

For some time, the Happy Hooligans have kept a permanent detachment with four F-16s, pilots, and crews on alert at Langley Air Force Base to provide air defense of the United States.

Last Tuesday morning, the attack on the World Trade Center in New York precipitated an order for those fighters who were on alert to take to the skies. And those F-16s took to the air, but regrettably they were not yet over Washington's airspace when the airplane hit the Pentagon. They were still some minutes away.

But they then flew, as I understand it, 7 hours that day over the skies of Washington, DC, performing combat air patrol and protecting our nation's capital. And these are, as I said, men and women who belong to the National Guard but who have been awarded the distinction of being the best fighter pilots in the world.

I was enormously proud of them. I called their commander at Langley. I told them how proud I was to have the Happy Hooligans—a wonderful contingent of civilian soldiers; men and women who belong to the National Guard—flying those F-16s, providing air cover during a time of national emergency.

So, for the record, I want to say that all Americans, of course, are proud of our men and women in uniform. We grieve with them for the tragedy visited upon them when the airplane was flown into the Pentagon, just as we do for the thousands of people who have lost their lives at the World Trade Center.

And as there are brave men and women across the country who have stepped forward to say, let it be me—the firemen and the firefighters and police men and women who were climbing the stairs of the World Trade Center to try to rescue people, risking their lives to help others, just as there are so many heroes around this country during a time of need—so, too, were the Happy Hooligans in their cockpit of the F-16s, flying combat air patrols over our Nation's Capital.

Let me say to the Happy Hooligans: I salute you. I am proud of your work. And this country owes you a great debt of gratitude.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I say to my friend and colleague from North Dakota, in relation to his eloquent remarks about the Happy Hooligans, we are glad the Happy Hooligans are on our side. I knew that this training was going on. These Air Guardsmen—and possibly women as well—were very important in scrambling to protect our Nation's Capital. I know of one of those pilots actually who is from Virginia.

I am not going to get into the details because it is important for national security not to reveal what they were doing, but they were very much in harm's way. I will not get into any more detail other than to say, these pilots—the Happy Hooligans, and any others who were involved in that

scrambled mission to protect our Nation's Capital, and the region here in the DC area—really were willing to give their lives in a generally undefended position.

So I am glad the Senator saluted the Happy Hooligans. I salute the Happy Hooligans and all those Air Guard pilots who scrambled to our Nation's defense, with complete risk to their lives, possibly having to give their lives to protect others.

They will be called upon again, undoubtedly, in service to our interests, our freedom, and our allies. We do salute them and their families and their employers, whether they may be in North Dakota, Virginia, Minnesota, Wisconsin, or anywhere else in this country because they are patriots. We have all seen the patriotism that defines our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE PAGES

Mr. DAYTON. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to our pages, who serve us day after day with extraordinary dedication—as do all of our staff—but especially for their exemplary performance last week. They continued their service on the Senate floor in the midst of crisis that had even adults in some alarm. Not only did they return to their work after the horrific events of last Tuesday, September 11, but also again last Thursday.

As you recall, Madam President, that evening the Senate Chamber had to be evacuated because of a bomb threat. One of our distinguished Senators said it was the first time the Senate floor had been cleared in his 25 years of service. A security guard told me it was the first time in the 33 years of his service that the Senate Chamber had been cleared. Yet that very night our pages were back working as scheduled to conclude the Senate's business, and they returned again last Friday. Today, they are once again assembled, and are working hard on our behalf.

For people of any age to respond with this kind of courage and dedication in this situation is exemplary. For these young men and women—teenagers who are high school students—to have shown this kind of courage is just extraordinary.

I ask unanimous consent that their names be printed in the RECORD. I wish to pay tribute on behalf of all the Senate to them for their dedication and their courage. They are truly outstanding young Americans.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE PAGES—FALL 2001

Katherine Amestoy, Adam Anthony, Vic Bailey, Danielle Bailey, DeAntai Box, Taryn Brice, Kevin Burlison, Elizabeth Candido, Jennifer Cohen, Eliza Coleman, Meredith Freed, Jason Frerichs, Patrick Gibson, Jena Gross,

Jennifer Holden, Joe Kippley, Clayton LaForge, Jessica Lussier, Ryan Majerus, Scott Moore, Michael Moran, Meagan Rose,

Katie Ruedebusch, Christina Valentine, Antonio Ward, William Warren, George White, Jay Wright.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSMAN FLOYD SPENCE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, last month, the U.S. Congress lost one of the finest public servants I have had the honor to know. As my colleagues may know, Congressman Floyd Spence, who represented South Carolina's 2nd District, passed away on August 16, 2001. Floyd Spence may no longer walk the halls of Congress, but the countless contributions he made over the last three decades will continue to influence South Carolina and this great Nation.

Floyd was a humble public servant who was proud of his modest background, often introducing himself as "Floyd Spence, dirt farmer." He was a principled man who could disarm anyone with his friendly disposition and his distinct chuckle. It was difficult, if not impossible, for anyone to dislike Floyd.

Too often we take life for granted, but not Floyd Spence. As a beneficiary of two organ transplants, he knew too well he had been given not just a second, but a third change at life. As a result, Floyd lived life to the fullest, dedicating it to the service of others and his Nation.

Floyd's generosity was demonstrated by his willingness to lend an ear to those who faced the frightening prospect of a transplant, or the even scarier possibility of not receiving an organ in time. Having faced these fears himself, he welcomed the opportunity to comfort individuals from across the United States who called to ask him about his own experience.

My friend, ever the Southern gentleman, leaves behind a legacy of dedicated public service. For almost fifty years he loyally served the people of South Carolina. Floyd was also an outspoken advocate for our Armed Services and had served as Chairman for the House Armed Services Committee. As a retired Naval Reserve Officer, he recognized the importance of a strong military and worked tirelessly to ensure that the needs of our Armed Services were addressed.

He was a true patriot, a dedicated public servant, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Floyd is an inspiration to all, and my heartfelt sympathy goes out to his devoted wife Debbie, and his fine sons, David, Zach, Ben, and Caldwell, and to his dedicated staff.

CONFIRMATION OF BRUCE COLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to express my strong support for the nomination of Bruce Cole to be Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.