

lifeline for millions of low-income Americans, and we should build on their success by expanding this program for all those in need.

IDAHO'S PROUD WARRIORS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure and is a tremendous honor to call attention to the brave and honorable soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 183rd Aviation Army National Guard unit from Boise, ID. In a letter to Idaho Governor Butch Otter from Lieutenant Colonel S.G. Fosdal, stationed at Forward Operating Base Bermel in Afghanistan, Company B's highly respected and renowned reputation is made clear. The heroism displayed in support of Army special forces, Marine, and Afghan troops along the exceedingly dangerous and remote border between Afghanistan and Pakistan was remarkable, commendable, and in every way worthy of note to this body. In a self-described "unusual letter," Lieutenant Colonel Fosdal praises the many accomplishments and reputation of Company B, calling them "proud warriors." I ask unanimous consent that Lieutenant Colonel Fosdal's letter, as part of my statement, be printed in the RECORD.

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

EMBEDDED TRAINING TEAM 2-4,
3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN),
FPO AP, February 15, 2007.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Boise, ID.

GOVERNOR OTTER, I apologize for this somewhat unusual letter, but I feel it's important to let you know about the selfless courage and exceptional performance of one of Idaho's National Guard units.

I'm currently deployed to a Forward Operating Base located on the Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. Our mission is to mentor the Afghan National Army battalion responsible for the Bermel District of Pakistan Province in one of Afghanistan's most remote and remote regions. Within days of our arrival last October we found ourselves in a 4-hour running gun fight through the mountains in response to an insurgent attack on an American convoy. We had less than a full company of Afghan soldiers but managed a significant victory largely due to the brave men of Company B, 1st BN, 183rd Aviation out of Boise, Idaho. Despite heavy ground fire and a chaotic battlefield they provided precise and timely fires against the enemy, killing many and saving the lives of Afghans and U.S. forces alike. On November 7th we found ourselves in another serious fight, this time with a wounded Marine and Afghan soldiers pinned down by enemy fire. Once again the men from Boise came to our aide—staying on station and working with the Marines on the ground to suppress the enemy and save the wounded. Lesser men would have declared the area too dangerous and flown away leaving us to fend for ourselves, but not Company B. They stuck with the troops in the fight and as a direct result of their heroic efforts a Marine is now at home with his family, healing and thankful to be alive.

There were numerous other occasions when the Afghans were apprehensive about ven-

turing into steep valleys or mountain passes. I only had to mention to the Afghan Commander that the Apaches from Boise would be there and his response would inevitably be, "The helicopters that saved my life? We will win then. Come, we go now." This respect did not stop with the Afghans, the U.S. Army and Special Forces were also imbued with confidence knowing that your unit had their back. In my time on the border, I have not witnessed any other single unit that had the amount of respect and whose mere presence boosted morale like that of Company B.

Company B is now on its way back to Boise. I'm sure the awards have been written, welcomes planned and everyone is just eager to see their families and loved ones. I would only ask that if you have the opportunity, please thank them and let the citizens of Idaho know that they should be proud of these brave warriors. As a state rich in natural resources I thank you and the people of Idaho for sending your most precious resource, its citizens, to serve here in Afghanistan. I hope that you are as proud of them as I am for having served along side them.

Thank you.

S.G. FOSDAL,
LtCol, USMC.

Mr. CRAPO. It makes me proud to hear fellow Idahoans described this way. Our military men and women from every State and territory continue to stand strong for freedom and uphold their solemn commitment to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America." This is simply my opportunity to thank and pay deep respect to the men and women of Company B, part of Idaho's esteemed military tradition, current and past. The steadfast commitment to duty, perseverance, excellence, and reliability are all traits that reflect the spirit of Idaho characteristics clearly articulated in respectful words of honor and thanks from a commanding officer. These soldiers and their families have sacrificed much to keep us free and keep terror and tyranny far from our own shores. On behalf of my family, I thank them all for their valorous service, heartfelt commitment, outstanding patriotism, and willing sacrifice.

HONORING THE INDY RACING LEAGUE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today Senator LUGAR and I wish to recognize the Indy Racing League, IRL, for its decision to use 100 percent ethanol in its race cars and the impact that decision will have on ethanol's viability as a major fuel source for Americans. With its decision to use ethanol as the fuel for the IndyCar series, the IRL is leading the way to encourage greater public use of renewable fuels. If the world's fastest cars can run on ethanol, then there is no doubt that America's cars, trucks and SUVs can, too.

This year all of the IndyCars will race on 100 percent ethanol that is available right here in America—produced by American workers. With this change, the corn harvested on farms

across the country will power the fastest cars in the world.

The ethanol that will power the IRL racecars will deliver the same high-performance capabilities that drivers rely on, only without harmful air pollution. It also represents an important step toward reducing America's dependence on foreign oil by providing a renewable energy source grown in our own fields. By tapping the energy potential of America's farms, we can ensure a reliable domestic energy supply to meet our Nation's needs, end our reliance on unstable countries like Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Venezuela, and create jobs for Hoosier farmers.

This Saturday, March 24, millions of Americans and sports fans from around the world will not only watch the opening race of the IndyCar Series and see first-hand the power of ethanol, but they will also watch the future of American energy unfold at 220 miles per hour.

Reducing our dependence on foreign oil is one of the great challenges of this generation, and the IRL is playing a key role in this effort by helping inform Americans about this important alternative fuel. Since 1911, Indiana has been the center of the auto-racing world, setting the standard in racing for drivers and fans alike. And now, the Indy Racing League is setting a new standard, this time for greater energy independence.

Earlier this year, we introduced the DRIVE Act, legislation that is supported by both Democrats and Republicans to reduce our dependence on oil by 7 million barrels per day in 20 years—more than twice the amount we currently import from the Middle East. It achieves this goal through a combination of steps, including increased use of ethanol, tax credits for manufacturers to produce advanced diesels, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid vehicles, and greater funding for the research and development of energy efficient technologies.

We applaud the Indy Racing League for leading the way in this effort and, along with thousands of other Hoosiers, look forward to this year's ethanol-powered races.

IN MEMORY OF SENATOR THOMAS EAGLETON

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to add to the praise of a great statesman and a great friend: Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri.

Those of us who knew Tom remember him as a man of nearly endless drive and boundless energy. Those qualities carried him to a career in Missouri politics unmarked by a single defeat: the youngest St. Louis circuit attorney, the youngest Missouri attorney general and Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator at the age of 39.

Tom spent his political career, as his hometown paper put it, as "a force of

nature. He worked crowds with a fervor, sweating like a mill worker, chain-smoking Pall Malls, shaking hands, trading insults, telling jokes, remembering names and pet causes." As he conceded himself, "I campaigned myself right into the hospital."

Thankfully, Tom emerged to serve as one of the most eloquent liberal voices in Congress. His achievements should make his constituents proud and his fellow Senators a little envious.

He was crucial to the enactment of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, legislation that still forms the backbone of our environmental defense today.

Tom sponsored the amendment that ended American bombing of Cambodia and helped bring an end to the Vietnam war.

He was a longtime opponent of unchecked Presidential powers to wage war; and I am sure I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that we could sorely use his example and his counsel in the months ahead.

But fairly or not, news of Tom Eagleton's death brought many of us back to 2 tumultuous weeks in 1972.

Every piece of social progress has a melancholy side: the memory of those born too soon to profit by it. The career of Senator Eagleton, distinguished as it was, was just such a case.

Today we recognize depression as a physical illness, as treatable as an ulcer. But in 1972, when Tom Eagleton ran on the Democratic ticket, it was a mark of shame. Exposure of his psychiatric hospitalization cost him his place on that ticket, and part of me wishes he had had his chance in a slightly wiser time. What a difference it would have made for our country.

"If had it to do over again, I'd have kept him," said George McGovern, the Democratic candidate that year. "I didn't know anything about mental illness. Nobody did." Thanks in part to Tom Eagleton, our knowledge today is much deeper.

We know, as Abraham Lincoln learned from his own experience more than 160 years ago, that "a tendency to melancholy is a misfortune, not a fault." And we know that it can be the dark obverse side of our brightest virtues.

One memory of Tom stands out the clearest. We were in a meeting of Democratic Senators, talking about the upcoming agenda. As we went around the room, each stood up to speak of some interests in our own States. But Tom interrupted and gave an impassioned, impromptu speech on the importance of representing the entire Nation. I wish someone taped it; but whenever I am afraid my range of vision is narrowing, I remember Tom's words and remember his wide view of the common, national good. To me, those words symbolize Tom's greatest strength, something one of our colleagues called his "moral passion."

Those who knew Tom will remember that passion first of all, his guiding spirit for 77 years. Our thoughts are with his wife Barbara, his entire family, and all those who looked up to this bold and steadfast leader.

I shall miss a remarkable public man, but more personally, a delightful, warm, loyal friend.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL ROGER E. COMBS

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to honor and recognize the immeasurable contributions MG Roger E. Combs has made to the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Army, the National Guard Bureau, his family, and a grateful nation.

When people talk about the "Spirit of America" and the people who helped make this country great, all one really has to do is mention the name of GEN Roger Combs. General Combs has dedicated his life to serving his country both in the military and as a civilian. His experiences, hard work, and honest counsel have gained him the respect of his peers and his community.

Born and raised on a small dairy farm in Stanberry, MO, to Ruby Fern and H.H. Combs, General Combs studied genetics and productive physiology at the University of Missouri-Columbia. While he planned to go into the family business and become a veterinarian, fate and the Vietnam War intervened and he joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968. Graduating with honors from the USMC Basic Officer's Infantry School and selected for the U.S. Army Rotary wing's flight school, General Combs served a combat tour as a CH-46 helicopter pilot from 1969 to 1970 with HMM-364, "The Purple Foxes" at Marble Mountain Air Facility, Republic of Vietnam. Flying over 500 combat missions, he earned a Distinguished Flying Cross, two single mission air medals, and 37 "strick/flight awards." After returning from active duty in Vietnam, General Combs served in many positions, including as an operations officer and aircraft maintenance officer with HMM-263 at Marine Corps Air Station, Quantico, VA.

General Combs' work in Missouri merits special recognition and is the reason I felt compelled to make a statement on his behalf in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. After leaving active duty in 1973, General Combs joined the Missouri Army National Guard and flew UH-1 "Huey's" with the 635th Aviation Company, from Whiteman, AFB, MO. He transferred to the Missouri Air National Guard in 1978 and later became the director of intelligence for the 139th Tactical Airlift Group in St. Joseph, MO. Yet it was at the Missouri Air National Guard Headquarters in St. Joseph, MO that Gen-

eral Combs become nationally recognized for his expertise in developing long-range strategic planning. As first a planner, then general officer and member of the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee, General Combs was instrumental in analyzing the future needs of the National Guard and advising senior policy makers on the best course of action.

General Combs' footprint extended outside of the military. Upon his return to Missouri after serving in Vietnam, Combs returned to law school at the University of Missouri and upon graduation became a partner in a law firm, a prosecuting attorney, and was elected a judge in 1990. This past December he retired from the bench and returned to being a part time prosecutor and general practitioner.

Perhaps the best measure of General Combs' legacy comes from those who have worked along side him. "Judge Combs," as he is affectionately known by his peers and military associates, is an excellent lawyer and military strategist with impeccable character and integrity. The "Judge" was effective in both the military and judicial branches in encouraging parties to seek arbitration and dispute resolution instead of litigation. One good friend and colleague recalled that it was not only General "Judge" Combs, dry humor which endeared him to his peers but his sincere interest in caring and protecting those who served under him. "He goes to extraordinary links to ensure they are cared for," said one colleague.

I cannot conclude these remarks without commending the dedicated and loving support of General Combs' wife, Gloria, and his three children David, Matthew, and Susan. Married almost 35 years ago at Conaway Hall at Andrews Air Force Base, Gloria has remained General Combs' most loyal supporter and confidant.

General "Judge" Combs has led an extraordinary life in which he has answered his Nation's call to duty and served courageously in war and admirably from the bench. It is my hope and prayer that "Judge" Combs will continue to thrive alongside Gloria in whatever endeavor he opts to pursue. If his former, and current, success is any indicator, I am certain that the years ahead will be both fruitful and rewarding. God bless you, "Judge" and best wishes.●

IN MEMORY OF BOB HATTOY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and I pay tribute to Bob Hattoy, a cherished friend and one of America's most passionate warriors for the environment and human rights. We will miss him dearly.