

Minority Staff Report of the House Committee on Government Reform and the Senate Finance Committee, dated November 20, 2009.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CAPTAIN DALE A. GOETZ

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of Captain Dale A. Goetz. Captain Goetz, assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Carson, CO, died on August 30, 2010, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Captain Goetz was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Arghandab River Valley, Afghanistan. He was 43 years old.

A native of White, SD, Captain Goetz graduated in 1995 from Marantha Baptist Bible College in Watertown, WI, with a bachelor's degree. After serving in White for several years as a pastor, Captain Goetz enlisted in the Army in 2004 and served tours in Japan, Iraq and Afghanistan—all with decoration.

During his years of service, Captain Goetz distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to his soldiers, and unremitting devotion to his faith. His skillful ministry comforted troops and made them more effective in the field, and he never hesitated to engage and counsel others who held beliefs different than his own.

Captain Goetz worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Iraq and Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. His family remembers him as a dedicated husband and as a loving father to his three children.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Captain Goetz's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. And though his fate was uncertain, he pushed forward, counseling our soldiers and promoting the ideals we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Captain Goetz will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To his wife Christina, his sons Landon, Caleb, and Joel, and his entire family—I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Dale's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

STAFF SERGEANT CASEY J. GROCHOWIAK

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of SSG Casey J. Grochowiak. Sergeant Grochowiak, assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, based in Fort Carson, CO, died on August 30, 2010, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol. Sergeant Grochowiak was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Malajat, Afghanistan. He was 34 years old.

A native of San Diego, CA, Sergeant Grochowiak graduated from Horizon Christian Fellowship Academy, where he met Celestina, his future wife, whom he married in 1995. After several years working in the construction industry, Sergeant Grochowiak changed direction to commit his life to defending his country. He enlisted in the Army in 2000, serving two tours in Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan—all with decoration.

During nearly 11 years of service, Sergeant Grochowiak distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and absolute commitment to his troops. Despite having received a medical waiver for his last tour in Afghanistan, Sergeant Grochowiak shipped out and fought on anyway, citing his obligation to protect his young soldiers.

Sergeant Grochowiak worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Iraq and Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. His family remembers him as a dedicated son, husband, and as a loving father to his two children.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant Grochowiak's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. And though his fate on the battlefield was uncertain, he pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Sergeant Grochowiak will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Edward and Barbara, Sergeant Grochowiak's parents, Celestina, his wife, Matia and Deegan, his children, and his entire family, I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Casey's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

SPECIALIST FAITH R. HINKLEY

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of SPC Faith R. Hinkley. Specialist Hinkley, assigned to the 502nd Military Intelligence Battalion, based in Fort Lewis, WA, died on August 7, 2010, from wounds sustained during a firefight. Specialist Hinkley was serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iskandariya, Iraq. She was 23 years old.

A native of Monte Vista, CO, Specialist Hinkley enlisted in the Army in 2007, much to the surprise of her friends and family. Having completed 1 year of classes at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, Specialist Hinkley changed course and became the family's fourth generation to serve in the military.

During her nearly 3 years of service, Specialist Hinkley distinguished herself through her courage, dedication to duty, and exceptional intelligence. Commanders recognized her extraordinary bravery and talent. In fact, on the day of her passing, Specialist Hinkley had just been promoted.

Specialist Hinkley worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Iraq. She is remembered by those who knew her as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. Her family remembers her as a dedicated daughter who loved to serve her country. Her friends remember her loyalty, her willingness to listen, and her lifelong involvement in the community. From an early age, as a student in Monte Vista, Specialist Hinkley's talents were always on display as a mentor to younger girls.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Specialist Hinkley's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, she lived life to the fullest. She lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

At substantial personal risk, she braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Iraq. And though her fate on the battlefield was uncertain, she pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For her service and the lives she touched, Specialist Hinkley will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To David and Annavee, Specialist Hinkley's parents, Matthew, her brother, and her entire family, I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Faith's service and by your knowledge that her country will never forget her. We are humbled by her service and her sacrifice.

STAFF SERGEANT KEVIN J. KESSLER

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life

and heroic service of SSG Kevin J. Kessler. Sergeant Kessler, assigned to the 4th Infantry Division, based in Fort Carson, CO, died on August 30, 2010, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Sergeant Kessler was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Arghandab River Valley, Afghanistan. He was 32 years old.

A native of Canton, OH, Sergeant Kessler enlisted in the Army in 2004, eager to serve his country. In 1996, he graduated from East Canton High School. After spending several years as a truck driver, Sergeant Kessler decided to commit his life to military service. He served three tours of duty: two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, and all with decoration.

During his 6 years of service, Sergeant Kessler distinguished himself through his courage, skillful leadership, and perhaps most importantly, an unflagging dedication to his troops. Sergeant Kessler's unyielding sense of duty was heightened still by the brave efforts of the soldiers under his command.

Sergeant Kessler worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Iraq and Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. His family remembers him as a dedicated son, husband, and as a proud expectant father. They remember that, from an early age, he loved football and cheered for his favorite teams, the Denver Broncos and the Cleveland Browns.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant Kessler's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. And though his fate on the battlefield was uncertain, he pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Sergeant Kessler will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Sergeant Kessler's father and stepmother, Lawrence and Sue, his mother and stepfather, Kristine and Rodney, his wife, Adrian, and his entire family—I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Kevin's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DIEGO M. MONTOYA

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life

and heroic service of PFC Diego M. Montoya. Private Montoya, assigned to the 89th Military Police Brigade, based in Fort Hood, TX, died on September 2, 2010, of injuries sustained from indirect fire. Private Montoya was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Laghman Province, Afghanistan. He was 20 years old.

A native of Texas, Private Montoya graduated in 2009 from Taft High School in San Antonio. He was an active participant in the school's ROTC program, and he always looked forward to the day when he could finally wear a service uniform. Private Montoya enlisted in the Army after graduation, and he deployed for Afghanistan in April 2010.

During his 13 months of service, Private Montoya distinguished himself through his dedication to duty and extraordinary strength of character. Even as an ROTC student in San Antonio, Private Montoya's instructor recognized his remarkable maturity and unwavering loyalty to his classmates, family and friends. These characteristics foreshadowed his excellence as a soldier.

Private Montoya worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to the uniform. His family remembers Private Montoya's courage as a soldier, but also his warm heart and willingness to do anything to help those close to him.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Private Montoya's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Afghanistan. And though his fate on the battlefield was uncertain, he pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Private Montoya will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To his parents, his brothers and sisters, and his entire family, I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Diego's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW J. WEST

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of SSG Matthew J. West. Sergeant West, assigned to the 71st Ordnance Group, based in Fort Carson, CO, died on August 30, 2010, of

injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Sergeant West was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the Arghandab River Valley, Afghanistan. He was 36 years old.

A native of Gaylord, MI, Sergeant West graduated from Northern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in 1997. After returning home for several years, Sergeant West enlisted in the Army in 2004 and served three tours of duty: two in Afghanistan and one in Iraq, and all with decoration.

During his 6 years of service, Sergeant West distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to take on one of the most dangerous and skillful jobs in the Army—defusing bombs. Even as a student at Gaylord High School, Sergeant West exhibited this same extraordinary character by assuming any role needed of him on the football field. Although he was one of the team's smallest players, Sergeant Kessler never hesitated to punch above his weight, even when the coach put him on the offensive line.

Sergeant West worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Iraq and Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. His family remembers him as a dedicated son, husband, and as a loving father to his three children. They remember his warm nature and broad smile.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant West's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. And though his fate on the battlefield was uncertain, he pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Sergeant West will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To John and Marcia, Sergeant West's parents, Carolyn, his wife, Tyler, Joseph, and Annalise, his children, and his entire family, I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Matthew's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

THE COWBOY CANNONEERS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the Wyoming Army National Guard 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion Cowboy Cannoneers.

On October 1, 2010, the 300th soldiers will gather for their final battalion reunion. This reunion marks the 60th anniversary of their Korean war mobilization.

On August 19, 1950, the citizen soldiers of 300th AFA answered the call, picked up their rifles and put on their uniforms to defend our great country. My wife Bobbi's father, Sergeant First Class Robert L. Brown was one of these brave men.

After 21 days at sea, the 300th finally landed at Pusan, Korea on February 15, 1951. In the Spring of 1951, the Chinese People's Volunteers launched a major offensive of human wave style attacks.

Master Sergeant Bill Daly described his first encounter with a communist human wave:

The morning of 16 May and all hell is breaking loose—Fire Mission! Fire Mission! The gun crews sprang into action, the 300th with its 12 105mm howitzers, fired mission after mission. We could see the Chinese coming across the rice paddies and down the road toward us from Chau-ni as our shells land among them . . . It's a human wave.

From the Battle of Soyang to the Battle for the Punchbowl, the Cowboy Cannoneers provided unrivaled fires support for the U.S. Army X Corps and 1st Marine Division. In 256 days of combat, the 300th fired 300,000 artillery rounds. No other battalion sent a battery farther north of the 38th parallel than the 300th. As a result, the 300th was awarded the Army Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

For over 59 years, recognition of the heroism of the 300th was incomplete. The Cowboy Cannoneers were not included in the 1st Marine Division Presidential Unit Citation. Yet history shows they delivered devastating artillery fire support that pounded enemy positions in support of the 1st Marine Division.

Jim Craig (MSgt USMC Ret.) of Sheridan, WY, asked me to help COL Tim Sheppard correct the Marine Corps history. They worked closely with Charles Ziegler of my staff to present evidence to the Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, and Commandant of the Marine Corps, GEN James Conway. The overwhelming evidence supported including the 300th in the 1st Marine Division Presidential Unit Citation.

I am pleased to announce that General Conway recommended including the 300th as a reinforcing unit to the 1st Marine Division. Secretary Mabus has signed the order. The record is now correct for the 300th and its descendent unit the 2-300th Field Artillery Battalion.

I would like to thank MG Ed Wright, COL Tim Sheppard and COL Larry

Barttelbort (Ret) for their resolve and commitment to uncover the facts about the historic service of the 300th. I would also like to thank Secretary Mabus, Secretary of the Army, John McHugh, General Conway and their teams.

We all know the Korean war is commonly referred to in the history books as "The Forgotten War." Not in Wyoming.

In Wyoming, we never forget the service of our brave men and women who wore the uniform of the United States. We realize that we live safe and free today because of the heroism exemplified by the 300th Cowboy Cannoneers.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of Wyoming's citizen soldiers who served with the 300th at the time of the Korean war mobilization.

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

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY
300TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
Sheridan, Wyoming

OFFICERS

Lt. Col. John F. Raper Jr.—Commanding; Major Anthony D. Kelly; Major Gorgon H. Simmons; Capt. Ralph Cloyd; Capt. Hulen Denton; Capt. Robert Herzberg; Capt. Alfred Morgan; Capt. John Poorman; Capt. Earl Pust; Capt. Robert Taft; 1st Lt. Robert Grider; 1st Lt. George Lawler; 1st Lt. Gustav Lofgren; 1st Lt. Peter Mathews; 2nd Lt. Laurel Sand.

WARRANT OFFICERS

CWO-4 Harold Bryce; WO2-Thomas Shannon.

MASTER SERGEANTS

Howard Balow; Joe Herford; Donald Jones; Carl McMaken; William Wood.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Walter Crook; Fred Hough; William Hughes; Eugene Lewis; Floyd Reisch; Donald Williams.

SERGEANTS

Thomas Burnworth; William Eckenrod; Theodore Harker; Edward Hartman; Merrill Hebrew; John Hanson; Tom Holmden; Donald Huffaker; Donald Ingalls; James King; Robert Lott; Dale Maxwell; John Rose; Thomas Wells.

CORPORALS

Floyd Baas; William Badget; Roy Cline; Herbert Deutch; Jack Dewey; Earl Franklin; Frank Green Jr.; Frank Gennaro; Donald Hargis; George Herden; Donald Hyder; Gregg Jones; Paul Lacek; Kenneth Lamb; Irl Maxwell; John McKennan; Bill McNair; Marvin Owen; Richard Pilch; William Preston; Edward Sharp; William Timm; Harry William; Roy Wipper.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Ronald Bohlin; Walter Hampton; Richard Ingalls; Jack Izumi; Hugh McMillan; Linn Maxwell; Jerry Pryor; James Scott; James Vine; Robert Warne.

PRIVATES

Lorenz Algard; Premo Bartot; Andrew Deutsh; Dennis Firth; Claude Hampton; Harold Hammontree; Arthur Littler; Oliver Littler; Byron Mills; Elmer Sterck; Gary Taylor; Richard Williams.

BATTERY A

300TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
Thermopolis, Wyoming

OFFICERS

1st Lt. Radosave P. Jurovich—Commanding; 2nd Lt. Johnny T. Calac; 2nd Lt. Delmer H. Mentch; 2nd Lt. Edward D. Peckham; 2nd Lt. Clyde A. Smith.

SERGEANTS FIRST CLASS

Robert L. Brown; John D. Dodge; George J. Gosch; Earl M. Myers; George (NMI) Rushin.

SERGEANTS

Pete (NMI) Cavalli; Arthur J. Gossens Jr.; Millard P. Jurovich; Kenneth B. Laverents; Charlie F. Lollar; Harold H. Miller; Melvin C. Mills; Raymond G. Patton; Paul (NMI) Ramango; Gildred J. Sanford; Walter D. Slane; Jack A. Toth; William Whitt Jr.

CORPORALS

Marion H. Andreen; Bryson E. Bain; Alvin J. Blakesley; Ivan R. Blakesley; James R. Burnell; Warren L. Fields; Burdett W. Hancock; Robert R. Heron; Raymond D. Maret; Charles W. Miller; Robert W. Noble; Raymond C. Peterson; Jack L. Prickett; George W. Quarles; Jimmy M. Radovich; Charles T. Ray; Richard A. Robertson; George (NMI) Ramagno; Robert H. Scoggin; Robert C. Titus; Robert D. Whitt.

PRIVATES FIRST CLASS

Charles B. Crow; Billy J. Dillard; James L. Duncan; John H. Gosney; Robert L. James; Charles M. Jones; Frank T. Manning; Gerald E. Peyton; George L. Radovich; Marvlyn R. Wilde.

PRIVATES

Howard W. Cox; Lawrence R. Doores; James K. Harris; Earl L. Hummel; Edwin R. Johnson; Conrad L. Maysfield; Donald D. Mills; Gaylord J. Whitt.

BATTERY B

300TH ARMORED FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
Cody, Wyoming

OFFICERS

1st Lt. Duane J. Wheeler—Commanding; 1st Lt. George W. Bonton; 2nd Lt. Richard J. Ellsworth; 2nd Lt. David C. Nelson; 2nd Lt. Louis V. Zaputitl.

WARRANT OFFICER

W-1 Roscoe W. Anderson.

MASTER SERGEANT

Hans O. Jacobsen.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Keith F. Kinkade; Henry Lewis; James T. McKay; Richard N. Null; Fred D. Snyder.

SERGEANTS

Myron H. Burt; James D. Clayton; Paul Champagne; Herman L. Harke; Allen J. Helms; Marvin Hockley; Lloyd D. Lasher; Eugene F. McCumber; John G. McEachron; Edgan E. Norskog; Homer D. Schull; Clifton R. Smith; Robert C. Smith; Frank G. Stephens.

CORPORALS

Ivan C. Asay; Gerald C. Barrows; Albert B. Campbell; Larry E. Dutton; Robert H. Borron; Wayne L. Feyhl; William K. Fink; Leo H. Gonion; Myron K. Hever; Leslie R. House; Norman C. Mason; Ralph Mayer; Gerald J. McLaskey; Glen E. Morris; John I. Mulholland; Ralph D. Newell; Howard L. Norskog; Charles J. Pease; Cecil L. Rice; James H. Slotta; John D. Sullivan; Gary Troxel; John J. Way.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

William I. Arnold; Hugh E. Cathcart; Chris G. Doty; Robert D. Fitch; Joseph L. Jordan;