

quit dragging America's feet and join the remainder of the industrialized nations throughout the world that afford their consumers the right to know the origin of the food they feed their families.

I have worked on mandatory country-of-origin labeling for nearly 12 years. My first labeling bill was introduced in 1992, and as the primary author of the origin labeling language incorporated in our existing farm bill, I join Mr. BURNS and other Senate colleagues in introducing a bill on that issue today. I will persist in working to speed up implementation of this program with my colleagues. It is important that this Senate continue its bipartisan support for implementation of this commonsense law.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

RESEARCH REVIEW ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last month we lost a great American, Christopher Reeve. Since a riding accident left him paralyzed from the neck down, Christopher Reeve has been an inspiration to all Americans, particularly to those living with paralysis as a result of spinal cord injury.

In the years following his accident, Christopher Reeve made tremendous progress. He regained sensation and movement in some parts of his body and was able to breathe for periods of time without a ventilator. Watching Christopher Reeve achieve these milestones gave hope to individuals with spinal cord injuries, their families, researchers and just about everyone.

We lost Christopher Reeve, but we cannot lose sight of his dream for a cure. We must do everything we can to ensure that Federal researchers have the tools they need to further advance paralysis research, and to ultimately find a cure.

I am pleased that today we are honoring the legacy of Christopher Reeve by passing the Research Review Act. This legislation includes a provision that will advance the goals of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act.

There is no stronger voice in the Senate for individuals with disabilities than Senator TOM HARKIN. And for the last several years, Senator HARKIN has worked with the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation to pass legislation that would further advance the science needed to promote spinal regeneration and build quality-of-life programs for individuals with paralysis and other mobility impairments.

The Research Review Act supports the intent of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act by directing the National Institutes of Health to draft a report on ways they have encouraged the use of multi-disciplinary research teams to advance treatments, develop new

therapies, and collaborate on clinical trials with respect to spinal cord injury and paralysis research.

The Research Review Act is an important step in the right direction, but we must do everything we can to pass and fund the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act during the next session of Congress.

The Research Review Act also includes important provisions related to inflammatory bowel disease. I am the proud sponsor of legislation in the Senate known as the "IBD Act" which is designed to improve the quality of life for patients suffering from inflammatory bowel disease. I am pleased that 36 Members of the Senate, including Senator COCHRAN, have cosponsored this bipartisan legislation.

Inflammatory bowel disease, which includes both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, is a chronic disorder of the gastrointestinal tract which afflicts approximately 1 million Americans, 100,000 or 10 percent of whom are children under the age of 18. IBD can cause severe abdominal pain, fever, and intestinal bleeding. Complications related to the disease include: Arthritis, osteoporosis, anemia, liver disease, and colon cancer. Inflammatory bowel disease represents a major cause of morbidity from digestive illness, and although it is not fatal, IBD can be devastating.

I am pleased that the Research Review Act contains three important provisions related to inflammatory bowel disease. The first provision directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to report to the Congress on the status of its inflammatory bowel disease epidemiology study. This much needed study is being conducted by CDC through financial support provided by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA). Over the past 2 years, CCFA has provided the CDC with \$750,000 to establish the epidemiology project. I am pleased that the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee has provided \$800,000 for Fiscal Year 2005 to continue this important study.

The second provision of interest to the IBD community directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on the coverage standards of Medicare/Medicaid for the therapies that IBD patients need to manage their disease. If there are gaps in coverage that negatively impact the health and quality of life of IBD patients on Medicare or Medicaid, we need to know about them, and take steps to address the problem.

The bill provides for a GAO study on the challenges that IBD patients encounter when applying for Social Security Disability. This study will include recommendations for improving the application process for IBD patients. This is critical to our effort to ensure that every patient who deserves disability coverage, receives it.

I am pleased to inform my colleagues that this is the first piece of author-

izing legislation to pass the United States Congress that addresses inflammatory bowel disease. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America for their tremendous advocacy in support of this bill and the "IBD Act" in the 108th Congress. Over the past 2 years, tens of thousands of IBD patients have made their voice heard on Capitol Hill. I am pleased that a disease that for so long has been in the shadows of our society is starting to receive much needed attention and support. We would not be here today if it wasn't for the commitment of these patients and their family members.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL SHANE E. KIELION

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Shane Kielion of Omaha, NE, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. Lance Corporal Kielion was killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom on November 15, 2004, in Iraq's Al Anbar Province. He was 23 years old.

Lance Corporal Kielion attended Omaha South High School where he was a leader both on the football field and in the classroom. After graduating in 1999, he briefly attended Peru State College on a football scholarship before joining the U.S. Marine Corps. He was assigned 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA. Lance Corporal Kielion will be remembered as a loyal marine who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Lance Corporal Kielion are currently serving in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Kielion is survived by his parents, Patricia and Roger Kielion; his wife, April, and their newborn son. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. The United States of America is proud of Shane Kielion's service and mourns his loss.

For his service, bravery and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring LCpl Shane Kielion.

LCPL KYLE BURNS, USMC

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to express our Nation's deepest thanks and gratitude to a special young man and his family. During this past recess, I received word that on November 11, 2004, Veteran's Day, Marine LCpl Kyle Burns of Laramie, WY, died in the line of duty while serving his country in the war on terrorism. Lance Corporal Burns was killed while fighting insurgents in the battle for Fallujah, Iraq, west of Baghdad. It was his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Burns was a member of 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. He joined the Marine Corps after graduating from

Laramie High School in 2002. He held a profound sense of duty and knew he was doing the right thing. He was very proud of being a Marine. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed hiking, hunting, and fishing. He was a sports fan, and he played baseball and ran track, but he particularly liked hockey—a sport he played for 12 years. Kyle Burns had a love and lust for life and made every opportunity to live it to the best of his ability.

It is because of people such as Kyle Burns that we continue to live safe and free. America's men and women who answer the call of service and wear our Nation's uniform deserve respect and recognition for the enormous burden that they willingly bear. Our people put everything on the line everyday, and because of these folks, our Nation remains free and strong in the face of danger.

The motto of the Marine Corps is "Semper Fidelis." It means "Always Faithful." Through his selfless and courageous sacrifice, LCpl Kyle Burns lived up to these words with great honor.

Lance Corporal Burns is survived by his mother Jo, his father Bob, his brother Kris, and his brothers of the United States Marine Corps. We say goodbye to a son, a brother, a Marine, and an American. Our Nation pays its deepest respect to LCpl Kyle Burns for his courage, his love of country, and his sacrifice so that we may remain free. He was a hero in life, and he remains a hero in death. All of Wyoming and, indeed, the entire Nation are proud of him.

So, one Marine to another, Lance Corporal Burns, Semper Fi.

CORPORAL LANCE M. THOMPSON

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Kokomo, IN. Corporal Lance M. Thompson, 21 years old, died on November 15. Lance was killed by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in the Al-Anbar Province of Iraq. With his entire life before him, Lance risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

A 2001 graduate of Eastbrook High School, Lance followed in his brother Phillip's footsteps by joining the Marines. His father, Gregory, told the Kokomo Tribune that his son had been a committed member of the Armed Forces and believed in what the Marines were doing in Iraq. Reflecting on Lance's life, his half-brother, Matt, told the Marion Chronicle-Tribune that his "motto" had been "gung-ho." This selfless dedication carried Lance through his first tour of duty in Iraq and led him back again for a second tour, which began in September of this year.

Lance was the 38th Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was as-

signed to the Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine, 2-Battalion Combat Team, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. This brave young soldier leaves behind his wife, Dawn; his father, Gregory; his mother, Melanie; his brother, Phillip; and his half-brother, Matt.

Today, I join Lance's family, his friends and the entire Kokomo community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Lance, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Lance was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. According to friends and loved ones, he also enjoyed spending time outdoors, being with children and animals, and was always making jokes. Today and always, Raymond will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

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

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

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Lance.

SERGEANT RUSSELL L. COLLIER

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise to celebrate the life of an authentic American hero who fought to defend his Nation. Tragically, Sgt. Russell L. Collier of Harrison, AR, died October 3, 2004, in Taj, Iraq, while trying to rescue a fellow soldier also serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment, Arkansas National Guard, from Russellville, AR.

Sgt. Collier exhibited tremendous courage and strength in the face of great peril. When his unit came under enemy fire while detaining insurgents suspected of building improvised rocket launchers for use against U.S. forces, his friend and fellow soldier, Sgt. Chris Potts of Tiverton, RI, was shot. Sgt. Collier, who as the unit medic was known as "Doc," gave up his rifle to run to Sgt. Potts' aid. Both men died trying to save their fellow soldiers. Indeed, Sgt. Collier risked his life to save another, and, in the end, lost his own life.

The Crossett native was embraced by Sgt. Potts' 103rd Field Artillery of the Rhode Island National Guard, which has fought alongside Sgt. Collier's own regiment. While speaking about the fallen hero, fellow medic Spc. Tommy Rich said, "He took care of the Rhody's. He was a Rhody. They wouldn't give him up, and he wouldn't leave them. They've been a team from the beginning. He loved his guys." Sgt. Collier's attempt to rescue a fellow soldier illustrates his strong commitment to his unit and his truly selfless nature.

Sgt. Collier loved the military, said his sister, Carolyn Pfaus. His long military career began in 1975 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from Wuerzburg High School in Germany. In 1978, he joined the U.S. Navy and then the Arkansas Army National Guard in 1999. His wife, Rocky, said, "The military was his whole life."

Yet to Sgt. Collier, who also worked full-time at night at Tyson Foods in Green Forest, the most important aspect of his life was his family. He had sent his 9-year-old son, Hunter, an Army action figure for his birthday last July from Iraq.

Sgt. Collier is survived by his wife, Rocky, and their son, Hunter, both of Harrison; two adult children, Mary Virginia and Wayne, who both live in North Carolina; and sister, Carolyn Pfaus, of Conway. His family and friends will remember a man dedicated to his family and the military, and we will remember a man who died a hero. Our prayers and gratitude go out to his family for the great service that Sgt. Collier rendered to our Nation.

SERGEANT THOMAS C. ROSENBAUM

Mr. President. I am honored to rise today in tribute to the life of Sergeant Thomas Chad Rosenbaum. Above all, Sgt. Rosenbaum was a beloved son, brother, friend and father. He was also one of the brave souls valiantly serving our Nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Tragically, he was killed on September 18, 2004, when his convoy came under attack while moving through Baghdad.

Sgt. Rosenbaum was born in the small town of Prescott, AR, and grew up in nearby Hope. He spent his youth, as many children do, participating in athletics and various extracurricular activities, playing pranks with his friends and collecting small turtles from the banks of nearby rivers with his parents and his brother. Today, he is remembered by his family and loved

ones as an outgoing, fun-loving, and fearless young man who loved God, his family and his country. This love of country motivated him to enlist in the U.S. Army during his senior year of high school. He was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas, and was deployed to Iraq in March.

In Iraq, Sgt. Rosenbaum served as a chemical specialist who also helped train Iraqi security forces in the use of firearms. Although he was originally scheduled to depart Iraq in May, his duty was extended until December. Weeks before his death, Sgt. Rosenbaum had the opportunity to return home on leave for 15 days to spend with his friends and family. Most of this time was spent with the person he called "the love of his life," his 4 year-old son, Ty. Father and son would return to those same Caddo River banks he had known as a child and together they searched for small turtles. Today, Ty still has one of those turtles, whom he has named "Milkshake," and whom he has kept as a reminder of the time spent with his father.

The loss of Thomas Rosenbaum is a tragic and sobering reminder of the terrible human sacrifice that war brings, and I am eternally grateful for his service to our Nation. Although he may no longer be with us, his spirit and his legacy lives on in each of us through the examples he set and the many lives he touched. My thoughts and prayers are with his son, Ty, his parents, Jackie and Donna, and the rest of his family, friends, and loved ones.

SERGEANT RONALD W. BAKER

Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of Sergeant Ronald W. Baker and to honor his sacrifice on behalf of a grateful Nation. Sgt. Baker was a loving man who cared deeply for his family and his friends. He was also a native Arkansan who cared deeply for his state and his country. Today, he is remembered as a devoted husband, father, brother, son, and friend. He is also remembered as a brave soldier who died a hero.

Sgt. Baker was born in the small Arkansas town of Searcy and later moved with his family to nearby Cabot. Wherever he went, Sgt. Baker quickly made friends and those who knew him best often talked of how his personality always seemed to draw others to him. His strong sense of family and community is what contributed to his decision to enlist in the Arkansas Army National Guard a month after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. He served as a member of the Guard's 39th Support Battalion based out of Lonoke and was later called up to serve as a specialist in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Along with many of his comrades in the 39th, he was stationed at Camp Taji, about 16 miles northwest of downtown Baghdad.

On October 7, Sgt. Baker volunteered for a supply mission that would convoy

from Camp Taji to another camp nearby. While en route, a roadside bomb concealed in a parked car exploded as the convoy rode by with Sgt. Baker in the gunner's turret of a humvee. As a result of the blast, he sustained serious injuries and was immediately flown to Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany. Sgt. Baker's wife, Joanne, and his father, Wayne, were quickly flown in from Arkansas so they could be there to share in his last few moments. Although Sgt. Baker was never baptized, he had previously told his wife that he wanted to leave the world as a Christian. Before he passed away on October 13, Joanne would watch as an Air National Guard Chaplain baptized her husband and, in her words, permitted him to pass into a better place.

The day of his funeral was proclaimed as "Sergeant Ronald Baker Day" in his hometown. Those en route to his memorial ceremony at the Arkansas Veterans' Cemetery in North Little Rock drove under an arch made of ladders over the highway that hung a large American flag. It was a touching and fitting tribute, created by the Sherwood Fire Department, to honor one of Arkansas' fallen who paid the ultimate sacrifice in order to make those around him safer.

Along with a grateful Nation, my thoughts and prayers go out to Joanne; their 7-year-old daughter, Alexis; Harold and his mother Carolyn; his brother and sister; and to the rest of his family, friends and loved ones. Although Ronald Baker may no longer be with us, the lasting relationships he formed and the principles he fought for live on in all of us.

AIRMAN JESSE M. SAMEK

Mr. President, today, I am honored to rise in tribute to the life of Jesse M. Samek and am humbled to pay tribute to his service to our Nation.

Friends and family would remember Airman Samek for living a life of fun and happiness. While growing up in Missouri and Arkansas, he spent much of his time, as most children do, hanging out with his friends and playing sports. He also had a great love of the outdoors and enjoyed camping, hiking, hunting, fishing and snow- and water-skiing with friends and family. He would go on to graduate from Rogers High School in 2001 and attended the University of Arkansas.

It was clear to those who knew Airman Samek that he would succeed regardless of whatever path in life he chose to follow. He decided that path would ultimately be service to his country and he joined the United States Air Force in February of 2003. He was assigned to the 66th Rescue Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, just outside of Las Vegas, and was deployed to Afghanistan in September.

While serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, Airman Samek never lost his perspective on life and was proud to do his part to bring security and freedom to a Nation that had seen nothing but

war and instability. His family later said that he worked for months to become a member of an elite group that qualified him for rescue duty as a flight engineer on an HH-60 Para Rescue helicopter. Tragically, he died on October 21 from injuries he received when his helicopter crashed during a medical evacuation mission in northwestern Afghanistan. The aircraft was carrying a wounded Afghan election worker who was being transported for medical treatment and Airman Samek was treating him when the aircraft went down.

David Dezarov would make the final trip home with his friend's body. "The hardest thing I've ever had to do was spend the last four days with him and not saying a word." On that flight from Atlanta to Tulsa, the pilot of the plane circled above Rogers for 10 minutes in tribute to that community's fallen hero. During the burial ceremony at Bella Vista Memorial Cemetery, Airman Samek's fellow Airmen would pay their last respects by flying over his casket in the same type of helicopter he once flew so proudly.

My thoughts and prayers are with his parents, Gavin and Julie; his brother, Benjamin; his grandparents, David and Jenny Burkemper; and the rest of his family and friends. Although he is no longer with us, may we find solace in the many lives he touched and the sacrifice he made on behalf of a grateful Nation. In the words of his mother, Jesse Samek was a hero; not for what he did, but for who he was.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOLDIERS OF THE 66TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I join with my constituents in recognizing the brave men of the 66th Infantry Division.

Sixty years ago on November 15, 1944, the soldiers left from New York Harbor on the USAT *George Washington* without knowledge of their destination. It turned out the USAT *George Washington* brought the soldiers to England, where they were stationed at Southampton Harbor until Christmas Eve 1944.

On Dec. 16, 1944, the Nazis launched a desperate offensive in Belgium intended to split the Allied Forces. The fierce struggle became known as "The Battle of the Bulge." As part of the allied response to this threat, on Christmas Eve 1944 over 2,000 American soldiers of the 66th Infantry Division stationed in England were rushed to Southampton, where they boarded the troopship SS *Leopoldville*. The troops were then transported across the English Channel, but just 5½ miles from their destination, Cherbourg, France, the vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine U-486.

Some of the soldiers were killed instantly, some went down with the ship, some safely jumped from the ship's rail to the rescue craft that pulled alongside, while others missed the jump,