Mr. President, we have reached another tragic milestone in

the Iraq war: 3,500 American troops have now been lost. Every one of

those 3,500 is a hero. But every brave man and woman who continues to

serve and protect us is a hero as well.

This is a somber time. At a somber time such as this, words betray

our grief and our gratitude. So I ask my colleagues to join me in a

moment of silence to honor the memory and sacrifice of every airman,

soldier, sailor, and marine we have lost in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. President, would the clerk report what is now before the Senate

or what should be before the Senate.