

CANTWELL, who will be recognized to speak on matters of importance to them and their States and the country, the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the majority leader has indicated that the two managers of the bill have stated they believe they can complete the bill tomorrow. If not, we will have to complete it on Friday. We are quite certain that will not happen, but the leader wanted us to notify people in case we were unable to finish tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Washington is recognized.

LOSS OF FOUR WASHINGTON FIREFIGHTERS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the Senate Chamber this evening to join my colleague, Senator MARIA CANTWELL, in acknowledging four young Americans who lost their lives in service to our country last evening.

Like many Americans, this morning I awoke to the very tragic news that four firefighters had died while battling a wildfire near Winthrop, WA.

Today I want my colleagues and the American people to know the names of those four brave firefighters: Tom Craven, 30 years old, of Ellensburg, WA; Karen Fitzpatrick, 18 years old of Yakima, WA; Devin Weaver, 21, of Yakima; and Jessica Johnson, 19, also from Yakima.

These were young people.

These were people who put themselves in harms way to keep the rest of us safe.

Today, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of those four courageous firefighters.

It's hard to imagine the dangers that firefighters face every day. But they choose to fight fires to help protect the rest of us—our families and our communities.

When something like this happens, it makes all of us stop and think about what they've sacrificed for our safety.

My brother is a firefighter. For years, he fought fires. My family and I understand the risks.

I know how those families feel every day when they send their loved ones off to work.

They are proud of them.

They know they are doing something important for their neighbors and their community.

And they are always hoping they will get back home safely at the end of the day.

This tragedy reminds us all of the dangers that firefighters face every day.

To the families of those four brave young people, please know that we are a grateful nation, and you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

I also want to wish a speedy recovery for the other firefighters who were injured while battling the wildfire.

I want to thank the firefighters in Washington State—and across the country—for the work they do to protect us.

We own them a debt of gratitude.

Today, we owe four families our condolences and our thanks for their sacrifice. I yield to Senator CANTWELL from Washington State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I come to the floor today after learning of the tragic deaths of four firefighters in the Wenatchee National Forest in Washington state. These courageous firefighters died yesterday battling a wildfire in Okanogan County. A tragedy of this magnitude is felt throughout Washington state, but should also be recognized and mourned by a grateful nation.

This is the nation's deadliest wildfire since 1994. On behalf of the citizens of Washington State, I extend my deepest sympathies to the families of the four brave men and women who gave their lives to protect their neighbors. Squad Leader Tom Craven of Ellensburg, Devin Weaver of Yakima, Jessica Johnson of Yakima, and Karen Fitzpatrick of Yakima gave their lives to keep us safe. This tragedy is compounded because these firefighters were so young—the youngest being just 18 years old.

We join their families and friends in mourning their loss.

As Senator MURRAY pointed out, this tragedy reminds us that we often take for granted the men and women who routinely put their lives on the line to protect us. Every state in the nation has experienced the loss of people involved in fighting fires.

I hope the families and friends of these brave firefighters know that the courage and sacrifice of their loved ones will not be forgotten and that our sympathies reach out to their families.

I also want to recognize the hard work of those firefighters who are still fighting; to those who are injured, I also wish them a speedy recovery. The firefighters of the U.S. Forest Service come from all over the country. They have been battling fires for years. This year alone, 300 firefighting personnel are available on the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. These firefighters work year after year in service to their country with little recognition.

On behalf of the residents of Washington State and the Nation, I thank them for their hard work and their dedication under very trying circumstances. We all remember the sacrifice that each and every one of you have made.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MILLER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

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

FBI OVERSIGHT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to discuss with my colleagues the issue of the Federal Bureau of Investigation oversight, and how we can help the Bureau regain the trust and confidence of the American people.

First, I find it very pleasant today to commend Attorney General Ashcroft for something he did. He announced today action to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Office of Inspector General of the Justice Department so that that Office of Inspector General would be able to work with the FBI and the DEA on its own initiative, without jumping through a lot of hoops which were some hoops that were put in place in the previous administration, which, in a sense, put the FBI and the DEA out of bounds from things that you would expect an inspector general of a department to be looking into.

So, effective immediately, then, the inspector general will have primary jurisdiction over allegations of misconduct against employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Agency. This is an important and encouraging step towards overall FBI reform, one which I hope will help to solve the problems that the FBI has with their management culture.

Previous to this, the inspector general could not initiate an investigation within the FBI, or the Drug Enforcement Agency, without the express permission from the Deputy Attorney General. Contrariwise, in most other Departments, the inspector general can do any investigation they want to, unimpeded in any way. It is very important for the inspector general to have that freedom to function. They are not only an agent for the Cabinet Department head, but they are also an agent of the Congress because they can report directly to the Congress. It is essential to have that type of oversight, that type of policing to ferret out wrongdoing.

I have been saying for many years that the FBI should not be allowed to police itself, and I am encouraged by this new step taken today towards the establishment of a free and independent oversight entity which now, truly, the Department of Justice inspector general will be.