

America. They did not speak a word of English and he did not speak Chinese, but it did not deter Mychal. Within a few minutes he was handing out blankets, coffee and telling jokes. And they laughed. An immigration officer warned him of the dangers of disease from the men—tuberculosis, hepatitis. Mychal said thank you, ignored the warning and continued on as he was inclined to do. We returned home to Manhattan later that morning and ate an enormous breakfast, “Mychal, you’re a bright guy. They could be very sick.” To which he replied: “When I travel half way round the world I get a blanket and a cup of coffee. They’re our guests and they deserve no less. They only want what we were born into.” As usual Mychal had done good things.

Maybe we know why: A few days after July 4th, our daughters Blanche and Veronica, eight and six, received a handwritten note addressed to them. Blanche recognized the distinctive note paper and handwriting and read to her sister at the kitchen table: “Friday evening, July 6, 2001, 10:00 p.m. My dearest Blanche and Veronica Felicity. Earlier this evening I walked to the new walk along the Hudson-Little West 12th Street to the Battery. It is a wonderful promenade and a great place for Bladders—Someday both of you will be most proficient at that and you’ll be there often.” And they will.

The letter continued: “I sat and gazed at Lady Liberty—so majestic with her torch burning brightly and thought of the great feelings of joy and happiness and hope that my mother and father experienced when they saw her as their boat came into New York Harbor—it was their dream come true. 1921—oh so long ago. They had no idea of all the blessings and a few sorrows that lie ahead of them. They were so brave and had such faith and trust in God, that, that he brought them to these shores and that he would care for them.”

The note paper and the distinctive penmanship were those of Mychal Judge, friar and firefighter. And it was then when I heard our oldest daughter read these simply eloquent words to our youngest daughter that I began to understand Mychal’s rush to the Rockaways.

As he and the late Captain Grethel and late Firefighter Weinberg raced down Seventh Avenue did Mychal think about his little rollerbladers, Blanche and Veronica? Did his mind rush back to pleasant barbecues and lasagna dinners in Northern New Jersey? Did he think of the woman who came to this church and presented Father John Pierce with a tiny American flag in honor of Mychal who had guided her so well when she lost her son last year or of Erin or Dymphna and the prospect of a trip to see them in Maryland, reading books and just talking? Of the people he had not yet met who would need his services at the friary that day upon his return? Of how he could be made an instrument of peace or consolation or harmony?

Or as he pondered the blazing twin towers and the desperate New Yorkers ending their suffering by jumping sometimes arms linked from the inferno, did he try to summon and recreate the innocent but great feelings of joy and happiness and hope that his parents felt when they saw the Lady in the Harbor?

We’ll not know the answer on this earth. But we do know that Mychal died as he lived and as his parents lived—bravely, having such faith and trusting God and loving this land that God made.

Mychal, you taught so many of us that we can only be enslaved, victimized or terrorized by our demons if we so consent. In the coming months we will call upon your memory and your inspired example of faith, sacrifice and determination and rely upon your prayers to help strengthen and console and raise all of us up. Today, from the well of our

sorrow filled with the bitter tears of our loss, we will tend to our garden, emboldened by the faith and trust in God you exemplified and from which the joy and happiness and hope you aspired to will flower again. In an even more resplendent but Mychal Judge less American century.●

TRIBUTE TO COL. CYRIL R. RESCORLA

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mr. CORZINE. Madam President, on the 6-month anniversary of a terrible tragedy, I wish to honor a man whose unfaltering courage and generous spirit showed the world the best of humanity, Colonel Cyril Richard Rescorla.

On September 11, our Nation was attacked in ways none of us ever thought possible. Many Americans have been affected profoundly by these events, and I grieve with all of those who have lost loved ones. At the same time, I have been heartened to see, in the midst of such destruction and despair, a nation united.

On that fateful day, Colonel Rescorla led thousands to safety before his own death in the south tower of the World Trade Center. But valiant service to his country was nothing new to Rick, as he was known to his family and friends. A decorated veteran, he served in Vietnam as a platoon leader in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, inspiring awe in fellow soldiers and earning the reputation of a “battlefield legend.” As a testament to his bravery, Rick’s image is forever immortalized on the cover of *We Were Soldiers Once . . . And Young*, the book by Lieutenant General Harold G. Moore and Joseph L. Galloway that has been made into the recently released movie “*We Were Soldiers*.” Unwavering in even the most horrific situations, Rick gave his men courage in battle, and provided comfort and safety to his civilian colleagues in both attacks on the World Trade Center.

As Vice President for corporate security at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., Rick devised the evacuation plans for the World Trade Center and, in the 1993 bombing, ensured that everyone had evacuated before he would leave the building. A testament to his selfless generosity, Rick’s colleagues are sure he would have been the last person out of the building on September 11 if the situation had been different.

Rick’s altruism extended into every corner of his life. As husband, father, son, friend, and teacher, Rick faced even chronic illness with humility and valor. His life serves as a model of heroism. May his honored memory be a constant reminder of America’s great courage and resolve.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN SEICHTER

● Mr. DODD. Madam President, I am saddened today to hear about the death of a great citizen of Connecticut,

Marilyn Seichter, who passed away on Feb. 10 of Huntington’s Disease. As the first female head of both the State bar association and the State Ethics Commission, she was a pioneer for women in the legal profession. Her brilliant career and life came to an end far too early, at the age of 56.

Marilyn Seichter earned her law degree from the University of Connecticut in 1970, and went on to practice family law for 25 years as a partner with the law firm of Hyman, Cantor, Seichter and Klau in Hartford. She spent her career fighting for women, children and families in Connecticut.

In 1971, fresh out of law school, she joined a team of lawyers in bringing an abortion rights case against the State of Connecticut. This case had a profound influence on the Supreme Courts decision in *Roe vs. Wade*. Later in her career, she represented the National Organization for Women in a lawsuit to stop newspapers from distinguishing between jobs for men and jobs for women in help wanted sections.

Marilyn Seichter’s accomplishments include serving as president of the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund, and as a member of an ad hoc committee to advise Governor Ella Grasso on judicial appointments.

I would like to express my condolences to her sister-in-law, Jacqueline Seichter; her niece, Deborah Seichter; her nephew, Daniel Seichter; and her grandnephew, Jacob Seichter; as well as her many close friends and admirers. She was truly one of Connecticut’s treasures, and she will be missed.●

THAKSIN’S THIN SKIN

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the crackdown on foreign reporters in Thailand is both troubling and disheartening. While I am pleased with the decision of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to allow reporters from the Far Eastern Economic Review to remain in Thailand, damage to that country’s reputation as a democratic enclave in a neighborhood of oppressive regimes has already been done.

The task now before the Prime Minister is to rebuild the confidence of the world’s democracies—and in particular America—that he respects the rule of law and freedoms of speech and thought.

As former chairman and now ranking member of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I have tried to encourage a variety of independent media programs throughout Southeast Asia and the former Soviet Union. In fact, I have been proud to dedicate funding to a program run by Western Kentucky University’s award winning school of journalism which provides professional training to foreign journalists. I would suggest that there are some Thai government officials who would benefit from Western’s tutelage on the import of a free and open press in a democracy.

I know not all Thai politicians and officials agree with Mr. Thaksin's heavy-handed approach to the media. And I know that the people of Thailand, while deeply concerned about the economy, do not want to lose the freedoms they enjoy. They are keenly aware of the plight of their more unfortunate neighbors in Burma, Cambodia, and Laos.

This brouhaha was completely unnecessary, and was pre-empted, as an editorial in the Wall Street Journal earlier this week pointed out, by Prime Minister Thaksin's "thin skin." Mr. Thaksin needs to abandon his efforts to control the press and concentrate instead on leading his country. I find it hard to believe that the Prime Minister is only discovering that politics is a contact sport.

I encourage my colleagues to continue to follow events in Thailand, and I extend my appreciation to the Senator from North Carolina for speaking forcefully on this issue early this week. I add my voice to the growing chorus of concern.●

MIAMI HURRICANES 2001 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPS

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I rise today to welcome the 2001 University of Miami Hurricanes' baseball team to Washington, DC. In June of last year the Hurricanes won their fourth national championship, beating the Stanford Cardinal in the College World Series.

They are joined on their trip to Washington by the school's football team, who you may remember won the 2001 national football championship with a stunning victory in the 88th Rose Bowl. The efforts of both teams are being recognized with ceremonies at the White House, as well as here on Capitol Hill.

The Hurricanes' baseball team completed its stellar year with a 17-game winning streak, and became the 18th team to go undefeated in the College World Series. With a solid line-up from top to bottom, first-rate pitching, and some of the best all-around talent in all of college baseball, the University of Miami capped its season by beating Stanford 12-1.

It is my pleasure to congratulate head coach Jim Morris for his second national title in three years, and I'd like to recognize the senior starters on this team that has meant so much to the University of Miami.

Pitcher Tom Farmer finished the year 15-2, and won the final game, scattering a run and four hits over 5½ innings.

First baseman Kevin Brown also had a great Series, batting .467, hitting three home runs and leading the team with a home run, a double and 5 RBI in the final game.

Senior center fielder Charlton "Chewy" Jimerson, also had a great Series, being voted the Most Outstanding Player, and showing the coun-

try what the University of Miami already knew.

Finally, Greg Lovelady, who caught both the 1999 and 2001 national title games for the Hurricanes, will be staying with the team as an assistant coach. I know his experience will be an asset that Miami teams will benefit from for years to come.

I am proud to welcome these scholar athletes on behalf of all Floridians, and to congratulate the University of Miami for its excellence both on and off the field.

I ask consent to have printed in the RECORD the starting lineup of this championship team.

The lineup follows:

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HURRICANES BASEBALL TEAM LINEUP

Charlton Jimerson, Centerfield;
Mike Rodriguez, Leftfield;
Javy Rodriguez, Shortstop;
Danny Matienzo, Designated Hitter;
Kevin Howard, Third Base;
Kevin Mannix, Right Field;
Kevin Brown, First Base;
Kris Clute, Second Base;
Greg Lovelady, Catcher;
Tom Farmer, Pitcher; and
Jim Morris, Head Coach.●

HONORING ROBERT HODGES

● Mr. HELMS. Madam President, this past Friday, March 8, the Department of Veterans Affairs paid special tribute to Robert Hodges of Stonewall, NC, in a ceremony in Pamlico County where Mr. Hodges was officially recognized and honored as the Nation's oldest veteran.

Family records disclose that Mr. Hodges was born June 18, 1891, confirming that he is almost 111 years old. The grandson of slaves, Robert Hodges grew up on a large farm; he began working when he was 8 or 9 years old. Mr. Hodges was 27 when he volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army in 1918. As one of 237,000 African-American stevedores, he served 1 year in France.

After his discharge, he returned to North Carolina and to his parents' farm. He married Malinda Boyd in 1924; eventually they saved enough money to buy their own farm. Along with their eight children, they continued to work the farm until failing eyesight caused him to retire in the 1950s, but he continued being an active member of his church, Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, and his community.

During his 111 years, he was aware of the first flight at Kitty Hawk and of Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon. There have been 20 U.S. Presidents during his lifetime.

I was represented at this ceremony by Kelly Spearman, a very fine member of the Helms Senate Family. Mrs. Spearman presented Mr. Hodges an American flag which was flown over the Capitol in his honor.●

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE GLASSER

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I rise to pay tribute to Eastern

Kentucky University's 10th president, Joanne Glasser. Ms. Glasser was officially inaugurated as the University's first female president, and I would like to join Eastern Kentucky University in welcoming her to the Kentucky academic community.

Ever since she graduated from high school in 1969, Joanne Glasser has been steadily on the rise. She received her bachelor of arts from George Washington University in 1973 and a J.D. shortly after from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1976. Most recently, she received a certificate from Harvard Graduate School in 1999. Besides her many educational achievements, Ms. Glasser has had a stellar career as a public servant for the State of Maryland and now the commonwealth of Kentucky.

After completing law school, Ms. Glasser accepted a job as a law clerk for the State of Maryland, Baltimore County, and eventually became the Assistant County Attorney for Baltimore County. She next moved on to become the Baltimore County Labor Commissioner for 6 years. Before joining the administrative team at Eastern, Ms. Glasser worked at Towson University in Maryland, where her hard work and persistent personality eventually earned her a promotion to executive vice president. In October 2001, Eastern Kentucky University gladly invited Ms. Glasser into their family.

Since her arrival, Ms. Glasser's personal style and energy has been a motivating force on the campus and the streets of Richmond. She has made it her mission to be personally involved not only with the everyday dealings of the students and faculty but also with local leaders. She rightly understands that a university exists to serve the needs of its students and surrounding community. If a decision does not fit their needs, it simply will not be made. Joanne Glasser is fully committed to leading Eastern Kentucky University forward into the 21st century and her actions prove as much. By relating on a personal level with the students and community, she will gain an understanding of where to focus her prodigious talents. She is devoted to doing her best for the students and faculty at Eastern Kentucky University. I am very pleased in the immediate impact Joanne Glasser has made and look forward to watching how high she can take the University.

I congratulate Ms. Glasser on her inauguration and applaud her efforts toward a brighter future for Kentucky.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2001, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 8, 2002, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of