

pretty affirmative and tolerant society—not that there are not people who aren't tolerant, not there are not people who do and say hurtful things.

By and large, we have come a long way in our society. I think it is a good thing we have become tolerant of people. Tolerance does not mean we need to change a fundamental institution that provides healthy environments for children and destroys the chance for children to have the ideal or make it a lot less likely.

I think if you look at Netherlands, Scandinavia, and look at numbers in Canada and other places, it has an impact.

I keep coming back to the fundamental right. The hour is late. I apologize to all folks who had to stay here late at night. The morning will come early.

I keep sitting here and wondering why. Why does a body of people, No. 1, profess publicly to believe that marriage should only be a union between a man and a woman and that this body believes it overwhelmingly; and, No. 2, knows that at least this issue is under contest and in dispute. There is no question about that. One State has changed the law.

To suggest this is not a threat simply is not true. It is obviously under threat. It has been changed in one rather large State.

There are cases in 11 other States, 2 cases challenging the Federal law, and in 46 States there are same-sex couples who are married from Massachusetts or one of the other States that have married people. Are all potential litigants.

Number one we believe marriage is between a man and a woman. We know that institution is under assault. We know that it is a public good and that we are for it. We know that it serves a useful purpose. Then why won't we do something to protect it?

We go down this logical train and we say, yes, all those things are true, but we can wait. Why? What is the point? Why wait? What is going to happen? Things will get worse. Certainly that will happen. Things get worse and then you feel you had the public support necessary to vote. Is that what this is about, getting the public support necessary to do this? Or do we really believe the States can handle it? Are we willing to take that risk? What is the risk if the courts do turn over more and more? We can come back and fix it later. I know a lot of people know this unspoken thing: Time is not on our side.

The culture of what is educating our children at our university, what is polluting our children's mind from Hollywood, what is coming through the mainstream media is not a message in support of traditional marriage.

Let's be honest. Does anybody question that the messages from those places where our children are getting the messages from the popular culture, from the educational establishment, is it all affirming of the traditional defi-

nition of marriage? One only needs to look at the polls of young people to know that is simply not the case.

This is simply a timebomb. If we do not bring America's focus and attention on what marriage is and why it is important, and that it should be sustained, we will lose.

Many have criticized me and Senator FRIST and others for bringing this up, saying it is premature, saying we are picking a fight for politics or whatever. Let me assure you, if I thought it was not in the best interest of protecting the American people, I would not be here. If I did not think this was critical to the future of America, I would not be here at 10 o'clock at night when I should be home tucking my kids in bed. As Members know, I try to spend time with my kids. There is nothing more important, nothing more important than my kids and my wife, my family. That is why I am here, because there is nothing more important than my family.

I hope tomorrow we get a big surprise. I always believe in that. I remember being here a few years ago and debating the issue of partial-birth abortion, about this hour of the night, trying to override the President's veto in 1996 and then again in 1998. I remember staying up late the night before the vote, saying we are just a couple votes short; maybe if we go out and give it one last good try, we will win. And we didn't.

Do you know what I found? I say to the Senator from Colorado, nobody is more constant, nobody, who I would rather see in the foxhole next to me than the Senator from Colorado. If you looked over there, he would be there. The Senator from Alabama, I say the same to him. These are stalwarts, folks who are not afraid to engage in cultural wars that are not fun to engage in because a lot of people say a lot of bad things about you.

What I say to these Members and anyone listening, losing the vote does not necessarily mean losing the issue. We had a lot of losses on the issue of partial-birth abortion. I can say without fear of hesitation it was the greatest gift that God gave us, because it gave us an opportunity to talk to the American people about this scourge on our Nation. If the President signed this innocuous bill the first time in 1996, signed it and had a bill-signing ceremony, probably it would have been filed, no one would have known, hearts and minds would not have been touched.

I believe our plan is not necessarily the best plan. Victory can come from defeat. In this case, the victory over the last 3 days, thanks to the work of these two fine Members and so many others who have come to the Senate to debate this issue, is an America that is waking up to something that we have forgotten about.

I liken the institution of marriage to oxygen in the air. The human body needs oxygen to survive. Yet we take it

for granted as we just breathe. And America as a society needs marriage and families to survive. Yet we take marriage and families for granted as if it will always be. We do a lot to keep good, healthy oxygen to breathe. We do very little to keep families protected, sheltered, and supported.

Just as it is with oxygen, as you climb those high altitudes in Colorado, you find out when there is less and less oxygen, the body does not function quite as well. So it is with marriage. When there is less and less marriage, the body does not function quite as well. When you are climbing that mountain, and many people for years did not know what it was when they went up to the altitudes that they could not perform as well, and, for America, we are climbing that mountain and we are just wondering, Why aren't we doing as well?

This is an opportunity to educate America as to the need for marriage, the need for families, not in a hostile way, not in a negative way. I don't think I have heard a negative word on the floor of the Senate about anybody or anything. We simply have talked about why families and marriage is necessary for America and why children need moms and dads.

It is almost remarkable, but I suspect this is maybe the first real debate about family and marriage in the Senate. I guess in the Defense of Marriage Act we talked, maybe not. But it is a reminder to all how the things that sometimes we take most for granted are things that make us function as a society.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the willingness to stay to this late hour and engage in this very important debate. I hope tomorrow, whatever happens, I don't know what will happen, that it turns out for the best interests of America's families. I always hope that no matter what we do and how the votes come, that somehow or other it will all work out for the best for America. I believe that. And I ask for the American public to pray for that.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue. We would not be where we are today if it were not for his dedication and hard work. I also thank the Senator from Alabama for his help and dedication on this very important issue. I personally thank each of you.

But I think when it is all over with—whether it is this year or next year or the year after that—a majority of the people in America are going to thank you for the work you have done to save the American family.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes.

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

#### SIERRA NEVADA JOB CORPS CENTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Sierra Nevada Job Corps Center on its 25th Anniversary.

Since its beginning in 1979, the Sierra Nevada Job Corps Center has provided 16- to 24-year-old men and women with the tools they need to become skilled workers and successful citizens.

Under contract to the Department of Labor, the Sierra Nevada Center continuously trains 560 young adults in residential and non-residential programs. It helps them attain high school diplomas and general equivalency degrees, and provides counseling and 15 different vocational training courses.

These programs not only teach the basic reading and mathematics skills that are crucial for a successful career, they also instill the positive work ethic and good work habits that are equally important to success.

Thanks to the Sierra Nevada Job Corps, more than 20,000 men and women have become productive, employed citizens. By offering an alternative to welfare and unemployment, the center not only provides a long-lasting benefit to its students, but also to the entire State of Nevada.

This organization has been an inspiration to thousands of underprivileged Nevadans, giving them the motivation and confidence to pursue opportunities that would have otherwise been beyond their reach.

Please join me in congratulating director Kenneth C. Dugan, his staff and the thousands of graduates of the Sierra Nevada Job Corps on this program's 25th anniversary.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LINDA TARANGO-GRIESS

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I express my sympathy over the loss of Linda Tarango-Griess of Sutton, NE, a Sergeant First Class in the Nebraska Army National Guard. SFC Tarango-Griess was killed on July 11, 2004 near the city of Samarra in Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded near her convoy. She was 33 years old.

SFC Tarango-Griess was originally from North Platte and graduated from Kearney High School. She was a full-time soldier for 14 years in the Nebraska Army National Guard and was deployed to Iraq in February of this year. Tarango-Griess was assigned to the 267th Ordnance Company based in Lincoln and was responsible for direct support maintenance for coalition forces in the region, including the installation of additional armor protection on military Humvee vehicles to make them safer. Tarango-Griess was one of thousands of brave American service women and men serving in Iraq.

SFC Tarango-Griess is survived by her parents, Augustin and Juanita

Tarango of North Platte; and husband, SSGT Douglas Griess, of Sutton. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of Linda Tarango-Griess' service and mourns her loss.

For her service, bravery, and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SFC Tarango-Griess.

SERGEANT JEREMY FISCHER

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I express my sympathy over the loss of Jeremy Fischer of Lincoln, NE, a Sergeant in the Nebraska Army National Guard. SGT Fischer was killed on July 11, 2004 near the city of Samarra in Iraq when a roadside bomb exploded near his convoy. He was 26 years old.

SGT Fischer will be remembered as a hard-working, positive individual. He joined the Nebraska Army National Guard in 1999 and was deployed to Iraq in February of this year. He was assigned to the 267th Ordnance Company based in Lincoln and was responsible for direct support maintenance for coalition forces in the region, including the installation of additional armor protection on military Humvee vehicles to make them safer. Fischer was one of thousands of brave American service men and women serving in Iraq.

SGT Fischer is survived by his parents, James Fischer of Hastings and Kathy Fischer of Lincoln; and wife of nearly 8 months, Sarah Fischer, of Lincoln. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of Jeremy Fischer's service and mourns his loss.

For his service, bravery, and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SGT Jeremy Fischer.

SERGEANT ROBERT E. COLVILL, JR.

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 Anderson, IN. Sgt. Robert E. Colvill, 31 years old, died on July 8 in Samarra, Iraq when the building he was in came under attack. With his entire life before him, Rob chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Rob graduated from Madison Heights High School in 1991 and joined the Marines shortly thereafter, following a long family tradition of military service. Rob dedicated 8 years of his life to active duty before retiring from the Marines. According to family and friends, it did not take long for Rob to realize that civilian life was not for him. After one year, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. This past spring, Rob was deployed to Iraq, where he bravely fought for 4 months before sacrificing his life for the worthy cause of freedom. Robert Colvill Sr. told the Anderson Herald-Bulletin that his son, Rob, "was

doing what he wanted to do and did his best. He was trained for this. It was his calling."

Rob was the thirtieth Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This brave young soldier leaves behind his father, Robert; his wife, Chris; his two sons, Travis and Zachary; and his stepdaughter, Suzanne. May Rob's children grow up knowing that their father gave his life so that young Iraqis will some day know the freedom they enjoy.

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

Rob was known for his dedicated spirit and his love of country. When looking back on the life of this late student and former athlete, Madison Heights High School Track Coach John McCord, told the Anderson Herald-Bulletin, "He was the kind of kid you liked to have on any team. He always gave his best effort. He always practiced and trained hard and competed to the best of his abilities." Today and always, Rob 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 Rob'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 Rob's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Robert E. Colvill in the official record of the U.S. 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 Rob'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 Rob.