

2004 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY TOWARD SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration entitled "2004 Comprehensive Report on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa and Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act."

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 20, 2004.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I have been sitting here for some time this evening listening to the discussion and I am struck by the tone. We have had speakers from both sides of the aisle rise to discuss different things. I notice that my colleagues from this side of the aisle have risen to celebrate an anniversary of World War II, to talk about an important economic and trade issue with the developing nation of India, to talk about the tragedy of the pain of unborn children and my colleagues from the other side of the aisle have taken every occasion with every speaker to make outrageous claims and to engage in vicious partisan attacks against the President of the United States and the Republican Party and it saddens me.

But tonight I wish to join my colleagues from this side of the aisle in a celebration. As we celebrate the anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision this week, we have an excellent opportunity to recognize some of the vast improvements made in the quality of education available to America's children over the past 50 years.

In the *Brown v. Board of Education* case, the doctrine of "separate but equal" education for different groups of students was found to produce unequal results and was ruled unconstitutional. On this important anniversary, Mr. Speaker, we are working to ensure another group of students, our special needs children, receive the same high quality education available to every child in Minnesota and America.

Because no two students are the same and no two schools face identical challenges, one of the most important

elements in any Federal education law is flexibility. I am pleased to share with my colleagues one of the many ways in which our committee, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, has worked with the Department of Education to enhance that flexibility for our schools. Following implementation of the No Child Left Behind education law, teachers and administrators expressed concern and many of them to me over the last year that special needs children were required to pass the same tests as their non-special needs counterparts. At the same time parents of special needs children expressed concern that exempting their children from testing altogether would eliminate the ability to monitor their progress. To address these competing concerns, the Department of Education issued a rule providing States and school districts with the flexibility to provide alternate tests to determine the adequate yearly progress for children with the most severe disabilities. Under the rule, alternate tests can be administered only to children with the most significant cognitive disabilities, only 1 percent of all students, or about 10 percent of students with disabilities. All other students with disabilities will take either the regular State assessments or assessments aligned with State standards designed to compensate for the child's disability.

Because it prohibits States and schools from excluding students with disabilities from accountability systems, the No Child Left Behind provides parents of these children with something they have never had before, the right to know whether their children are getting the education they deserve, what every parent wants.

I believe we are making great strides toward improving the quality of education available to every child in America. I remain committed to addressing the concerns of parents, teachers and administrators as we seek to not only maintain but to build on this quality. I look forward to continuing the fight to provide the necessary flexibility to accommodate those States and those schools who wish to participate.

Leaving no child behind means leaving no child behind, not "no child except children with disabilities." On this important anniversary, Mr. Speaker, we are living up to that promise.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FALLEN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to all of our fallen citizens who have lost their lives defending freedom in the war against terror.

I want to thank JIM WALSH and CHARLIE RANGEL for working together to come up with this tribute to those who have died defending freedom.

This Memorial Day, we all need to take an extra moment to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice as we remember those who are separated from their families and fighting in distant lands to defend freedom.

I especially want to call attention to the sacrifices of two of my constituents who died in the service of their Nation: Staff Sgt. Jacob Frazier and Marine 1st Lt. Timothy Ryan.

Staff Sgt. Jacob Frazier, 24, of St. Charles Township, was killed in March 2003, when his patrol unit was ambushed in Afghanistan. Frazier joined the Illinois Air National Guard in 1998, a year after graduating from Central High School in Burlington. The oldest of James and Joyce Frazier's five children, he was a wrestler, all-conference football player and a member of the choir in high school. He was engaged to be married. Frazier was assigned to the 169th Air Support Operations Squadron of the 182nd Airlift Wing of the National Guard, and had been working with U.S. Army Special Forces in Afghanistan since January 2003. He was proud to serve his country, and often told friends and family "I'm going to hunt bad guys,"—a reference to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Marine 1st Lt. Timothy Ryan, 30, of North Aurora, died in May 2003, when his helicopter crashed into a canal in Iraq. The son of Judith and Michael Ryan, Tim Ryan grew up with his older brother in Montgomery and Aurora, graduating from West Aurora High School. A music

major, he began playing the drums when he was in 4th grade and was a member of the marching band at West Aurora High. He attended Illinois State University, where he met his wife, Michelle. He graduated, was married, and enlisted in the Marines during a single month in 1997. Ryan joined the Marines to be a part of its drum and bugle corps, but changed course after two years because he wanted to be a pilot. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton, near San Diego, and deployed to Kuwait in February 2003.

May God bless these two men who died so that we could live in freedom. And may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I stood on the House floor on May 20, 2004, and observed a moment of silence to remember the brave men and women who fought and died for our freedom. During this time, images flashed in my mind of the heroic Kansans I visited at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the men and women I spoke with when I traveled to Iraq in January. These images culminated into a feeling of pride, a feeling I know each and every American feels when they think of what America means to them.

As a Nation on Memorial Day we honor the men and women who through the history of our country gave their lives in battle to defend the freedom and liberty that makes these American States united. From the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, we honor these brave souls in unison as one people on this day. The Memorial Day weekend has also come to symbolize a time for family and friends to come together; during this time it becomes abundantly clear who is missing. Please join me in thanking these families for their sacrifice as well.

In times of crisis, our Nation looks to the men and women of the armed forces. They have never hesitated in answering their Nation's call, giving of their time, service and in many cases their lives. Our Nation owes them a debt that we can never repay. The dedication and valor displayed by those who served in the armed services deserves the gratitude of the entire Nation.

As the number of veterans growing older increases, the responsibility of providing adequate care and compensation to their families will become a higher priority for the Federal Government.

After making a sacrifice for our country, our veterans should not have to be concerned that the Veterans Administration will not provide the services or benefits they have earned.

As a veteran myself, it saddens me to see how some of our Nation's finest citizens are being treated. We owe it to all of our veterans—whether they fought on the front lines or served here at home—to keep the promise America made to them. Veterans should not be financially punished in the name of fiscal responsibility. Even in difficult budget times, there is no excuse for cutting already underfunded veterans' programs to pay for tax cuts.

I will continue to urge my colleagues in Congress to rethink these cuts. We must work together from both sides of the aisle to ensure that these cuts are restored to honor our nation's commitment to care for its defenders. I will fight to see that Congress makes adequate funding for the Veterans Administration a priority—not an afterthought.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of our mili-

tary personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives in service to their country. To the families and friends of these fallen soldiers, I offer my condolences in their time of grief. Please know that we all share in your sorrow.

I would like to recognize the soldiers from the Sacramento area who have lost their lives while serving their country. SP Keicia Coleman Hines, of Sacramento, was a member of the 108th Military Police Combat Support Company when she died while serving on a base near Mosul in Iraq. She was her mother Beverly Coleman's only child. Ms. Coleman has said she is extremely proud of her daughter, and that she was an honorable person. I share Ms. Coleman's pride in her daughter and in the work she chose to do. Keicia is also survived by her husband, who she met at basic training. They had planned to start their own family when Keicia returned from Iraq. She was 27 years old.

SP Adam G. Kinser, was assigned to the 304th Psychological Operations Company, United States Army Reserve, and serving in Afghanistan when he died of injuries from the explosion of a weapons cache. He had a soft spot in his heart for the children of Iraq, and would often ask friends and family to send crayons and coloring books for the kids. At the time of his death, he was just one month away from being sent home to be with his wife, who was about to have their first child. His family lives in Sacramento and Rio Vista.

U.S. Army MAJ Gerald Compton, son of MSG Gerald Compton, U.S. Army, retired, and Sue Joe Compton of Sacramento, was training cadets at West Point when he passed away of natural causes. Major Compton had dedicated his life to the Army and passed on his sense of dedication to the cadets he trained. His cadets and colleagues will remember Major Compton as a skilled officer, a leader and friend to all who knew him.

Words cannot begin to express our gratitude to these brave soldiers. Nor can words describe the debt we owe their families. Instead, today we honor the soldiers and their families through a moment of silence. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who bear this burden.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise with my colleagues today to observe a moment of silence in honor of our fallen soldiers, including the nearly 800 U.S. troops who gave their lives in Iraq.

As Memorial Day approaches, we pause to honor each of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who gave their lives to defend our freedom. We will always remember their valor and sacrifices for America. We also pause to mourn with their families and friends who go on without their loved ones.

Today, more than 135,000 brave men and women remain in harm's way. Our continued attention should be focused on our troops, the success of their mission, and their safe return to their families.

I was proud to cast my vote for the defense authorization bill earlier today as a measure that honors their service and delivers much-needed relief. This legislation meets immediate warfighting needs, expands quality of life initiatives, and makes up for readiness shortfalls.

I am pleased to support a much deserved 3.5 percent pay raise for our troops, hardship duty pay increases, and a restored Survivors

Benefit. I also strongly support the bill's increased production for armored Humvees and body armor as well as improvements to family housing, military medical facilities and schools.

I salute the brave men and women in uniform who will become our Nation's newest veterans upon their return. Now that over 14 months have passed since U.S. troops were deployed to Iraq, we wish them all a safe return and will work to ensure they have all the resources they need to accomplish the mission and bring them home safely to their families.

Mr. Speaker, our fallen troops will always remain in our thoughts and prayers. We will remember their sacrifices this Memorial Day and beyond, and we will do all that we can to support our troops currently deployed and to ensure their safe return.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, across this great Nation, Americans designate the last Monday in May to honor those who have fallen in battle protecting our freedom. Memorial Day this year is especially important as we are reminded almost daily of the great sacrifices that the men and women of the Armed Services make to defend our way of life. Those who served, and those who continue to serve in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard took an oath to uphold and protect the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic, and we can never forget the importance of their commitment to our Nation.

North Carolina, particularly the 8th District, has long played a key role in our Nation's military forces. Troops from Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base are nobly answering the call of duty, separated from their families, friends, and loved ones. Currently serving alongside the active component in Iraq is the North Carolina National Guard. These individuals who put their lives on hold to answer the call of duty are the pinnacle of American patriotism. To prosecute the war on terrorism, the State of North Carolina has deployed 3,500 guardsmen, the largest deployment in the State's history. While putting themselves in harms' way, the men and women in uniform, whether part of the active or reserve component, seek to root out the evil that seeks America's destruction. Their mission is clear and they will succeed. I cannot express how proud I am of them and the entire military for their service, selfless attitude and sacrifice.

Of all the recent publicity the war on terrorism has garnered, sometimes overlooked is the support of our troops by their valiant spouses and families. The support they provide and the hardship that they are enduring are to be recognized and commended. Without such support in place, our troops would not be as ready or prepared to fight the battle.

While we continue to pray for those who are deployed and their families, we must hold a special place in our hearts for their fallen comrades. The men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice safeguarding our great Nation must be honored and remembered. Freedom is not free, and many have given all they have—their lives—for its and our defense. May we as a Nation be eternally grateful for their sacrifice and remember their families in our prayers. May God bless the families of our fallen heroes, watch over their families, and may He bless and protect those who continue to serve. May God bless our U.S. Armed Forces and the United States of America.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of our troops. I rise in support of all of our men and women serving in our armed forces, and especially the 300,000 brave men and women that have been serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To our young countrymen and women serving their country in Afghanistan and Iraq, I salute you and I offer you the following:

As our Nation once again honors those who have served, I pray that this Memorial Day finds you healthy and well.

Some of you may know that, although, I supported our action against al Qaeda in Afghanistan, I voted against President Bush's demand for advance congressional authorization to use military force against Iraq.

In the absence of a clearly demonstrated imminent danger to this Nation, I concluded, giving the President a "blank check" for war would be an abdication of my constitutional duty as a Member of the Congress. Further, I believed it would put our young men and women into a conflict that would yield enduring unfavorable outcomes. Once Saddam Hussein was toppled, for what and with whom would we be fighting? Where is the proof of WMDs or the presence of al Qaeda in Iraq? These were just a few of the many questions I and many Members of Congress wanted to ask. But in the administration's rush to war and its subsequent insolence, these and many questions remain unanswered.

Today, my reasoning for that conviction remains unchanged. There is not today—nor has there ever been any dispositive proof that Iraq is an imminent danger to our country. Like the majority of the international community, I believe "imminent danger" is the proper litmus test for waging a preemptive war. The current administration does not and ignored warnings from many countries who were friends in our fight against terrorism. I ask the Commander-in-Chief, who suffers and will continue to suffer as a result of this affront to the international rules of engagement? The answer is that we all do, but it is our troops who bear the blunt of this suffering.

There has been a tragic loss of life—both among our American troops and among Iraq's civilian population. I knew the human losses would be too great and I did not want our families—or the Iraqi people—to experience the overwhelming grief and remorse that accompanies waging war unnecessarily.

The moral authority of the United States has been undermined—establishing a devastating international precedent that we may well see echoed within other troubled regions. I believe that the Middle East region has been destabilized, harming the international cooperation that we desperately need to defend this Nation against terrorism.

We must now contemplate the prospect of American troops remaining in Iraq for an indefinite period of time, at great cost to the lives and treasure of our Nation, while its government regroups a country that has been involuntarily bowed.

Tragically, none of these cautions about war prevailed, and hundreds of thousands of young Americans now struggle to survive in harm's way.

With so many questions about the wisdom and consequences of this war left unanswered, what can America say to you—the young men and women who have been called upon to risk your lives?

What can we say to your wives and husbands—or to your parents and children—that could possibly justify your sacrifice?

The current administration that waged this war must search for his own answers to these soul-wrenching questions—and I must speak to you in my own way.

Young people, I hope that these words reach you in Iraq.

You have a right to expect encouragement and support at this difficult and dangerous time. I encourage you and commend you for your bravery. I know you are dealing with circumstances beyond our comprehension.

Nevertheless, you stand at the brink of eternity—and you deserve an honest appraisal. You are doing your duty, just as we in the Congress must do everything within our power to protect you.

So, I will continue to call for clear and convincing evidence that war was necessary and I will continue to support the Federal funding that has helped to make you the best trained and equipped military force in the world. You deserve nothing less.

Human life is too precious to allow anything less.

I am among those whom the administration has not convinced about the wisdom of war in Iraq. Yet, I want you to know that I support you wholeheartedly. You are there to protect and defend and you are serving and have served valiantly.

You are honorable young Americans.

When the President committed your lives to battle, you went to war with your Nation's prayers and unconditional support. I pledge that we will not allow this Nation's response to your service degenerate into the shameful neglect that followed U.S. efforts in Vietnam. We will not blame the failures of our generation upon yours.

Indeed, you have my undying respect.

Neither President Bush nor I have ever been required to risk our own lives in battle. We have not been forced to move forward against the mechanized hell of modern warfare. We have not endured the screams of tormented friends who have fallen at our side.

War leaders of old did not direct war from the safety of their homes. There was great wisdom in the ancient custom that required a leader who ordered others into battle to, himself, fight on the front lines. The danger is not real when it's second-hand.

You are honorable young Americans—you are our young women and men who now stand at the brink of eternity. Over 700 of your brethren and of the Allied Forces have perished. Over 4,500 of you have been injured or maimed. At least 10 claim Maryland as their home State and I have attached their names in memoriam and in recognition of their brave service to our country.

May those who lead America today regain wisdom and bring the rest of you home safely. May our actions from this day forward live up to the example of your sacrifice.

And may God bless you and keep you in His hands.

In Memoriam and in recognition of brave service to our Country—Operation Iraqi Freedom: Jakia Sheree Cannon, Brandon Lee Davis, Jason Christopher Ford, Cornell Winston Gilmore I, Jason David Mileo, George Arthur Mitchell, Jr., Adam Garber Mooney, Bryan Nicholas Spry, Jeffery Calvin Walker, Kendall Damon Waters-Bey.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting and proper that the U.S. House of Representatives holds this moment of silence on behalf of our fallen warriors in Iraq and Afghanistan. On the last legislative day before America observes Memorial Day, it is appropriate for us to pause from our business to pay our respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in those important and difficult theatres of war.

As the Representative of North Carolina's Second Congressional District, I have the honor of serving the military families of the Army's Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, and numerous National Guard and Reserve units. I have observed our troops training for combat, and I have visited soldiers wounded in the battlefield in their recovery at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC.

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel to Iraq to witness firsthand the daily struggle our soldiers wage in that war-torn country. The work they are doing is vitally important to bring peace and stability in Iraq and allow for the growth of a just and open democracy in a place that has never really known such conditions that we take for granted. Previously, I visited Afghanistan to investigate our progress in taking the war against terrorism into the sanctuary of the terrorists. Our troops are dedicated, professional and motivated by their love of America and the folks back home who pray for their safety and their speedy return.

Mr. Speaker, this moment of silence on behalf of our fallen heroes is an important opportunity to state once and for all that the American people and the Congress of the United States strongly support our men and women in the Armed Forces.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our soldiers who have died in the service of our country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As of May 19, 2004, 783 American men and women had lost their lives as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and 123 American men and women had lost their lives as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

I am forever indebted to these courageous men and women because the fight for freedom is not without loss.

I fully support the military families of these heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the service of our country.

In my State of Texas, we have lost 84 men and women defending America's dream of democracy and freedom for all.

I am sure all Texans join me in letting their families know that we consider all of them heroes because they died answering the call of our country.

It is because of them we enjoy our freedom and live in the greatest country there is.

Father Dennis Edward O'Brien of the USMC wrote the following poem honoring our soldiers:

It is the soldier, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us the freedom of speech.

It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier
Who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag
And whose coffin is draped by the flag.
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the fallen Texas soldiers be printed in the RECORD. May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn and God bless America.

TEXAS FALLEN HEROES

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Marine Cpl. Daniel R. Amaya died from hostile fire in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Force, Twentynine Palms, California. Died on April 11, 2004.

Army Spc. Edward J. Anguiano, 24, of Brownsville, Texas. Spc. Anguiano was in a six-vehicle convoy on Highway 7 in Iraq when enemy forces ambushed them on March 23. His remains were recovered on April 24. Anguiano was assigned to 3rd Forward Support Battalion, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Marine CWO Andrew Todd Arnold, 30, of Spring, Texas. Killed in a non-hostile accident with two other soldiers when a rocket-propelled grenade launcher they were firing for familiarization malfunctioned on a firing range near the city of Al Kut, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Died on April 22, 2003.

Army Spc. Richard Arriaga, 20, of Ganado, Texas. Arriaga was killed in an ambush by small arms fire and rocket propelled grenade in Tikrit, Iraq. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on September 18, 2003.

Army Spc. Robert R. Arsiaga, 25, of San Antonio, Texas. Arsiaga died in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on April 4, 2004.

Marine Lance Cpl. Aaron C. Austin, 21, of Sunray, Texas. Austin died due to hostile fire in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. Died on April 26, 2004.

Marine Pfc. Chad E. Bales, 20, of Coahoma, Texas. Killed in a non-hostile vehicle accident during convoy operations east of Ash Shatin, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Transportation Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, California. Died on April 3, 2003.

Army Sgt. Michael Paul Barrera, 26, of Von Ormy, Texas. Barrea was fatally injured when his tank was hit with an improvised explosive device in Baqubah, Iraq. Barrera was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on October 28, 2003.

Army Capt. Ernesto M. Blanco, 28, of Texas. Blanco was conducting a support mission when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle in Qaryat Ash Shababi, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Died on December 28, 2003.

Army CW4 Clarence E. Boone, 50, of Fort Worth Texas. Boone died as a result of a non-combat related injury in Kuwait City, Kuwait. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on December 2, 2003.

Army Spc. Philip D. Brown, 21, of El Paso, Texas. Brown died in Balad, Iraq, from injuries sustained by an improvised explosive device west of Samarra. He was assigned to the Army National Guard's Company B, 141st Engineer Combat Battalion, Jamestown, North Dakota. Died on May 8, 2004.

Army Spc. Adolfo C. Carballo, 20, of Houston, Texas. Carballo died in Baghdad, Iraq, when shrapnel struck him. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on April 10, 2004.

Marine Lance Cpl. James A. Casper, 20, of Coolidge, Texas. Casper died due to a non-combat related incident at Al Asad, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. Died on March 25, 2004.

Army Staff Sgt. Roland L. Castro, 26, of San Antonio, Texas. Castro died of a non-hostile gunshot wound in Camp Cedar II, Iraq. He was assigned to Battery A, 1st Battalion, 12th Field Artillery, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Died on January 16, 2004.

Army Staff Sgt. Gary L. Collins, 32, of Hardin, Texas. Collins was riding in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle when it hit an improvised explosive device in Fallujah, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. Died on November 8, 2003.

Army Spc. Zeferino E. Colunga, 20, of Bellville, Texas. Colunga was initially evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq on Aug. 4. He was then evacuated to Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center and later to Homburg University Hospital in Germany for further evaluation. He remained at Homburg until his death. His death was unrelated to the recent cases of pneumonia in Southwest Asia. Colunga was assigned to 4th Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, Louisiana. Died on August 6, 2003.

Army Pfc. Rey D. Cuervo, 24, of Laguna Vista, Texas. Cuervo was on a mounted patrol in Baghdad, Iraq when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle. He was assigned to 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, Louisiana. Died on December 28, 2003.

Air Force Capt. Eric B. Das, 30, of Amarillo, Texas. Das was the pilot of an F-15E that went down during a combat mission in Iraq. He was assigned to the 333rd Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. Died on April 7, 2003.

Army Pfc. Ervin Dervishi, 21, of Fort Worth, Texas. Dervishi died in Baji, Iraq, during a combat patrol when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Bradley Fighting Vehicle in which he was traveling. He was evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital where he later died. Dervishi was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on January 24, 2004.

Army Staff Sgt. Joe L. Dunigan, Jr., 37, of Belton, Texas. Dunigan died in Fallujah, Iraq, when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. Died on March 11, 2004.

Army Sgt. William C. Eckhart, 25, of Rocksprings, Texas. Eckhart died in Baqubah, Iraq when he was on an anti-mortar mission and there was an explosion of unknown origin. He was assigned to 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. Died on April 10, 2004.

Army Pfc. Analaura Esparza-Gutierrez, 21, of Houston, Texas. Esparza-Gutierrez was in a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device and rocket propelled grenades in Tikrit, Iraq. Esparza-Gutierrez died of her injuries. She was assigned to A Company, 4th Forward Support Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on October 1, 2003.

Army Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto, 18, of El Paso, Texas. Killed in action after his convoy was ambushed in Iraq on March 23. He was assigned to the 507th Maintenance Company, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Army Master Sgt. George A. Fernandez, 36, of El Paso, Texas. Killed in action in northern Iraq. He was assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Died on April 12, 2003.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Wesley C. Fortenberry, 38, of Woodville, Texas. Fortenberry died in Baghdad, Iraq when his helicopter was shot down. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on April 11, 2004.

Army Pvt. Robert L. Frantz, 19, of San Antonio, Texas. Frantz was on guard duty when a local resident threw a grenade over the wall. Frantz died of his injuries in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Ray Barracks, Germany. Died on June 17, 2003.

Army Spc. Israel Garza, 25, of Lubbock, Texas. Garza died in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on April 4, 2004.

Army 1st Sgt. Joe J. Garza, 43, of Robstown, Texas. Garza was riding in a HMMWV that swerved to avoid a civilian vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq. Graza fell out and was struck by a civilian vehicle. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia. Died on April 28, 2003.

Marine Lance Cpl. Shane L. Goldman, 20, of Orange, Texas. Goldman died due to injuries received from hostile fire in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. Died on April 5, 2004.

Marine Cpl. Jeffrey G. Green, 20, of Dallas, Texas. Green was found deceased on May 5, 2004 in the Euphrates River, in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Cause of death is under investigation. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

Army Pfc. Clayton W. Henson, 20, of Stanton, Texas. Henson died when his convoy was ambushed in Dwaniyan, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, Louisiana. Died on April 17, 2004.

Army Master Sgt. Kelly L. Hornbeck, 36, of Fort Worth, Texas. Hornbeck sustained injuries on January 16 when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle, south of Samarra, Iraq. He was initially evacuated to the 21st Combat Support Hospital and then moved to the 28th CSH for further treatment where he later died. Hornbeck was assigned to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Carson, Colorado. Died on January 18, 2004.

Army 1st Lt. Doyle M. Hufstедler, 25, of Abilene, Texas. Hufstедler died in Habbaniyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device hit his armored personnel carrier. He was assigned to the Army's 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. Died on March 31, 2004.

Army Spc. Ray J. Hutchinson, 20, of League City, Texas. Hutchinson was returning from a patrol when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle in Mosul, Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Died on December 7, 2003.

Army CW2 Scott Jamar, 32, of Sweetwater, Texas. Killed when his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed in central Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia. Died on April 2, 2003.

Army Spc. John P. Johnson, 24, of Houston, Texas. Johnson died of non-combat related injuries in Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany. Died on October 22, 2003.

Army Spc. Michael G. Karr, Jr., 23, of San Antonio, Texas. Karr died in Habbaniyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device hit his armored personnel carrier. He was assigned to the Army's 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. Died on March 31, 2004.

Marine Cpl. Brian Matthew Kennedy, 25, of Houston, Texas. Killed in a CH-46E helicopter crash in Kuwait. He was assigned to the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron—268, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Camp Pendleton, California. Died on March 20, 2003.

Army Spc. James M. Kiehl, 22, of Comfort, Texas. Killed in action after his convoy was ambushed in Iraq on March 23. He was assigned to the 507th Maintenance Company, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Army Spc. Scott Q. Larson, Jr., 22, of Houston, Texas. Larson died in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries sustained when his convoy was ambushed. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Armor Division, Ray Barracks, Friedberg, Germany. Died on April 5, 2004.

Army Staff Sgt. Rene Ledesma, 34, of Abilene, Texas. Ledesma died in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. He was assigned to 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on May 15, 2004.

Army Pfc. Jason C. Ludlam, 22, of Arlington, Texas. Ludlam died in Ba'qubah, Iraq, when he was electrocuted while laying telephone wires. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, based in Vilseck, Germany. Died on March 19, 2004.

Army Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Villareal Mata, 35, of Pecos, Texas. Killed in action after his convoy was ambushed in Iraq on March 23. He was assigned to the 507th Maintenance Company, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Marine Cpl. Matthew E. Matula, 20, of Spicewood, Texas. Matula died from hostile fire in Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. Died on April 9, 2004.

Marine Cpl. Jesus Martin Antonio Medellin, 21, of Fort Worth, Texas. Killed in Central Iraq when an enemy artillery round struck the Amphibious Assault Vehicle in which he was riding. He was assigned to the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California. Died on April 7, 2003.

Army Sgt. Daniel K. Methvin, 22, of Belton, Texas. Methvin was killed as a result of a grenade being thrown from a window of an Iraqi civilian hospital that he was guarding in Ba'qubah, Iraq. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on July 26, 2003.

Army Pfc. Anthony S. Miller, 19, of San Antonio, Texas. Killed by enemy indirect fire in Iraq. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade, Fort Stewart, Georgia. Died on April 7, 2003.

Army Pfc. Stuart W. Moore, 21, of Livingston, Texas. Moore died in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device struck his convoy. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, based in Giessen, Germany. Died on December 22, 2003.

Army Sgt. Gerardo Moreno, 23, of Terrell, Texas. Moreno died in Ashula, Iraq, when his

unit was ambushed by individuals who fired a rocket-propelled grenade. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on April 6, 2004.

Marine Pfc. Ricky A. Morris, Jr., 20, of Lubbock, Texas. Morris died as a result of enemy action in Al Qaim, Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, California. Died on March 18, 2004.

Army Sgt. Keelan L. Moss, 23, of Houston, Texas. Moss was on board a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter when it went down in Al Fallujah, Iraq. The cause of the incident is unknown and an investigation is underway. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Died on November 2, 2003.

Army Spc. Joseph C. Norquist, 26, of San Antonio, Texas. Norquist was in a convoy that came under attack from rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire in Baqubah, Iraq. Norquist was fatally injured in the incident. He was assigned to the 588th Engineer Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on October 9, 2003.

Army Capt. Eric T. Paliwoda, 28, of Texas. Paliwoda was in his command post in Balad, Iraq when it came under mortar attack. He was assigned to 4th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Carson, Colorado. Died on January 2, 2004.

Army Pfc. James D. Parker, 20, of Bryan, Texas. Parker died in a mortar attack on a forward operating base near Ba'qubah. He was assigned to the 588th Engineer Battalion (Heavy), 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on January 21, 2004.

Army Staff Sgt. Hector R. Perez, 40, of Corpus Christi, Texas. Killed north of Al Hawd, Iraq, when his military convoy came under enemy fire. Perez was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Died on July 24, 2003.

Army Spc. Jose A. Perez III, 22, of San Diego, Texas. Perez was in a convoy that was ambushed in Taji, Iraq. He was assigned to 6th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Died on May 28, 2003.

Army Spc. Larry E. Polley, Jr., 20, of Center, Texas. Polley was killed when his Bradley Fighting Vehicle struck an improvised explosive device and overturned north of Taji, Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on January 17, 2004.

Army Sgt. Christopher Ramirez, 34, of McAllen, Texas. Ramirez died in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, from injuries sustained during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. Died on April 14, 2004.

Army Sgt. Ariel Rico, 25, of El Paso, Texas. Rico died of injuries sustained during an enemy mortar attack in Mosul, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Died on November 28, 2003.

Army 1st Lt. Jonathan D. Rozier, 25, of Katy, Texas. Rozier's unit was fired upon by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire while manning a vehicle checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq. Rozier was assigned to B Company, 2-70th Armor Battalion (1st Armored Division), Fort Riley, Kansas. Died on July 19, 2003.

Army Spc. Isela Rubalcava, 25, of El Paso, Texas. Rubalcava died in Mosul, Iraq, when a mortar round hit near her. She was assigned to the 296th Combat Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Bri-

gade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Washington. Died on May 8, 2004.

Army Sgt. John W. Russell, 26, of Portland, Texas. Russell died when two 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters crashed in Mosul, Iraq. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Died on November 15, 2003.

Marine Pfc. Leroy Sandoval, Jr., 21, of Houston, Texas. Sandoval died due to hostile fire in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. Died on March 26, 2004.

Army Spc. Christian C. Schulz, 20, of Colleyville, Texas. Schulz died as a result of non-combat injuries in Baqubah, Iraq. Schulz was assigned to the 3rd Troop, 67th Armor Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on July 11, 2003.

Marine Pfc. Dustin M. Sekula, 18, of Edinburg, Texas. Sekula died due to injuries sustained from enemy fire in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, California. Died on April 1, 2004.

Army Pfc. Armando Soriano, 20, of Houston, Texas. Soriano was traveling in a two-vehicle convoy on a supply route when weather conditions caused his vehicle to slide off the road and roll over. He died as a result of his injuries in Haditha, Iraq. Soriano was assigned to the howitzer battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado. The unit is currently attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Died on February 1, 2004.

Army Cpl. Tomas Sotelo, Jr., 20, of Houston, Texas. Sotelo was traveling in a convoy when a rocket propelled grenade struck his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq. Sotelo was assigned to Headquarters Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, Louisiana. Died on June 27, 2003.

Army Spc. Joseph D. Suell, 24, of Lufkin, Texas. Suell died from a non-combat related cause in Todjia, Iraq. Suell was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Battery, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Died on June 16, 2003.

Marine Lance Cpl. Elias Torrez III, 21, of Veribest, Texas. Torrez died from hostile fire in Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, California. Died on April 9, 2004.

Marine Lance Cpl. Ruben Valdez, Jr., 21, of San Diego, Texas. Valdez died due to injuries received from enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, California. Died on April 17, 2004.

Army Sgt. Melissa Valles, 26, of Eagle Pass, Texas. Valles died in Balad, Iraq as a result of non-combat injuries. She was assigned to B Company, 64th Forward Support Battalion, Fort Carson, Colorado. Died on July 9, 2003.

Marine Lance Cpl. Michael B. Wafford, 20, of Spring, Texas. Wafford died due to injuries received from hostile fire in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California. Died on April 8, 2004.

Navy Lt. Nathan D. White, 30, of Abilene, Texas. Killed in action. White was the pilot of an F/A-18C Hornet lost over Iraq. He was assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron One Nine Five (VFA 195), based in Atsugi, Japan,

and currently deployed with Carrier Air Wing Five (CVW 5) aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63). Died on April 2, 2003.

Army Sgt. Steven W. White, 29, of Fruitvale, Texas. White died of injuries sustained when his M113 armored personnel carrier hit an antitank mine in Tikrit, Iraq. White was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on August 13, 2003.

Army Spc. James C. Wright, 27, of Morgan, Texas. Wright was killed in an ambush by small arms fire and rocket propelled grenade in Tikrit, Iraq. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas. Died on September 18, 2003.

Army Pfc. Stephen E. Wyatt, 19, of Kilgore, Texas. Wyatt was in a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device and small arms fire in Balad, Iraq. Wyatt was assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Died on October 13, 2003.

Army Staff Sgt. Henry Ybarra III, 32, of Austin, Texas. Ybarra was changing the tire on a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck in Balad, Iraq when the tire exploded. Ybarra died of his injuries. Ybarra was assigned to D Troop, 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry, Illesheim, Germany. Died on September 11, 2003.

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Air Force Tech. Sgt. John A. Chapman, 36, of Waco, Texas. Killed in action in eastern Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda. Died on March 4, 2002.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Nathan R. Chapman, 31, of San Antonio, Texas. Died in Afghanistan. Died on January 4, 2002.

Army Staff Sgt. Brian T. Craig, 27, of Texas. Craig died as the result of an explosion during explosive clearing operations in Qandahar, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 710th Explosive Ordnance Detachment, San Diego, California. Died on April 15, 2002.

Army Spc. Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, 26, of Texas. Died in Kuwait. Died on February 24, 2003.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Raymond Losano, 24, of Del Rio, Texas. Losano was a tactical air command and control specialist assigned to the 14th Air Support Operation Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina. Died on April 25, 2003.

Army Sgt. 1st Class John E. Taylor, 31, of Wichita Falls, Texas. Taylor suffered a heart attack after completing physical training in Kabul, Afghanistan. Taylor was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Died on May 17, 2003.

Air Force Staff Sgt. John Teal, 29, of Dallas, Texas. Teal died in an HH-60 Pave Hawk accident in Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. Died on March 23, 2003.

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, at the close of business this week, we will journey back home to our districts. There, we will meet with our constituents and hear their concerns so that we may better serve them. We will also celebrate Memorial Day with them. Memorial Day is a very special day for me and my family, as I am sure it is for millions of other families across our great nation.

Prior to my years in public office, I proudly served my country in the United States Army. During my twenty years as a soldier, I served a number of overseas tours, including two tours in Vietnam. The years I spent wearing the uniform of my country will always be special to me, and the brave Americans I knew as a result of my service will always have a special place in my heart.

I would like to take this opportunity today to reflect upon the sacrifices our brave servicemen and women have made in the past and are making today as they honorably serve overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know what it is like to serve in a hostile environment far away from the comforts of home, separated from your loved ones. I also know the joy they will feel when they return home to their families. However, war does not promise that everyone who serves will return home. War does not promise that families will see their brave soldiers again.

This Memorial Day, Iowans will join together with the rest of the nation as we honor those soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice to defend the United States, uphold our Constitution, and advance the cause of freedom around the world. We will honor GySgt. Jeffrey Bohr, Lance Cpl. Ben Carman, Pvt. Michael Deutsch, PO Trace Dossett, Sgt. Paul Fisher, Pvt. Kurt Frosheiser, Pfc. David Kirchhoff, Spc. Joshua Knowles, Sgt. Bradley Korthaus, Pvt. Kenneth Nalley, Spc. Aaron Sissel, CW4 Bruce Smith, Cpl. Michael R. Speer, and Pfc. Brandon Sturdy, brave Iowans who lost their lives serving in Iraq. I thank them for their sacrifice, and I, along with the rest of our nation, offer my deepest condolences to their families.

God bless our brave and honorable servicemen and women and their families. Your sacrifices will never be forgotten.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker. From the troops still in the field today in the deserts of Iraq and mountains of Afghanistan, to the scores of veterans who have served in different theaters and eras, Memorial Day is a time to honor these American heroes and celebrate the freedoms that their sacrifices have secured.

This Memorial Day we stand victorious in liberating Iraq and Afghanistan, and our soldiers have struck another blow against international terrorism. These patriots and their families are making great sacrifices on behalf of this nation, this world and all of humanity.

This is also a time for our nation to remember the high price of freedom, as we mourn with the families whose loved ones do not return from the front lines. Memorial Day is a time to honor their lives and their sacrifice.

New Mexico has been reminded that freedom isn't free, as we have laid to rest four of our bravest sons and daughters.

Air Force 1st Lt. Tamara Archuleta, 23 years old, of Los Lunas, New Mexico died on March 23, 2003 in an HH-60 Pave Hawk accident in Afghanistan. She was assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia.

Army Sgt. Lee D. Todacheene, 29 years old from Farmington, New Mexico, was killed April 6, 2004 when mortar fire hit his guard post in Balad, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 77th Armored Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Germany.

Marine Corp Pfc. Christopher Ramos, 26 years old from Albuquerque, New Mexico, was killed April 5, 2004 by hostile fire in Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Marine Lance Corporal Aaron Austin, 21 years old from Lovington, NM. He was killed April 26, 2004 by hostile fire in Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, at Camp Pendleton, CA.

I ask for a Moment of Silence from this Body, to honor them, and their memory.

Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is May 31st this year. But each day we live in freedom is a Memorial Day, and an opportunity to thank our brave members of the United States Military, as well as our Veterans. They have the eternal thanks for a grateful nation.

The time we spend with our families and friends over Memorial Day weekend is a time for us to turn back toward what is truly important: our faith, our families, and our precious freedom.

May God Continue to Bless America.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memories of eight brave soldiers from the Third District of Nebraska who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of our country.

Spc. Dennis B. Morgan, 22, of Valentine, Nebraska; Pvt. Noah L. Boye, 21, of Grand Island, Nebraska; Sgt. Cory R. Mracek, 26, of Hay Springs, Nebraska; Sgt. Dennis A. Corral, 33, of Kearney, Nebraska; Spc. James R. Wolf, 21, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska; Spc. Blake C. Kelly, 21 of Columbus, Nebraska; Petty Officer 3rd Class David J. Moreno, 26, Gering, Nebraska; and Capt. Travis A. Ford, 30, of Ogallala, Nebraska.

Having been in Iraq and Afghanistan just a few months ago, I fully appreciate the character and commitment of our troops.

We are truly blessed to have this quality of soldiers protecting our country.

We will never be able to express to these families our appreciation for what their loved ones have sacrificed for our freedom.

I know that words cannot lessen the grief that each family is experiencing.

I want you to know that I share some of that grief, because all of us in Congress feel deeply responsible for our troops.

I can assure you that these eight soldiers have not been lost in vain.

All of us are resolved to see this matter through to a successful conclusion, so that Dennis; Noah; Cory; Dennis; James; Blake; David; and Travis sacrifice and memory are honored.

Mr. Speaker, may we all take a moment this Memorial Day to remember that our freedom has been bought with a price.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave soldiers who have given their lives while serving our great Nation during war. For 136 years American citizens have used Memorial Day as a special day to honor the servicemen and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Flowers and candles are lit on the graves of our heroes, ceremonies are held and Americans all over the country recognize the fallen soldiers in silence and solemnity.

Memorial Day is also a day where we should think about our values and appreciate how lucky we are to live in a free and democratic country. We should remember Franklin D. Roosevelt's words of January 6, 1941 when he outlined his hopes for a better future for the world. "In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want—which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings

which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.”

Memorial Day is a day when we should remember that there are still nations in the world which do not have these four freedoms. American soldiers are still fighting abroad to help people free themselves from oppression.

Sadly, this Memorial Day we also have to remember that we are a nation at war. But

whatever we think about this war should not undermine our unity in support of the brave troops fighting in Iraq. America stands behind the servicemen and women who, day after day, risk their lives. Almost 800 U.S. men and women in uniform have been killed in Iraq to the current date. I submit a list of the names of these heroes to be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Let us use Memorial Day to show our deep appreciation for these heroes. I again want to offer my sincerest sympathy to the families of the fallen soldiers. It is hard to imagine the pain these families are going through. But they can be assured that Americans will forever re-

member their loved ones with pride and gratefulness.

I have founded the Iraq Fallen Heroes Caucus to honor the fallen heroes and to actively support their families. Seventy-three Members of Congress—Democrats as well as Republicans—are already members of this caucus and I hope that more will join.

I again want to commend our soldiers for their great courage and willingness to fight for our country and encourage all Americans to use Memorial Day to honor our troops and remember those who have given their lives for the United States.

U.S. CASUALTIES IN IRAQ AS OF MAY 17, 2004

[Sorted by State of Residence]

Date	Branch	Rank and name	Age	State	Hometown
23-Mar-03	Army	Pfc. Howard Johnson II	21	AL	Mobile.
6-Apr-03	Army	Pvt. Kelley S. Prewitt	24	AL	Birmingham.
14-Apr-03	Army	Pfc. John E. Brown	21	AL	Troy.
22-Apr-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Robert William Channell, Jr	36	AL	Tuscaloosa.
24-Jun-03	Army	Spc. Cedric L. Lennon	32	AL	West Blocton.
28-Jun-03	Army	Sgt. Timothy M. Conneway	22	AL	Enterprise.
20-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Christopher R. Willoughby	29	AL	Phenix City.
4-Sept-03	Air Force	Tech. Sgt. Bruce E. Brown	32	AL	Coatopa.
21-Oct-03	Army	Pfc. Paul J. Bueche	19	AL	Daphne.
27-Oct-03	Army	Sgt. Aubrey D. Bell	33	AL	Tuskegee.
26-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Charles G. Haight	23	AL	Jacksonville.
8-Jan-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Philip A. Johnson, Jr	31	AL	Mobile.
23-Jan-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Brian D. Hazelgrove	29	AL	Fort Rucker.
16-Feb-04	Army	Spc. Christopher M. Taylor	25	AL	Daphne.
4-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Ahmed A. Cason	24	AL	McCalla.
4-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Stephen D. Hiller	25	AL	Opelika.
10-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. John T. Sims, Jr	21	AL	Alexander City.
25-Mar-03	Navy	Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michael Vann Johnson	25	AR	Little Rock.
26-Jul-03	Army	Pfc. Jonathan M. Cheatham	19	AR	Camden.
12-Sep-03	Army	Master Sgt. Kevin M. Morehead	33	AR	Little Rock.
18-Mar-04	Marine	Pfc. Brandon C. Smith	20	AR	Washington.
6-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. 1st Class William W. Labadie, Jr	45	AR	Bauxite.
24-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Stacy C. Brandon	35	AR	Hazen.
24-Apr-04	Army	Capt. Arthur L. Felder	36	AR	Lewisville.
24-Apr-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Patrick W. Kordsmeier	49	AR	North Little Rock.
24-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Billy J. Orton	41	AR	Humnoke.
6-May-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Hesley Box	24	AR	Nashville.
23-Mar-03	Army	Pfc. Lori Ann Piastewa	23	AZ	Tuba City.
28-Mar-03	Marine	Sgt. Fernando Padilla-Ramirez	26	AZ	Yuma.
2-Apr-03	Navy	Lt. Nathan D. White	30	AZ	Mesa.
18-Jun-03	Army	Staff Sgt. William T. Latham	29	AZ	Kingman.
26-Jun-03	Navy	Seaman Joshua McIntosh	22	AZ	Kingman.
30-Aug-03	Army	Sgt. Sean K. Cataudella	28	AZ	Tucson.
15-Sep-03	Army	Spc. Alyssa R. Peterson	27	AZ	Flagstaff.
6-Oct-03	Army	Spc. Spencer T. Karol	20	AZ	Woodruff.
17-Oct-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Michael J. Williams	31	AZ	Yuma.
28-Oct-03	Army	Spec. Issac Campoy	21	AZ	Douglas.
24-Dec-03	Army	Command Sgt. Major Eric F. Cooke	43	AZ	Scottsdale.
9-Feb-04	Army	Sgt. Elijah Tai Wah Wong	42	AZ	Mesa.
17-Feb-04	Army	Spc. Michael M. Merila	23	AZ	Sierra Vista.
25-Feb-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Matthew C. Laskowski	32	AZ	Phoenix.
12-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Robert P. Zurheide, Jr	20	AZ	Tucson.
21-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez	22	CA	Los Angeles.
22-Mar-03	Navy	Lt. Thomas Mullen Adams	27	CA	La Mesa.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Cpl. Randal Kent Rosacker	21	CA	San Diego.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Sgt. Michael E. Bitz	31	CA	Ventura.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Cpl. Jose A. Garibay	21	CA	Costa Mesa.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Cpl. Jorge A. Gonzalez	20	CA	Los Angeles.
25-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Patrick T. O'Day	20	CA	Sonoma.
25-Mar-03	Marine	Pfc. Francisco A. Martinez-Flores	21	CA	Los Angeles.
27-Mar-03	Marine	Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Menusa	33	CA	San Jose.
27-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Jesus A. Suarez del Solar	20	CA	Escondido.
3-Apr-03	Marine	Cpl. Erik H. Silva	22	CA	Chula Vista.
4-Apr-03	Army	Pvt. Devon D. Jones	19	CA	San Diego.
8-Apr-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class John W. Marshall	50	CA	Los Angeles.
12-Apr-03	Marine	Cpl. Jesus A. Gonzalez	22	CA	Indio.
24-Apr-03	Army	Sgt. Troy David Jenkins	25	CA	Ridgecrest.
25-Apr-03	Army	1st Lt. Osbaldo Orozco	26	CA	Delano.
12-May-03	Marine	Pfc. Jose Franci Gonzalez Rodriguez	19	CA	Norwalk.
18-May-03	Marine	Cpl. Douglas Jose Marencoreyes	28	CA	Chino.
19-May-03	Marine	Capt. Andrew David La Mont	31	CA	Eureka.
19-May-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Jason William Moore	21	CA	San Marcos.
3-Jun-03	Army	Sgt. Atanacio Haro Marin	27	CA	Baldwin Park.
19-Jun-03	Army	Spc. Paul T. Nakamura	21	CA	Santa Fe Springs.
25-Jun-03	Army	Spec. Andrew F. Chris	25	CA	San Diego.
9-Jul-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Jason Andrew Tetrault	20	CA	Moreno Valley.
15-Jul-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Cory Ryan Geurin	18	CA	Santee.
24-Jul-03	Army	Cpl. Evan Asa Ashcraft	24	CA	Los Angeles.
10-Aug-03	Army	Staff Sgt. David S. Perry	36	CA	Bakersfield.
12-Aug-03	Army	Pfc. Daniel R. Parker	18	CA	Lake Elsinore.
21-Aug-03	Navy	Lt. Kylan A. Jones-Huffman	31	CA	Aptos.
25-Aug-03	Army	Pfc. Pablo Manzano	19	CA	Heber.
9-Oct-03	Army	Pvt. Sean A. Silva	23	CA	Roseville.
13-Oct-03	Army	Pfc. Jose Casanova	23	CA	El Monte.
16-Oct-03	Army	Cpl. Sean R. Grilley	24	CA	San Bernardino.
24-Oct-03	Army	Spc. Jose L. Mora	26	CA	Bell Gardens.
24-Oct-03	Army	Sgt. Michael S. Hancock	29	CA	Yreka.
26-Oct-03	Army	Pfc. Steven Acosta	19	CA	Calexico.
31-Oct-03	Army	2nd Lt. Todd J. Bryant	23	CA	Riverside.
2-Nov-03	Army	Pfc. Karina S. Lau	20	CA	Livingston.
2-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Paul A. Velazquez	29	CA	San Diego.
11-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Genaro Acosta	26	CA	Fair Oaks.
15-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Bolor	37	CA	Whittier.
23-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Rel A. Ravago IV	21	CA	Glendale.
23-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Eddie E. Menyweather	35	CA	Los Angeles.
23-Nov-03	Army	CW2 Christopher G. Nason	39	CA	Los Angeles.

U.S. CASUALTIES IN IRAQ AS OF MAY 17, 2004—Continued

[Sorted by State of Residence]

Date	Branch	Rank and name	Age	State	Hometown
29-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Stephen A. Bertolino	40	CA	Orange.
2-Dec-03	Army	Sgt. Ryan C. Young	21	CA	Corona.
5-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Arron R. Clark	20	CA	Chico.
8-Dec-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Steven H. Bridges	33	CA	Tracy.
10-Dec-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Richard A. Burdick	24	CA	National City.
26-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Michael G. Mihalakis	18	CA	San Jose.
30-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Justin W. Pollard	21	CA	Foothill Ranch.
7-Jan-04	Army	Pfc. Jesse D. Mizener	24	CA	Auburn.
8-Jan-04	Army	Spc. Michael A. Diraimondo	22	CA	Simi Valley.
14-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. Keicia M. Hines	27	CA	Citrus Heights.
24-Jan-04	Army	Spc. Jason K. Chappell	22	CA	Hemet.
31-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. Eliu A. Miersandoval	27	CA	San Clemente.
10-Feb-04	Air Force	Master Sgt. Jude C. Mariano	39	CA	Vallejo.
11-Feb-04	Army	Sgt. Patrick S. Tainsh	33	CA	Oceanside.
12-Feb-04	Army	Spc. Eric U. Ramirez	31	CA	San Diego.
11-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Christopher K. Hill	26	CA	Ventura.
13-Mar-04	Army	Pfc. Joel K. Brattain	21	CA	Santa Ana.
20-Mar-04	Army	Maj. Mark D. Taylor	41	CA	Stockton.
20-Mar-04	Army	1st Lt. Michael W. Vega	41	CA	Lathrop.
22-Mar-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Andrew S. Dang	20	CA	Foster City.
30-Mar-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. William J. Wiscowiche	20	CA	Victorville.
4-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Michael W. Mitchell	25	CA	Porterville.
4-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Casey Sheehan	24	CA	Vacaville.
6-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Marcus M. Cherry	18	CA	Imperial.
6-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Kyle D. Crowley	18	CA	San Ramon.
6-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Travis J. Layfield	19	CA	Fremont.
6-Apr-04	Marine	Staff Sgt. Allan K. Walker	28	CA	Lancaster.
8-Apr-04	Marine	Staff Sgt. William M. Harrell	30	CA	Placentia.
8-Apr-04	Marine	1st Lt. Joshua M. Palmer	25	CA	Banning.
9-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. Eric A. Ayon	26	CA	Arleta.
11-Apr-04	Marine	1st Lt. Oscar Jimenez	34	CA	San Diego.
11-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. George D. Torres	23	CA	Long Beach.
12-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Brad S. Shuder	21	CA	El Dorado.
13-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Victor A. Rosaleslomeli	29	CA	Westminster.
15-Apr-04	Marine	Staff Sgt. Jimmy J. Arroyave	30	CA	Woodland.
16-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Brian M. Wood	21	CA	Torrence.
17-Apr-04	Marine	Capt. Richard J. Gannon II	31	CA	Escondido.
18-Apr-04	Marine	Cpl. Christopher A. Gibson	23	CA	Simi Valley.
20-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Leroy Harris-Kelly	20	CA	Azusa.
27-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Abraham D. Penamedina	32	CA	Los Angeles.
29-Apr-04	Army	Spc. James L. Beckstrand	27	CA	Escondido.
29-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Adam W. Estep	23	CA	Campbell.
1-May-04	Army	Spc. Ramon C. Ojeda	22	CA	Ramona.
1-May-04	Army	Spc. Trevor A. Win'E	22	CA	Orange.
3-May-04	Army	Pfc. Lyndon A. Marcus, Jr	21	CA	Long Beach.
3-May-04	Army	Sgt. Marvin R. Sprayberry III	24	CA	Tehachapi.
13-May-04	Marine	Pfc. Brian K. Cutter	19	CA	Riverside.
14-May-04	Army	Sgt. Brud J. Cronkrite	22	CA	Spring Valley.
14-May-04	Army	Pfc. Michael A. Mora	19	CA	Arroyo Grande.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Slocum	22	CO	Thornton.
3-Apr-03	Army	Capt. Russell B. Rippetoe	27	CO	Arvada.
3-Apr-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Randall S. Rehn	36	CO	Longmont.
27-May-03	Army	Sgt. Thomas F. Broomhead	34	CO	Canon City.
7-Jul-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Barry Sanford Sr	46	CO	Aurora.
29-Aug-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Mark A. Lawton	41	CO	Hayden.
24-Dec-03	Army	Sgt. Michael E. Yashinski	24	CO	Monument.
9-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. Chance R. Phelps	19	CO	Clifton.
29-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Ryan E. Reed	20	CO	Colorado Springs.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Jordan	42	CT	Enfield.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Cpl. Kemaphoom A. Chanawongse	22	CT	Waterford.
20-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Jason D. Jordan	24	CT	Enfield.
26-Jul-03	Army	Pfc. Wilfredo Perez, Jr	24	CT	Norwalk.
12-Aug-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Richard S. Eaton, Jr	37	CT	Guilford.
2-Nov-03	Army	Pfc. Anthony D. D'Agostino	20	CT	Waterbury.
12-Dec-03	Army	Pfc. Jeffrey F. Braun	19	CT	Stafford.
7-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Tyanna S. Felder	22	CT	Bridgeport.
9-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Felix M. Delgreco	22	CT	Simsbury.
25-Jun-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Gregory E. MacDonald	29	DC	Washington.
26-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Darryl T. Dent	21	DC	Washington.
30-Mar-03	Marine	Sgt. Brian McGinnis	23	DE	Saint Georges.
3-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Ryan P. Long	21	DE	Seaford.
7-Sep-03	Army	Spc. Jarrett B. Thompson	27	DE	Dover.
6-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Anthony P. Roberts	18	DE	Bear.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Brian Rory Buesing	20	FL	Cedar Key.
3-Apr-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Wilbert Davis	40	FL	Tampa.
4-Apr-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith	33	FL	Tampa.
7-Apr-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Andrew Julian Aviles	18	FL	Palm Beach.
14-Apr-03	Marine	Cpl. Armando Ariel Gonzalez	25	FL	Hialeah.
17-Apr-03	Army	Cpl. John T. Rivero	23	FL	Tampa.
26-May-03	Army	Sgt. Keman L. Mitchell	24	FL	Hilliard.
27-May-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Michael B. Quinn	37	FL	Tampa.
6-Jul-03	Army	Spc. Jeffrey M. Wershow	22	FL	Gainesville.
3-Oct-03	Army	Pfc. Charles M. Sims	18	FL	Miami.
12-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Robert A. Wise	21	FL	Tallahassee.
20-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Robert D. Roberts	21	FL	Winter Park.
8-Jan-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Aaron A. Weaver	32	FL	Inverness.
8-Jan-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Ian D. Manuel	23	FL	
17-Jan-04	Army	Pfc. Cody J. Orr	21	FL	Ruskin.
17-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. Edmond L. Randle	26	FL	Miami.
1-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Michael R. Woodliff	22	FL	Port Charlotte.
17-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Tracy L. Laramore	30	FL	Okaloosa.
24-Mar-04	Army	SSgt. Wentz Jerome Henry Shanaberger III	33	FL	Naples.
6-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. Christopher R. Cobb	19	FL	Brandenton.
9-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Raymond E. Jones, Jr	31	FL	Gainesville.
17-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Jonathan N. Hartman	27	FL	Jacksonville.
20-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Bradley C. Fox	34	FL	Orlando.
29-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Jeremy Ricardo Ewing	22	FL	Miami.
29-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Justin B. Schmidt	23	FL	Bradenton.
30-Apr-04	Navy	Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason B. Dwelley	31	FL	Apopka.
2-May-04	Navy	Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael C. Anderson	36	FL	Daytona.
2-May-04	Navy	Petty Officer 2nd Class Trace W. Dossett	37	FL	Orlando.
2-May-04	Navy	Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronald A. Ginther	37	FL	Auburndale.
2-May-04	Navy	Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert B. Jenkins	35	FL	Stuart.
2-May-04	Navy	Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott R. McHugh	33	FL	Boca Raton.
2-May-04	Army	Capt. John E. Tipton	32	FL	Fort Walton Beach.
3-May-04	Army	1st Lt. Christopher J. Kenny	32	FL	Miami.
6-May-04	Marine	Cpl. Dustin H. Schrage	20	FL	Brevard.
8-May-05	Marine	Cpl. Ronald R. Payne, Jr	23	FL	Lakeland.
23-Mar-03	Army	Spc. Jamaal R. Addison	22	GA	Roswell.
29-Mar-03	Army	Pfc. Diego Fernando Rincon	19	GA	Conyers.

U.S. CASUALTIES IN IRAQ AS OF MAY 17, 2004—Continued

[Sorted by State of Residence]

Date	Branch	Rank and name	Age	State	Hometown
29-Mar-03	Army	Pfc. Michael Russell Creighton Weldon	20	GA	Conyers.
3-Apr-03	Army	Capt. Edward J. Korn	31	GA	Savannah.
14-May-03	Army	Spc. David T. Nutt	32	GA	Blackshear.
12-Jun-03	Army	Spc. John K. Klinesmith, Jr	25	GA	Stockbridge.
14-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Michael T. Crockett	27	GA	Soperton.
28-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Nathaniel Hart, Jr.	29	GA	Valdosta.
20-Aug-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Bobby C. Franklin	38	GA	Mineral Bluff.
13-Oct-03	Army	Pvt. Benjamin L. Freeman	19	GA	Valdosta.
23-Nov-03	Army	Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry L. Wilson	45	GA	Thomson.
11-Dec-03	Army	Spec. Marshall L. Edgerton	27	GA	Rocky Face.
17-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Christopher J. Holland	26	GA	Brunswick.
8-Jan-04	Army	Spc. Nathaniel H. Johnson	22	GA	Augusta.
12-Jan-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Ricky L. Crockett	37	GA	Broxtown.
15-Mar-04	Army	Sgt. William J. Normandy	42	GA	Augusta.
16-Mar-04	Army	Master Sgt. Thomas R. Thigpen, Sr	52	GA	Augusta.
2-Apr-2004	Army	Pfc. William R. Strange	19	GA	Adrian.
10-Apr-04	Air Force	Airman 1st Class Antoine J. Holt	20	GA	Kennesaw.
10-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Justin W. Johnson	22	GA	Rome.
17-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Marvin A. Camposiles	25	GA	Austell.
27-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Marquis A. Whitaker	20	GA	Columbus.
30-Apr-04	Navy	Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher M. Dickerson	33	GA	Eastman.
1-Sep-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Cameron B. Sarno	43	HI	Waipahu.
24-Mar-03	Marine	Sgt. Bradley S. Korthaus	28	IA	Davenport.
10-Apr-03	Marine	Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey E. Bohr, Jr	39	IA	Ossian.
26-May-03	Army	Pvt. Kenneth A. Nalley	19	IA	Hamburg.
31-Jul-03	Army	Pvt. Michael J. Deutsch	21	IA	Dubuque.
14-Aug-03	Army	Pfc. David M. Kirchhoff	31	IA	Cedar Rapids.
2-Nov-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Bruce A. Smith	41	IA	West Liberty.
6-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Paul F. Fisher	39	IA	Cedar Rapids.
8-Nov-03	Army	Pvt. Kurt R. Frosheiser	22	IA	Des Moines.
29-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Aaron J. Sissel	22	IA	Tipton.
5-Feb-04	Army	Spc. Joshua Knowles	23	IA	Sheffield.
6-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. Benjamin R. Carman	20	IA	Jefferson.
9-Apr-04	Marine	Cpl. Michael R. Speer	24	IA	Davenport.
13-Mar-04	Marine	Pfc. Brandon C. Sturdy	19	IA	Urbandale.
24-Mar-03	Air National Guard	Maj. Gregory Stone	40	ID	Boise.
9-May-03	Army	Cpl. Richard P. Carl	26	ID	Glenns Ferry.
10-Dec-03	Army	Pfc. Jerick M. Petty	25	ID	Idaho Falls.
31-Mar-04	Army	Pfc. Cleston C. Raney	20	ID	Rupert.
20-Mar-03	Marine	Capt. Ryan Anthony Beaupre	30	IL	Bloomington.
23-Mar-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Andrew R. Pokorny	30	IL	Naperville.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Pvt. Jonathan L. Gifford	30	IL	Decatur.
24-Mar-03	Marine	Cpl. Evan T. James	20	IL	La Harpe.
31-Mar-03	Army	Spc. Brandon J. Rowe	20	IL	Roscoe.
5-Apr-03	Marine	1st Sgt. Edward Smith	38	IL	Chicago.
7-Apr-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Lincoln D. Hollinsaid	27	IL	Malden.
12-May-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Jakub Henryk Kowalik	21	IL	Schaumburg.
13-May-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Nicholas Brian Kleiboeker	19	IL	Irvington.
19-May-03	Marine	1st Lt. Timothy Louis Ryan	30	IL	Aurora.
26-Jun-03	Army	Spc. Corey A. Hubbell	20	IL	Urbana.
8-Aug-03	Army	Pfc. Brandon Ramsey	21	IL	Calumet City.
8-Aug-03	Army	Pvt. Matthew D. Bush	20	IL	East Alton.
2-Sep-03	Army	Pfc. Christopher A. Sisson	20	IL	Oak Park.
9-Sep-03	Army	Spc. Ryan G. Carlock	25	IL	Macomb.
2-Nov-03	Army	1st Lt. Brian D. Slavenas	30	IL	Genoa.
15-Nov-03	Army	Spc. William D. Dusenbery	30	IL	Fairview Heights.
15-Nov-03	Army	Spc. John R. Sullivan	26	IL	Countryside.
20-Nov-03	Army	Pvt. Scott M. Tyrrell	21	IL	Sterling.
1-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Uday Singh	21	IL	Lake Forest.
26-Dec-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Michael Sutter	28	IL	Tinley Park.
17-Mar-04	Army	Sgt. Ivory L. Phipps	44	IL	Chicago.
4-Apr-04	Army	Cpl. Forest J. Jostes	22	IL	Albion.
4-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. Geoffrey S. Morris	19	IL	Gurnee.
8-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Phillip E. Frank	20	IL	Elk Grove.
9-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Gregory R. Goodrich	37	IL	Bartonville.
11-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Torrey L. Gray	19	IL	Patoka.
23-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Shawn C. Edwards	20	IL	Bensenville.
29-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Landis W. Garrison	23	IL	Rapids City.
1-May-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Oscar D. Vargas-Medina	32	IL	Chicago.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. David K. Fribley	26	IN	Warsaw.
24-Mar-03	Army	Spc. Gregory P. Sanders	19	IN	Hobart.
26-Mar-03	Army	Spc. William A. Jeffries	39	IN	Evansville.
4-Apr-03	Marine	Sgt. Duane R. Rios	25	IN	Griffith.
22-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Roy Russell Buckley	24	IN	Portage.
10-May-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Smith	20	IN	Anderson.
7-Jun-03	Army	Pvt. Jesse M. Halling	19	IN	Indianapolis.
16-Jun-03	Army	Pvt. Shawn D. Pahnke	25	IN	Shelbyville.
7-Jul-03	Army	Spc. Chad L. Keith	21	IN	Batesville.
8-Jul-03	Army	Pvt. Robert L. McKinley	23	IN	Kokomo.
8-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Craig A. Boing	38	IN	Elkhart.
5-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Ronald D. Allen Jr.	22	IN	Mitchell.
20-Sep-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Frederick L. Miller, Jr	27	IN	Hagerstown.
2-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Brian H. Penisten	28	IN	Fort Wayne.
6-Nov-03	Army	Spc. James A. Chance III	25	IN	Kokomo.
23-Nov-03	Army	Cpl. Darrell Smith	26	IN	Otwell.
12-Dec-03	Army	Sgt. Jarrod W. Black	28	IN	Peru.
5-Jan-04	Army	Spc. Luke P. Frist	20	IN	West Lafayette.
21-Mar-04	Army	Pfc. Christopher E. Hudson	21	IN	Carmel.
4-4-2004	Army	Pfc. John D. Amos II	22	IN	Valparaiso.
6-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. Deryk L. Hallal	24	IN	Indianapolis.
1-Apr-03	Army	Sgt. Jacob L. Butler	24	KS	Wellsville.
15-Jun-03	Marine	Pfc. Ryan R. Cox	19	KS	Derby.
25-Sep-03	Army	Spc. Kyle G. Thomas	23	KS	Topeka.
30-Sep-03	Army	Spc. Dustin K. McGaugh	20	KS	Derby.
20-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Joseph L. Lister	22	KS	Pleasanton.
31-Jan-04	Army	Cpt. Juan C. Cabralbanuelos	25	KS	Emporia.
21-Mar-04	Army	Pvt. Dustin L. Kreider	19	KS	Riverton.
8-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Christopher B. Wasser	21	KS	Ottawa.
2-May-04	Army	Pvt. Jeremy L. Drexler	23	KS	Topeka.
29-Sep-03	Army	Sgt. Darrin K. Potter	24	KY	Louisville.
12-Oct-03	Army	Spc. James E. Powell	26	KY	Radcliff.
15-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Michael D. Acklin II	25	KY	Louisville.
21-Nov-03	Army	Cpl. Gary B. Coleman	24	KY	Pikeville.
27-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. James T. Hoffman	41	KY	Whitesburg.
19-Feb-04	Army	2nd Lt. Jeffrey C. Graham	44	KY	Elizabethtown.
7-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. George S. Rentschler	31	KY	Louisville.
8-Apr-04	Marine	Cpl. Nicholas J. Dieruf	21	KY	Versailles.
17-Apr-04	Army	1st Lt. Robert L. Henderson II	33	KY	Alvaton.
14-May-04	Army	Sgt. James W. Harlan	44	KY	Owensboro.
4-Apr-03	Army	Pfc. Wilfred D. Ballard	20	LA	Lake Charles.

U.S. CASUALTIES IN IRAQ AS OF MAY 17, 2004—Continued

[Sorted by State of Residence]

Date	Branch	Rank and name	Age	State	Hometown
9-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Levi B. Kinchen	21	LA	Tickfaw.
9-Aug-03	Army	Sgt. Floyd G. Knighten, Jr.	55	LA	Olla.
12-Aug-03	Army	Sgt. Taft V. Williams	29	LA	New Orleans.
29-Sep-03	Army	Pfc. Kristian E. Parker	23	LA	Slidell.
8-Jan-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Craig Davis	37	LA	Opelousas.
7-Mar-04	Army	Capt. Gussie M. Jones	41	LA	
9-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Toby W. Mallet	26	LA	Kaplan.
14-May-04	Army	Command Sgt. Maj. Edward C. Barnhill	50	LA	Shreveport.
2-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Matthew G. Boule	22	MA	Dracut.
4-Apr-03	Marine	Capt. Benjamin W. Sammis	29	MA	Rehoboth.
4-Apr-03	Marine	1st Lt. Brian M. McPhillips	25	MA	Pembroke.
20-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Justin W. Garvey	23	MA	Townsend.
1-Sep-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Joseph Camara	40	MA	New Bedford.
16-Oct-03	Staff	Sgt. Joseph P. Bellavia	28	MA	Wakefield.
18-Oct-03	Army	Pfc. John D. Hart	20	MA	Bedford.
7-Nov-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Kyran E. Kennedy	43	MA	Boston.
18-Dec-03	Army	Sgt. Glenn R. Allison	24	MA	Pittsfield.
23-Dec-03	Army	Sgt. Theodore L. Perreault	33	MA	Webster.
21-Jan-04	Army	Spc. Gabriel T. Palacios	22	MA	Lynn.
25-Feb-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Stephen M. Wells	29	MA	Egremont.
13-Mar-04	Army	Sgt. Daniel J. Londono	22	MA	Boston.
19-Mar-04	Marine	Cpl. David M. Vicente	25	MA	Methuen.
25-Mar-04	Marine	LCpl. Jeffrey C. Burgess	20	MA	Plymouth.
9-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Peter G. Enos	24	MA	South Dartmouth.
29-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Norman Darling	29	MA	Middleboro.
20-Mar-03	Marine	Staff Sgt. Kendall Dannon Waters-Bey	29	MD	Baltimore.
7-Apr-03	Army	Spc. George A. Mitchell	35	MD	Rawlings.
14-Apr-03	Marine	Cpl. Jason David Mileo	20	MD	Centerville.
8-Nov-03	Army	Command Sgt. Maj. Cornell W. Gilmore I	45	MD	Baltimore.
8-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. Jeffrey C. Walker	33	MD	Havre de Grace.
25-Jan-04	Army	Lt. Adam G. Mooney	28	MD	Cambridge.
13-Feb-04	Army	Pvt. Bryan N. Spry	19	MD	Chester town.
13-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Jason C. Ford	21	MD	Bowie.
3/31/2004	Army	Pvt. Brandon L. Davis	20	MD	Cumberland.
15-May-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Bruce E. Price	37	MD	
20-Mar-03	Marine	Maj. Jay Thomas Aubin	36	ME	Waterville.
4-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Daniel Francis J. Cunningham	33	ME	Lewiston.
7-Nov-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth	43	ME	Litchfield.
3/29/2004	Army	Spc. Jeremiah J. Holmes	27	ME	North Berwick.
20-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Christopher D. Gelineau	23	ME	Portland.
26-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Lawrence A. Roukey	33	ME	Westbrook.
26-Mar-03	Marine	Maj. Kevin Nave	36	MI	Union.
2-Apr-03	Army	Sgt. Michael F. Pedersen	26	MI	Flint.
3-Apr-03	Army	Sgt. Todd J. Robbins	33	MI	Pentwater.
8-Apr-03	Army	Pfc. Jason M. Meyer	23	MI	Swartz Creek.
8-Apr-03	Air Force	Staff Sgt. Scott D. Sather	29	MI	Clio.
8-Apr-03	Marine	Pfc. Juan Guadalupe Garza, Jr.	20	MI	Temperance.
14-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Richard A. Goward	32	MI	Midland.
3-May-03	Army	Sgt. Sean C. Reynolds	25	MI	East Lansing.
16-May-03	Army	Master Sgt. William L. Payne	46	MI	Otsego.
26-May-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Brett J. Petriken	30	MI	Flint.
13-Jul-03	Army	Capt. Paul J. Cassidy	36	MI	Laingsburg.
6-Aug-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Brian R. Hellermann	35	MI	Freeport.
14-Sep-03	Army	Sgt. Trevor A. Blumberg	22	MI	Canton.
13-Oct-03	Army	Spc. Donald L. Wheeler	22	MI	Concord.
20-Oct-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Paul J. Johnson	29	MI	Calumet.
24-Oct-03	Army	Spc. Artimus D. Brassfield	22	MI	Flint.
8-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Mark D. Vasquez	35	MI	Port Huron.
22-Nov-03	Army	Pfc. Damian S. Bushart	22	MI	Waterford.
8-Dec-03	Army	Pfc. Jason G. Wright	19	MI	Luzerne.
25-Dec-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Thomas W. Christensen	42	MI	Atlantic Mine.
25-Dec-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Stephen C. Hattamer	43	MI	Gwinn.
31-Jan-04	Army	Pfc. Holly J. McGeogh	19	MI	Taylor.
14-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Richard K. Trevithick	20	MI	Gaines.
3-Jul-03	Army	Pfc. Edward J. Herrgott	20	MN	Shakopee.
17-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Dale A. Panchot	26	MN	Northome.
25-Jan-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Patrick D. Dorff	32	MN	Elk River.
8-Mar-04	Marine	Pfc. Matthew G. Milczark	18	MN	Kettle River.
4/4/2004	Marine	Cpl. Tyler R. Fey	22	MN	Eden Prairie.
4/5/2004	Marine	Pfc. Moises A. Langhorst	19	MN	Moose Lake.
8-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Levi T. Angell	20	MN	Saint Louis.
8-May-07	Army	Spc. James J. Holmes	28	MN	East Grand Forks.
22-Mar-03	Marine	Sgt. Nicholas M. Hodson	22	MO	Smithville.
1-May-03	Army	Pfc. Jesse A. Givens	34	MO	Springfield.
26-May-03	Army	Pfc. Jeremiah D. Smith	25	MO	Odessa.
6-Jun-03	Army	Sgt. Travis L. Burkhardt	26	MO	Edina.
12-Jul-03	Army	Spc. Joshua M. Neusche	20	MO	Montreal.
18-Jul-03	Army	Spc. Joel L. Bertoldie	20	MO	Independence.
26-Jul-03	Army	Spc. Jonathan P. Barnes	21	MO	Anderson.
26-Oct-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Jamie L. Huggins	26	MO	Hume.
7-Nov-03	Army	Capt. Joseph B. Smith	29	MO	Monroe City.
23-Jan-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Michael T. Blaise	29	MO	Macon.
9-Mar-04	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Richard S. Gottfried	42	MO	Lake Ozark.
25-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Kenneth A. Melton	30	MO	Westplains.
29-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Ryan M. Campbell	25	MO	Kirksville.
21-Mar-03	Marine	2nd Lt. Therrel S. Childers	30	MS	Harrison County.
5-Apr-03	Army	Cpl. Henry L. Brown	22	MS	Natchez.
8-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Larry K. Brown	22	MS	Jackson.
28-May-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Kenneth R. Bradley	39	MS	Utica.
1-Jun-03	Marine	Sgt. Jonathan W. Lambert	28	MS	New Site.
2-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Joe N. Wilson	30	MS	Crystal Springs.
15-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Jeremy DiGiovanni	21	MS	Tylertown.
15-Nov-03	Army	Pfc. Damian L. Heidelberg	21	MS	Batesville.
2-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Raphael S. Davis	24	MS	Tutwiler.
13-Mar-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Clint D. Ferrin	31	MS	Picayune.
7-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. Christopher D. Mabry	19	MS	Chunky.
29-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Jeffrey F. Dayton	27	MS	Caledonia.
1-May-04	Army	Sgt. Joshua S. Ladd	20	MS	Port Gibson.
22-Dec-03	Army	1st Lt. Edward M. Saltz	27	MT	Bigfork.
28-Mar-03	Army	Sgt. Roderic A. Solomon	32	NC	Fayetteville.
2-Apr-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Brian E. Anderson	26	NC	Durham.
22-Apr-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Alan Dinh Lam	19	NC	Snow Camp.
17-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Michael L. Tosto	24	NC	Apex.
6-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. David B. Parson	30	NC	Kannapolis.
21-Jul-03	Army	Cpl. Mark A. Bibby	25	NC	Watha.
31-Jul-03	Army	Spc. James I. Lambert III	22	NC	Raleigh.
6-Aug-03	Army	Sgt. Leonard D. Simmons	33	NC	New Bern.
20-Sep-03	Army	Spc. Lunsford B. Brown II	27	NC	Creedmoor.
26-Oct-03	Army	Pvt. Joseph R. Guerrero	20	NC	Dunn.
26-Oct-03	Army	Lt. Col. Charles H. Buehring	40	NC	Fayetteville.

U.S. CASUALTIES IN IRAQ AS OF MAY 17, 2004—Continued

[Sorted by State of Residence]

Date	Branch	Rank and name	Age	State	Hometown
7-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Scott C. Rose	30	NC	Fayetteville.
15-Nov-03	Army	Joey Whitener	19	NC	Nebo.
20-Feb-04	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Henry A. Bacon	45	NC	Wagram.
13-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Jocelyn L. Carrasquillo	28	NC	Wrightsville Beach.
7-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Marvin L. Miller	38	NC	Dunn.
9-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Elmer C. Krause	40	NC	Greensboro.
3-May-04	Army	Sgt. Gregory L. Wahl	30	NC	Salisbury.
9-May-05	Army	Sgt. Rodney A. Murray	28	NC	Ayden.
22-Jul-03	Army	Spc. Jon P. Pettig	30	ND	Dickinson.
15-Nov-03	Army	Pfc. Sheldon R. Hawk Eagle	21	ND	Grand Forks.
27-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Thomas J. Sweet II	23	ND	Bismarck.
24-Jan-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Kenneth W. Hendrickson	41	ND	Bismarck.
8-May-05	Army	Spc. Philip D. Brown	21	ND	Jamestown.
4-Apr-03	Marine	Capt. Travis A. Ford	30	NE	Ogallala.
21-May-03	Army	Spc. Nathaniel A. Caldwell	27	NE	Omaha.
17-Jul-03	Navy	Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class David J. Moreno	26	NE	Gering.
9-Oct-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Christopher W. Swisher	26	NE	Lincoln.
2-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Daniel Bader	28	NE	York.
6-Nov-03	Army	Spc. James R. Wolf	21	NE	Scottsbluff.
1-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. Dennis A. Corral	33	NE	Kearney.
27-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. Cory R. Mracek	26	NE	Hay Springs.
13-Apr-04	Marine	Pvt. Noah L. Boye	21	NE	Grand Island.
17-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Dennis B. Morgan	22	NE	Valentine.
25-Sep-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Robert E. Rooney	43	NH	Nashua.
24-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. Rany S. Rosenberg	23	NH	Berlin.
3/30/2004	Army	Master Sgt. Richard L. Ferguson	45	NH	Conway.
29-Mar-03	Army	Spc. Michael Edward Curtin	23	NJ	Howell.
10-Apr-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Terry W. Hemingway	39	NJ	Willingboro.
13-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Gil Mercado	25	NJ	Paterson.
25-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Narsen B. Sullivan	21	NJ	North Brunswick.
30-May-03	Army	Spc. Kyle A. Griffin	20	NJ	Emerson.
28-Jun-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Gladimir Philippe	37	NJ	Linden.
16-Jul-03	Army	2nd Lt. Richard Torres	25	NJ	Essex.
1-Oct-03	Army	Spc. Simeon Hunte	23	NJ	Jersey City.
11-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Marlon P. Jackson	25	NJ	Brown Mills.
15-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Ryan T. Baker	24	NJ	Brigantine.
2-Jan-04	Army	Spc. Marc S. Seiden	26	NJ	East Brunswick.
3-Feb-04	Army	2nd Lt. Seth J. Dvorin	24	NJ	Orange.
22-Mar-04	Army	Pfc. Bruce Miller, Jr.	23	NJ	Pine Hill.
25-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Adam D. Froelich	25	NJ	Oak Ridge.
6-Apr-04	Marine	2nd Lt. John T. Wroblewski	25	NJ	Browns Mill.
14-May-04	Army	Spc. Philip I. Spakosky	25	NM	Le Mesa.
4-Oct-03	Army	Spc. James H. Pirtle	27	NM	Albuquerque.
4-5-04	Marine	Pfc. Christopher Ramos	29	NM	Farmington.
6-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Lee D. Todacheene	21	NV	Washoe Valley.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Donald J. Cline, Jr.	31	NV	Tonopah.
13-Jun-03	Marine	2nd Lt. Frederick E. Pokorney, Jr.	29	NV	Sparks.
23-Jul-03	Army	Capt. Joshua T. Byers	26	NY	Buffalo.
22-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Eric J. Orlowski	21	NY	Buffalo.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Pfc. Tamario D. Burkett	46	NY	Buffalo.
23-Mar-03	Army	Spc. Michael L. Williams	21	NY	Queens.
27-Mar-03	Marine	Cpl. Robert M. Rodriguez	24	NY	Brooklyn.
29-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. William W. White	24	NY	Highland.
29-Mar-03	Army	Sgt. Eugene Williams	41	NY	Rochester.
2-Apr-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Eric A. Smith	22	NY	Mount Vernon.
4-Apr-03	Marine	Cpl. Bernard G. Gooden	19	NY	Forestport.
6-Apr-03	Army	Pfc. Gregory P. Huxley, Jr.	26	NY	New York.
11-Apr-03	Marine	Staff Sgt. Riayan A. Tejeda	22	NY	Buffalo.
18-May-03	Army	Spc. Rasheed Sahib	18	NY	Brooklyn.
25-May-03	Army	Pvt. David Evans, Jr.	22	NY	Buffalo.
24-Jul-03	Army	Pfc. Raheen Tyson Heighter	22	NY	Bay Shore.
27-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Heath A. McMillin	29	NY	Canandaigua.
10-Sep-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Joseph E. Robsly, Jr.	31	NY	Elizaville.
15-Sep-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Kevin C. Kimmerly	31	NY	North Creek.
20-Sep-03	Army	Sgt. David T. Friedrich	26	NY	Hammond.
3-Nov-03	Army	Pfc. Rayshawn S. Johnson	20	NY	Brooklyn.
13-Nov-03	Army	Pfc. Jacob S. Fletcher	28	NY	Bay Shore.
14-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Irving Medina	22	NY	Middletown.
20-Nov-03	Army	Capt. George A. Wood	33	NY	New York.
19-Dec-03	Army	Pfc. Charles E. Bush, Jr.	43	NY	Buffalo.
29-Jan-04	Army	Pfc. Luis A. Moreno	19	NY	Bronx.
9-Feb-04	Army	Sgt. Thomas D. Robbins	27	NY	Schenectady.
19-Feb-04	Army	Spc. Roger G. Ling	20	NY	Douglaston.
18-Mar-04	Army	Spec. Doron Chan	20	NY	Highland.
27-Mar-2004	Marine	Master Sgt. Timothy Toney	37	NY	Manhattan.
4-5-2004	Army	Spc. David M. McKeever	25	NY	Buffalo.
8-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Isaac Michael Nieves	20	NY	Unadilla.
11-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Nathan P. Brown	21	NY	South Glens Falls.
13-Apr-04	Marine	Cpl. Kevin T. Kolm	23	NY	Hicksville.
18-Apr-04	Marine	Cpl. Jason L. Dunham	22	NY	Allegany.
24-Apr-04	Coast Guard	Coast Guard Officer 3rd Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal	27	NY	Smithtown.
24-Apr-04	Navy	Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael J. Pernaselli	24	NY	Monroe.
23-Mar-03	Army	Master Sgt. Robert J. Dowdy	38	OH	Cleveland.
23-Mar-03	Army	Pvt. Brandon Ulysses Sloan	19	OH	Bedford Heights.
2-Apr-03	Marine	Pfc. Christian D. Gurtner	19	OH	Ohio City.
8-May-03	Army	Pfc. Marlin T. Rockhold	23	OH	Hamilton.
9-May-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer 3 Brian K. Van Dusen	39	OH	Columbus.
19-May-03	Army	Lt. Col. Dominic R. Baragona	42	OH	Niles.
5-Jun-03	Army	Pfc. Branden F. Oberleitner	20	OH	Worthington.
10-Jun-03	Army	Pfc. Gavin L. Neighbor	20	OH	Somerset.
28-Jun-03	Army	Pfc. Kevin C. Ott	27	OH	Columbus.
23-Jul-03	Army	Spc. Brett T. Christian	27	OH	North Royalton.
2-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Steven D. Conover	21	OH	Wilmington.
10-Dec-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Aaron T. Reese	31	OH	Reynoldsburg.
10-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Todd M. Bates	20	OH	Bellaire.
15-Dec-03	Army	Pfc. Kenneth C. Soulin	21	OH	Mansfield.
24-Dec-03	Army	Sgt. Benjamin W. Biskie	27	OH	Vermillion.
27-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. Lester O. Kinney II	27	OH	Zanesville.
27-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. Sean G. Landrus	31	OH	Thompson.
8-Feb-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Richard P. Ramey	27	OH	Canton.
18-Mar-04	Marine	Cpl. Andrew D. Brownfield	24	OH	Summit.
9-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Allen J. Vandyburg	20	OH	Mansfield.
17-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Michael J. Smith, Jr.	21	OH	Jefferson.
5-May-04	Army	Pfc. Jesse R. Burj	21	OH	Canton.
24-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Thomas A. Blair	27	OK	Wagoner.
19-May-03	Marine	Staff Sgt. Aaron Dean White	24	OK	Shawnee.
6-Jun-03	Navy	Petty Officer 3rd Class Doyle W. Bollinger, Jr.	21	OK	Poteau.
13-Aug-03	Army	Sgt. Steven W. White	29	OK	Lawton.
23-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Stephen M. Scott	21	OK	Lawton.
22-Oct-03	Army	Pvt. Jason M. Ward	25	OK	Tulsa.

U.S. CASUALTIES IN IRAQ AS OF MAY 17, 2004—Continued

[Sorted by State of Residence]

Date	Branch	Rank and name	Age	State	Hometown
2-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Ross A. Pennanen	36	OK	Shawnee.
27-Jan-04	Army	Luke S. James	24	OK	Hooker.
11-Apr-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Lawrence S. Colton	32	OK	Oklahoma City.
30-Apr-04	Marine	Cpl. Scott M. Vincent	21	OK	Bokoshe.
3-May-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Erickson H. Petty	28	OK	Fort Gibson.
5-May-04	Army	Spc. James E. Marshall	19	OK	Tulsa.
11-May-04	Army	Spc. Kyle A. Brinlee	21	OK	Pryor.
22-Mar-03	Army	Reserve Spc. Brandon S. Tobler	19	OR	Portland.
23-Mar-03	Army	Sgt. Donald Ralph Walters	33	OR	Salem.
30-Mar-03	Marine	Capt. Aaron J. Contreras	31	OR	Sherwood.
8-Apr-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Robert A. Stever	36	OR	Pendleton.
2-Jul-03	Marine	Cpl. Travis J. Bradach-Nall	21	OR	Multnomah County.
15-Nov-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson	29	OR	Independence.
8-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Christopher J. Rivera Wesley	26	OR	Portland.
8-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Joseph M. Blickenstaff	23	OR	Corvallis.
16-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Nathan W. Nakis	19	OR	Corvallis.
27-Jan-04	Army	Travis A. Moothart	23	OR	Brownsville.
11-Feb-04	Army	Pfc. William C. Ramirez	19	OR	Portland.
4-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Philip G. Rogers	23	OR	Gresham.
17-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Gary F. VanLeuven	20	OR	Klamath Falls.
8-May-04	Army	Spc. Chase R. Whitham	21	OR	Eugene.
17-May-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Bob W. Roberts	30	OR	Newport.
22-Mar-03	Army	Capt. Christopher Scott Seifert	27	PA	Easton.
1-Apr-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Joseph B. Maglione	22	PA	Lansdale.
3-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Donald S. Oaks, Jr	20	PA	Erie.
4-Apr-03	Army	Capt. Tristan N. Aitken	31	PA	State College.
6-Apr-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Stevon A. Booker	34	PA	Apollo.
30-May-03	Army	Spc. Zachariah W. Long	20	PA	Milton.
30-May-03	Army	Spc. Michael T. Gleason	25	PA	Warren.
1-Jul-03	Army	1st Sgt. Christopher D. Coffin	51	PA	Bethlehem.
3-Jul-03	Army	Pfc. Corey L. Small	20	PA	East Berlin.
13-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Jaror C. Puello-Coronado	36	PA	Mount Pocono.
28-Jul-03	Army	Spc. William J. Maher III	35	PA	Yardley.
12-Aug-03	Army	Pfc. Timmy R. Brown, Jr	21	PA	Conway.
17-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Craig S. Ivory	26	PA	Port Matilda.
18-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Eric R. Hull	23	PA	Uniontown.
27-Aug-03	Army	Lt. Col. Anthony L. Sherman	43	PA	Pottstown.
27-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Rafael L. Navea	34	PA	Pittsburgh.
18-Sep-03	Army	Capt. Brian R. Faunce	28	PA	Philadelphia.
29-Sep-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Christopher E. Cutchall	30	PA	McConnellsburg.
29-Sep-03	Army	Sgt. Andrew Joseph Baddick	26	PA	Jim Thorpe.
13-Oct-03	Army	Spc. Douglas J. Weismantle	28	PA	Pittsburgh.
18-Oct-03	Army	1st Lt. David R. Bernstein	24	PA	Phoenixville.
1-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Maurice J. Johnson	21	PA	Levittown.
2-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Ernest G. Bucklew	33	PA	Enon Valley.
9-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Nicholas A. Tomko	24	PA	Pittsburgh.
13-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Joseph Minucci II	23	PA	Richeyville.
15-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Timothy L. Hayslett	26	PA	Newville.
14-Dec-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Kimberly A. Voeltz	27	PA	Carlisle.
8-Jan-04	Army	Spc. Christopher A. Golby	26	PA	Johnstown.
24-Jan-04	Army	Spc. William R. Sturges, Jr	24	PA	Spring Church.
9-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Edward W. Brabazon	20	PA	Philadelphia.
19-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Clint Richard Matthews	31	PA	Bedford.
20-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Matthew J. Sandri	24	PA	Shamokin.
3-31-2004	Army	Spc. Sean R. Mitchell	24	PA	Youngsville.
4-3-2004	Marine	Lance Cpl. Aric J. Barr	22	PA	Allegheny.
9-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Jonathan R. Kephart	21	PA	Oil City.
17-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Edward W. Carmen	27	PA	McKeesport.
26-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Sherwood R. Baker	30	PA	Plymouth.
29-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Martin W. Kondor	20	PA	York.
3-May-04	Marine	Gunnery Sgt. Ronald E. Baum	38	PA	Holidaysburg.
5-May-04	Army	Pfc. Bradley G. Kritzer	18	PA	Irvona.
16-May-04	Army	Spc. Carl F. Curran	22	PA	Union City.
16-May-04	Army	Spc. Mark J. Kasecky	20	PA	McKees Rock.
26-Jun-03	Army	Spc. Richard P. Orengo	32	PR	Toa Alta.
24-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Juan M. Serrano	31	PR	Manati.
6-Oct-03	Army	Spc. Ramon Reyes Torres	29	PR	Caguas.
2-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Joel Perez	25	PR	Rio Grande.
2-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Frances M. Vega	20	PR	Fort Buchanan.
4-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Francisco Martinez	28	PR	Humacao.
5-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Jose A. Rivera	34	PR	Bayamon.
7-Apr-04	Navy	Petty Officer 3rd Class Fernando A. Mendezaceves	27	PR	Ponce.
27-Aug-03	Army	Sgt. Gregory A. Belanger	24	RI	Narragansett.
1-Sep-03	Army	Sgt. Charles T. Caldwell	38	RI	North Providence.
24-Sep-03	Army	Spc. Michael Andrade	28	RI	Bristol.
27-Jan-04	Army	Capt. Matthew J. August	28	RI	North Kingstown.
4-5-2004	Marine	Lance Cpl. Matthew K. Serio	21	RI	North Providence.
4-4-2004	Army	Sgt. Yihyih L. Chen	31	SAipan	Marianas.
5-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Farao K. Letufuga	20	Samoa	Pago Pago.
27-Oct-03	Army	Pvt. Jonathan I. Falaniko	20	Samoa	Pago Pago.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Pvt. Nolen R. Hutchings	19	SC	Boiling Springs.
23-Mar-03	Army	Sgt. George Edward Buggs	31	SC	Barnwell.
13-May-03	Air Force	Staff Sgt. Patrick Lee Griffin, Jr	31	SC	Elgin.
22-Jun-03	Army	Spc. Orenthial J. Smith	21	SC	Allendale.
21-Aug-03	Army	Pfc. Michael S. Adams	20	SC	Spartanburg.
23-Aug-03	Army	Pfc. Vorn J. Mack	19	SC	Orangeburg.
18-Sep-03	Army	Sgt. Anthony O. Thompson	26	SC	Orangeburg.
28-Oct-03	Army	Pvt. Algernon Adams	36	SC	Aiken.
2-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Darius T. Jennings	22	SC	Cordova.
7-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Paul M. Neff II	30	SC	Fort Mill.
13-Dec-03	Army	Spc. Rian C. Ferguson	22	SC	Taylors.
2-Jan-04	Army	Capt. Kimberly N. Hampton	27	SC	Easley.
11-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Maj. Michael B. Stack	48	SC	Lake City.
29-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Esau G. Patterson, Jr	25	SC	Ridgeland.
9-May-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer 2 Hans N. Gukeisen	31	SD	Lead.
18-Jun-03	Army	Pfc. Michael R. Deuel	21	SD	Nemo.
15-Nov-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Scott A. Saboe	33	SD	Willow Lake.
24-Dec-03	Army	Capt. Christopher F. Soelzer	26	SD	Sturgis.
24-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Cory W. Brooks	32	SD	Phillip.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Patrick R. Nixon	21	TN	Nashville.
14-Apr-03	Army	Spc. Thomas A. Foley III	23	TN	Dresden.
9-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Roger D. Rowe	54	TN	Bon Aqua.
5-Aug-03	Army	Staff Sgt. David L. Loyd	44	TN	Jackson.
20-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Kenneth W. Harris, Jr	23	TN	Charlotte.
12-Sep-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class William M. Bennett	35	TN	Seymour.
16-Oct-03	Army	Lt. Col. Kim S. Orlando	43	TN	Clarksville.
7-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Morgan D. Kennon	23	TN	Memphis.
12-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Nathan J. Bailey	46	TN	Nashville.
17-Nov-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Alexander S. Coulter	35	TN	Bristol.
8-Jan-04	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Gregory B. Hicks	35	TN	Duff.

U.S. CASUALTIES IN IRAQ AS OF MAY 17, 2004—Continued

[Sorted by State of Residence]

Date	Branch	Rank and name	Age	State	Hometown
7-Apr-04	Marine	Capt. Brent L. Morel	27	TN	Martin.
9-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Don S. McMahon	31	TN	Nashville.
24-Apr-04	Navy	Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher E. Watts	28	TN	Knoxville.
2-May-04	Army	Spc. Ervin Caradine, Jr.	33	TN	Memphis.
2-May-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Todd E. Nunes	29	TN	Chapel Hill.
12-May-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Jeremiah E. Savage	21	TN	Livingston.
15-May-04	Air Force	Senior Airman Pedro I. Espallat, Jr.	20	TN	Columbia.
20-Mar-03	Marine	Cpl. Brian Matthew Kennedy	25	TX	Houston.
23-Mar-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Villareal Mata	35	TX	Pecos.
23-Mar-03	Army	Spc. James M. Kiehl	22	TX	Comfort.
23-Mar-03	Army	Sgt. Edward J. Anguiano	24	TX	Brownsville.
23-Mar-03	Army	Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto	18	TX	El Paso.
2-Apr-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Scott Jamar	32	TX	Granbury.
2-Apr-03	Army	Master Sgt. George A. Fernandez	36	TX	El Paso.
3-Apr-03	Marine	Pfc. Chad E. Bales	20	TX	Coahoma.
7-Apr-03	Marine	Cpl. Jesus Martin Antonio Medellin	21	TX	Fort Worth.
7-Apr-03	Air Force	Capt. Eric B. Das	30	TX	Amarillo.
7-Apr-03	Army	Pfc. Anthony S. Miller	19	TX	San Antonio.
22-Apr-03	Marine	Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Todd Arnold	30	TX	Spring.
28-Apr-03	Army	1st Sgt. Joe J. Garza	43	TX	Robstown.
28-May-03	Army	Spc. Jose A. Perez III	22	TX	San Diego.
16-Jun-03	Army	Spc. Joseph D. Suell	24	TX	Lufkin.
27-Jun-03	Army	Pvt. Robert L. Frantz	19	TX	San Antonio.
27-Jun-03	Army	Cpl. Tomas Sotelo, Jr.	20	TX	Houston.
9-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Melissa Valles	26	TX	Eagle Pass.
11-Jul-03	Army	Spc. Christian C. Schulz	20	TX	Colleyville.
19-Jul-03	Army	Lt. Jonathan D. Rozier	25	TX	Katy.
24-Jul-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Hector R. Perez	40	TX	Corpus Christi.
26-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Daniel K. Methvin	22	TX	Belton.
6-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Zeferino E. Colunga	20	TX	Bellville.
11-Sep-03	Army	Sgt. Henry Ybarra III	32	TX	Austin.
18-Sep-03	Army	Spc. James C. Wright	27	TX	Morgan.
18-Sep-03	Army	Spc. Richard Arriaga	20	TX	Canado.
1-Oct-03	Army	Pfc. Analaura Esparza Gutierrez	21	TX	Houston.
9-Oct-03	Army	Spc. Joseph C. Norquist	26	TX	San Antonio.
13-Oct-03	Army	Pfc. Stephen E. Wyatt	19	TX	Kilgore.
22-Oct-03	Army	Spc. John P. Johnson	24	TX	Houston.
28-Oct-03	Army	Sgt. Michael Paul Barrera	26	TX	Von Ormy.
2-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Keelan L. Moss	23	TX	Houston.
8-Nov-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Gary L. Collins	32	TX	Hardin.
15-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. John W. Russell	26	TX	Portland.
28-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Ariel Rico	25	TX	El Paso.
2-Dec-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Clarence E. Boone	50	TX	Fort Worth.
7-Dec-03	Army	Pfc. Ray J. Hutchinson	20	TX	League City.
22-Dec-03	Army	Pfc. Stuart W. Moore	21	TX	Livingston.
28-Dec-03	Army	Pvt. Rey D. Cuervo	24	TX	Laguna Vista.
28-Dec-03	Army	Capt. Ernesto Blanco	28	TX	San Antonio.
2-Jan-04	Army	Eric T. Paliwoda	28	TX	Goodyear.
16-Jan-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Roland L. Castro	26	TX	San Antonio.
17-Jan-04	Army	Spc. Larry E. Polley	26	TX	Center.
18-Jan-04	Army	Master Sgt. Kelly L. Hornbeck	36	TX	Fort Worth.
21-Jan-04	Army	Pfc. James D. Parker	20	TX	Bryan.
23-Jan-04	Army	Pfc. Ervin Dervishi	21	TX	Fort Worth.
2-Feb-04	Army	Pfc. Armando Soriano	20	TX	Houston.
11-Mar-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Joe L. Dunigan, Jr.	37	TX	Belton.
18-Mar-04	Marine	Pfc. Ricky A. Morris, Jr.	20	TX	Lubbock.
19-Mar-04	Army	Pfc. Jason C. Ludlam	22	TX	Arlington.
25-Mar-04	Marine	LCpl. James A. Casper	20	TX	Coolidge.
26-Mar-04	Marine	Pfc. Leroy Sandoval, Jr.	21	TX	Houston.
31-Mar-04	Army	1st Lt. Doyle M. Hufstедler	25	TX	Abilene.
31-Mar-04	Army	Spc. Michael G. Karr, Jr.	23	TX	San Antonio.
1-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. Dustin M. Sekula	18	TX	Edinburg.
4-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Robert R. Arsiaga	25	TX	San Antonio.
4-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Israel Garza	25	TX	Lubbock.
6-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Gerardo Moreno	23	TX	Terrell.
8-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Michael B. Wafford	20	TX	Spring.
9-Apr-04	Marine	Cpl. Matthew E. Matula	20	TX	Spicewood.
9-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Elias Torrez III	21	TX	Veribest.
10-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Adolf C. Carballo	20	TX	Houston.
10-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. William C. Eckhart	25	TX	Rocksprings.
11-Apr-04	Marine	Cpl. Daniel R. Amaya	22	TX	Odessa.
11-Apr-04	Army	Chief Warrant Officer Wesley C. Fortenberry	38	TX	Woodville.
14-Apr-04	Army	Sgt. Christopher Ramirez	34	TX	McAllen.
17-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Clayton W. Henson	20	TX	Stanton.
17-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Ruben Valdez, Jr.	21	TX	San Diego.
26-Apr-04	Marine	Lance Cpl. Aaron C. Austin	21	TX	Sunray.
5-May-04	Army	Cpl. Jeffrey G. Green	20	TX	Dallas.
8-May-04	Army	Spc. Isela Rubalcava	25	TX	El Paso.
15-May-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Rene Ledesma	34	TX	Abilene.
29-Mar-03	Marine	Staff Sgt. James W. Cawley	41	UT	Roy.
3-Apr-03	Army	Staff Sgt. Nino D. Livaudais	23	UT	Ogden.
17-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. Mason Douglas Whetstone	30	UT	Ogden.
17-Nov-03	Army	Capt. Nathan S. Dalley	27	UT	Kaysville.
26-Nov-03	Army	Spc. David J. Goldberg	20	UT	Layton.
25-Mar-03	Marine	Staff Sgt. Donald C. May, Jr.	31	VA	Richmond.
30-Mar-03	Marine	Sgt. Michael V. Lalush	23	VA	Troutville.
2-Apr-03	Army	Capt. James F. Adamowski	29	VA	Springfield.
7-Apr-03	Army	2nd Lt. Jeffrey J. Kaylor	24	VA	Clifton.
7-Apr-03	Air Force	Maj. William R. Watkins III	37	VA	Danville.
13-Apr-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. David Edward Owens, Jr.	20	VA	Winchester.
4-May-03	Army	Pvt. Jason L. Deibler	20	VA	Coeburn.
8-Jun-03	Army	Sgt. Michael E. Dooley	23	VA	Pulaski.
1-Oct-03	Army	Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler	40	VA	Alexandria.
23-Oct-03	Army	Capt. John R. Teal	31	VA	Mechanicsville.
1-Nov-03	Army	1st Lt. Joshua C. Hurley	24	VA	Clifton Forge.
5-Mar-04	Navy	Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael J. Gray	32	VA	Richmond.
14-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Frank K. Rivers, Jr.	23	VA	Woodbridge.
10-May-04	Army	Pfc. Andrew L. Tuazon	21	VA	Chesapeake.
16-May-04	Army	2nd Lt. Leonard M. Cowherd	22	VA	Culpeper.
28-Apr-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Kendall Thomas	36	VI	St. Thomas.
2-Apr-03	Army	Chief Warrant Officer 4 Erik A. Halvorsen	40	VT	Bennington.
3-Apr-03	Marine	Cpl. Mark A. Evnin	21	VT	Burlington.
6-Aug-03	Army	Pvt. Kyle C. Gilbert	20	VT	Brattleboro.
15-Nov-03	Army	1st Lt. Pierre Piche	28	VT	Starksboro.
2-Jan-04	Army	Solomon C. Gangayan	24	VT	Jay.
9-May-03	Marine	Lance Cpl. Cedric E. Bruns	22	WA	Vancouver.
1-Aug-03	Army	Spc. Justin W. Hebert	20	WA	Arlington.
7-Aug-03	Army	Pfc. Duane E. Longstreth	19	WA	Tacoma.
6-Oct-03	Army	Pfc. Kerry D. Scott	21	WA	Mount Vernon.
1-Nov-03	Army	2nd Lt. Benjamin J. Colgan	30	WA	Kent.

U.S. CASUALTIES IN IRAQ AS OF MAY 17, 2004—Continued

[Sorted by State of Residence]

Date	Branch	Rank and name	Age	State	Hometown
4-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Robert T. Benson	20	WA	Spokane.
17-Nov-03	Army	Capt. James A. Shull	32	WA	Kirkland.
28-Dec-03	Army	Sgt. Curt E. Jordan	25	WA	Greenacres.
25-Jan-04	Army	Staff Sgt. Christopher Bunda	29	WA	Bremerton.
16-Mar-04	Army	First Lieutenant Michael R. Adams	24	WA	Seattle.
28-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Jacob R. Herring	21	WA	Kirkland.
12-May-04	Army	Spc. Jeffrey R. Shaver	26	WA	Maple Valley.
19-May-03	Marine	Sgt. Kirk Allen Straseskie	23	WI	Beaver Dam.
26-May-03	Army	Maj. Matthew E. Schram	36	WI	Brookfield.
9-Jul-03	Army	Sgt. 1st Class Dan H. Gabrielson	39	WI	Spooner.
22-Sep-03	Army	Spc. Paul J. Sturino	21	WI	Rice Lake.
26-Oct-03	Army	Pfc. Rachel K. Bosveld	19	WI	Waupun.
15-Nov-03	Army	Spc. Eugene A. Uhl III	21	WI	Amherst.
15-Nov-03	Army	Sgt. Warren S. Hansen	36	WI	Clintonville.
15-Nov-03	Army	2nd Lt. Jeremy L. Wolfe	27	WI	Menomonie.
24-Dec-03	Army	Maj. Christopher J. Splinter	43	WI	Platteville.
16-Feb-04	Army	Pfc. Nichole M. Frye	19	WI	Lena.
10-Mar-04	Army	Pfc. Bert E. Hoyer	23	WI	Ellsworth.
13-Mar-04	Army	Capt. John F. Kurth	31	WI	Columbus.
5-Apr-04	Army	Pfc. Sean M. Schneider	22	WI	Janesville.
29-Mar-04	Marine	Cpl. Jesse L. Thiry	23	WI	Casco.
6-Apr-04	Marine	Pfc. Ryan M. Jerabek	18	WI	Oneida.
9-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Michelle M. Witmer	20	WI	New Berlin.
17-Apr-04	Army	Spc. Michael A. McGlothlin	21	WI	Milwaukee.
15-Nov-03	Army	Pfc. Rich Hafer	21	WV	Cross Lanes.
1-Feb-04	Army	Sgt. Roger C. Turner, Jr.	37	WV	Parkersburg.
18-Mar-04	Army	Pfc. Ernest Harold Sutphin	21	WV	Parkersburg.
30-Apr-04	Marine	Cpl. Joshua S. Wilfong	22	WV	Walker.
23-Mar-03	Marine	Sgt. Brendon C. Reiss	23	WY	Natrona.
14-Apr-03	Army	Pfc. Joseph P. Mayek	20	WY	Rock Springs.
30-Jul-03	Army	1st Lt. Leif E. Nott	24	WY	Cheyenne.
25-Sep-03	Army	Capt. Robert L. Lucero	34	WY	Casper.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer: pools open, barbecues are held in local parks and in backyards, and families set out on car trips to take advantage of the long weekend. But the excitement of the beginning of summer should not obscure the holiday's true meaning—honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service of our country.

This weekend, the National World War II Memorial will be dedicated in Washington D.C. This memorial allows a grateful nation to thank the World War II generation for their selfless sacrifices, which helped preserve the freedoms we all enjoy. I am proud to join thousands of Americans around the country in honoring them. They exemplify the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people to securing freedom and democracy throughout the world. We are not just the beneficiaries of their bravery. We are the stewards of their sacrifice.

This Memorial Day, we have thousands of brave men and women fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. As we remember those who have fallen, we must continue to stand up for those who are still fighting overseas and those who have finished their service with honor. Our government must be accountable for the promises it makes to young men and women who are asked to serve our country in this way.

Military retirees—who served a career in uniform to defend our freedoms—are not asking for handouts; they are only asking for what was promised to them. I introduced the “Keep Our Promises to America’s Military Retirees Act,” a bill to restore earned and promised health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services. Many people joined the military believing they would earn a lifetime medical care in exchange for 20 years of service, based on promises made by recruiters and government officials. We must now honor that promise. I am pleased that a majority of the House of Representatives has co-sponsored the bill; now the House must act.

Another promise made to young men and women when they were recruited was that their surviving spouses would receive a fair pension upon retirement. However, the mili-

tary’s Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) unfairly slashes pension benefits for thousands of military spouses just when they need it the most. In response to this injustice, I co-sponsored the Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act. This is fair legislation that would increase the minimum survivor benefit and restore to 55 percent from 35 percent the basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older. I am pleased that this legislation recently passed the House.

I am also fighting to end the Disabled Veterans Tax, which forces disabled veterans and military retirees to give up one dollar of their pension for every dollar of disability pay they receive. I believe that our troops should be taken care of when we send them into battle and that they should be given our respect when we bring them home. Our brave men and women in uniform fought for our country. They shouldn’t have to fight the government to get the benefits they deserve.

The National World War II Memorial will inspire future generations of Americans and stand as an important symbol of American national unity. It will serve as a timeless reminder of our solemn obligation to preserve peace for our children and the strength of our nation when united in a common and just cause.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day we recognize again not only the soldiers who have died for their country over the generations—but also the men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am proud of our soldiers in Iraq who are serving their country with dedication and courage.

Four soldiers from Michigan’s First District have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq: Staff Sergeants Thomas W. Christensen and Stephen C. Hattamer who were killed on Christmas Day; Staff Sergeant Paul J. Johnson and Private First Class Jason G. Wright. I’d like to take a few minutes to describe these good men.

Sergeant Christensen, a 42-year-old from Atlantic Mine, was a reservist with the 652nd Engineer Battalion and had been overseas for about a year when he was killed. His brother described him as a quiet person who was handsome and smart. Sergeant Christensen

had a passion for hunting and fishing and that is why he called the Upper Peninsula of Michigan his home.

Sergeant Hattamer, a 43-year-old from Gwinn, was a member of the same Battalion as Christensen and enjoyed weight lifting, waterskiing, and was famous for his chocolate cake using his mother’s recipe. He is survived by his wife and three children. Sergeant Hattamer’s love of country and children will live on through the scholarship the local community established in his honor.

Sergeant Johnson, a 29-year-old from Calumet, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the famed 82nd Airborne. He was described as the epitome of a paratrooper and he is survived by his wife and son. He was from the “Copper Country” in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Private Jason Wright, a 19-year-old from Luzerne, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment of the famed 101st Airborne. Private Wright was a good student who played baseball, basketball and football in High School. He was protective of his three younger brothers and was truly devoted to his family. Jason Wright will be greatly missed by his family.

All four of these men served with honor and courage and my prayers are with their families. On this and every Memorial Day hereafter when we pause to honor our fallen soldiers, may God Bless their families and America.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, today we are setting aside a special time to pay tribute to fallen heroes. My South Texas district is mourning the loss of three such heroes, Pfc. Dustin Sekula, Sgt. Christopher Ramirez and Sgt. John Wayne Russell. These three men were very different. One was a fresh-faced 18-year-old who had only been in the Marines for 8 months. One was a 34-year-old veteran of the Gulf War and Kosovo who was looking forward to retiring and joining the Border Patrol. One was a 26-year-old, former high-school football player whose own hero was his 34-year Army veteran father. Yet all shared a love of country and a sense of patriotism and duty.

Sergeant Russell, a member of the Army’s 101st Airborne was killed when his Blackhawk

helicopter collided with another helicopter on November 17, 2003 over Mosul, Iraq. Private Sekula, an infantry mortarman with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, died April 1, 2004 from enemy fire in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. Sergeant Ramirez, who served with the Army's 1st Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry out of Ft. Riley, Kansas, was killed two weeks later on April 14 when his patrol was ambushed in Fallujah.

When you hear the stories that friends and families tell about Dustin, John and Christopher, you understand just how special all three were. They were role models to their peers, devoted sons, loyal friends and active in their communities. All could have chosen to use their talents in other career paths, yet they chose the path of military service.

Military service will not make you rich. It requires long absences from home and family, often in dangerous and inclement corners of the world. Yet Americans like Dustin, John and Christopher continue to volunteer to defend this country and protect our freedom, all the while knowing it may cost them their lives.

John, Christopher and Dustin are true heroes and we owe them more than we can ever repay. For their friends and families left behind, we offer our prayers and the comfort of knowing that the sacrifices of these young lives will not be forgotten. To those still on the front lines we pledge our unity and support. As we approach the Memorial Day holiday let us all take time away from the picnics and the sales to remember every fallen American hero.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as we pause to commemorate Memorial Day and remember all those who have proudly served our nation, I am pleased that we will finally dedicate the long-overdue World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C. Now Congress should rededicate itself to improved services and benefits for our veterans and our troops and future veterans.

Since the fighting began in Iraq last year, nearly 800 American service men and women have died. It is my solemn privilege and honor to name the casualties from my district.

Specialist Joseph M. Blickenstaff, U.S. Army, Sergeant Travis A. Moothart, U.S. Army, Specialist Nathan W. Nakis, Oregon National Guard, Lance Corporal Gary F. VanLeuven, U.S. Marines, Specialist Chase R. Witham, U.S. Army.

In gratitude and in sorrow, I commemorate their courage and sacrifice. They chose to serve and served honorably and well. It is now our duty to keep these men in our hearts and in our memories as we celebrate the joy of living free and strong.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to the heroic men and women from the great state of Michigan who served in the United States Armed Forces and the civilian defense sector during World War II. The sacrifices that these heroes made to protect our country and defend freedom from the tyranny of totalitarianism will never be forgotten.

From Benton Harbor to Detroit, from Calumet to Monroe, brave men and women left behind their homes and loved ones to answer their country's call to duty. Be it fighting in the Atlantic or the Pacific theater or working in one of the many war production plants throughout our state, courageous Michiganders truly helped make America the

Arsenal of Democracy. As our forces fight overseas today, like those of yesteryear, we are vividly reminded of the debt of gratitude we owe our men and women in uniform who serve to better our country.

Mr. Speaker, we come together as a people on Memorial Day to pay tribute and remember those who have died while defending our Nation and its values of democracy and freedom. This Memorial Day we make a special tribute to the Greatest Generation with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial. This Memorial is well overdue and will ensure that our nation will never forget the brave and gallant service of millions of Americans.

Today, we come together to praise and thank the many veterans who answered their country's call to serve. The labor of the mothers, fathers, sons and daughters of Michigan who helped defend our country shall never perish from our memory. For the National World War II Memorial stands tall to ensure that each passing generation understands the sacrifices that the World War II generation made for our nation.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I want to pay special tribute to the thousands of men and women who gave their lives in defense of this nation even though they were never able to fully reap its vast benefits.

On January 29, 2004, the war on Iraq hit close to home as a young member of my constituency was killed. Private First Class Luis A. Moreno was a 19 year old Dominican-born immigrant who served in the Army's First Armored Division. He had been deployed in Iraq only three months before his untimely death.

What was most inspiring about this courageous young man was his willingness to fight for a country that had yet to grant him citizenship. Pfc. Moreno did not vote for the President who sent him into battle. So the question is why? Why did Pfc. Moreno and others like him, who could not enjoy the full benefits of this country, decide to make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of it?

The fact that he took up arms may surprise some, but anyone who has a sense of America's past wars knows that this phenomenon has been ubiquitous throughout our history. During America's early wars, African Americans fought bravely for this nation even though they had not gained equal status in society. Many Japanese Americans courageously fought for this nation during World War II even as their families were placed into internment camps. I suspect that, much like the disenfranchised soldiers of those days, heroes like Pfc. Moreno continue to make these sacrifices because they believe in the promise of America; the promise of freedom and equality for all. It is this same promise that keeps immigrants coming to our shores from all parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, as we honor the countless men and women who have given their lives for this country, let us not forget that many of them fought and died even though they were never able to enjoy what they fought to preserve. It is too late for us to give rights to the thousands of Black soldiers who fought and died on the battlefields of World War II, or to allow Luis Moreno to vote in the next presidential election. But it is not too late for us to ensure that America fulfills its promise to those who continue to come to our shores in search of a better life.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, almost three years ago, our nation was shocked by the sickening reality of global terrorism infiltrating our borders. Since September 11, 2001, the global war on terror has resulted in the deployment of our troops to Afghanistan and other perilous locations. At the same time, more than 130,000 young Americans are serving in Iraq. During a time when the struggles of our troops abroad are broadcast every day, our observance of Memorial Day calls for sober reflection. We must remember that Memorial Day, at its core, is our nation's somber tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Seven hundred eighty-nine servicemen and servicewomen have lost their lives since the beginning of our combat operations in Iraq, and 85 have fallen in our military campaign in Afghanistan. Among these brave men and women is a constituent from my district, United States Army Specialist Rel Allen Ravago, IV, who was killed in Mosul, Iraq, on November 23, 2003. My heart goes out to Mr. Ravago's friends and loved ones, as it does to the innumerable Americans who have known troops whose lives were cut short during our nation's wars. It is with a sense of gratitude and humility that I will mark my observance of Memorial Day.

In the past few weeks, much attention has been focused on the conduct of our troops stationed in Iraq. Whether the grotesque abuses that have shocked us all are the result of the depraved actions of a few individuals or derelictions of duty rising up the chain of command is an issue that must be determined through Congressional investigation. Whatever the case may be, I am confident that Americans recognize that the overwhelming majority of our troops are honorable, deeply principled citizens. We are grateful to those who have left their families, jobs, and the comforts of home to fight threats to freedom and security.

We often find ourselves divided on the home front in terms of our views on both foreign and domestic issues. Pundits chatter on about red states and blue states in an attempt to highlight the supposedly irreconcilable political cleavages within our society. It is with this in mind that I reflect on the original observance of Memorial Day—then called Decoration Day—on May 30, 1868. On the inaugural celebration of what has become a national holiday, five thousand people journeyed to Arlington National Cemetery to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. Americans had heeded Abraham Lincoln's admonition to act "with malice toward none, with charity for all" and united to commemorate the fallen troops on both sides.

If our nation was then able to transcend a brutal conflict that pitted brother against brother, surely we can close ranks and join together now in mourning the men and women who have most recently died in Afghanistan and Iraq, and in other past battles. Memorializing our fallen troops is not a partisan or political issue; it is a basic debt of gratitude that all Americans owe to those who safeguard our freedom.

I hope all Americans will join us this Memorial Day in reflecting on those who safeguard our freedom, democracy, and prosperity.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay special tribute to Army Specialist Jason Christopher Ford who was killed on March 13, 2004

in Tikrit, Iraq. Army Specialist Ford epitomized the duty, valor and sacrifice that we honor in our members of the armed services.

Spc. Ford grew up in the Bladensburg, MD area. He was an optimistic young man who had an abiding love for his family. He was a good athlete—a swimmer, baseball player and avid bowler. Spc. Ford joined the U.S. Army in 2002 for the chance to travel. After completing basic training he was stationed in Germany and assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. In early March 2004 he was sent to Iraq. On March 13, 2004 while on patrol, an improvised explosive device exploded next to the Humvee Spc. Ford was riding in and he was killed.

Every day, the men and women of our armed services are exhibiting courage and making sacrifices ensuring that 25 million human beings who had been enslaved for a quarter of a century have been liberated. It is because of their courage and sacrifice that a dangerous dictator no longer menaces his own people or the world, but instead awaits the justice that he denied millions. And it is because of their courage and sacrifice that the universal aspirations of all men and women—freedom, democracy, and basic human rights—are being extended half a world away.

This generation of Americans, and future generations, are indeed blessed that when freedom's call came, brave Americans like Spc. Ford answered. We honor Spc. Ford's service to our country and his willingness to answer the call to duty. Today we say a special prayer for his family, friends and fellow soldiers. They must know that a grateful nation mourns their loss and shares their pain.

Daniel Webster, the noted orator, Member of Congress and Secretary of State, remarked nearly two centuries ago: "God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to guard and defend it." Army Specialist Jason Ford was ready and he defended liberty. Today we remember and we pay our respect to a beloved son, brother, friend, and now a fallen American patriot who has made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and the principles for which we stand—liberty, justice, equality and decency.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, and so it was said by Pericles, the Athenian leader some 24 centuries ago, "Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

As Memorial Day 2004 approaches, I am awed by a greater sense of pride for our fallen soldiers and those serving aboard. We approach this day with solemn affirmations of the sacrifices of our brave men and women, and in celebration for every joy and freedom bestowed to us from the Almighty.

This day was born of human necessity and the answer to an overwhelming desire to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live without fear, but with hope. No matter where he has fallen, a soldier stands in place for you, for me, for us as a country and for freedom everywhere.

May they always be honored for their commitment and respected for their bravery. For the stance taken by each man and woman is written down in the archives of history. The stories and memories shape our vision of the world and provide footsteps for future generations.

Bow one head; lay one flower; remember one soldier; pray continuously; and may you be blessed this Memorial Day.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the men and women in uniform who have lost their lives in military service to our nation. Memorial Day is for that reason a very solemn occasion. It is not a day to celebrate our military glories. Rather, we remember our losses: lost lives and the lost futures of our fallen soldiers. When the nation's political leaders commit our country's citizens to war, it is a concomitant that the lives of our soldiers are put at risk. Some will not come home alive and undamaged. Our leaders have an obligation to the citizens of the nation to know that and to take heed. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of our fallen soldiers.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, as the House of Representatives pauses for a moment of silence in honor of our fallen service men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, I rise in memory of Lieutenant Seth Dvorin, a member of the Army's 10th Mountain Division and a lifetime resident of East Brunswick, New Jersey.

An avid athlete, Seth played high school baseball and football before attending Rutgers University. In 2002, he joined the Army and was commissioned as an officer of the 10th Mountain Division's Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiments.

Like many men and women in the armed forces and Reserves, Seth was deployed to Iraq. On February 4, 2004, he was killed when a device exploded on a road near Iskandariyah, Iraq. Seth died in the service of his country and his fellow soldiers. As a result of his bravery, others are alive today.

News of Seth's passing spread quickly throughout my Congressional district. Even those who never knew Seth personally still knew that we had lost someone special. Yesterday, more than two hundred students from John Witherspoon Middle School in Princeton gathered at Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath in honor of fallen service men and women. I was heartened to talk with these patriotic students today and understand the depth of their appreciation for the brave people who serve. Seth Dvorin was an American soldier and a respected member of our community. His loss is a tragedy—there is no other word.

Mr. Speaker, I want the record to show that Seth's country appreciates and mourns the sacrifice he made on our behalf. Men of his character and courage are rare. New Jersey has lost one of its sons, and we will miss him.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 793 Americans who have given their lives and the 4,524 who've been wounded courageously serving their country in Iraq. It is fitting that we should share in a moment of silence on the floor of this House to honor their memory and sacrifice.

It is with particular sadness that I pay tribute to a Marine from my district whose service will not be forgotten. On Tuesday, April 6, 2004, Lance Cpl. Travis J. Layfield, a 19-year-old from Fremont, California, was killed during a firefight in the Anbar Province of Western Iraq. Travis served courageously through unimaginable circumstances. He is a credit to the US Marine Corps to which he was deeply dedicated.

A 2003 graduate of Washington High School, Travis is a hero for his service with

the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Pendleton. Travis entered ROTC while in junior high school, committed to a career in the Marine Corps. Last year, he completed 12 weeks of basic training at the Marine Corps recruit depot in San Diego. He left for the Middle East in February 2003, first heading to Kuwait and later Iraq.

There has been tremendous outpouring of love and respect for Travis from his classmates and friends at his high school as well as from the entire Fremont community. We have joined together to mourn the loss of this proud young Marine. We shall long remember Lance Cpl. Travis J. Layfield. He gave his life for peace and democracy and died, as a noble Marine, serving our country.

Travis is but one example of the thousands of young Americans who answered the call of service and paid the ultimate price in Iraq. As a nation we mourn his passing and offer our solemn gratitude to him and to all those who have given life or limb for their selfless service and sacrifice to our country. Our thoughts are with Travis' family and the families of all those who have served and continue to serve courageously in our armed forces in Iraq.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on May 31st we will commemorate Memorial Day. Across our great land, thousands of American flags, proudly waving, will mark the final resting place of those who gave their lives so that we in the United States and people in other lands might enjoy the blessings of liberty. We are deeply saddened by their deaths, but eternally grateful for their sacrifice.

One such sacrifice in freedom's name was made on March 22, 2004, when a 20-year-old Marine Lance Corporal Andrew S. Dang's life was cut short in a gun battle during patrol near Ar Ramady, Iraq. Cpl. Dang was from Foster City, California, and he graduated from Aragon High School. Those who knew Andrew Dang best describe him as someone with a passion for science and technology who spent his free time building robots and rockets. He was one of the founding members of Aragon's renowned robotics team and by his senior year, he was taking multiple advanced placement classes in physics and chemistry. He also excelled in athletics as a wrestler and football player. The oldest of three brothers raised by a single mom, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps less than a year ago to make a better future for himself and to give back to his country. His life had just begun when bullets stole it away.

Mr. Speaker, the commemoration of Memorial Day will be a difficult time for Cpl. Dang's family and friends, filled with vivid memories of a bright, enthusiastic and popular young man who will never come home. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to remember Mr. Dang and his fellow soldiers who served and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, world renowned anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." These well articulated words embodies the core meaning of what Memorial Day symbolizes. If it was not for those individuals who banded together, many of us would not have the freedoms we enjoy today.

Citizens of Tennessee, the Volunteer State, have a long, storied history of military service

to our country. Many of its young have sacrificed themselves in the name of liberty, freedom, and patriotism. On courthouses and city halls across Tennessee, stone or bronze monuments list the names of the men and women who gave their life for this country. It is fitting that tribute be perpetually acknowledged to their ultimate sacrifice.

We must never lose touch with our traditions and history. Memorial Day is more than a three-day holiday weekend. It's about reconnecting with our past and being thankful for the freedom we all have today. We all must share in the loss of those brave patriots who have come and gone.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lance Cpl. William W. White in recognition of his bravery, courage, and sacrifice for our country.

Lance Cpl. White, who grew up in Brooklyn, had been assigned to the 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion, part of the 1st Marine Division, which is based in Camp Pendleton in California. On March 29, 2004, he became the first soldier from New York City to die in the Iraq war after his military Humvee rolled into a canal, and he drowned. He was 24 years old.

A 1998 graduate of Bushwick High School, White was committed to serving his country as he was planning to join the fire department or pursue a career in law enforcement upon his return. Until his final days, he always shared a great concern and love for others, especially his family. In his last letter home, he sent home a \$100 bill to help his brother pay a cell phone tab, instructing him to keep the money if the brother had already paid the bill.

Lance Cpl. White was a disciplined student of martial arts and of the Bible. He left behind his wife Mychaele of 18 months.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Cpl. William W. White was a true American hero, making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marine Sgt. Brian McGinnis of the Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on March 30, 2004 in southern Iraq. In the words of his fellow Marines, Sgt. McGinnis was a trusted mentor, a brother, and a hero.

Sgt. McGinnis, a graduate of William Penn High School and native of St. Georges, Delaware joined the Marine Corps because as he stated, he, "wanted to be a part of the best." As a member of the U.S. Armed Services, Sgt. McGinnis had fulfilled his goal of becoming a part of the best fighting force in the world. Sgt. McGinnis had the opportunity to take part in activities he loved in the Marine Corps and had received his crew wings the day before he met with tragedy in southern Iraq. The most important aspect of Sgt. McGinnis' service in Iraq was the sense of pride he felt knowing that he was serving his country.

Mr. Speaker, it is not possible to quantify the sense of loss our great Nation feels when faced with the loss of life of our men and women in the U.S. Armed Services. Nonetheless, I will say that Sgt. Brian McGinnis will be deeply missed by his family, his friends, the Marine Corps, and by his Nation. His service for our Nation and the service of countless

men and women before and after him will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I would like to rise in honor of a courageous young soldier who died September 7, 2003, of injuries suffered August 30 when the truck he was driving in a supply convoy was hit by a civilian vehicle in Iraq. U.S. Army Specialist Jarrett B. Thompson was a member of the Lewes, Delaware-based 946th Transportation Company, and sadly was our State's first war casualty from a Reserve or National Guard unit.

At only 27 years of age, Jarrett was a brave young reservist who valiantly served his state and country. A Dover resident who grew up in Millington, Maryland and played high school football, Jarrett joined the Army in March of 1994. Following a 3-year tour of active duty at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, he continued his commitment to service as a member of the Army Reserve. When he was called to active duty in January 2003, Jarrett dutifully accepted service in the Middle East, where his fellow reservists described him as an energetic, mission-oriented soldier.

In civilian life, Jarrett was a design engineer for Ashland Equipment, Inc. A proud son and devoted husband and father, Jarrett will be deeply missed by his parents, Judy Coleman Thompson and Allen B. Thompson, his wife Kelly, and their sons Conner and Collin. At his funeral in September, Jarrett received a 21-gun salute and the Bronze Star Medal in honor of his noble service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to honor the life of a proud soldier and heroic representative of the State of Delaware. Army Specialist Jarrett B. Thompson was an honorable defender of liberty, and he deserves our gratitude and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a brave young Army Ranger who died Thursday, April 3, 2003, due to suicide car-bomber at a checkpoint northwest of Baghdad. U.S. Army Specialist Ryan P. Long was a proud Ranger who gave his life, along with two of his fellow soldiers, helping the Third Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment operate a checkpoint outside of Baghdad.

At only 21 years of age, Ryan was an inspirational young Delawarean who graduated from Seafood High School in June of 1999, where he had been vice commander of the Naval Junior ROTC program. Ryan joined the Army and became an Army Ranger, where he was part of an elite group chosen to carry out special missions. He was stationed in Fort Benning, Georgia and was deployed twice to Afghanistan before his service in Iraq, where he continued the noble fight against terror.

Ryan was a patriotic American who enjoyed soccer, golf, snowboarding, and motorcycles. Ryan was a fourth generation soldier, his father is retired Major Rudolf "Rudy" Long. Ryan followed in his family's tradition and chose to serve his country. He will be deeply missed by his parents, Rudy and Donna, and brother, his friends, teachers, and fellow soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere privilege to honor the life of a proud Ranger and heroic representative of the State of Delaware. Army Specialist Ryan P. Long deserves our gratitude and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the heroic life of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Joseph Garyantes who died May 19, 2004, while

securing freedom for the people of Iraq. Staff Sergeant Garyantes was patrolling Muqdadiyah, Iraq, just outside of Baghdad when his vehicle was attacked by sniper fire, ending the life of this dedicated soldier.

Staff Sergeant Garyantes was born in Wilmington, Delaware, and for most of his childhood called the Rehoboth Beach area home. He attended Epworth Christian School in Laurel, and at an early age contemplated a life in the Christian ministry. Eventually his selflessness and unwavering desire to help others drew him to military service. From what I have learned about this remarkable young man, it is apparent that Staff Sergeant Garyantes truly enjoyed helping others overcome the difficulties in their lives. For example, he wrote a letter to the editor while stationed in Germany, in response to a young soldier's complaint about the difficulties of Army life. His response was not negative or demeaning, he offered solutions and words of encouragement to this fellow soldier.

Staff Sergeant Garyantes, because of his inherent desire to lead and guide others to greatness, certainly would have found a way to inspire others in any career he chose, but he chose to join the U.S. Army. He chose to subject himself to the daily rigors of military service because he valued the well-being of others—ultimately at the cost of his own life. And although he will be missed tremendously by his wife and children, his family and friends, and his fellow soldiers, it is my hope that they can take comfort in his devotion to serving those in need, which will be his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I have the opportunity to honor the life of a true hero and American patriot such as Staff Sergeant Joseph Garyantes. His devotion to his fellow man is truly amazing, and he deserves our utmost respect and admiration.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to all of our fallen heroes in arms that have defended our Nation from despotism, nazism, fascism, communism and terrorism.

The life we live has been shaped by those we honor today. Each answered Liberty's call to duty in defense of their country. Our Nation owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude for their service. Our humble words can never adequately put into perspective their overwhelming contribution to freedom.

We cannot forget the last full measure of devotion they gave us. Not for fame or fortune, but for a love of country, with determination, courage and honor, the men and women of our armed services have dedicated their lives to the defense of our democratic ideals.

We honor their memory. The freedoms we enjoy today because of their valor are their eternal legacy to us and our posterity.

I join a grateful nation in sending my thoughts and prayers to all the bereaved families who have lost loved ones who served to protect our sacred liberty.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 31, America will celebrate Memorial Day, our most solemn national holiday. First observed in 1868 to commemorate the Civil War dead, it was initially called Decoration Day. This tradition of placing flags on the graves of our war dead began at a time when our country still bore the scars of a four-year war that claimed 620,000 American lives, a war that divided America as nothing else has, before or since.

But as the House of Representatives pauses in 2004 to honor our Nation's fallen heroes, we do so as one Nation united by the values of liberty and democracy. When American families carry wreaths and flags to veterans' graves across the country, we do so as one America. When we visit the Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery in Owings Mills, Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, or the new World War II Memorial on the Mall, our memories will be of those we knew and loved. And our thoughts and prayers will be with those still in combat today.

This year, while our military struggles to bring stability to Iraq, mounting American casualties cast new light on the meaning of valor and sacrifice. Nearly 800 American men and women have died in Iraq in the past fourteen months; yet on the faces of our soldiers, we see only their resolve, their unwavering dedication.

I want to make special mention of the 8 young Marylanders who have died in the Iraqi conflict: Private Brandon Davis, Specialist Jason Ford, Command Sergeant Major Cornell Gilmore, Captain Jason David Mileo, Specialist George A. Mitchell, First Lieutenant Adam G. Mooney, Sergeant Jeffery Walker, and Staff Sergeant Kendall Damon Waters-Bey. These brave men left the comfort and safety of our shores for Iraq, and theirs was the ultimate sacrifice. They are our heroes in the truest sense of the word. We extend our gratitude to them, we offer our condolences to their loved ones, and we hold them up as an example of America's best.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation prepares for the dedication of the National World War II Memorial next weekend, I rise to join my constituents in paying solemn tribute to the nearly 200 World War II veterans of Oscoda County, Michigan. Each and every one of these veterans deserves our continued gratitude for their service, for their sacrifice, and for their leadership.

On May 29th, the residents of Oscoda County will celebrate these members of the greatest generation with a parade, ceremony, and luncheon marking Oscoda World War II Veterans Recognition Day. This day has an added significance: Together they will also be watching the dedication ceremony in Washington, DC, for the National World War II Memorial. I am fortunate that I will have the honor of participating in this event, and will have the chance to thank these veterans in person for the sacrifice they made for our freedom 60 years ago.

I am especially pleased that this event is focused on those veterans that are still with us. On Memorial Day, our nation rightly honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of preserving liberty. But we too often forget to thank those who came home to careers and family and civic leadership. By the grace of God they returned home, but this does not diminish their service and sacrifice. Indeed, their leadership and example since have put us further in their debt.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the World War II generation, and especially those who fought so bravely in Europe and the Pacific for the freedom we enjoy today, are deserving of our highest honor and deepest gratitude. We must never forget their sacrifice and their courage. I therefore ask that the House join me in paying tribute to that greatest generation, and especially to those who will be at the Oscoda World War II Veterans Recognition events.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nearly 800 American soldiers who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. No one has sacrificed more than these brave men and women and their families. The debt we owe them all is tremendous.

As we approach Memorial Day, we must never forget that people are dying as a result of the decisions of this House. Many of our brave soldiers will never again walk on this earth because of the choices we make.

Late last year I spent a week in Bethesda Naval Hospital recuperating from back surgery. During my stay there, I visited with wounded soldiers who had come home forever changed by the war in Iraq. Meeting with these soldiers and seeing their injuries gave me a firsthand look at the true reality of war, and made me more committed than ever before that our government cover all the expenses of any injury that results from war. But that's just not happening.

Congress must work to equip every soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan with the best equipment and supplies available, including state-of-the-art bulletproof vests, and Camelbak water bottles so they can rehydrate in the hot desert air. And the vehicles our soldiers use need to be equipped with the best and strongest armor available. Dozens of un-armored Humvees are falling victim to road-side bombs and rocket propelled grenades. This year's Defense Authorization bill paid for some of these things. It's about time.

We must make every attempt to provide for our service men and women when they come home from the war, too. That's why Congress needs to provide better health coverage to our veterans, and why we need to end the Disabled Veterans Tax immediately to ensure that anyone who has served in the military receives both health benefits and retirement benefits. This outdated tax from 1891 needs to go.

Our lives wouldn't be the same without the selflessness of thousands of courageous Americans. I am humbled by their courage and the sacrifices they have made for their country.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tremendous sacrifice and bravery of the countless men and women who have fallen in service to this great country. This Memorial Day, let us stop to remember all of the American service men and women who have answered the call to defend our Nation, many making that ultimate sacrifice for the peace and preservation of this great union.

As we prepare to dedicate the National World War II Memorial, we are again reminded of the brave, young men and women who have come before us giving their lives in defense of this land. From the beaches of Normandy to the Sea of Japan to the heart of the Rhine, 400,000 Americans gave their lives defending democracy and halting the spread of tyranny during the Second World War. Now, immortalized in granite, America pays tribute to our Greatest Generation and the selfless sacrifices so many made in honor of our Nation.

Again, this country is engaged in battle. Fighting to maintain peace and security across the globe, American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to make the ultimate sacrifice to ensure freedom and democracy for all people. As the war on terror continues, Americans must honor the brave men and women

who gave their lives for the protection of this Nation and the hope of another.

This Memorial Day I pay tribute to the millions of soldiers who have fallen in service to this great Nation and the immeasurable sacrifices they have made defending freedom and democracy throughout the world. It is with a humble heart and proud spirit that I honor the lives of America's fallen soldiers and remember with admiration their patriotism and dedication to country in the face of adversity. Let us never forget their sacrifices.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who have served our country so selflessly and given their lives to defend our freedom. We realize the sacrifice that these soldiers have made for our country can never truly be repaid, so we honor them by remembering their heroic deeds and what they have meant for America. Those who served and are presently serving in our military have helped defend our Nation from harm, allowing the citizens of my State of Maine and the citizens of our entire country to enjoy the liberties that we cherish so deeply.

Maine's population, as much as any State, has felt the burden of war for many years. With 154,000 veterans, a large percentage of Maine's small population has served and protected our country. Most Mainers have several relatives or friends who have defended our home. Our State's dedication to service continues as over 3,000 Maine citizens are putting their lives in harm's way overseas.

This Memorial Day is especially meaningful because we also remember those who have recently made the ultimate sacrifice for our country in a war where danger is still present today. Over 300,000 Americans have bravely faced the violence that still ravages Iraq and sadly over 700 servicemen and servicewomen have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Maine has not been immune from loss in this current conflict, and my thoughts are with the loved ones of those who gave their lives for our country. These sacrifices are fresh in our memory and should not and will not be forgotten.

Today we say thank you to those who gave their lives. Tomorrow we must make sure to honor their memory by caring for their families. We must forever recognize and respect the ultimate sacrifices that so many great men and women made so that the many citizens of our country can enjoy the blessings that they do today.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Memorial Day, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women who gallantly gave their lives so we may live in freedom.

Throughout the history of our nation, valiant soldiers have struggled, distinguished themselves, advanced our cause, and fallen in battle. Next weekend is the unveiling of a lasting tribute to our greatest generation—many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice more than 50 years ago.

As Tom Brokaw so eloquently wrote:

They won the war; they saved the world. They came home to joyous and short-lived celebrations and immediately began the task of rebuilding their lives and the world they wanted.

I am in awe of them, these men and women who have given us the world we have today. I feel privileged to have been witness to their stories. As I came to know many of them I

became more and more moved by their everyday excellence—and more and more convinced that this is the greatest generation in our country's history.

I too, am in awe of the brave men and women who fought on the front lines, and the millions of Americans who served on the home front. Truly they are the greatest generation.

Young men and women committed their lives, knowing they might not see their families again, for a cause that was greater than any individual nation. Young men and women committed to building a free world.

And now we mark the dedication of a memorial that honors our greatest generation, a memorial that will remind future generations of Americans as well as visitors from around the globe of the cost of freedom that we enjoy. It will serve as a reminder of the suffering and the sacrifice of our soldiers.

We also must take the time this Memorial Day to remember the soldiers who have given their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. These soldiers deserve no less awe and respect than those who fought and served more than 50 years ago. From Oregon, 15 brave soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country: Specialist Brandon Scott Tobler of Portland, Sergeant Donald Walters of Salem, Captain Aaron Joseph Contreras of Sherwood, Staff Sergeant Robert Anthony Stever of Pendleton, Corporal Travis J. Bradachnall of Multnomah County, Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson of Independence, Specialist Joseph M. Blickenstaff of Corvallis, Specialist Nathan W. Nakis of Corvallis, Specialist Christopher Jude Wesley of Portland, Sergeant Travis A. Moothart of Brownsville, Private 1st Class William C. Ramirez of Portland, Specialist Philip G. Rogers of Gresham, Lance Corporal Gary F. Van Leuven of Klamath Falls, Specialist Chase R. Whitman of Eugene, and Lance Corporal Bob W. Roberts of Newport.

Each of these 20 soldiers and their families deserve thanks from all Oregonians and all Americans. The Nation offers its collective thanks, as well as its sincere hope that all the Americans still in Iraq will return home to their families swiftly and safely.

Let us give thanks and praise to all men and women who worked together and in many cases died together, so that we all live in a more safe and more free world. We are all forever indebted to these brave soldiers.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous serviceman who lost his life while bravely serving our country in Iraq. Jason Ludlam made the ultimate sacrifice for his country and for the American people.

In times of war, our soldiers and their families carry the gravest imaginable burden upon their shoulders. The service these brave men and women provide their country is immeasurable and will not be forgotten.

I truly sympathize with the families of fallen heroes for their terrible loss. It is my hope that many good memories help bring these families comfort in their time of need.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and honor Jason Ludlam for the sacrifice he made and for the service he gave his country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a courageous serviceman who lost his life while bravely serving our country in Iraq. Kenneth Melton made the ultimate sacrifice for his country and for the American people.

In times of war, our soldiers and their families carry the gravest imaginable burden upon their shoulders. The service these brave men and women provide their country is immeasurable and will not be forgotten.

I truly sympathize with the families of fallen heroes for their terrible loss. It is my hope that many good memories help bring these families comfort in their time of need.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and honor Kenneth Melton for the sacrifice he made and for the service he gave his country.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the brave men and women who have fallen in service in Iraq and Afghanistan. They gave the ultimate sacrifice to guarantee the freedoms and rights we hold so dear and to help the oppressed and give a voice to those who do not have one.

Army Sergeant Gregory Wahl, a constituent of mine from Valley Stream, NY, was one of the brave men who gave his life in Iraq. He was riding in a vehicle that flipped over in a canal during a combat patrol. Gregory, according to his father, wanted to be there and he knew what it was all about. He was confident in his mission and proud of his military career, which spanned over 11 years. Gregory is survived by his wife, Maricela, who together spent many hours enjoying their love of cooking, and his daughter, Alexis, who inherited her father's blue eyes. He loved his country and entered into combat with a lot of courage and ambition for his future, the future of Maricela and Alexis, and the future of the people he was fighting for, both Americans and Iraqis. But Gregory is only one of many. We have lost many brave men and women and it is important to remember their valor and dedication to our country.

I would also like to honor and extend my sorrow to the families of those who have fallen. While we get to go on with our daily lives, parents, spouses, and children will have to adapt and learn to live without their loved one. And for this they and the men and women of the Armed Forces will always be in my prayers.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the well of the House of Representatives to honor those who have so nobly given their lives in defense of our freedoms and values. The men and women serving in the armed services both here and abroad are American heroes. We are holding this moment of silence today for our fellow countrymen and women that have given the last full measure of devotion in battlefields throughout the world. They will forever be remembered and revered in the memory of this great Nation.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three brave soldiers from the 28th Congressional District of New York who lost their lives while serving in Iraq. These three men, all from Buffalo, left loving families, promising careers and secure futures to serve our Nation in the Armed Forces. They traveled thousands of miles across the world to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. I am humbled to have served them in Congress.

Private First Class Tamario D. Burkett was killed in the line of duty just days after combat operations began in Iraq, on March 23, 2003. While securing bridges near Nasiriyah, Pfc. Burkett and his fellow soldiers came under heavy fire. Pfc. Burkett, who lived with his family on Peace Street, was just 21 years old.

His family continues to celebrate his memory and to mourn the promise of his young life.

On October 17, 2003, Specialist Michael L. Williams was killed near Baghdad when the vehicle he was riding in ran over an explosive. Specialist Williams, 46, reenlisted in the Army National Guard after witnessing the horrendous attacks on September 11, which also happened to be his birthday. He died doing what he had dedicated his life to: protecting and serving the American people. He left behind a wife and four daughters.

Private First Class Charles E. Bush, Jr., was killed just days before Christmas on December 19, 2003, when a bomb exploded beneath his vehicle. Pfc. Bush, 34, was a cook in the Army, but he had volunteered as a door gunner to help protect the convoy. He could have stayed back, but he chose instead to ride along that day to defend his fellow soldiers. He left behind a devoted family and a young daughter.

This Memorial Day, we will pay respect to all the soldiers who have lost their lives defending our nation. It is a tragedy that across the nation, the legion of those we honor will now include hundreds of new names—names of fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, siblings and children who volunteered to serve their nation and who will never return home.

In Buffalo, this day will be especially tragic as we honor these three brave soldiers. Private First Class Tamario D. Burkett, Specialist Michael L. Williams and Private First Class Charles E. Bush, Jr. will forever be remembered for their patriotism, their valor and their sacrifice. I pray with all the families who have loved ones that no more lives will be lost and that all our soldiers will arrive safely home soon. We cannot stand to lose any more.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, General John Logan, the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially declared the first Memorial Day to be observed on May 30th, 1868. In a healing moment for our Nation, flowers were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington Cemetery. Our nation was united in our grief.

On this Memorial Day, 136 years later, we are again united in our grief and our respect for our fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. Whether speaking of those from the wars of our past or those from our current conflict in Iraq, we acknowledge their valiant service and sacrifice, as well as the void that their loss has left for their families, their communities, and our Nation. In my thoughts now, along with all of those whom we have lost, are six young men from my congressional district who have given their lives in Iraq:

Specialist Brandon Tobler, Corporal Travis Bradach-Nall, Specialist Christopher Rivera Wesley, Private First Class William Ramirez, Specialist Philip Rogers, Lance Corporal Bob W. Roberts.

There are no words that Congress can utter today that would be as noted as the silence of these soldiers. There is no way to express our appreciation and sorrow to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We can only fulfill our duty to ensure that our men and women in uniform receive the best training and equipment, adequate pay and fair treatment during their service and after. We must then assure our veterans new and old, that they will receive the treatment they have been promised. Most importantly, we must

pledge our valiant and tireless effort for peace and security at home and abroad.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Memorial Day, 2004, we honor both the veterans who fought America's wars, and those who stand on the front lines of today's combat engagements.

Each day it seems, news from Iraq carries the awful news of combat deaths as we try to quell a nation and leave it in better hands than before. Most importantly, our troops are still pursuing al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden in the mountains of Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world to root out the entity that attacked us on 9–11. This generation's solemn mission is to undermine and eradicate the terrorist movement, which continues to grow and evolve, from the face of the Earth.

Today we honor all those who fought for this nation throughout our history. Americans all over the world are remembering friends, family members and countrymen who made the ultimate sacrifice for liberty and democracy. In South Texas, the list of young people lost in the global conflict with al Qaeda, and now in Iraq, is becoming longer than we can bear. We continue to welcome home other sons and daughters who were injured or captured. Please remember these brave young warriors and their families on this Memorial Day.

As a member of Congress who sits on the House Armed Services Committee, I know what we ask of people in uniform, and I know the difficulties of service. As a veteran, I know what is expected of soldiers and sailors in combat—or in the possibility of combat. The very least we must do for the men and women who serve this nation is provide adequately for their health care now and in their later years.

The attack on our nation on 9–11 served to remind us that firemen, law enforcement officers and doctors also stand on the front lines in the first war of the 21st Century. The world has entered this century through pillars of fire, and the United States is called to fight a global war again, this time against al Qaeda and the terrorism they sponsor and continue to inspire. Americans, as always, fight for this country, and South Texans always make an extraordinary contribution to our military force.

Today, let us pledge anew to face the challenges of our world with compassion, strength, and understanding as we stand on the watchtower of freedom. On this Memorial Day, let us remember the heroes of our history as we wish for peace as the poets and the dreamers do—but remain ever ready to fight the battles that are righteous, where the values of freedom and democracy are at stake.

Please take a moment of silence and remember the South Texas heroes who answered this nation's call to military service, especially those who gave this nation the ultimate measure of devotion. We remember them all and their families today and always. Our South Texas heroes:

Killed aboard the USS *Cole*: Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronchester Santiago, 22, from Kingsville and Fireman Gary Swenchonis Jr., 26 from Rockport, TX

Army Spc. Edward J. Anguiano, 24, from Los Fresnos, 3rd Combat Support Battalion from Los Fresnos; he went missing on March 23, 2003, when his convoy was ambushed in Iraq; his remains were recovered on April 24

1st Sgt. Joe J. Garza, 43, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, from Robstown; he was killed on

April 28, 2003, when he was struck by a civilian vehicle in Iraq

Pfc. Juan Guadalupe Garza Jr., 20, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division from San Benito; he was killed in action on April 8, 2003, in central Iraq

Staff Sgt. Hector R. Perez, 40, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) from Corpus Christi; he was killed when his military convoy came under fire north of Hawd, Iraq on July 24, 2003

Spc. Jose A. Perez III, 22, 6th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Field Artillery Brigade, from San Diego, Texas; he was killed in an ambush of a convoy on May 28, 2003, in Taji, Iraq

Sgt. Christopher Ramirez, 34, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, from McAllen; he died from injuries sustained during combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, on April 14, 2004

Sgt. John W. Russell, 26, 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), from Portland; he was killed when two 101st Airborne Division UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters collided in mid-air over Mosul, Iraq, on November 15, 2003

Pfc. Dustin M. Sekula, 18, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, from Edinburg; he died due to injuries sustained from enemy fire in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, on April 1, 2004

Lance Cpl. Ruben Valdez Jr., 21, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, from San Diego; he died from combat injuries in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, on April 17, 2004

May the Lord bless their souls, and make strong their families, who must live forever without them. And may this list grow no longer . . .

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the upcoming Memorial Day holiday.

This Memorial Day is particularly poignant as hundreds of thousands of brave American service men and women are serving their country and putting their lives on the line in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

Our service men and women—including many from my community on the Central Coast of California—have left their homes, jobs, and families to serve in Afghanistan and Iraq.

While we honor those who are currently serving and pray for their safe return home, today we remember and pay tribute to the Americans who have fought and given their lives for us, from Lexington and Concord to the beaches of Normandy, the jungles of Vietnam, the mountains of Afghanistan, and the desert of Iraq.

Every casualty on the battlefield is a blow to our nation, but we are mindful that it is an unspeakable loss to the family and friends of the one who has been lost.

We know too that the qualities embodied by our fallen soldiers—heroism, honor, bravery, and sacrifice—cannot always be of great comfort to those who knew them best.

My thoughts and prayers are especially with the loved ones of fallen soldiers who hail from Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties on California's Central Coast.

The very least the Federal government can do for those who did their duty and served our nation is to provide them quality health care and retirement benefits. This is our duty.

Today, we pause and remember those who have died to preserve American values. We

honor those who fought, and who fight today to protect American freedoms.

I will do everything I can to keep our troops safe and to preserve the quality of life of our veterans. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this endeavor.

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our fallen heroes and to pay tribute to our current military men and women who are serving our Nation in a time of war. I especially want to thank American Samoa's warriors for the sacrifices they have made so that you and I and future generations may live in peace.

American Samoa's sons and daughters have served in record number in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in our war against terrorism. Our active duty service members are also serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In March of this year, over 65 soldiers from American Samoa's Army Reserve Unit were deployed to Iraq and recently we received word that other units from American Samoa will soon follow.

Last year, American Samoa lost two young warriors to the war in Iraq. In August 2003, SPC Farao Kevin Letufuga died in Mosul, Iraq and it was with heavy hearts that CSM Iuniasolua Savusa and I accompanied his body home. Specialist Letufuga served as a member of the 101st Airborne Division. He is the son of Mr. Fetinea'i and Siniva Letufuga of Aoloua, American Samoa.

On October 27, 2003, PVT Jonathan I. Falaniko was killed in Baghdad, Iraq in a rocket propelled grenade attack. Twenty-year-old Jonathan Falaniko had been in the U.S. Army for less than 6 months. He attended basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, in May 2003 and was deployed to Iraq in August 2003. Private Falaniko was then assigned to the 70th Engineer Battalion under the 1st Armored Division, Engineers Brigade of which his father, Iokimo Falaniko, was the command sergeant major and the most senior enlisted soldier.

CSM Iokimo Falaniko has been serving with distinction in the U.S. Army for over 26 years and is still serving in Iraq. Command Sergeant Major Falaniko is from the village of Amanave, American Samoa and his wife Maliana is from Aua. Their son was laid to rest at the National Cemetery in Arlington on Friday, November 7, 2003. I was privileged to be invited by the Falaniko family to speak at Private Falaniko's services. It was a very solemn and inspiring service that was also attended by LTG Robert Flowers, Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Sergeant Major of the Army, Jack Tilley.

In Samoan culture, it is customary to make speeches so that for generations to come the name of our fallen heroes will not be forgotten. This is why I am pleased that we are observing a moment of silence today and are reserving a special section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for Members to honor fallen soldiers from their districts and to offer their thoughts on Memorial Day. In remembrance of Specialist Letufuga and Private Falaniko, I rise today to say that these two young men lived and died honorably as true Samoan warriors. They gave their lives so that you and I may live in freedom.

Across America, many others have also died while protecting our Nation and today I pay special tribute to them. To those who

have lost their sons and daughters and husbands and wives, I say let us honor their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice to bring about peace and freedom in a troubled world.

To our veterans and current service members, and especially to American Samoa's Reserve unit now serving in Iraq, I would like to close by saying I am proud of you. As a Vietnam Veteran, I commend you for your courage and I thank you for your service to our country. May God bless you and may God bless America.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces who are performing so magnificently in Iraq, under very difficult circumstances. America is exceedingly blessed to have such citizens who are willing to put their lives on the line to protect our Nation.

Some who serve in Iraq have made the supreme sacrifice by giving their very lives in defense of our Nation. And to those heroes we owe our eternal gratitude, and we give our deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, several families in my congressional district have lost loved ones in Iraq. I list their names and hometowns for my colleagues in Congress.

SGT Michael F. Pedersen, U.S. Army of Flint, MI, killed in action in a helicopter crash on April 2, 2003.

SSG Scott Sather, U.S. Air Force of Clio, MI, killed in action on April 8, 2003.

PFC Jason M. Meyer, U.S. Army of Swartz Creek, MI, killed in action when struck by mortar fire on April 8, 2003.

SSG Brett J. Petriken, U.S. Army of Mundy Township, MI, killed in action escorting a convoy on May 26, 2003.

SPC Artimus D. Brassfield, U.S. Army of Flint, MI, killed in action when struck by mortar fire on October 24, 2003.

SPC Richard K. Trevithick, U.S. Army of Gaines, MI, killed in action by an improvised explosive device on April 14, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to observe Memorial Day later this month, it is incumbent upon us to remember the service and sacrifice of, not only those who have fought in previous wars and conflicts, but also the fine men and women who are currently serving our Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. We particularly want to express our gratitude to those heroes who have given their lives in the service of our country. May they rest in peace.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, we come together, as we do every year, to observe this national day of remembrance—to honor the men and women who've given their lives in the service of our country.

This year we sadly add the names of 19 sons and daughters of Wisconsin, killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, to those rolls. We join with their families in grieving the loss of: SPC Bert Hoyer, PVC Nicholas Frye, MAJ Christopher Splinter, SGT Warren Hansen, SPC Eugene Uhl III, 2nd LT Jeremy Wolf, PFC Rachel Bosveld, SPC Paul Sturino, SGT Dan Gabrielson, MAJ Mathew Schram, SGT Kirk Straseskie, CPT John Kurth, PFC Sean Schneider, CPL Jesse Thiry, PFC Ryan Jerabek, SPC Michelle Witmer, SPC Michael McGlothlin, PO Michael Anderson, and SPC Robert Cook.

We mourn them as we mourn the loss of all Americans in uniform who've made the ultimate sacrifice.

This is a day of great pride and great sorrow. It is a day of sweet memories and bitter regrets. It is a day of despair and, yet, of hopefulness.

Yes, despite our sadness, we do have reason to be hopeful.

For as long as men and women don the uniform and serve with distinction, they embody the promise of America. This America founded on the principles of equal justice under law. This America which for centuries has stood as a beacon of liberty. This America which, by the sacrifices of those we honor today, we still proudly proclaim the land of the free and the home of the brave. We remember them today and always.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the young men and women who have given their lives while serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A monument now stands in our Nation's capital to recognize the service and sacrifice of our service men and women during World War II. The long-overdue monument comes at a time when our Nation is reminded each day of the painful reality of war—not everyone returns home. The 2nd Congressional District of Washington state that I represent has not stayed immune from this reality.

This coming Memorial Day I will join with veterans of wars past to honor those who did not return home—including the four young men from the 2nd District who gave their lives for this nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

On Memorial Day, today, and every day, I honor Air Force Staff Sergeant Juan M. Ridout of Oak Harbor, Washington; Army Private First Class Kerry D. Scott of Concrete, Washington; Army Specialist Justin W. Hebert of Silvana, Washington; and Army Specialist Nathan W. Nakis of Sedro-Woolley, Washington.

You will not be forgotten.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to dedicate the World War II Memorial in Washington DC next week, and remember the sacrifices of the Greatest Generation who repelled the forces of tyranny and hate in Europe and the Pacific 50 years ago, let us also pause to honor a new generation of brave Americans that have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We observe a moment of silence for those brave young men and women that have given their life while serving our Nation in the War on Terror.

Throughout the history of this Nation, the soldiers of our Armed Forces have fought to preserve the ideals of democracy, freedom, and liberty. The tragic events of September 11th, 2001, reminded us that there is no permanent respite from the need to maintain our guard in an unstable world. Even as Communism and the Cold War have faded into history's mists, radical and dangerous new groups and individuals are ready to rise to test the willingness of America to defend itself. The sacrifices of our sons and daughters fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq demonstrate that when duty calls, America is ready. Hundreds of thousands of men and women in uniform have bravely answered the call to duty and traveled far beyond our borders to preserve and protect our nation in its time of need. Our Armed Forces are working today throughout the globe to ensure that future generations of Americans can live in a free and peaceful society.

Today, we pause to remember our young men and women who answered the call,

fought bravely, and sacrificed much to preserve our freedom. It is with a heavy but grateful heart that we thank our fallen soldiers and their families in these difficult times. We can never fully repay their service, but we must never forget their sacrifice.

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Memorial Day, I rise to recognize a fallen soldier from my district, First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein, formerly of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

Lieutenant Bernstein, 24 at the time of his death, was a member of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry Regiment, 173rd Infantry Brigade of Camp Ederle, Italy. He, along with Pfc. John D. Hart, 20, of Bedford, Mass., were killed in Taza, Iraq on October 18, 2003 when enemy forces ambushed their patrol using rock-propelled grenades and small arms fire.

Although I never had the opportunity to know Lieutenant Bernstein, what I have read about his life demonstrates what a tremendous and exemplary young man he was. He was a member of the West Point swim team for his 4 years at the United States Military Academy and enjoyed running, bicycling and competing in triathlons. He was also an accomplished student as exhibited by his selection as his high school valedictorian at Phoenixville High School and finishing fifth in his class at West Point. Lieutenant Bernstein, like so many fallen soldiers throughout our history, looked forward to a bright future, but sacrificed that future for the welfare, safety and liberty of our Nation.

I take this opportunity today to thank Lieutenant David R. Bernstein for his heroic service and sacrifice to our Nation and to also offer my condolences to his parents, Richard and Gail, and the entire Bernstein family.

Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day, I will remember First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein as an example of the sacrifices made by so many to keep our Nation strong and free. I ask my colleagues and the public to join me in remembering and honoring our Nation's fallen heroes.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the courageous servicemen and women who have given their lives to protect us in this time of war. These selfless warriors have dedicated their lives to fighting for this great country and our freedoms, and it is only fitting that we honor them this Memorial Day.

As President John F. Kennedy once said, "Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind." Although we are forced with the difficult decision of sending our servicemen and women into the battlefield, it is they who make the conscious decision to leave their families and friends behind. Every day of every month, these valiant members of our armed forces make the call to duty—always aware of the challenges they face and the painful reality that they may not make it back home. Yet, they still make the admirable choice, and they do it honorably and without complaint. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen and women are the true heroes and heroines in this world, and they are the ones who will help to bring an end to war.

As we observe this Memorial Day, our hearts will be filled with gratitude to the brave men and women in uniform who have laid down their lives for this great country. And, the voices of those who have fallen will echo in

our memories as we are comforted by the legacy of courage that they have established for us. We must all remember that freedom, and the blessings it brings, often exacts the ultimate sacrifice. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to the remarkable servicemen and women who have lost their lives so that we may continue ours. They have proudly served our country, and now we proudly recognize and honor them. May God's grace be upon each and every one of them.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the 136th observance of Memorial Day, the House of Representatives paused in a moment of silence to honor all of our fallen heroes. Men and women across the United States and from other countries continue to serve in the defense of our great nation and the ideals we hold most important. These brave heroes are prepared to make this same sacrifice should their duties require it, and that is a grave responsibility we must honor.

This year I also want to recognize an unsung group of fallen military heroes, the countless members of our Armed Forces that served and died for our country but were never United States citizens. Many American military heroes, past and present, were born outside of the United States. From the thousands of non-citizens who fought for our independence as a nation, to those who fought for the Union Army during the Civil War, to the more than 36,000 non-citizen members of today's Armed Forces, these men and women have sacrificed for our country and the preservation of our precious freedom. We succeeded today in amending the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization Act to authorize creation of a memorial to recognize these fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery, our nation's premier military cemetery and shrine honoring the men and women who served in the Armed Forces.

As a combat veteran and member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I am keenly aware and appreciative of the sacrifices our service members make. In the past, I received the good will and recognition of this nation for my service. This Memorial Day, I want to extend these sentiments to our service members, my fellow veterans, and our fallen heroes from the United States and allied nations around the world.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three young men from my district who sacrificed their lives while serving in the Armed Forces in the war on terror.

Jason Plite of Delta Township, Eaton County, Michigan, was a senior airman in the Air Force who died while on a mission to rescue two injured Afghan children. He was an extraordinary young man who took part in an elite Special Forces program to become an airborne paramedic and was serving his second tour in Afghanistan. Jason was both artistic and athletic, serving as captain of his high school swim team and painting murals for local businesses. A sensitive individual who loved his country, his family and his friends, Jason was always there when someone needed him. He was 21 years old.

D.J. Wheeler of Concord, Michigan, died in Tikrit while serving as gunner on an armored vehicle that was attacked with a rocket-propelled grenade. D.J., whose nickname was "Sunshine", enlisted right after the 9/11 attacks. He delighted in handing out dollar bills and candy to Iraqi children and was known for

his sense of humor and generous spirit. While attending Lumen Christi High School he played offensive lineman on the football team. In spite of his towering height, he was gentle and loving with friends and family. He was 22 years old.

Bradley Fox of Adrian, Michigan, was an Army gunner in Iraq. He enlisted at age 19, serving in the first Gulf War, Kosovo, Panama and Afghanistan. He was severely wounded when his Bradley Fighting Vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb and he was evacuated to Germany for treatment. Brad was on life-support for a month before he succumbed to his injuries with his wife at his side. His fellow soldiers told his mother, his wife, and children how proud they were to have served with him and what a dedicated leader he had been. Working on his master's degree, he was planning to teach after he completed 20 years in the Army. He was 35 years old.

My tribute to these young men should be measured by showing that they did not strive and die in vain, but that through their sacrifice, future generations can live in greater peace, prosperity, and hope.

Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the many men and women who have died in defense of our nation. Next week is Memorial Day where we join our constituents in honoring those who gave their lives to ensure that we enjoy the principles of liberty, justice, and democracy. During that time, we remember, honor, and reflect on the men and women who paid the ultimate price for their country. Flags fly at half-mast, relatives and friends place wreaths and flowers on the graves of those they loved, and communities host parades adorned in red, white, and blue. These tributes are small tokens we perform in an effort to convey our gratitude to those who have served for the cause of freedom and democracy.

Over this last year, my district alone has lost three soldiers: Pfc. Matthew Bush, Spc. William Dusenbery, and Capt. John Tipton. Further, in my district, Jack Montague, a civilian KBR employee for the Halliburton Corporation, died while working in Iraq. Today and throughout this Memorial Day week, we honor their memories and their families who bear the heaviest burden of our freedom. They are not simply statistics; these fallen soldiers were dads, brothers, sons, neighbors, and community leaders. While the grief and pain may not have faded, I hope it is comforting for them to know that their fallen heroes are loved, honored, respected and their cause was just.

In addition, let us remember that thousands of servicemembers will spend this Memorial Day stationed in other countries defending our freedoms far away from their families. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in a moment of silence to remember our fallen soldiers and pray for peace.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, throughout the history of the United States, men and women have paid the ultimate price for freedom.

Memorial Day is a day dedicated to the remembrance of those who gave their life in the name of freedom.

The U.S. House of Representatives has assembled in the Capitol to pay special tribute to those who have lost their life in the war against terrorism. Henceforth, the battle has been in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I salute those from Georgia who have died on the battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan:

U.S. Army Specialist Jamaal R. Addison of Roswell.

U.S. Army Private First Class Diego Fernando Rincon of Conyers.

U.S. Army Private First Class Michael Russell Creighton Weldon of Conyers.

U.S. Army Captain Edward J. Korn of Savannah.

U.S. Army Specialist David T. Nutt of Blackshear.

U.S. Army Specialist John K. Klinesmith of Stockbridge.

U.S. Army Sgt. Michael T. Crockett of Soperton.

U.S. Army Sgt. Nathaniel Hart Jr. of Valdosta.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Bobby C. Franklin of Mineral Bluff.

U.S. Army Private Benjamin L. Freeman of Valdosta.

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Major Jerry L. Wilson of Thomson.

U.S. Army Specialist Marshall Edgerton of Rocky Face.

U.S. Army Specialist Christopher J. Holland of Brunswick.

U.S. Army Specialist Nathaniel H. Johnson of Augusta.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ricky L. Crockett of Broxton.

U.S. Army Sgt. William J. Normandy of Augusta.

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Thomas R. Thigpen, Sr. of Augusta.

U.S. Army Specialist William R. Strange of Adrian.

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Antoine J. Holt of Kennesaw.

U.S. Army Private First Class Marquis A. Whitaker of Columbus.

U.S. Army Specialist Justin W. Johnson of Rome.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, as the House pauses to remember all the brave American men and women of our Armed Forces who have been lost in Iraq and Afghanistan, I am proud to honor the service and sacrifice of Sgt. Thomas Robbins, who grew up in New York's Capital Region.

Sgt. Robbins, a cavalry scout with the Army Stryker Brigade's 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Lewis, Washington, lost his life this February due to injuries sustained in northwestern Iraq.

Sgt. Robbins is survived by his wife, Gina, their beautiful daughter, Marisa, his father, Douglas, and mother, Charlene.

I know the pain of such a tremendous loss. In August of 1970, I was called to my home in Green Island, New York, to learn that my brother Bill had been killed in Vietnam. H.M.3 William F. McNulty, a medic in the Navy, transferred to the Marine Corps, had been out in the field in Quang Nam province patching up his buddies when he stepped on a land mine and lost his life. Our family misses him every day.

On this Memorial Day, Mr. Speaker, I also recall the service of my Dad, Jack McNulty, and friends like Leo O'Brien, Lou DiNuzzo, Peter D'Alessandro, and other World War II veterans who were part of what we now call "the greatest generation." We can all be very proud of the beautiful new World War II Memorial on the National Mall. This monument will stand for generations in honor of those who put their lives on the line for all of us, for our families, and for all that we hold dear.

On a daily basis, we should remember that had it not been for all of the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military through the years, like my good friend Ned Haggerty, who earned two Purple Hearts in Korea, the rest of us would not have the ability to boast that we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth. Freedom isn't free. We have paid a tremendous price for it. Let us never forget that.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans are the reason why, when I get up each morning, I thank God for my life—and veterans for my way of life.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, southwest Missouri learned early in the War on Terrorism of the sacrifices necessary to defend our way of life. Two men from the 7th Congressional District died in less than a week of hostilities in Afghanistan.

Stanley L. Harriman, 34, a Chief Warrant Officer in the United States Army, was the first American killed in combat in Afghanistan on March 2, 2002. His death brought the harsh realities of war home to the Ozarks. Harriman was assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While Harriman's hometown is Wade, North Carolina, he had family ties to Southwest Missouri. He attended and graduated from Strafford High School in 1985. "Stanley died for you and you and you," his wife, Sheila Harriman, told reporters at Fort Bragg, N.C., "and for your freedom. All Stanley ever wanted to do was be an American soldier."

Two days later, Army Sergeant Philip Svitak of Joplin was killed in action. Svitak was killed by friendly fire while in combat with Taliban and al Qaeda forces in eastern Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda on March 4, 2002. Svitak was 31. He was assigned to the 160th Special Operations Group at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. His wife and two children survived him. He was the only son in a family of veterans. Both his mother and father served in Vietnam. Roseann Svitak said her son "told me before he went, 'Mom, the terrorists have to be stopped.' He said, 'If they send me over there and anything happens to me . . . I'm proud to die for my country.'"

Daniel Kisling, Jr. of Neosho died of injuries suffered in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on January 30, 2003. Kisling and three other servicemen were aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that crashed during a training exercise. Staff Sergeant Daniel Kisling, Jr. served in the U.S. Army for eight years. At the time of the fatal crash he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division based at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. He was the crew chief aboard the Black Hawk helicopter. Daniel Kisling was survived by his parents Daniel Leon and Velinda Kisling of Neosho, Missouri, and his sister Lisa. Kisling was married to Georgie McNeill for 14 years. They have three children: Nathan, age 13; Jessie, age 10; and Riley, age 3. A fourth child was born to the couple after Sgt. Kisling's death.

In early May, 2003, Private-First-Class Jess A. Givens was killed in a tank accident along the banks of the Euphrates River west of Baghdad, Iraq. Jesse Givens, son of Connie Givens of Springfield, Missouri, attended Springfield Glendale High School. He was 34 years old. His wife and five-year-old child, who live in Ft. Carson, Colorado, survive him. Givens was with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. His siblings live in Joplin and Springfield.

Twenty-one-year-old Jonathan Paul Barnes from McDonald County was killed in a grenade attack July 26, 2003 in Iraq. Barnes was a member of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment. He joined the Army in April, 2001. At the time of his death he was guarding a hospital with two fellow soldiers who were also killed. James Barnes, Jonathan's father, who lives in Anderson, Missouri, and pastors the Greenwood Community Church near Southwest City, Missouri, described his son as a "strong boy, who loved God and his country. He wanted to go," his father said. "He died doing what he wanted to do." Jonathan Barnes was survived by his wife Amanda and daughter Michelle of Goodman, Missouri.

1st Lt. Benjamin J. Colgan was killed on November 1, 2003 in Baghdad while responding to a rocket propelled grenade attack. His wife Jill Kathleen Asay of Aurora, Missouri, said, "He loved his country and wanted to make a difference in the world, and he gave his life to make a better life for the people of Iraq and for all Americans." Colgan had been in the U.S. Army 12 years. He was in the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division. Jill Asay gave birth to the couple's third child in December 2003. Daughters Grace, age 2, and Paige, age 1, also survived their father.

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant James 'Doug' Douglas Mowris was among 7 U.S. servicemen killed January 29, 2004 in an explosion in Ghazni, Afghanistan, about sixty miles southwest of the country's capital city. "My husband was proud to serve," Mrs. Mowris said. "He gave the greatest sacrifice anyone can give; that was his life . . . He was a good husband and wonderful father." Doug Mowris was a member of the 414th Military Police Company based in Joplin, Missouri. Mowris had been in the U.S. Army or Army Reserves since 1984. Mowris was 37 years old. He was survived by his wife of 15 years, Michelle, and children Craig, age 14, and McKenzie, age 9.

These men died, leaving friends, family, and children to grieve and remember. We also remember another group of Americans who are civilian casualties of the War on Terror. John Willett and Craig Amundson were Ozarks natives who died in the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington.

All of these brave men are the faces of this war. They remind me every day of what we are fighting for.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, as our nation mourns the loss of 2nd Lt. Leonard Cowherd, I rise today to honor this fallen son of Virginia. I would like to reflect on his honorable service and sacrifice to the United States of America.

I join his family, wife, and friends who now stand strong as they carry on the memory of his life. I extend a special condolence to his wife Sarah Cerri Cowherd, his parents Lenny and Mary Ann Cowherd of Culpeper, his brother Colby Cowherd, his sister Laura Cowherd, and his twin brother, Charles Cowherd. 2nd Lt. Leonard Cowherd will forever be in our hearts.

2nd Lt. Leonard Cowherd called the Culpeper region home and graduated from the Wakefield Country Day School in Rappahannock County. Always striving to better himself, he applied for and accepted a nomination to the United States Military Academy, graduating in 2003. Upon concluding an excellent academic career, he married the love of his life, Sarah Cerri Cowherd.

Soon after their wedding, 2nd Lt. Leonard Cowherd answered his country's call to defend our flag and took command of a tank platoon assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division. In Iraq, 2nd Lt. Leonard Cowherd gave the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of his selfless duty. The life of 2nd Lt. Leonard Cowherd will stand forever as a perfect model for all men and women in uniform. He is a testament to his family, the American Military, and the United States of America.

2nd Lt. Leonard Cowherd possessed the deepest conviction in the freedoms symbolized by the flag of the United States of America. Our flag symbolizes strength and conviction, perseverance and steadfast morals, justice and liberty. Where our flag stands, so stands freedom. The flag of the United States of America stands in the sands of Iraq because of 2nd Lt. Leonard Cowherd and so does freedom.

I join the people of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Virginia, family and friends, and all those who hold the memory of 2nd Lt. Leonard Cowherd close—that today and everyday following, we honor his sacrifice and celebrate his life.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to thank my Colleagues, Congressman RANGEL and Congressman WALSH, for organizing all of us to take a moment to honor the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom worldwide.

As we hold this moment of silence, and on the occasion of Memorial Day, let us not lose sight of brave veterans as well. Recently the House had the opportunity to honor these fine Americans through legislation that would have added \$1.3 billion to the Veterans Affairs health care budget, and that would have increased funds by \$500 million over the next 5 years for the Survivor Benefit Plan, which pays a military survivor 55 percent of their late spouse's retiree benefits, but is reduced to 35 percent at age 62. Both measures were defeated before they ever saw any debate by the full House. That this Congress would even consider the idea of cutting military families' benefits shows a disconcerting emphasis on misguided budget priorities.

In previous congressional sessions, I have voted to authorize increases in cost-of-living adjustments for veterans receiving disability compensation and their surviving family members, to expand long-term care services for veterans and allow Veterans Affairs to generate increased revenue to help pay for health care costs, and to increase funding for Veterans Affairs' state extended care facilities construction grant program by \$10 million. I firmly believe that additional benefits are critical to the future success, stability, and retention levels for our armed forces. More importantly, this is the right thing to do for Texas, our great Nation, and the hardworking families of our brave troops and veterans.

There is absolutely no excuse to duck our responsibilities to the men and women of our armed forces, and it is my sincere hope that my colleagues do not continue to confuse budget priorities when it comes to standing up for these all too important Americans.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, it is proper that the House take a moment to remember the brave American men and women of our armed forces who

have died defending freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In particular, I want to take this time to remember heroes from my district in western Wisconsin.

First Lieutenant Jeremy L. Wolfe, U.S. Army, of Menomonie, Wisconsin. Lieutenant Wolfe was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He died serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on November 15, 2003.

Major Christopher J. Splinter, U.S. Army, of Platteville, Wisconsin. Major Splinter was assigned to the 5th Engineer Battalion, 1st Engineer Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He died serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on December 24, 2003.

Private First Class Bert E. Hoyer, U.S. Army Reserve, of Ellsworth, Wisconsin. Private Hoyer was assigned to the 652nd Engineer Company, Ellsworth, Wisconsin. He died serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 10, 2004.

Private First Class Gregory R. Goodrich, U.S. Army Reserve, of Bartonville, Illinois. Private Goodrich's mother lives in Hillsboro, Wisconsin. He was assigned to the 724th Transportation Company, Bartonville, Illinois. Private Goodrich died serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on April 9, 2004.

These young men paid the ultimate price to enhance our security and protect our liberties; they also gave the people of Iraq the greatest gift of all: their freedom. I want to extend my heartfelt sympathies to their families and friends. Young leaders like these exemplify all that is good and decent about America.

On behalf of a grateful nation, we thank all our brave men and women serving in hard and dangerous conditions to bring stability and freedom to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. God bless those who are serving and those who have fallen. Their sacrifice is honored by all Americans.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have given their lives serving their country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As Memorial Day approaches, I hope that each man, woman, and child in this country pauses to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending our Nation.

Over the past two years, five young men from the district I represent have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan:

Staff Sergeant Brian Thomas Craig, died in Afghanistan on April 15, 2002;

Sergeant Keelan Moss, died in Iraq on November 2, 2003;

Private First Class Armando Soriano, died in Iraq on February 1, 2004;

Private First Class Leroy Sandoval, Jr., died in Iraq on March 26, 2004; and

Sergeant Gregory Wahl, died in Iraq on May 3, 2004.

No words can express our gratitude for the sacrifices these young men made to defend our country.

All those who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan are heroes, and we will forever be grateful for their sacrifice.

As this Memorial Day approaches, I once again ask my colleagues and my fellow Americans to join me in remembering those who have served, those who are serving, and especially those who have given their lives serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as we approach another celebration of Memorial Day, it is incumbent that we pay homage to the Nation's veterans and war dead with more than just words. Rather, we reflect on how our actions honor or may dishonor this great republic for which they enlist to defend. Indiana's veterans and war dead share in this tribute.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our Nation's service.

Those that we remember—veterans—are precious benchmarks for how well we have maintained all of the freedoms and democratic principles they fought and died for.

Veterans fought for the survival of all the things that made the United States, the leader of the free world: Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for each citizen and not the least—our great Constitution which undergirds this Republic.

It is in defense of our democratic principles and the freedoms that we uphold and value for each citizen with no respect to wealth, social rank, or might, that we form a military, that we have veterans, that we honor them on Memorial Day.

My memorial to Hoosier veterans and the war dead is to revere what they fought and died to preserve:

We, the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty, to ourselves, and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

We are trustees of a future that remembers and honor the past and living freedoms. As we honor them this Memorial Day, let us refresh our commitment to the trust we bear for the days and years ahead. That is the fitting memorial—to honor their service with meaning as we remember daily why they serve.

With special tribute to the war dead of the seventh congressional district of Indiana in the Iraq theatre: Pvt. Jesse M. Halling and Pfc Derek L. Hallal.

Mr. GONZALES. Mr. Speaker, I rise humbly today in recognition of the brave men and women of the United States military, past and present.

Memorial Day has become a day in which many Americans have the opportunity to spend time with their friends and family. It is important to remember, however, that the purpose of this day is to honor, as a Nation, those who have sacrificed their lives in service to their country. These defenders of freedom were husbands and wives, parents and children, friends, and neighbors. They had plans for the future and a love for their country. I urge each and every American to take a moment this Memorial Day to remember and honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay special recognition to three individuals from the 20th Congressional District of Texas who were killed in service to their Nation in Iraq.

Army Pfc. Anthony Scott Miller was the first soldier from San Antonio killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This friendly 19-year-old enlisted because, according to his brother, he saw it as a way to better himself. Anthony had

only been in the Army for a year when an Iraqi surface-to-surface missile hit a tactical operations center of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, killing Anthony and three others.

Staff Sgt. Rodrigo Gonzalez was born in Mexico and his family immigrated to the U.S. when he was just 1 year old. Like many members of his family, including his twin brother Ricardo, Rodrigo was a true patriot—he chose to serve in the U.S. military. His family has said that Rodrigo loved this country and that he had plans to pursue a medical career after finishing his participation in the military. He had been in Kuwait for only 3 weeks when the Black Hawk helicopter he was in crashed.

Army Staff Sgt. Roland Lee Castro was a soldier, a husband, and a father. Roland went to Iraq in April 2003. He returned home last summer due to an injury, but, while recovering in San Antonio, Roland told his mother, "I've got to bring my soldiers back safely." Shortly thereafter, the 26-year-old returned to Iraq to serve with his field artillery unit. There, he was accidentally shot. He leaves behind his wife, Liliana, and their 4-year-old daughter, Raquel Lee.

This Memorial Day, I ask that we remember Rodrigo, Roland, Scott, and the many other inspiring men and women who have lost their lives in service to this great nation. On behalf of all Americans, I wish to thank military personnel and their loved ones for their profound sacrifices. God bless.

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I rise today to salute two members of the military from the Fifth District of Virginia, who gave their lives in service to the United States in the war on terrorism.

LTC William R. Watkins III, lived in Halifax County, and SGT Michael Dooley lived in Bedford County. Both of these men loved this Nation and served bravely in Iraq in the war against terrorism. Their untimely deaths in the spring of 2003 came as they defended the freedoms that we cherish.

Because Lieutenant Colonel Watkins and Sergeant Dooley joined their fellow soldiers in removing the Taliban and Saddam Hussein from power, the terrorists no longer have Afghanistan and Iraq from which they can operate with impunity and with statesponsored support to plot, plan, and mastermind another event like September 11 in our country.

Because of the bravery of Lieutenant Colonel Watkins and Sergeant Dooley and the other hundreds of men and women who have given their lives, the United States and much of the World is safer, and we thank all of those who are in uniform this Memorial Day.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully rise during this moment of silence to honor and acknowledge members of the armed forces from my district, Missouri's Fifth, and commend those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our grateful nation for their valor, strength and commitment. I also commend those six Missouri soldiers injured while serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan who are being treated at the VA Hospital in Kansas City. These courageous men have performed admirably and served unconditionally on behalf of our country. I extend to them my deepest respect and gratitude.

I was honored to visit Private Phillip Ramsey of Kansas City on several occasions at Walter Reed Hospital. Private Ramsey suffered injuries this past September to his left arm and right leg when an explosive device hit

his convoy en route between Tikrit and Baghdad, Iraq. He has exemplified courage and strength in his service to our nation and was awarded the Purple Heart and promoted to Specialist for his bravery. He is now back in Kansas City after spending eight months in recovery at Walter Reed Hospital and continues his service in the military. He has made his family and our country proud.

Army Spc. Joel L. Bertoldie of Independence, Mo. was killed on July 18, 2003 when his vehicle ran over an explosive in Fallujah, Iraq. I was privileged to present his family with a flag flown over the Capitol in his honor, and to join them at his memorial service to pay tribute to a fine son, father and citizen. A former Truman high school student, Specialist Bertoldie served honorably in Operation Iraqi Freedom and was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, National Defense Service Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal for his valor. His spirit will live on in his son, and his memory will inspire all those whose lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with my colleagues to praise these heroic soldiers and the sacrifices they have made. God bless them and God bless our Nation.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is our opportunity, as a nation, to pause and pay tribute to the millions of Americans who gave their lives for this country. We enjoy our freedom and prosperity because we are citizens of a nation that believes in service, dedication, and honor. We believe in liberty and our men and women have always willingly stepped up when called upon in defense of freedom.

This year, the Memorial Day weekend celebration on the National Mall will specifically honor America's World War II generation. The National World War II Memorial, which was authorized by Congress in 1993 in memory of those who served and died in World War II, will be dedicated in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, May 29, 2004. Sixteen million Americans fought valiantly, far from home, to protect not just our nation, but the entire world.

More than 400,000 Americans died during this war. Thousands more gave their lives during subsequent wars in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and most recently in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I would also like to take a moment to give my thanks to the soldiers from my home state of Utah. Over the past few years, nearly four thousand Utahns from the National Guard and Reserves, were sent into harm's way in the Middle East, or supported those on the front lines. I am so proud of these men and women—from the Wasatch Front, from St. George, Vernal, Cedar City, and other cities. I am proud of their commitment, grateful for their service, and deeply sorry for the families of those who won't be returning home.

God bless this Nation, and the men and women who serve so valiantly and with honor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BACHUS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONCERNING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY TASK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my concern this evening over Vice President CHENEY's abusing his power as Vice President to continue to keep secret documents that could significantly impact our Nation's future energy policy and the effect the Bush administration's energy policies are having on American families and on our economy.

Mr. Speaker, almost immediately after entering office, Vice President CHENEY took it upon himself to convene what would later be called the energy task force. The unnamed participants of this secret task force came together to advise the Bush administration on energy policy and develop what would become the administration's official energy plan. However, in the 3 years since the energy task force released its report, the Vice President has done everything he can to keep the records and participants of the task force secret. This task force played a critical role in developing a major policy initiative with a direct impact on everything from our economy to our environment. Still, the Vice President has refused to let the American people know who made up this energy task force or how and why the task force came to the conclusions that it did.

I am going to get back to this in a minute, but first I want to address the rise in gas prices which I think ultimately is related to the issue of the energy task force.

□ 2015

Earlier today, I heard the argument that if Congress passes the energy bill devised by the secret Cheney task force, consumers would be alleviated from the high gasoline prices we are

witnessing across the country. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that not only is this argument foolish, but it is also wrong. The Republican-passed energy bill would do nothing to address the rising cost of gasoline; and, in fact, the bill has provisions that would make gasoline even more expensive.

In fact, a study released in February by the Energy Information Administration found that the provisions in the energy bill would have only a negligible effect on energy production, consumption, and prices; but that negligible effect would be far outweighed by a provision requiring the use of ethanol. The report concluded that such a provision would actually increase the average gasoline price by 3 cents per gallon and the price for reformulated gasoline by an average of 8.1 cents. So the study concludes that provisions in the Republican energy bill would actually increase gas prices, and I certainly know that my constituents would not like to see that happen, particularly as we now move into the Memorial Day week.

What President Bush and his administration do not understand is that high gas prices impact all of us, consumers and businesses alike. Gasoline prices have increased 38 percent since December 2003, with the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded at just over \$2. High fuel costs translate into a loss of profit margins for the manufacturing and transportation sectors that force prices for products and services higher, hitting American consumers twice. Not only do Americans need to dole out more cash to fill their gas tanks with the little disposable income that they have left; they are being strangled by rising health care costs, higher education costs, and now higher costs in goods and services.

I just want to give some stories from struggling Americans that show that the hardships are being felt from coast to coast. I quote first DeAnn from Salt Lake City, Utah, who writes: "My husband and I own a small trucking company. Due to the rise in fuel, we have let three drivers go and sold the trucks and trailers. This was very hard to do, but in an effort to keep the other two drivers working, we had to. I know of two other small companies that are doing the same, and the burden is just too much."

I have another letter from Sara, who lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and she writes: "As a military family, the rising gas prices are taking a big chunk of our disposable income. We have two small fuel-efficient cars, thankfully, but our cost to fill up our cars is easily \$10 more every time. Unfortunately, we will not be driving much this summer because of it. I really wish the President would take more of an interest in the problems of middle working-class families like ours."

Not only does Sara think, Mr. Speaker, that President Bush does not care about the impact that gasoline prices have on Americans, but another gentleman, Jon Meade Huntsman, who is