, a spirit to come together. It is reflected by a lot of things, a couple of which I just mentioned. And that spirit is, in my judgment, not dimming; that spirit is growing. In the coming weeks and days, I think manifested today on the floor of the Senate, that spirit will nurture all of America.

Today, on the floor of the Senate, we passed a piece of legislation, without a dissenting vote, that said we want to help people in need. We provided the resources to say to the people who were victims of this: You are not alone. Your families are not alone. Your loved ones are not alone. Your cities are not alone. And then we passed, without a dissenting vote, an authorization to the President, who asked for an authorization from Congress, to be able to take appropriate action against those who committed these evil acts.

Without a dissenting vote, the Congress said to the President: Yes, we are with you. That is quite a remarkable thing to have done. And it reflects a spirit not just here in the Senate; it reflects a spirit, in my judgment, borne in the breast of every American today, proud to be an American, and determined to make sure we are able to retain and nurture this way of life, to defeat terrorism wherever it exists, and to nurture freedom and liberty.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I hesitate to interject any more words prior to our going out today because I think the tone has been set by my friend from North Dakota, but I just say that there are so many examples of people coming together. The example of the blood drives is certainly one of the most appropriate.

People are now all over America in reservation lines. They are there to

sign up to give blood 2 weeks from now, 3 weeks from now because the lines are so long.

I think my friend from North Dakota would agree that the prayer service held today at the National Cathedral was touched. I think everyone there participated with the prayers. Billy Graham gave some remarks. He has been an adviser to many Presidents over the years, and even though his body is frail, his mind certainly is not.

I hope all Americans will realize that the President of the United States needs everyone's prayers now. There are 535 Members of Congress. I was able to sit with Senator DORGAN today at the prayer service at the National Cathedral. We were together. And that is what we legislatures are; we are together; we are always with each other. But the President of the United States is alone. He does not have people to lean on. He has to make decisions by himself.

So I hope that everyone will be involved in praying for this President, recognizing the tremendous burdens he has and the decisions he has to make, decisions that are so vitally important to the virtual freedom of this country, matters dealing with life and death.

So I do hope people will join together and have continual prayers for this country and the President of the United States.

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#### THANKING THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of all Senators, I express my appreciation to the Presiding Officer. It is a real sacrifice to be here on a Friday afternoon, where there isn't a lot going on on the floor, but there were things that had to be done. Of course, the Senator from Vermont is known for his patience. And here is another example of it.

So on behalf of all Senators, thank you very much for your time and for the many hours this afternoon.

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#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2590

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday at 10 a.m. the Appropriations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2590, the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my hope that the Senate will be in a position to consider the Defense authorization bill next week. The majority leader will be consulting with the Republican leader as to its scheduling.