

political beliefs, not religious beliefs. And my concern is not just the beliefs themselves but the manner in which they are expressed. I have found that intemperate statements often accompany intemperate people.

Indeed, I went on to say that, and again I quote:

It is true that abortion rights can often be at the center of these questions. As a result, accusations have been leveled that any time reproductive choice becomes an issue, it acts as a litmus test against those whose religion causes them to be anti-choice. But pro-choice Democrats on this committee have voted for many nominees who are anti-choice and who believe that abortion should be illegal, some of whom may even have been Catholic. I do not know because I have never inquired.

So this truly is not about religion. This is about confirming judges who can be impartial and fair in the administration of justice. I think when a nominee such as William Pryor makes inflammatory statements and evidences such strongly held beliefs on a whole variety of core issues, it is hard for many of us to accept that he can set aside those beliefs and act as an impartial judge—particularly because he is very young, 41; particularly because this is a lifetime appointment; and particularly because we have seen so many people who have received lifetime appointments then go on and do just what they want, regardless of what they said. So it is of some concern to us.

That is what I said. I did not attack Mr. Pryor's religion. Nobody in this debate has. I did not attack his religious beliefs. Nobody in this Senate has.

To accuse anyone in this body of using an anti-Catholic litmus test is inaccurate, and wrong. It is ill-advised, and it risks bringing us back to a day where religion and race and gender debates split this Nation apart at its seams.

The judicial nominations process is a serious one and filled with countless debates about very serious issues. We should focus on what is important and real, not on what can inflame political supporters.

The second mischaracterization of my statement was by the junior Senator from Alabama. I know he feels very strongly about this nominee, so I do not blame him for fighting hard for Mr. Pryor.

Nevertheless, the junior Senator from Alabama did not accurately portray what I said in my statement. Specifically, the Senator said that I claimed Mr. Pryor had "used his power as attorney general to obstruct the enforcement of the Violence Against Women Act in Alabama."

What I actually said was that Pryor "used his position as attorney general to limit the scope of crucial civil rights laws like the Violence Against Women's Act, VAWA, the Age Discrimination In Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the Family Medical Leave Act. . . . For example, he was the only attorney general to argue against a key provision in the Violence Against Women Act on federalism grounds."

Now in retrospect, I should have been more careful in the wording of my

statement, and for that I am sorry. I said that Mr. Pryor "used his position as attorney general to limit the scope of crucial civil rights laws . . ." rather than saying what I meant to say, which was that he argued for limiting the scope of those laws—sometimes successfully—in briefs before the Federal courts.

But I certainly never said that he used his power to "obstruct" the law in Alabama.

Some other comments have been made throughout this debate that mischaracterize the Democratic opposition to this nominee and in many instances state, or at least imply, that our opposition is based on religion.

I will say once again, this is simply not true.

I hope, as I said yesterday, that this debate can focus on what it should focus on, the qualifications of this nominee. That focus should not have been lost through a violation of the committee rules, the thwarting of an ongoing investigation into the nominee, or these false charges of religious bias.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS D. CLARK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a legend, Kentucky's Historian Laureate Dr. Thomas D. Clark. On July 14, 2003, Dr. Clark turned 100 years old.

Dr. Clark has been described as a "State treasure." A native of Mississippi, Dr. Clark stumbled upon Kentucky as he sought to further his education. He earned a scholarship to the University of Kentucky where he received a master's in history in 1929. From there, he went on to Duke University, where he obtained a Ph.D. In true Kentucky style, Dr. Clark returned to the Commonwealth and began researching its rich past. He has written more than 32 books including, "A History in Kentucky," and served in the University of Kentucky's Department of History for nearly a quarter of a century. One of the State's leading scholars, he proudly calls Kentucky home.

Dr. Clark's service to my great State has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. In 1969, the University of Kentucky presented Dr. Clark with an honorary doctorate for the way he touched so many Kentuckians during his teaching career. Over his 100 years, he has received many awards and honors, including the University of Kentucky Library Medallion for Intellectual Achievement and the Commonwealth Historian Laureate for life. Dr. Clark also has a building and a foundation named in his honor by the University Press of Kentucky.

Kentuckians admire Dr. Clark for his patriotism to the State, his adept knowledge of our history, and most importantly, his zest for life. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Clark and congratulating him on his Centenarian status.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR VANCE HARTKE

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of my fellow Hoosier, Senator Vance Hartke, who passed away on July 27. Senator Harke dedicated his life to serving his country and our home State of Indiana, setting an example of personal conviction and political courage throughout his 18 years as senator.

Born on May 31, 1919, Vance Hartke grew up in Stendal, IN. He attended the University of Evansville and then earned his law degree from Indiana University. Senator Hartke served 4 years as a member of the Coast Guard and as a U.S. Navy officer during World War II. Upon his return to Indiana, Hartke began practicing law in Evansville, where he was elected mayor in 1955. From there, he was elected Senator in 1958, demonstrating a work ethic on the campaign trail that is remembered by Hoosiers still today. Senator Hartke served three continuous terms as senator, the first Indiana Democrat ever to do so.

While serving as Senator, Hartke played a crucial role in requiring auto manufacturers to install seatbelts in their cars, and supported legislation that created the Head Start Program, which continues to provide early education opportunities for tens of millions of children from lower-income families. He led Senate support for Medicare, work that earned him the nickname "Father of Medicare." Senator Hartke also was instrumental in creating the International Executive Service Corps, an organization modeled on the Peace Corps that sent retired U.S. business executives to developing countries to help expand their local businesses.

During a particularly trying time in our nation's history, Senator Hartke remained unafraid to take a bold stance in support of his convictions, sometimes in the face of strong opposition. He chose to speak out against the Vietnam war, knowing that doing so would cost him his friendship with President Lyndon Johnson, because Senator Hartke felt it was his moral responsibility to defend his beliefs.

However, of the many issues Senator Hartke supported during his 18 years as Senator, family members recall that one of his proudest accomplishments was his work on legislation that provided affordable treatment for kidney diseases. It was work that was largely overshadowed by his personal stances on other issues, but it led to the creation of a bill now credited with saving more than 500,000 lives.

The sense of loss to all those who knew Senator Hartke is tremendous. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Martha, four sons, three daughters, and 16 grandchildren.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of

the Hoosier soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry from the Indiana National Guard, who have become the first National Guard battalion in the Nation to receive the Combat Infantry award since World War II.

The Combat Infantry award is a highly coveted honor given by the Department of the Army to soldiers who have satisfactorily performed infantry duties as part of a unit that participated in ground combat. The Infantry badge honors soldiers who have operated under the worst conditions, yet still successfully performed his or her mission in a combat environment. In addition, medics who supported the soldiers will receive the Combat Medical Badge. I am immensely proud that it is an Indiana battalion that has become the first unit in more than 50 years to earn this distinction.

All members of the battalion will receive the Combat Infantry award as a symbol of our Nation's gratitude for the bravery they demonstrated and the sacrifices they and their families have made during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry is the first Indiana National Guard unit to go into combat since the Korean war. As this award recognizes, they have made an exemplary return to battle, honoring themselves and their home State of Indiana through their efforts.

The battalion has been stationed in Iraq for nearly 7 months. During their time in Iraq, the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry have provided security for the Talil Air Force Base, a key airstrip in Southern Iraq. The unit took over responsibility for the base just days after the war's deadliest battle took place on April 1 too secure control of the airstrip.

I am proud to honor the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry. The thoughts and prayers of all Hoosiers are with them as they continue their role in rebuilding Iraq. May God watch over the soldiers as they complete their duty and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING PRIVATE ROBERT MCKINLEY

Mr. President, I also rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Peru, IN. Private Robert McKinley, 23 years old, died in Hamburg, Germany on July 8 after suffering heat stroke the month before while fighting in Mosul, Iraq. Robert joined the Army with his entire life before him. He chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Robert was the twelfth Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Today, I join Robert's family, his friends, and the entire Peru community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over his death, we can also take pride in the example he set,

bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is this courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Robert, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Before leaving to fight in Iraq, Robert McKinley promised his grandfather he would be careful, telling him that if there was anything he could do to make our country better, then he wanted to do it. Robert had only been in the Army for 8 months, but had already seen three tours of duty and was serving in the 101st Airborne Division, a unit which played a crucial role in the actions in Iraq.

Robert was born in Peru, IN. He enjoyed fishing for walleye in Canada with his grandfather and participated in Peru's 4-H Club for 10 years. Robert graduated from Peru High School in May 1998. His family says the military provided him with an essential sense of direction. Robert leaves behind his mother, Deborah McKinley, his sister, Kay, and his grandparents, Robert and Pauline Feller.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Robert McKinley's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Robert McKinley's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Robert McKinley in the official record of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Robert's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO PFC. WILFREDO PEREZ, JR.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the late Pfc. Wilfredo Perez, Jr., of Norwalk, CT, who was killed in the line of duty last Saturday while guarding a children's hospital in Iraq.

Private Perez, who was 24 years old and served with the 4th Infantry Division, was the third resident of Connecticut to fall in Iraq since the onset

of Operation Iraqi Freedom earlier this year. He made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation—and his bravery and heroism will not be forgotten by the people of Connecticut.

Wilfredo Perez was born in New York City and moved to Connecticut with his father, Wilfredo, Sr. while he was in middle school. He and his family were well-loved in their community, especially around Halloween time when their haunted house was a neighborhood favorite.

Throughout his years at Norwalk High School, Wilfredo Perez became known as a playful, mischievous type—a boy who would show up to Junior Air Force ROTC with his uniform untucked, or with no uniform at all. He left high school early and went to work as a contractor with his father.

A few years later, though, Wilfredo began to change. He made a commitment to turn his life around and earned his GED. Then, a little more than a year ago, he made a commitment to his country by enlisting in the United States Army.

Enlisting in the Armed Forces can mean many things to many people. For Wilfredo Perez, it was a personal challenge—a challenge to better himself, to develop as an individual, to find a sense of direction, and to pave the way for a successful future. Private Perez not only met his own goals he exceeded all expectations.

Shortly before he was transferred to Iraq, Private Perez returned to Norwalk and visited his old high school. His former teachers and principal watched as the boy whose shirt was always untucked strode confidently through the hallways in a pristine military uniform, beaming with pride. He spoke to students in school about his life—about the mistakes that he made, and about the path that he ultimately chose.

For Wilfredo Perez, the United States Army was truly a rewarding, transforming experience. And like so many of our finest men and women whose lives are tragically cut short, there is simply no telling how far he could have gone.

I join the State of Connecticut—and indeed the entire country—in mourning Wilfredo Perez, and in thanking him for his tremendous service to our country. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, his friends, and everyone else whose life was touched by Pfc. Wilfredo Perez.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED STATES NAVY CAPTAIN DUDLEY B. BERTHOLD

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I honor a great American from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. After 25 years of dedicated service to our country, Captain Dudley B. Berthold of the United States Navy will retire on August 8 of this year. I would like to take a moment to recognize his accomplishments.