

Third, and what I am most excited about, those seniors who really need it the most and who simply can't afford prescription drugs will get a value on this card in addition to the 17-percent discount of \$600 for the remainder of this year, and another \$600 for next year. Thus, over the next 18 months they will get \$1,200 in value, like a voucher, to purchase prescription drugs.

Again, that is a huge benefit for the millions of seniors who qualify for this low-income benefit as well. There are about 4 million low-income seniors whose incomes do not exceed the \$12,500 level for individuals and about the \$16,800 level for couples and who can have this direct and immediate benefit with this card.

I am very excited about the fact that these cards are available. They are available today. You can call the 800 Medicare number or go on the Medicare Web site to get more information.

With that, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 12:30 p.m., with the time equally divided between the majority leader, or his designee, and the Democratic leader, or his designee.

Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Colorado.

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, my wife and I, during the Memorial Day break, had a wonderful, patriotic week. It is always good to get back to the regular schedule. We started out visiting Fort Carson just south of Colorado Springs, CO, and had an opportunity to welcome home the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment of Fort Carson, the Mountain Post.

Having done that, we met with a number of constituents after flying back to Washington, DC, to meet with hundreds of Coloradans who decided to come to Washington, DC, to celebrate the Memorial Day weekend here and to celebrate the opening of the World War II Memorial, which was a long time in coming.

It was a great time. My wife and I were both caught up in the enthusiasm of both generations—the current generation fighting for freedom and security in Iraq, and the past generation, the World War II generation who fought and literally changed the world because of their efforts, dedication, and heroism during World War II. We were caught up in the enthusiasm of the

World War II generation and found ourselves dancing to music of that era, having a wonderful time, meeting many wonderful Coloradans who were obviously excited about the fact they could come to Washington, DC, and celebrate the opening of the World War II Memorial.

THE 3RD ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

I rise today to commend the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment for its long history of service to our Nation and for its more recent heroic accomplishments in Iraq.

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend a welcome home ceremony for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, CO. Unlike most welcome home ceremonies, this one was steeped in tradition.

Few units in the U.S. Army can claim as distinguished history as the 3rd Armored Cavalry. And, even fewer have had so many of its soldiers awarded medals for valor on the battlefield.

The 3rd Armored Cavalry's service to our country did not begin in Iraq, or during World II. Indeed, not even in the past century. Rather, it began on May 19, 1846, by an Act of the 29th Congress of the United States. On that date, Congress authorized the creation of a regiment of mounted riflemen for the purpose of establishing military stations on the route to Oregon. Unbeknownst to Congress, this regiment would go far beyond this limited mission in its service to our country.

A year after its creation, in 1847, the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, then called the Mounted Riflemen, was sent into battle in the Mexican-American War. Leading the assault on the fortress of Chapultepec, a key citadel outside Mexico City, Mounted Riflemen charged through heavy cannon fire to seize the castle and capture an enemy artillery battery.

Later in the war, the Mounted Riflemen were sent to capture another enemy artillery battery halfway to the Belen Gate outside Mexico City, and then on to capture a third battery in the assault on the gate itself. It was extraordinarily successful in all three assaults.

General Winfield Scott, the Commander of U.S. forces during the Mexican War, was so impressed with the bravery and toughness of the Mounted Riflemen that he gave this commendation:

Brave Rifles, veterans—you have been baptized in fire and blood and come out with steel. Where bloody work was to be done, "the Rifles" was the cry, and there they were. All speak of them in terms of praise and admiration. What can I say? What shall I say? Language cannot express my feelings of gratitude for your gallant conduct in this terrible conflict . . .

Due to the bravery of their service, 11 troopers were commissioned from the enlisted ranks and 19 officers received brevet promotions for gallantry in action.

At the time of the start of the Civil War, the First Regiment of Mounted

Riflemen was redesignated as the 3rd U.S. Cavalry Regiment. During the war, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment fought at the battle of Chattanooga, and in minor battles in New Mexico, Alabama, Tennessee, and Arkansas. During the campaign in New Mexico, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment fought alongside the 1st Colorado Infantry Regiment, and Colonel "Kit" Carson, who commanded the 1st New Mexico Infantry Regiment.

Following the Civil War, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment was sent to the American West to the fight in the Indian Wars. The experiences of the Indian Wars were traumatic and brutal for the troopers of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, but they continued on. During the largest battle of the Indian Wars, the Regiment again distinguished itself. Four 3rd Cavalry troopers received the Medal of Honor for their heroism during the battle.

In 1898, the regiment's mettle was again tested in the Spanish-American War. The 3rd Cavalry regiment, along with five other regular U.S. Cavalry regiments, was given the nearly impossible mission of assaulting the hills surrounding San Juan in Cuba. In the dismounted attack, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment's U.S. Flag was the first to be raised on the point of victory.

With the turn of the century, armies began to turn to mechanized warfare. It was not until World War II, however, that the 3rd Cavalry Regiment was reorganized and redesignated as the 3rd Armored Group and sent to the European theater.

The troopers of the 3rd Cavalry group became the spearhead of General Patton's drive across German-held France. In fact, because this unit was everywhere and nowhere at the same time, it was nicknamed the "Ghosts" by the Germans. And, on November 17, 1944, the 3rd Cavalry Group became the first element of Patton's army to enter Germany.

At the war's end, the unit received high praise from its commanding general. General Patton commented with these words:

The 3rd Cavalry has lived up to the accolade bestowed upon it at Chapultepec by General Scott. As horse cavalry you were outstanding; I have never seen a better regiment. To your performance as mechanized cavalry, the same applies. It is a distinct honor to have commanded an army in which the 3rd Cavalry served.

During the Persian Gulf war in 1991, the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment again distinguished itself on the field of battle. On February 22, 1991, the Regiment led the U.S. forces across the Iraqi border. One hundred hours later, the regiment had moved over 300 kilometers north and left the remnants of three Iraqi Republican Guard divisions in its wake.

The purpose of reviewing the storied past of one of Army's most famed units is for each of us to understand just how important it was to these troopers that they live up to the unit's reputation in battle during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Unlike past conflicts, Operation Iraqi Freedom was, for the 3rd Armored Cavalry, a battle of a different kind. It was for the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. It was securing the peace and preventing terrorist attacks. It was for rebuilding a nation devastated by war, brutality, and corruption.

The regiment was responsible for controlling about a third of Iraq, including the hostile cities of Ramadi and Fallujah and Iraq's western borders with Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria. Yet, the troopers performed their mission with excellence. They were determined in the face of opposition. They overcame unforeseen challenges. They worked as never before.

They also cared deeply about the Iraqi people. In one case, the regiment helped three rural villages in rebuilding their decimated communities. The troopers worked alongside families repaired and reconstructed facilities damaged and neglected for 30 years under the former regime. Schools, medical clinics and houses were rebuilt so that children could return to school and health care could be provided to all.

In other cities, troopers from the regiment helped build sewer and water projects, rebuild schools, and provide clothes, blankets, and food to needy adults and children.

These are only a few examples of the outstanding work these troopers did in Iraq. And, now, as these troopers reflect upon their service, they can say with pride that they accomplished their mission and made a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people.

However, their service did not come without a high cost.

PFC Armando Soriano joined the Army so that he could help his parents, who had immigrated to the United States in the 1980s. His goal was to save enough money to buy his parents and his four siblings a house.

Yet, it was his love for his comrades that made him stand out, and as a result, he became one of the best young soldiers in the 3rd Armored Cavalry. At 5 feet 6 inches, PFC Soriano weighed barely more than the 100-pound artillery shells he hefted as part of his job driving a 155 mm cannon through Iraq.

But that didn't stop him. He was faster than any of his comrades in lifting these huge shells.

He was known in the unit as a soldier who would do anything for his fellow troopers. He was always positive and kept everyone going despite the tough conditions. His fellow soldiers described him as "simply the best."

Sadly, PFC Armando Soriano died on February 2, 2004, in a truck accident in Iraq.

SP Brian Penisten, one of the unit's best mechanics, loved fishing, fixing cars and woodworking. He was a devoted family man with a 4-year old son. And, he was proud that he got to wear the uniform of the United States Army.

"He could make us look forward to doing our jobs every day," according to

one of his fellow soldiers. "He would be the one to make us shine and laugh and cry and everything else."

"He was always doing something to make things better," said another.

SP Brian Penisten was headed home for his wedding to his longtime girlfriend when his transport helicopter was shot down on November 2 by a guerrilla missile near the city of Fallujah.

He was buried on the day he was supposed to be married.

These are only two stories of the 49 soldiers from Colorado who have died while serving our Nation in Iraq. And, another 233 were wounded.

Despite the high cost, the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment embraced their mission and worked each and every day to better the lives of the Iraqi people.

Troopers like SFC Dean Lockhart have continued to demonstrate a devotion to the Army and our country despite the high price he has had to pay.

On July 23, Sergeant Lockhart was manning his Humvee machine gun when a roadside bomb demolished his Humvee. Shrapnel from the bomb pierced his back, shattering his pelvis and leg. After numerous surgeries and endless days of pain, Sergeant Lockhart is back in Colorado recovering from his injuries.

Despite the physical and psychological toll, Sergeant Lockhart has not given up. He still wants to spend 7 more years in the Army and he still believes in the U.S. mission in Iraq. He doesn't blame anyone for his injuries and has no regrets. If his unit was back in Iraq, he would return in a moment's notice.

Mr. President, I cannot begin to express to you and to the rest of my colleagues how thankful I am for the service these brave men and women from the 3rd Armored Cavalry have given to our country. Over 400 of these troopers earned medals of valor, including 200 Purple Hearts. They sacrificed much, but they never gave up. They accomplished their mission, fought with dignity and honor, and continued the heroic legacy of the 3rd Armored Cavalry.

Last week, I watched in amazement as the troopers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment were told that they had both literally and figuratively earned their spurs. Each of them are now allowed to wear those spurs in public in recognition of the unit's historic past and more, importantly, in appreciation for the unit's heroic service to our country in Iraq.

Mr. President, these are fine troopers who deserve our honor, our praise, and our admiration. I commend the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment for its service to our Nation, and I and the rest of the State of Colorado welcome them home.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time consumed during the previous quorum call be divided between the two sides; provided further that the time spent in additional quorum calls during this period of morning business be equally divided, as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I express a deep sense of gratitude to all those involved in this magnificent recognition of those who served in World War II, not only the 16 million men and women in uniform, but the homefront by ten times that number. Every American was involved.

This weekend was magnificent. I was privileged to have a very modest role in this event with Senator Dole and many others, joining in the feature of the weekend, the afternoon, 2 to approximately 3:30, when on The Mall over 150,000 individuals gathered to pay their respects to what is referred to as "the greatest generation" and hear from those who had taken a leading role, including Senator Dole, the American Battle Monuments Commission under the former commandant of the Marine Corps, Fred Smith, who was a key part of the team that raised the money, and, of course, we were fortunate the President of the United States came and addressed not only the crowd, not only our Nation, but addressed the world as a reminder of the human sacrifice all over the globe as a consequence of that struggle for the preservation of freedom.

Of course, we all remember the United States involvement started on December 7, 1941, with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Prior thereto, the Nazi armies had marched into Poland in late 1939, and the war in Europe was well underway. Then on September 2, 1945, the Japanese signed the official surrender aboard the Missouri in Tokyo Bay, and prior thereto, May 8 or 9, or a little later, the formal recognition of the surrender of the German forces.

So the great war to end all wars, as it was referred—as was also referred in World War I—had come to an end, with 16 million uniformed, over 400,000 of whom died, and triple that number bearing the wounds of that war.

It is interesting how this all started. On May 25, 1993, nearly 48 years after the end of the war, Public Law 103-32 was signed, authorizing the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a World War II memorial in Washington, DC, or its environs to honor the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of those people. And 11 years have followed after that fundraising, design, selection, and debate.