

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST CASEY BYERS

MR. GRASSLEY. Mr. President. I rise today to pay tribute to an honorable soldier who has fallen in service to his country. Specialist Casey Byers of the 224th Engineer Battalion died on the 11th of June in Al Taqaddum, Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated beneath his Humvee. Specialist Byers was a young native of Schleswig, IA, who was only 22 years old. I salute his patriotism and his sacrifice for the sake of freedom.

Specialist Byers was a proud American who joined the Iowa National Guard in 1999. He graduated from Ar-We-Va High School in 2001 where he participated in football and track and later attended Iowa Lakes Community College. Specialist Byers graduated from the combat engineer qualification course in July 2004 and volunteered for duty with the 224th in Iraq. This was his second tour of duty in the Middle East.

Casey Byers has earned the highest gratitude of the entire Nation and today I want to recognize him with the respect he deserves. His sacrifice reminds us of the incredibly high cost of ensuring freedom. My prayers go out to Ann and William Byers who grieve the loss of their son, Paul and Jennifer Byers who grieve a lost brother, and his infant daughter Hailey who grieves the absence of her father. I also extend my prayers to all of the family, friends, and neighbors of Casey who are touched by his passing. I ask my colleagues to join me and all Iowans in remembering Specialist Casey Byers. Such men as Casey Byers inspire us to hold in ever higher esteem the ideals of freedom and service. His valor shall certainly not be forgotten.

SGT. LEIGH ANN HESTER

MR. KERRY. Mr. President, today I want to take this time to commend one of the many American heroes defending freedom around the world for her service and courage. Her act of bravery is worthy of the remembrance and recognition of a grateful nation.

On March 20 of this year, SGT Leigh Ann Hester was escorting a convoy near Salman Pak in Iraq, when over 50 insurgents ambushed her troops, raining fire from AK-47's and RPGs. On this fateful day, Sergeant Hester faced that fire with no fear of her own fate, risking her life to save others—and save lives she did. She led a successful counterattack, brought the convoy to safety, and earned the everlasting gratitude of her fellow soldiers and the undying respect of the American people.

And so a grateful nation has bestowed Sergeant Hester of the 617th Military Police Company with the Silver Star. She is the first woman to earn this rare honor since Mary Roberts Wilson received the medal for gallantry during the Battle of Anzio in World War II. Sergeant Hester's her-

oism is more than worthy of this recognition. Her unwavering commitment to her fellow soldiers is a shining example of the exceptional courage that defines our brave soldiers across the world.

In winning the Silver Star, Sergeant Hester contributes to many legacies. She honors the legacy of generations of women who have served our Nation and the over 15,000 selfless women who have served so valiantly in Iraq and her bravery in the face of overwhelming adversity underscores the growing role of women in our Armed Services. She also continues the legacy of military service in her family. Her Uncle, Carl Sollinger, served honorably in Vietnam, and her grandfather, Oran Sollinger, was awarded a Bronze Star for his valor in World War II. Now, Sergeant Hester, a 23-year-old retail manager from Bowling Green, KY, seeks to expand on her own legacy of service with a career in law enforcement.

SGT Leigh Ann Hester has shown bravery in keeping with the finest traditions of service, courage, and heroism in our military. She is a special citizen, a role model, and a patriot. I call on my colleagues to join me in honoring her and in so doing honor every brave American, at home and abroad, who toils for freedom.

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 day I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

Last year in San Francisco, a male contacted an Asian gay man under the pretense of receiving a professional massage. Once inside the man's residence, the suspect impersonated an undercover cop and pulled out a gun. He used a rope to tie the victim's hands and ankles, then assaulted and robbed him. The case is being investigated 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.

BOLTON NOMINATION

MR. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of John Bolton to be our next Ambassador to the United Nations. Unfortunately, I was unable to be here yesterday, when another vote was taken in regard to Mr. Bolton's nomination. Had

I been here, however, I would have voted in support of Mr. Bolton.

Despite recent controversy over this nomination, I still believe that John Bolton is a fine candidate for the position of ambassador to the U.N. I have seen the complaints and the information provided as a result of those concerns, but I still believe that his credentials and background make him a qualified person for the job. His experience with an aside from the U.N. is one consisting of a great deal of reform. He has long been an advocate for U.N. reform throughout his career and has been vocal in proclaiming the need for the United States to take the lead in facilitating the U.N. in its goal of international peace and security. The U.N. is now facing allegations of corruption in the Oil for Food Program and from other senior officials. At this time more than any other, I firmly believe we must send someone who has experience reforming an organization.

John Bolton comes to this nomination after years of experience in the international community. He has performed pro-bono work for the U.N. in Africa and worked as the U.N. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations from 1989 to 1992. In the last 4 years, Bolton has been instrumental in urging U.N. agencies to take steps to stop the spread of dangerous weapons, while calling on all member states to criminalize the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In the Moscow Treaty, which reduced our operationally deployed nuclear weapons arsenal by two-thirds, John Bolton served as the principal negotiator. As Under Secretary of State, John Bolton helped construct the G8 Global Partnership, a global initiative to focus on safeguards and verification of nuclear programs. The G8 Global Partnership establishes a principle that countries under investigation will not be allowed to serve on the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA.

In these times of atrocities against humanity, an honest, functioning U.N. is needed. I think John Bolton will help the U.N. head in that direction. I do hope to have an opportunity to work with John in that capacity and know he would serve tirelessly and thoughtfully in the many challenges ahead.

RUSSIAN "PROFILES IN COURAGE" HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

MR. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on May 31, the first edition in Russian of President Kennedy's famous book, "Profiles in Courage," was published, and to mark the occasion, our Ambassador in Moscow, Alexander Vershbow, held a reception at the U.S. Embassy.

As part of the occasion, the Embassy honored the winner of a "Profiles in Courage" essay contest organized by the Embassy, in which Russian high school students were encouraged to write essays on political leaders who showed extraordinary political courage of the kind described by my brother in

his book. The contest was conducted under the Public Diplomacy Program of the Embassy, and I commend the State Department and the Ambassador for this inspiring initiative.

The author of the winning essay is Ivan Dmitriyevich Yevstafyev, a 15-year old student in the ninth grade at the Second School Lyceum in Moscow. His essay, "Genius and Villain," describes how Anatoly Chubais took on and carried out the immense responsibility for the vast economic reform under President Yeltsin that privatized much of the Russian economy during the 1990s. He knew that his actions would be unpopular, but he believed very deeply that the reforms served the national interest in moving Russia toward democracy, and as the essay states, he carried them out with extraordinary courage.

The "villain" in the title refers to the intense controversy over the phase of the program that privatized the energy sector amid charges of corruption and insider dealing relating to the rise of the oligarchs—hence the essay's reference to President Yeltsin's remark, "It's all Chubais' fault."

The essay has been translated into English by the Embassy, and I find it extremely inspiring. I am sure President Kennedy would be proud of Mr. Yevstafyev and his impressive essay, and proud of the Embassy for reaching out to young Russians in this appealing way and encouraging their appreciation of the importance of political courage in pursuing the path to a better future for their nation.

I believe the essay will be of interest to all our colleagues in Congress, and I ask unanimous consent that it may be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GENIUS AND VILLAIN

(By Ivan Dmitriyevich Yevstafyev)

I would like to write about Anatoly Chubais, a politician of extraordinary civic courage who was strong enough to remain true to himself and stay on the road he had chosen despite the pressure of circumstances. I am aware that the figure I have chosen is ambiguous and sometimes unpopular. "Genius and villainy do not go together." This phrase has been used so often that it has become commonplace. But we have to admit that Chubais, together with the team of "The Young Reformers," is an economic genius. His villainy is similar to the evil actions of a surgeon who mercilessly cuts a gangrenous limb to save a patient's life.

Chubais is not popular because of his perceived "cynicism." In my opinion, he just openly talks about problems and complications that accompany every victory. He does not promise wonders. But the "shock therapy" without the use of anesthesia cannot be popular by definition.

In the fall of 1991, when Yegor Gaydar wanted Chubais to become the head of the Department of Privatization, the future minister and deputy head of government asked, "Do you realize that, regardless of the result, people will hate me for the rest of my life, because for them I will be the man who sold Russia and who sold it the wrong way?"

It was a rhetorical question, of course. Gaydar had no doubt that Chubais would accept responsibility.

I think that taking upon oneself the responsibility for carrying out the necessary, but extremely unpopular action on a national scale, and performing it efficiently and quickly, demands from a politician and a person true civic courage. His contemporaries are not able to appreciate the importance of his actions.

Through his privatization Chubais was not only making a bourgeois revolution that was virtually bloodless, but every day he made history that was "sold" piping hot together with the state property. Under enormous pressure from his opponents, Chubais managed to solve two problems of privatization: he made the process irreversible, and he took the property from bureaucratic hands and carried out the privatization, making compromises with all concerned parties to keep the society peaceful. As a result, by the middle of 1994, an organizational miracle occurred: the "voucher privatization" was over. Two-thirds of property became private. The time for a monetary stage had come.

Beginning in March 1995, the system of "shares-for-loans" auctions was put into effect. As a result, the state budget received one billion dollars that contributed to the financial stabilization to come. Thanks to the auction system, big industrial enterprises received their owners. The ten interceding years have shown that these owners are efficient.

"When someone accuses us of taking the 'pearls of the Russian Imperial Crown' and giving them out, we disagree," explains Chubais. "These so-called 'pearls' were nothing—complete failures. Thanks to privatization, these industrial ruins were turned into pearls of the new Russian market economy. We helped private shareholders to become owners through the legal procedures. As a result, they resurrected these businesses and transformed them into active enterprises."

Charismatic leaders are always in favor in Russia. It is our mentality. Anatoly Chubais' charisma has a limited range. It does not affect all people. But his team obeys him like privates obey their general. You can call Chubais an outstanding manipulator, but his readiness to negotiate with the outraged audience proves his everyday courage. For example, he won the sympathy of miners at a depth of 790 meters, where the striking miners agreed to meet with the then deputy head of government. The story had a mellow, almost fairy-tale end: privatization of coal mines, regular payrolls and transformation of the mining industry into a profitable one.

His political credo: "We survived because surviving has never been our priority task. When the French Revolution ended, one of its key figures was asked what he had been doing during the revolution. His answer was, 'I tried to survive.' As for me, I never tried to survive."

Chubais' motto is, "If not me, then who?" Probably, in the political history of Russia there are things no one but he could do. But they have to be done—for the future of Russia and for our own future. In this respect, our hero is a very lonely man. As lonely as only a reformer can be—the one who sets up tasks that only he can perform. The role of a personality in the history of Russia has always been important. Let's not disregard this. That is why a popular remark attributed to Yeltsin is quite true: "It's all Chubais' fault." Everybody can interpret it in one's own way—positive or negative.

In 1998, Chubais began to manage a whole empire—as CEO of United Energy Systems of Russia. The initial set of key problems and parameters was very Chubais-like: an industry on the verge of collapse, covering an

enormous geographic area, whose whole system desperately needed reforms. Energy is the heart of economics. Over these years, the sick heart has almost healed, although at the beginning it seemed impossible.

History does not use conditional tenses, but only because it is made by outstanding figures, who do not care about means in order to achieve their goals and solve problems of historical importance. I see my hero as a person who was remodeled by history, but who also dared to recast history. Several times he succeeded.

In politics, Chubais is a man of compromise—there the end often justifies the means. But for him ideology is more important than political profit. Besides, he is just a brave man: only a person of integrity and courage could tell Vladimir Putin that he and the Russian people are wrong about the issue of Stalin's anthem.

As the head of United Energy Systems, he took upon himself the role of formulating and voicing the negative reaction of Russian business to the arrest of Mikhail Khodorkovsky on October 25, 2003. The clear impression was made that the bosses of business used him as a "human shield," as had already happened in 1996 and 1998. Perhaps, that's how it was. But Chubais stated that it was his "inner decision."

Those who clean the Augean stables of gloomy epochs and lost opportunities do not always enjoy a good reputation among their contemporaries. Thirteen years ago, several people sacrificed their reputations by taking responsibility for changes in the country. Chubais continues to work. His achievements are spread in time and therefore do not clearly stand out. His goal is to turn Russia into a market democracy. One criterion for evaluating Chubais is the country that we have now and the one we will have in the future—the country that is moving from coup d'états to guided democracy and maybe to real democracy. History is made by people who eventually bring success to their country.

Although Chubais is already in the history books, the goal he set for himself has not been achieved yet. The liberal Russia is being built online.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICE BOLLING AND MELISSA MOODY

MR. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today with some sadness, but also with great pride, to announce that two of my most trusted Senate aides will be leaving my staff. Both have been faithful and selfless in their service to the State of Arkansas, and their contributions will be sorely missed by me, my staff, and the many Arkansans who have had the great fortune of working with these two wonderful public servants.

Patrice Bolling first came to my office before I had even been officially sworn in as Senator. However, she has known the importance of public service much longer. While still in college, Patrice came to Washington for a summer internship in the White House Scheduling Office during the Clinton Administration. She also had the opportunity to work on the staff of my good friend, Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas. Not long after receiving her diploma from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, she worked for the Democratic Party of Arkansas and soon found herself serving as executive