

family of wealth and influence, you created an independent career that has profoundly enriched the Kennedy saga and given voice and power precisely to those who, lacking wealth and influence, have been denied the opportunity of the American dream.

In the struggle for civil rights, your eloquence has been the trumpet of our leadership. You are the inexhaustible champion of racial justice and minority rights, of better schools, of the protection of the environment, of care and concern for the casualties of a market society—of those left out of America's historic prosperity. No one has done more to provide healthcare for all Americans. You have built extraordinary coalitions—and when necessary you have stood alone—in extending insurance coverage, in controlling costs, in protecting the vulnerable, in advancing medical research. You have fought for a social security system that truly assures security. You have led the fight for the minimum wage and the rights of labor, for equal opportunity for women, for the protection of children and for all those caught in the web of poverty. What the New Deal established, you advanced. You are the defender of past social gains and the designer of new social opportunities. Your capacity for friendship, your graciousness and good humor, your willingness to do the tedious homework that makes you a master of legislative detail has enabled you to overcome partisan divisions. You have achieved extraordinary results without compromising principle.

In world affairs, you are a champion of peace and international understanding. Northern Ireland has the hope of peace today in large part because of your outspoken opposition to violence and terrorism and your untiring support of those on the front line working for justice and reconciliation. The developing nations of the world know you as their friend, and the United Nations esteems you as an American leader who is determined to see our country fulfill its responsibilities of leadership.

Your life has not been absent adversity and pain but that has not lessened your determination to strive, to seek, to find and never yield in the quest for a better world. In 1980 bringing your campaign to an end, you said: ". . . But for all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die." You have been faithful to that promise. Those words define our purpose with this award. You have understood and enhanced the great message of the Four freedoms as Franklin Delano Roosevelt meant them. Therefore, in his name, we honor—and we thank you.●

CLOSING OF FORT McCLELLAN

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, this is an important day for the United States and for Alabama in the community of Anniston, Calhoun County.

Fort McClellan closed today. It was a casualty of the 1995 BRAC process. There was a great institution and a great installation. Thousands and hundreds of thousands of Americans served in that community. It was given to the military in the early 1900s by the people of that area in order to found this base.

I would like to read part of an article by Rose Livingston, writing for the Birmingham News, captioned "Taps for Fort McClellan as final door closes."

The barracks are boarded up, and barricades block their driveways. Flags have been

furled and stored as mementos. Soldiers have packed up and shipped out.

Fort McClellan is no more.

The 82-year-old Army training base in Anniston finally shut its gates Thursday. It was given birth in 1917 by a community that chipped in to buy the land and donated it to their government. Its demise came at the hands of federal bean-counters, who decided in 1995 that Fort McClellan was surplus.

No bugle sounded, no cannon fired for the final shutdown. Those symbols were quieted after a closing ceremony in August, when soldiers were still around to march in it. Most are long gone. All that remains now is a skeleton crew to manage the base's transition from a bustling military post to a profit-generating private enterprise.

Indeed, we will be looking for reuse of that facility. The community has a joint power reuse authority: The Chamber of Commerce, the city of Anniston are all working to do what they can to create the kind of activity in a different way than what existed there.

I am pleased we had the support of this Senate to create the Center for Domestic Preparedness at Fort McClellan because Fort McClellan was a chemical training school, among other things, and we have to be able to be prepared in this Nation for the use of weapons of mass destruction.

So this base at least will be a small part of some of the chemical testing facilities, some of the training facilities, and training of teachers. They will be able to teach firemen and police how to respond if they are faced with a chemical or biological weapons attack in their towns and cities.

The people of Anniston, the people of Fort McClellan, and the people of Calhoun County are patriotic Americans. They gave the land that became Ft. McClellan, and now they will receive the land back. But they will lose a great deal of income and support.

The people of Anniston fought for their fort, but took the loss gracefully. They believed that chemical weapons would remain a major threat and that we ought not to close this base. I think they made a lot of good arguments. But the Commission decided otherwise, and with good grace, fortitude, and determination, they accepted it and made a determination to move to the future. I believe they will be successful in that.

I know time is late. We need to move on to other matters. But I did not want this day to pass before we had an opportunity to pause and recognize the extraordinary contribution of over 2,000 men and women soldiers and over 2,000 civilians who have served at that base.

STATE OF SOCIETY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kansas for the remarks he made earlier and his commitment to revitalizing the moral fiber of this Nation.

I think the polls he showed that the American people consider the threat of decline in values as the greatest threat facing our country are correct. If we

lose our commitment to honesty, truth, discipline, hard work, and faith, if we lose those values, our Nation could be jeopardized. I thank the Senator from Kansas for raising those points because in many ways they transcend all the other issues we are facing.

I know Senator BROWNBACK, the Presiding Officer tonight, was watching closely Sunday night when we had the "Touched By An Angel" show. They talked about a Senator who was given a challenge to go out to Sudan and see for themselves what it was like. The show could have been done about the Presiding Officer tonight because Senator BROWNBACK did that months ago. He personally went to Sudan and observed the terrible conditions there. He observed men being abused and killed. He observed women being taken into slavery and abused sexually—being bought and sold nearly into the 21st century. He was appalled by it. He has come back here and done something about that.

I know Dr. BILL FRIST, another Member of this body, had been there himself, to this poor, dangerous country, and helped serve with medical skills he possesses.

I just want to say congratulations to you, and thank you for that. I think that film could well have been written about either of you. You felt a calling to respond to the less fortunate and have done so. I believe something good is going to come out of that.

Thank you, Mr. President.

TO REENACT CHAPTER 12 OF TITLE 11, UNITED STATES CODE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 281, S. 1606.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1606) to reenact chapter 12 of title XI United States Code, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 1888

(Purpose: To extend for 9 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title XI, United States Code, is reenacted)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, Senator GRASSLEY has an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), for Mr. GRASSLEY, proposes an amendment numbered 1888.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following: