

Athens, Belgium, Cairo, Turkey, Ireland, London, Rangoon, Shanghai, Waterloo, Medina, Vienna, Congo, Glasgow, Ghent, and Genoa without a passport—without crossing more than a county line! You could even Tango in Montecarlo. You can see much of the United States as well, including Auburn, Augusta, Bismark, Cleveland, Miami, Dallas, Newark, Denver, Washington, and Wyoming. And if these big cities overwhelm you, the lower key attractions of Minnie, Little, or Pee-wee might be soothing, but if your dreams and fantasies are truly wondrous, then Cinderella—Cinderella, Cinderella—is the place for you.

Some names are more evocative of the settlers' beautiful and wild new surroundings, such as Grassy Meadows, Green Valley, Clear Creek, Deepwater, Lake, Limestone, Shady Spring, Cold Stream, Coldwater, Three Forks, Falling Waters, and even Falling Rock. And speaking of Three Forks, West Virginia's schoolchildren are good in math. When I was a boy, we had the old spelling matches and the arithmetic matches on Friday afternoons. So we are good in math. So there is Onego, there is Two Run, there is Three Forks, there is Three Mile, Three Churches, there is Four Mile, Four States, Five Forks, and Six and even Hundred.

Speaking of falling rock, in fact, rocks figure rather prominently in my state of old mountains. West Virginia communities include, simply, Rock, as well as Rock Camp, Rock Castle, Rock Cave, Rock Creek, Rock Oak, Rockport, Rockcliff, Rockford, Rock Gap, Rock Lick, Rock Valley, and Rock View, in addition to the more flavorful Salt Rock. And of course the trees and animals are not to be overlooked, trees and animals discovered by the settlers are also recorded on the maps—Apple Grove, Birch River, Oak Hill, Paw Paw, Piney View, Willow Island, Beaver, Bob White, Pidgeon, Buffalo, Panther, Wildcat, Deerwalk, Trout, Pike, Wolfcreek—Wolfcreek Hollow is where I spent my boyhood years—Elk Garden, Crow, Duck, and of course, as was already mentioned, Turkey, West Virginia. I am proud to say that in West Virginia, sites as pristine and beautiful as those discovered over two centuries ago can still be savored by today's generations. I proudly offer the spectacular chasm of the New River Gorge, the monumental beauty of Seneca Rocks, the ecological rarity of Dolly Sods, the unique variety and interest of Canaan Valley, where, when I was minority leader, I took all of the democratic Senators there on a weekend for meetings. Sometimes these meetings are called retreats. I think I was the first Senate leader to take Members of the Senate to retreats and especially to the choice, unique retreat, *sui generis*, in Canaan Valley, WV.

There are the scenic and historic virtues of Harpers Ferry at the confluence of two famous rivers—the gentle Shenandoah and the mighty Potomac. The Potomac River rises where? In the

highlands of West Virginia. This is just a short list of West Virginia's many natural treasures.

Of course, West Virginia and King Coal were once nearly synonymous, and the importance that mining played in the life and economy of early West Virginia is also evident in her place names. Alloy, Coalburg, Coal City, Coalfield, Coal Fork, Coal Mountain, Coalton, Coalwood, Coketon, Colliers, Lead Mine, Montcoal, Nitro, Petroleum, and Vulcan, West Virginia, all clearly pay homage to the valuable natural treasure that underlies West Virginia's beauty.

Romance—Shakespeare—had he lived in a later time—may have been thinking of Romance, WV, when he wrote "Romeo and Juliet." Romance has its place as well, both as a community and in the affection of the early settlers for their lady loves, enshrined in countless communities named after them, from Alice and Rachel and Sarah to Minnie and Dollie and Naoma, West Virginia. But some of the most interesting place names relate to the concern that our forebears had to pay to the weather and atmospheric conditions in those days before electricity, central heating, and air conditioning. Ah, what a world it was! West Virginia has towns named Cyclone, Hurricane, Mt. Storm, Skygust, Tornado, Sun, Twilight, Snowflake, Frost, Mud, and Windy. Clearly, El Nino is not the only weather phenomenon to etch a name for itself in people's memories.

If West Virginia had much to offer those who ventured into her steep mountains, followed her coursing streams in those early days, she has so, so much more to offer the world today. Instead of 4 miles of four-lane, divided highways, as in 1947, she today has 900 miles of four-lane, divided highways. In addition to her stunning good looks, this lady State of the mountains offers the brawn, the brain, and the talents of her hard-working and thoroughly modern populace.

In towns and cities dotted with institutions of higher learning, West Virginia produces the intellectual firepower to combine with the fabled brute strength of her coal miners, her "John Henrys" of old. The transportation system, including the interstate highways and connectors, rail, air, and even river routes, is increasingly interconnected and modern. For those who do not wish to transport goods or to commute in traffic, West Virginia offers an extensive fiberoptic telecommunications network that allows today's cyber workers to combine high-technology jobs with an uncrowded pastoral setting—imagine that, an uncrowded pastoral setting; how majestic, how beautiful West Virginia seems—a low crime rate, and great family life.

By this fall, West Virginia will even boast eight distance learning nodes, allowing her citizens to maintain and expand their high-technology edge. In West Virginia, you can surf a standing river wave in a brightly colored kayak

or surf the net through a computer modem.

Well, Mr. President, may I say to my good friend from Nebraska, Senator KERREY, I have spent my career in public service, and the underlying theme of that half-century of labor is one of nurturing the infrastructure that will allow the natural talents of West Virginia's people to flourish, providing the support and encouragement for West Virginians of all ages to come, come to West Virginia, come to seek a good education, and the necessary transportation links and other services to attract businesses to the State so that these skilled and devoted sons and daughters of the mountains might remain close to home.

While my work has required that I spend much of my time away from the hills and hollows of my youth, I cherish every report of new businesses choosing to establish themselves in West Virginia and West Virginia companies adding jobs and products to their operations in the State. These reports mean that my dreams for West Virginia are coming true, that the dream of so many West Virginians to remain in West Virginia and to raise new generations of mountaineers is becoming a reality. I see that energy and optimism throughout the State as new opportunities, new roads, and new buildings rise alongside the gentle reminders of the great and historic legacy of West Virginia's earlier settlers. It is, after all, proof that Confidence and Paradise can still be found in West Virginia, not far from Prosperity in Raleigh County, WV.

So, Saturday, June 20, is the 135th birthday of West Virginia's establishment as the 35th star in the constellation on our national flag. I know that God's blessings have shone down on her people, on her mountains, on her green hills, and on her green valleys, and that I have been blessed to be a part of securing for her a bright future.

Happy birthday, West Virginia, and best wishes to you always! Montani semper liberi—mountaineers are always free! Mr. President, take that message to China: Mountaineers are always free.

FATHER'S DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, on Sunday, June 21, Americans will take time to honor the Nation's fathers. The Bible tells us to "honor thy father and thy mother." But at times, fathers have received less public attention and appreciation than mothers. Mother's Day, after all, has been recognized on a continuing basis since 1914, while Father's Day has only been an official holiday for a little over 25 years.

Mr. President, my State has a proud, though little noted, role in the history of Father's Day. According to the American Book of Days, Fairmont, WV, held a church service honoring fathers in July 1908. The idea did not begin to catch on, however, until a

woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd launched a campaign the following year to establish a day celebrating fatherhood. A resident of Spokane, WA—one of Washington's diligent, able, and respected Senators presently presides over the U.S. Senate—Mrs. Dodd reportedly wanted to honor her own father, a widower who raised her and her five brothers by himself on a farm in eastern Washington State. As I mentioned, a Senator from Washington State is presiding over the Senate, Senator SLADE GORTON. He is the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee in the Senate and is one of the most knowledgeable Members on the subject matter of that subcommittee. He is an excellent chairman. But we are talking today about a lady from his State, the State which he so honorably represents, the State of Washington.

Thanks to Mrs. Dodd's efforts, the first official Father's Day was held in Spokane on June 19, on the third Sunday in June 1910. President Woodrow Wilson, who fathered three daughters, and President Calvin Coolidge, who had two sons, endorsed the concept of Father's Day, and various Congresses considered different resolutions making Father's Day an official holiday.

Finally, in 1972, Congress passed and President Nixon signed into law a bill making Fathers' Day a national holiday.

I remember as a child watching my stepfather, my uncle, who was the only dad I ever knew, Titus Dalton Byrd. I remember watching him set forth to toil in the mines, a hard way to make a living, no future, sometimes \$2 a day, working in the black bowels of the Earth, in water holes, under mountains of rocks overhead, loading coal. I saw him set forth to work. I suspect that much of what I have achieved in life can be traced to the example of patience, tireless diligence, that he set for me.

He was a poor man, a humble man, a quiet man. I never heard him use God's name in vain in all my days with him. And when he left this world, he left owing no man a penny. He was an honest, hard-working man, one who accepted his lot in life without complaint. I never in my life saw him sit down at the table—no matter how meager, how humble, the fare—and utter the slightest complaint, never a complaint about mom's cooking, although she was an excellent cook, never a complaint. He never complained about anything.

Like so many children with their fathers, I continue to be indebted to that man, one of the greatest men that I have ever known in life. And I have known a lot of so-called great men, statesmen, leaders, Senators, Governors, shahs, kings, princes. My dad was a truly great man, great because he symbolized the great things in life: honesty, integrity, respect for his neighbor, love for his God, faith in his country. He loved his family. He loved me.

I shall always be indebted to him for teaching me by his conduct the virtuous and proper path to take in life, not that I have always followed that path. But if a parent will ingrain these principles in his children, the child may from time to time wander from the righteous path, but in time he will return because the old lessons, the old verities, the eternal values, taught and inculcated into the minds of the children, will always, always remain and will become a part of that life and a part of the next generation.

The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes, chapter 9, 10th verse, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." That old dad taught me that. And I took the maxim seriously because he took it seriously. He worked hard, very hard.

Senators can't know it unless they lived in the mining towns. They can't know the hard drudgery, the discouraging life of the coal miner and his family.

And my old dad always strove to do his very best, no matter how simple or unexciting the job in the mines. Many men's lives—my neighbors, my friends, fathers—depended in a very literal sense upon the quality of each other's work and upon the carefulness of each other's work. A careless lighting of a match might snuff out the lives of the fathers of hundreds of children. Think of Monongah, WV, where more than 300 lives were taken in one day by an explosion, an explosion in a mine.

I recall now how late in the afternoon I would go out on the porch and look up the railroad tracks and wait for my uncle, my dad. I never lived with my natural father. My mother died with the influenza epidemic in 1918. I lacked just a few days being 1 year old. I never lived with my father after the day she died. And I never saw him during the next 15 years, and then I was able only to visit with him 1 week. That was my natural father. I had three brothers and a sister, but only recently did I learn that I had a fourth brother, who died at childbirth. I grew up in the hands of these wonderful, wonderful people, this old couple who had had one child before I was born. He died of scarlet fever. This old couple took me on my mother's leaving this earthly life. And they brought me from North Carolina to West Virginia. So this was my dad. This was my mom. I have no recollections of my natural mother.

But these were the people who raised me. They didn't have much, but they had love for me. I never heard them quarrel at any time in their 53 years of marriage. Not a quarrel did I ever hear. My wife and I have been married 61 years. I can't say we haven't had a few spats. But my old mom used to say, "One thing you must remember, both of you, don't you both get mad at the same time." When one gets mad, the other shouldn't get mad. The other shouldn't say anything. Just sit down, be quiet. So that was her recipe, and it worked.

I used to look up the railroad tracks and wait for my dad to return from his day in the mines, swinging his dinner bucket beside him. I treasured my time with him. He encouraged me to read, to draw, and to learn music. Like so many fathers, he wanted me to have a better life than he had had. He set about encouraging my interests and in building my confidence.

I suspect that many of my colleagues learned to throw a ball or to fly a kite under the tutelage of their fathers. Fathers played such an integral role in many of the memories that many of us have of our childhood. We picture those fathers tending the weekend barbecue, fork in one hand and a plate of hot dogs or hamburgers in the other, sitting patiently in the stands of the Little League ball game cheering our successes, consoling us afterwards about our less than successful efforts; or teaching us with a mixture of stern caution and warm affection how to drive the family car. That is not an experience or memory of mine. But I know that it is with many others. Such moments are as precious as pearls, and we string them together in our minds to make a beautiful necklace of memories.

Fathers can be stern, of course, but what father is more worthy than the one who selflessly serves as a garden stake for his young child?

I grow a few tomato plants, and I always have a stake to hold those tomato plants until they are strong enough that they can climb and make it with the help of still larger stakes.

So, what father is more worthy than the father who serves as a garden stake for his child, using his own example to encourage the tender young sapling to grow up straight and to grow tall? Good fathers are like good gardeners. They prepare the soil carefully and they coddle the seedlings before handing them off and planting them in the soil of life. And, even then, they weed out the bad influences, prune the bad habits, support and train the tender shoots with discipline and order and fertilize with affection.

Let me close, Mr. President, with a short poem by Grace V. Watkins entitled, "I Heard My Father Pray."

Once in the night I heard my father pray.

The house was sleeping, and the dark above

The hill was wide. I listened to him say
Such phrases of devotion and of love,
So far beyond his customary fashion,
I held my breath for wonder. Then he spoke

My name with tenderness and such compassion.

Forgotten fountains in my heart awoke.

That night I learned that love is not a thing

Measured by eloquence of hand or tongue,
That sometimes those who voice no whispering

Of their affection harbor love as strong,
As powerful and deathless as the sod,
But mentioned only when they talk with God.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I want to commend the able Senator from West Virginia for the remarks he just made. He has told us about that great State that has so many places named for other places in this country, so many places. He has told us about his history and the hardships he underwent and he has overcome. We are very proud of him. I consider him a man of integrity, ability and dedication. All that he has done in this body is a credit to him.

I have never heard unfavorable remarks about Senator BYRD. Everything I have heard and learned about him has been good. And after hearing his talk this morning, I am convinced that all the experience he has in his life has influenced him throughout his entire career, which is quite remarkable. He has brought out so many instances of how other States are connected with his State; his State is intertwined with so many different places.

Incidentally, in West Virginia there is a town or community named Thurmond. I don't know whether the Senator is familiar with it or not. He did not mention that, but I mention it to show that South Carolina has a connection with West Virginia, and we are very proud of the connection that we have with the Senator and his State. Again, I wish the Senator long life and much happiness and continued success in all of his undertakings.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, if I may again claim the floor just for 2 or 3 minutes, I thank the senior Member of this body for his preeminently gracious and charitable remarks.

There is a place named Thurmond in West Virginia. It is down on the New River, and it is a very historic place, an old railroad town. There was a poker game there that continued for several years. I have heard various stories about this poker game that lasted 7 years. Some said it lasted 10, 11 or 12 years. It was evidently a long, long time in its existence.

Thurmond is just a small town now—not to be called even a town. But I am very proud that Senator THURMOND of South Carolina has reminded me of Thurmond, WV. I hope Senators will travel through Thurmond at some point. It is on one side of the river, and on one side of the railroad tracks. One can see the beautiful mountain peaks on each side.

I thank the Senator, too, for his services to his State and to his country. If one reads his biography, one will find that he is truly a remarkable Senator who has led an extraordinary and remarkable political career, a career in public service. He honors me with his kind words, and I am thankful to the divine hand that guides us all for having let me live and serve in this body with STROM THURMOND now for 40 years. I am grateful for my friendship with him and most appreciative of his kind words this morning.

Mr. LEVIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, let me just join Senator THURMOND in thanking Senator BYRD for his eloquent remarks on his home State on its birthday. We all join the Senator in wishing West Virginia happy birthday and on his tribute to fathers. What the Senator said about his family, his stepfather, his uncle, and other men who had such an impact on his life, brave men, modest men, men of modest means who had such an impact on his life, all live through him in us and those memories are shared with us. They become part of all of us. And so I want to thank the Senator from West Virginia for sharing those memories with us.

I talk a lot back home about lifelong learning. When I talk to students when they graduate, whether high school or college, I say it is the learning that lies ahead of them also which is so important and they should never stop learning. We have greater opportunities for that now as adults because of some of the efforts, as a matter of fact, which the Senator from West Virginia has made to make possible lifelong learning for our citizens.

We all still learn from Senator BYRD. It has been a learning experience for me, being with him in this Chamber, since the first day I was here, and that learning experience has never ceased. I do not know of any Member of this body who has not gained a great deal of wisdom and knowledge from serving here with the senior Senator from West Virginia. So I thank the Senator for taking the time he did this morning to share those thoughts with us.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, if I may just comment briefly, Tennyson said, "I am a part of all that I have met, and we are all a part of each other." I am a part of CARL LEVIN. CARL LEVIN is a part of me. I am proud to serve in this body with CARL LEVIN, Senator LEVIN. He is a man who when he studies a bill, studies it with infinite care, dissecting each comma and period, semicolon, colon, each word, each phrase.

The Bible says, "See us now a man diligent in his business; he shall stand before kings." Senator LEVIN is a man with diligence and ability, and I am proud to know him, proud to serve with him. He is the ranking member on the Armed Services Committee on which I serve with Senator WARNER, who is the ranking member on the Republican side. I thank him. He has always been very generous, very kind, very thoughtful to me. And I hope to predict that within just a few weeks he will join me in lauding the Supreme Court of the United States for holding that the Line-Item Veto Act is unconstitutional. He has fought that battle with me, and I hope we are able to join in triumph as Roman Emperors on that great day. May it come.

Mr. LEVIN. A hope in which I share, may I say. Thank you, ROBERT.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished Senator from Michigan and our great and courageous chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. THURMOND. For all of us who have joined here today, and Senator KERREY and others, to listen to those beautiful remarks, of course they evoke memories of our own parents.

My father was a medical doctor who practiced surgery and gynecology in the greater metropolitan Washington area all his life. He was proud of his heritage from the central part of Virginia, from whence his father and mother came. I often think that no matter what riches there are available in the world, there is no greater gift of God or anyone else than to have loving and strong parents. To the extent I have succeeded modestly in life, I owe it almost entirely to a wonderful father and a wonderful mother, who lived to be 96 years old.

Senator BYRD, you have left a profound mark on all of our lives. We visited momentarily here before those remarks about the birthday of West Virginia. I continue to make the offer to rejoin Virginia and West Virginia, bond them together as they once were, and I will yield the position of the senior Senator from Virginia and allow my colleague to be the senior Senator. Just how Senator ROBB will fit into that, I am not sure.

Mr. LEVIN. Where does that leave CHUCK?

Mr. WARNER. We will work out those modest details as we go along. But you have greatly enriched the lives of all of us.

What a treasured experience—to have the opportunity to listen to Senator BYRD on the floor on this and many other subjects.

Perhaps before the day ends, you will give us a quote, relative to Cicero, as you give Senator LEVIN and me a little token of what you feel about so strongly.

Mr. President, I will be consulting with the distinguished chairman of our committee and the ranking member regarding the remainder of the day. But we will continue actively on this bill. At this moment, I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Senator from Nebraska allow me to respond just briefly to the Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER? I want to express my gratitude to him for his very lavish and profuse words with respect to me. He shares with us great riches, as we enjoy his friendship and work with him. I look upon him as a great American. He is on the Armed Services Committee, a former Member of a President's Cabinet—Secretary of the Navy. He has demonstrated by his patriotism and public service the kind of service that we should try to emulate.

I thank him very much for his kind words. They mean much to me.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator from West Virginia, my friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. KERREY. First of all, I come to the floor to offer some comments on S. 2057, a 412-page law that is before us. But I had the pleasure, as many others did on the floor, to listen to the statement of the distinguished Senator from West Virginia about not only West Virginia, but also on Father's Day.

I want to offer my praise as well, not just for the Senator's statement, but for the Senator's service. The senior Senator from West Virginia has not only made the lives of the people of West Virginia better, but he has also made the lives of the people of America better and, for those of us who have had the opportunity to learn from him, we hope our service better as well.

I am grateful for the advice and counsel and the assistance that the distinguished Senator has given me. But I am most grateful for those times when I had the opportunity to sit and listen to his views and his capacity to connect the strength and courage of individuals in the past to what we do here on this floor.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I will connect what I say here about this piece of legislation with Father's Day. I had the occasion, during our last recess, to take my 23-year-old son and my 21-year-old daughter to Omaha Beach. I was in the audience on the 6th of June, 1994, in Antelope Park in Lincoln, NE, where, among other people, I heard at that time the senior Senator from Nebraska, Senator Exon, and many other speakers talk about that day on the 6th of June, 1944, when very young men crossed the English Channel in the early morning and, as they approached the beaches of Normandy in France—now quite quiet, now nowhere near as hostile as it was on that morning—the bullets from the German trenches rained down upon the beach. And the soldiers, as they approached the beach that morning, could hear the bullets raking the front of their landing craft. Those of us who have experienced bullets raking in any environment at all understand the courage that it took to lower those gates and leave those boats, knowing that it was highly likely that they were going to be shot and that it was even a higher probability, in those early landing craft, that they would die.

On the occasion that I took my son and daughter, this year, to Omaha Beach, I pointed out the crosses there in this very quiet, reverential place—that each one of them is a story. Each one of them is a son. Each one of them was either a potential father or perhaps was a father themselves, leaving behind grieving sons and daughters

who remember that extraordinary service.

So, on Father's Day I am apt, I suspect as many of us who have served are—apt to reflect, not only upon my father, but also upon the fathers who are no longer with us as a consequence of their service, as a consequence of their heroism, as a consequence of their courage. And I, as an individual, am always more impressed with the courage and the heroism that is done, as the distinguished Senator from West Virginia was describing in his own father, without any expectation that there would be a television camera recording the act, or a newspaper reporter writing it down, or any glory whatsoever, necessarily, coming to that individual.

The most important act of heroism is that act of heroism that occurs when nobody is observing what you do. That is when character is built. That is when the strength of, not just the individual, but the strength of the Nation, comes through as well. These young men who landed on that beach on the 6th of June, 1944, knew that they perhaps would die with no one there recording what it was that they had done.

I am struck, not just on Father's Day, but on many other days as well, how blessed we are as a result of the sacrifices that our fathers made for us and our forefathers made for us.

As I begin my comments on this piece of legislation, I can't help but connect with what the distinguished Senator from West Virginia, the senior Senator, was talking about earlier about fathers and sacrifice and the nobility of character that is developed in that moment when you do what your father told you to do. You follow not just the straight and narrow path, but often the most difficult path. My own father's most important lesson to me was that the easy road is apt to be the wrong road; the easy course is apt to be the wrong course. It is that difficult path that we very often must choose.

I am here on the floor to make that observation about this particular piece of legislation, Mr. President, S. 2057, 35 titles, 412 pages. I came here as a former Governor, as a former businessperson, and the longer that I am on the job of writing laws, the more impressed I am that there is a connection between these laws and our lives. It may be that some of these words in this piece of legislation I disagree with, and I may come to the floor and try to change some of these words, but none of us should doubt that these words are important, that they create an authorization in law that enables us to have an Army, a Marine Corps, a Navy, an Air Force, and a Coast Guard. It frames for us and authorizes for us what we will need to defend our Nation.

One of the things that I hear very often when I am talking to the citizens of my State whom I represent is they will say to me, "Well, Senator, what threats are there? The cold war is over.

For gosh sakes, what threats are there today to the people of the United States of America that would justify this expenditure, not just of money but of lives?"

Understand, we are not just authorizing the creation of an Army, a Navy, a Marine Corps, an Air Force, and a Coast Guard, we are asking young men and women to come in and swear an oath to their country and defend the people and, if necessary, not only to risk their lives, but even to give their lives in a cause that we on this floor declared important, as we have done in Bosnia, as we have done throughout the world not just in this year but in past years.

My answer is, unfortunately it was not readily apparent in the 1920s that there was a threat. Thus, Americans in the 1920s said, "We have suffered enough in the Great War," the so-called war to end all wars. It was supposed to be the last war of mankind. We had a treaty at Versailles in 1919. It was believed that was all we had to do. So we came home and wrote laws in response to people saying, "We've had enough." We wrote laws that downsized our military, that said there is no apparent threat in the 1920s, so we maintained just a skeleton force, if that.

Mr. President, my father was a 6-year-old in Chicago in 1919, and little did he know that the move to demilitarize this Nation, the move to isolate this Nation, the move to say that we are going to take care of America first and only would result not just in his having to serve in the Army, and he was being prepared for the assault of Japan when Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs were dropped and Japan surrendered, but his older brother, John, went to the Philippines expecting in 1941 to return happily a year later, but he was among those who were, on the 8th of December, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, he was among those who were on the island in the Philippines unprepared for an attack—unprepared—and, as a consequence, they not only suffered the Bataan death march, but suffered horribly over the next few years.

It may not be that we see a threat of enormous dimensions today, but this piece of legislation, I hope, prepares us for the threat that we don't see, for the threat that may occur tomorrow. I hope that we understand as we write this piece of legislation that there are men and women who are serving us in our Armed Forces.

I know that the Armed Services Committee has written in to make certain that they are not only given a sufficient amount of resources to train and prepare themselves, but that they are given adequate housing and that they are given adequate health care and that they are given other things as a consequence of us knowing and understanding that they are serving us and putting themselves at risk in service to us.