Mr. President, before I relinquish the floor, I do want

to take a couple of minutes on two other items. No. 1, as the Presiding

Officer this morning, I heard a number of Senators come forward and

recognize, as others have over the last few days, that we are

approaching the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

I am sure all of us here remember where we were that Tuesday morning.

I personally recall I was in a campaign for Governor at that point. I

had just gotten a haircut and a big debate was 3 days away when I first

got the news. Suddenly the big debate didn't seem that terribly

important. Within an hour I had been at my campaign headquarters, saw

the plane crash into the Pentagon with smoke billowing out.

In the last 10 years I think this country has made remarkable strides

in making sure Americans are safer than they were 10 years ago. We have

seen a whole new series of collaborations between our intelligence

service agencies. We have seen greater collaboration here at home

amongst our law enforcement.

As we all come together on Sunday and reflect back on the last 10

years and the horrors that were brought to this country, I hope we will

all say a little prayer for those members of our military and those

members of the intelligence community for the magnificent work they

have done making our country much safer.

I think, as well, as we see reports even today of possible threats,

we recognize we can never be 100 percent safe. I remember during my

tenure as Governor, within the first year, we in Virginia and the

District and Maryland were caught in almost 3 weeks of remarkable

terror with what later became known as the sniper incidents. For a lot

of that time we didn't know whether this was a possible terrorist

incident or was it what it turned out to be, two deranged lone-wolf

assassins wreaking havoc across most of the mid-Atlantic.

We need to bear in mind that while we and our government will do

everything possible to keep us safe, we also have to rely upon

individuals in collaboration with law enforcement as they spot

incidents that seem unusual.

But even with that collaboration, there may be times that someone,

whether home-grown or foreign, someone, a lone-wolf type assassin or

terrorist, could slip through, and I think it is important that, 10

years after that enormous tragedy, we as a people be more resilient. We

cannot allow a single act of terror to change the way we live, our

freedoms, our civil liberties, because, candidly, there is no way any

terrorist can inflict so much individual harm that it can do permanent

damage to our country. But if they do spread fear or make us as a

people change the way we interact, change the kind respect we have for

each other, the respect we have for our freedoms, then they will be

more successful than with any single incident of harm.

I know the Presiding Officer and many of the folks who work here and

many of the young pages, as we go into this weekend of reflection--and

I hope many of the folks who are listening today--will take a moment

and not only reflect back on that 10th anniversary but also do an act

of service. I think this is a great time for us as Americans to show

service back to our communities.

I know I will be in the Pentagon Sunday morning, where we were hit in

Virginia. The Pentagon is a national institution, but we in Virginia

are proud it resides in the Commonwealth. I will be in the Pentagon

Sunday morning to be with some who lost loved ones on that day. But I

will also be doing acts of community service throughout this weekend as

well, to make sure we show that great spirit of America.