

several of those years, the Rev. Rush pastored Lily Grove Baptist Church, an African-American church in Clay County, at the same time.

"There was no color barrier with him. He was color blind," Taylor said. "He helped them build a new church. He did a lot of the work himself with his two hands. . . . They loved him and he did them."

At one time, the Rev. Rush was a member of the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Whenever decisions were to be made within our association, one of the questions always asked was 'What does Brother Rush think about it?'" said Roy Faulkner, director of missions for the Laurel River Baptist Association.

"He's an icon in Kentucky among Baptists."

For decades, Rev. Rush was Oneida Baptist Institute's biggest cheerleader, said Kay Underwood, administrative coordinator at the school and wife of the school's president, W.F. Underwood.

For several years, the Rev. Rush, who had been a longtime chairman of the school's board, hauled groceries donated by an area wholesale grocer to the Clay County school for the students, faculty and staff members. He bought a truck just for that purpose.

"He has really been a wonderful ambassador for Oneida," Kay Underwood said. "One of our buildings is named after him and his wife, Juanita."

The minister, Underwood said, wasn't a wealthy man who could give a lot of money to the school, which has more than 300 students in grades six through 12, but he was a major influence on others who could.

"One of the tender things to me . . . he had a heart for children. He loved anything a child did. . . . This was a man who was a preacher, a man of God who was busy, busy, busy, but he was never too busy for a little child. I think that's why he had such a heart for Oneida," she said.

For the past five years, the Rev. Rush was the mission's teacher and coordinator at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp outside Corbin.

When he was at the camp, "it was sort of like the Pied Piper, with kids following him all over the campus," Faulkner said.

CLEAR CREEK SCHOLARSHIPS

There is a scholarship at Clear Creek Bible College in Bell County named for the Rev. Rush, who studied there. Money for the scholarship was contributed by people whose lives he touched.

The Rev. Rush influenced many young preachers, Taylor said.

WORLDWIDE REVIVALIST

Over the years, the Rev. Rush held revivals not only in North America, but in Africa, Asia and South America.

Taylor recalled one mission trip to Brazil that the Rev. Rush took. While there, he gave witness to an elderly man on his front porch. A teenage girl inside the house told the Rev. Rush through an interpreter that she needed his help when he finished with the old man.

"She said, 'I'm 16 years old and I've got AIDS and I'm dying.' He taught her how to become a Christian," Taylor said.

"He had more understanding. He knew how to talk to people," Taylor said.

"His heart was in missions. . . . He told me just a week or so ago that if he had one thing he could do again was he'd like to go back and preach in Kenya one more time," Faulkner said.

The Rev. Rush preached for the last time Sunday. He preached twice that day. He was to have preached at a funeral today, having agreed to do so less than a couple of hours before he died. After he found out he didn't

have long to live, he held a revival and officiated at several funerals and weddings.

The Rev. Rush is survived by his wife, Juanita Rudder Rush; a daughter, Joyce Rush Woods of Manchester; four sisters; a brother; four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LANDON GILES

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President. I rise today to honor the life of Landon S. Giles. Private First Class Giles was a passionate and free-spirited young man who lived his life with an admirable sense of adventure and courage. He was also a brave soldier who proudly and honorably served his Nation in uniform. In doing so, he gave his life while improving the lives of those he saw as less fortunate while helping to bring freedom and hope to a land that has known only oppression and fear. The way he lived his life is a testament to the kind of person he was. The State of Arkansas and our Nation will mourn his loss but will remain forever grateful of the service he rendered on behalf of us all.

PFC Giles was born and raised in the southwestern Arkansas town of Arkadelphia. From an early age, his sense of adventure and his athleticism would contribute to the way he spent his childhood. If he wasn't playing golf, football or baseball, he was most likely hiking or on a hunting trip with friends and family. Above all, PFC Giles loved to travel, where he could experience foreign cultures, see new places and meet new people. His father's job required an extensive amount of travel overseas and it allowed him the opportunity to do just that.

Through travels with his father, PFC Giles had the opportunity to see much of the world. When he was just 12, he became a certified scuba diver while diving at Sipadan, an island off the coast of Malaysia. Additionally, he would go on to experience memorable journeys such as climbing volcanoes in the South Pacific, deep-sea fishing off the coast of Australia, surfing in Hawaii, and riding an elephant through parts of Thailand. It was a rare privilege of which he took full advantage. It was an adventure that required courage and imagination and he loved every minute of it. Such was his life.

Wherever that life took him, his friendly personality and outgoing nature provided him with a natural gift for making friends quickly and easily. At the same time, his work ethic, dedication, and discipline earned him the respect of his teachers and coaches. Throughout his time at Arkadelphia High School, PFC Giles would call upon these traits when he spoke of entering the military. Shortly before his graduation, he joined the United States Army through their delayed-entry program. Since he had not yet reached the age of 18, he asked his mother, Kim, to fill out the necessary paperwork. Al-

though she disapproved of his decision, she also saw how determined and passionate he felt about it and ultimately complied.

A month after his graduation last May, PFC Giles entered the Army as an indirect fire infantryman, assigned to the Army's 3rd Infantry based in Fort Stewart, GA. The day he was deployed to the Middle East for Operation Iraqi Freedom, his sister, Jennifer, told him she didn't want him to go to war. In a gesture befitting of who he was, he replied simply "it's better I go and not come home than someone with a wife and children." In Iraq, his courage was surpassed only by his selflessness. He often spoke of his heartfelt belief that the Iraqis were being treated unjustly and had no one to fight for their rights. He became a champion of this cause and while proudly serving his country, was also proud to help the people of Iraq in their fight for freedom. Tragically, after serving in Iraq for only a few weeks, he was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol on February 26.

Back in the community he called home, countless friends and neighbors, as well as strangers who simply wanted to pay their respects, lined the procession to his burial service. Many held small American flags in their hands, others simply held their hands over their heart. The community's outpouring of grief was tempered only by its outpouring of appreciation. Their fallen hero had returned home and it was readily apparent that his sacrifice would not soon be forgotten.

Landon Giles was an inspiration, not only because of the way he lived his life, but because of who he was. He was a loving son, brother, and friend, and he was also a hero. Although his time with us was way too short, his legacy will forever live on in the example he set and the many lives he touched. In the words of his mother Kim, "I want him to be remembered as a strong, brave, compassionate person who put his life on the line to defend our country and help those less fortunate than us."

My thoughts and prayers go out to all those who knew and loved this special young man.

CO-SPONSORSHIP CHANGE S. 379

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr President, today I rise to ask for a clarification in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from yesterday, dated March 15, 2004. The RECORD mistakenly reported that I was to be added as a cosponsor of S. 379, the Firearm Manufacturers Protection Act. Apparently, my name was typed into the RECORD instead of that of Senator MITCH MCCONNELL who had requested to be added as a cosponsor of that bill. I wanted the RECORD to reflect that I never requested to be added to the bill. As I hope my record reflects, I have been a strong opponent of the gun immunity bill because it puts one industry's bottomline ahead of the families

and victims of gun violence. I opposed this bill and will continue to oppose it because it slams closed the courthouse door to those seeking justice for victims of gun violence, such as the victims of the horrific sniper who terrorized the citizens of DC, Maryland, and Virginia just a short time ago.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I was necessarily absent for the vote on the Byrd amendment offered to S. Con. Res. 118 on Wednesday, March 16, 2005. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted in favor of the amendment.

COLONEL PETE BUNCE, USAF

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to Colonel Pete Bunce of the United States Air Force. Over the past few years, he has earned my personal thanks many times over for a job well done.

Many of us in the Senate know Colonel Bunce, who for the last 3 years has served as liaison to the both the Budget and Appropriations Committees. He has been a strong advocate for the Air Force and has worked tirelessly to improve communications between the Air Force and the Senate.

Colonel Bunce has been a good friend to the State of North Dakota and to this Senator. He has provided important assistance to me in organizing many meetings with the top leadership of the Air Force and the Department of Defense. Community leaders from the three North Dakota communities with the closest ties to the Air Force—Fargo, Grand Forks, and Minot—have all been able to join me for high-level Pentagon visits thanks to his help. He and his staff have also always been tremendously helpful in the Budget Committee's deliberations on national defense spending.

His professional advice helped me better understand the costs and sacrifices made by our military personnel during this war. I know many of my colleagues feel the same way. His personal testimony as the parent of a troop in harm's way was even more valuable. Pete's son, Justin, came home wounded from Iraq. Just as he was recovering from that injury, he was in a serious car accident. I want Pete to know that he, Justin, and the entire Bunce family are in my thoughts and prayers.

While I have relied on Colonel Bunce's military advice, I have valued his friendship even more. Pete, as you enter into a well deserved retirement, please know that you go with the best wishes of this Senator and all of us in the Senate.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate

crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

Last February, a 37-year-old gay man was brutally murdered because of his sexual orientation. The attacker allegedly poured gasoline over the victim and set him on fire while he slept. The police are investigating the incident as a hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

CELEBRATING IDAHO HEROES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Ms. Tina Taysom and Mr. Greg Cannell of American Falls, ID, for their heroic actions in saving the life of a rural mail carrier who skidded off a winding mountain road and into a nearby river in Idaho.

On December 1, 2003, Ron Meadville, a rural mail carrier, was returning from his 110-mile route along the remote North Fork road northwest of Salmon, ID. Friends Tina Taysom and Greg Cannell were traveling ahead of Meadville on the same road. They pulled over to look at some deer, and Meadville passed them. When they pulled back on the road and rounded a bend, they couldn't see the mail truck but saw a set of skid marks that veered off the road, toward the near-frozen river. Meadville had hit a patch of ice that sent his truck hurtling over the 25-foot embankment to land upside down in the Salmon River, in more than 5 feet of 33-degree water.

Greg Cannell and Tina Taysom acted immediately. They stopped their truck, jumped out, slid down the steep embankment, and plunged into the river. After several strenuous attempts, they were able to pull open the truck door, grab Meadville's hand, and pull him out through an opening between the seat and the doorjamb. By this time, Meadville was experiencing hypothermia. Taysom and Cannell pulled Meadville up the embankment to their vehicle. Meadville managed to tell them he lived about a mile away, and they took him to his home, where they helped Meadville's wife care for him. They refused any care for themselves until they knew Meadville was safe.

Greg Cannell and Tina Taysom put themselves in harm's way to save a stranger. They refuse to be called heroes, but they are truly heroes to Ron Meadville and his family. Without their courageous actions, Ron Mead-

ville would not be alive today. Their actions truly were heroic, and it is a pleasure for me to honor them and share their story.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KENTUCKY NEW ERA/ROTARY REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM PROGRAM

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize nominees for the Regional Middle School Academic All-Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky.

The regional Academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers. Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based on their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies, and the creative and performing arts. The students are judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extra-curricular activities, employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in Kentucky are developing their talents, furthering their education, and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs like the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence: Alicia Lynn Morris, North Drive Middle School; Ashley Chewning, University Heights Academy; Brittany S. Hurt, Hopkinsville Middle School; Chelsea Barnett, Christian Co. Middle School; Corrinna M. Kinnard, Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School; Janelle Nichol Gilmer, Todd Co. Middle School; Megan Gray, Mahaffey Middle School; Sam Mitchell, Caldwell Co. Middle School; Sherry Cheatham, Heritage Christian Academy; Wesley Croom, Trigg Co. Middle School; Bree Raquel Hokulani Goodwin, North Drive Middle School; Elizabeth Settle, University Heights Academy; Emily Beatty, Todd Co. Middle School; Kate Milani, Mahaffey Middle School; Laura Beth Baggett, Heritage Christian Academy; Morgan C. Murray, Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School; Sarah C. Hazelmyer, Trigg Co. Middle School; Shelley L. Traylor, Caldwell Co. Middle School; Taylor Queen, Christian Co. Middle School; Wendy A. Johnson, Hopkinsville Middle School; Andrew Landreth, Caldwell Co. Middle School; Jacob Kyle Langston, North Drive Middle School; Jonathan A. Chavez, Sts. Peter & Paul