

just in securing women's right to vote. By winning for women the power of the ballot, they moved countless others to strengthen women's voice in charting the course of the nation. By asserting women's equality in the mechanism that sustains our democracy, they helped future generations fight for equality in all aspects of American life. By opening the voting booths, they spurred on the work to open our institutions of higher education, our athletic fields, and our boardrooms. And by having persisted in their convictions, they inspire young women today, like Hannah Low and Destiny Carroll of Henderson, Nevada, to continue the effort to ensure that their triumphs will not be forgotten.

On behalf of Hannah and Destiny, as well as my friend Congresswoman BERKLEY, each person a credit to Nevada, I am pleased to support the passage of this resolution.

COMMENDING JUDY ANSLEY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend an outstanding public servant, Judy Ansley, who for many years has worked as diligently and as ably as anyone with whom I have had the privilege of serving during my years in the Senate.

When I was vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I selected Judy Ansley to serve as the first woman minority staff director. Today, Judy is the first woman staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee which I chair.

How proud I am; how proud the Senate is that Judy has been selected to be the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council. The administration could not have made a better choice for this important post, and I am confident that Judy will serve her country with dignity and honor, as she has done throughout her extensive career in public service.

My only regret is that Judy Ansley will be leaving the Armed Services Committee after next week to move to the White House. Over the course of the last 6 years, Judy has dedicated her time, energy, and intelligence to the work of the committee with great enthusiasm. As the deputy staff director and staff director, Judy has provided excellent leadership to the committee during challenging times, and I am deeply thankful for her profound concern for the issues facing the men and women of our armed services. I am sure that my colleagues on the committee would agree that she has been an indispensable resource for our efforts. In those instances where she had professional views in opposition to mine, she has never hesitated to express them. I trust that she will most respectfully do the same for the President.

As the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, I have had the opportunity to observe closely Judy's indefatigable efforts. Before she joined the

committee, Judy served as my national security adviser for 5 years, and her keen judgment and incisiveness were readily apparent throughout her work. Truly, while I am pleased that the administration will be gaining such a remarkable asset, I will miss Judy's counsel and extraordinary nature. I send my deepest gratitude to Judy as she begins her transition to the National Security Council, and I join with her wonderful family, husband Steve and daughters Rachel and Megan, in celebrating this achievement.

Mr. President, I also take this opportunity to announce Judy's successor as staff director for the Armed Services Committee. I have asked Mr. Charles S. Abell, the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, to become the new staff director, and it gives me great pleasure to note that he has accepted this responsibility.

A humble and devoted patriot, Charlie Abell has served his country with valor in every endeavor. Before joining the administration, Charlie was an exceptional member of the Armed Services Committee professional staff. During his years with the committee staff, Charlie was the lead staffer for the Subcommittee on Personnel, including issues of military readiness and quality of life. A highly decorated soldier, he retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel after 26 years of distinguished service, and he brought a profound insight to his duties with the committee. I was privileged to work with this outstanding individual during his previous term with the committee, and I look forward to collaborating with him in the months ahead.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPC ADAM JAMES HARTING

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave soldier from Portage. Adam Harting, 21 years old, died on July 25 in Samarra when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. With so much of his life left before him, Adam risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Only 19 years old when he arrived in Kuwait to begin his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Adam was featured in Time Magazine in 2003 as one of the youngest soldiers stationed overseas. A graduate of Portage High School, Adam had always dreamed of joining the military and was active in the ROTC program throughout his high school years. Adam and his twin brother, Alex, both promised their father when they were young that they would enter the military, and both lived up to that promise, with Adam serving in the Army and Alex in the Air Force. Their father, Jim Harting, recounted his pride in Adam's service and character to a local newspaper, saying, "He was a

hero. He was my hero." I stand here today to express the same feelings of pride and gratitude for this young Hoosier's sacrifices and those made by his family on behalf of our country.

Adam was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 42nd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. This brave young soldier leaves behind his father and step-mother, Jim and Brenda Harting; his mother, Katherine Brown; and his seven siblings, Alex, 21, Mark, 20, Josh, 15, Jimmy, 14, Tiffany, 22, Tabitha, 20, and Hanna, 8.

Today, I join Adam's family and friends 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 Adam, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Adam was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Adam 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 Adam'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 Adam's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of SPC Adam James Harting 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 Adam'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 Adam.

TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to 32 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq since April 23. This brings to 434 the number

of soldiers who were either from California or based in California who have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 24 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

SGT Anthony J. Davis, age 22, died April 23 in Mosul when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his Stryker military vehicle. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Long Beach, CA.

CPL Kevin W. Prince, age 22, died April 23 in Baghdad of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, CA.

SGT Timothy C. Kiser, age 37, died April 28 in Riyadh, Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol. He was assigned to the Army National Guard's 340th Forward Support Battalion, 40th Infantry Division, Red Bluff, CA. He was from Tehama, CA.

CPT Stephen W. Frank, age 29, died April 29 in Diyarrah, Iraq when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated as he was conducting a traffic control point inspection. He was assigned to 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, CA.

CPT Ralph J. Harting III, age 28, died April 29 in Diyarrah, Iraq when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated as he was conducting a traffic control point inspection. He was assigned to 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, CA.

SSG Juan De Dios Garcia-Arana, age 27, died April 30 in Khaladiyah, Iraq when his Bradley Fighting Vehicle was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, Korea. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

MAJ John C. Spahr, age 42, died May 2 from injuries received when the F/A-18 Hornet aircraft he was piloting apparently crashed in Iraq. He was assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, CA. His unit was embarked aboard the U.S.S. *Carl Vinson*.

CPT Kelly C. Hinz, age 30, died May 2 from injuries received when the F/A-18 Hornet aircraft he was piloting crashed in Iraq while flying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, CA. His unit was embarked aboard the U.S.S. *Carl Vinson*.

SGT Stephen P. Saxton, age 24, died May 3 in Baghdad when his unit was conducting a route security mission and an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee. He was assigned to the Army's 3rd Armored Cav-

alry Regiment, Fort Carson, CO. He was from Temecula, CA.

LCPL John T. Schmidt III, age 21, died May 11 from wounds received as a result of an explosion while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Al Anbar Province on January 30. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SGT John M. Smith, age 22, died May 12 in Iskandariyah, Iraq from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the Army's 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, CA.

SFC Randy D. Collins, age 36, died May 24 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland of injuries sustained in Mosul on May 4 during a mortar attack. He was assigned to the Army's 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, CA. He was from Long Beach, CA.

MAJ Ricardo A. Crocker, age 39, died May 26 from a rocket propelled grenade explosion while conducting combat operations in Hadithah, Iraq. He was assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve's 3rd Civil Affairs Group, Camp Lejeune, NC. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to II Marine Expeditionary Force. He was from Mission Viejo, CA.

SGT Mark A. Maida, age 22, died May 27 in Baghdad of injuries sustained in Diyarrah, Iraq on May 26 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee. He was assigned to the Army's 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, CA.

1st Sgt Michael S. Barnhill, age 39, died May 28 after his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device near Haqlaniyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve's 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Eugene, OR. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to II Marine Expeditionary Force. He was from Folsom, CA.

CPL Jeffrey B. Starr, age 22, died May 30 from small-arms fire while conducting combat operations against enemy forces near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to II Marine Expeditionary Force.

CPT Derek Argel, age 28, died May 30 in the crash of an Iraqi air force aircraft during a training mission in eastern Diyala province. He was assigned to the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL. He was from Lompoc, CA.

CPL Antonio Mendoza, age 21, died June 3 at Brook Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX from wounds received as a result of an explosion while conducting combat operations against

enemy forces in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on February 22. At the time of his injury, he was assigned to 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Santa Ana, CA.

LCPL Daniel Chavez, age 20, died June 9 as a result of explosion while conducting combat operations with the 2nd Marine Division in Haqlaniyah, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Jonathan R. Flores, age 18, died June 15 when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was operating with the 2nd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, which was attached to 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Jesse Jaime, age 22, died June 15 when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was operating with the 2nd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, which was attached to 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Tyler S. Trovillion, age 23, died June 15 when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was operating with the 2nd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, which was attached to 2nd Marine Division.

LCpl Dion M. Whitley, age 21, died June 15 when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was operating with the 2nd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, which was attached to 2nd Marine Division. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

LCpl Chad B. Maynard, age 19, died June 15 when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was operating with the 2nd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, which was attached to 2nd Marine Division.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Cesar O. Baez, age 37, died June 15 as a result of enemy small arms fire while conducting combat operations in al-Anbar Province. He was a Hospital Corpsman assigned to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force. He was from Pomona, CA.

LCpl Erik R. Heldt, age 26, died June 16 when his vehicle hit an improvised

explosive device while conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Division.

CPT John W. Maloney, age 36, died June 16 when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Division.

SGT Arnold Duplantier II, age 26, died June 22 in Baghdad where he was providing cordon security, and was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire. He was assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, Auburn, CA. He was from Sacramento, CA.

PFC Veashna Muy, age 20, died June 23 while traveling in a convoy that was attacked by a suicide, vehicle-borne, improvised explosive device in Fallujah. He was assigned to the 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

Petty Officer 1st Class Regina R. Clark, age 43, died June 23 in a convoy that was attacked by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Fallujah. She was a culinary specialist deployed with Naval Construction Regiment Detachment 30, Port Huene, CA and was temporarily assigned to II Marine Expeditionary Force.

LCpl Carlos Pineda, age 23, died June 24 as a result of wounds sustained from enemy small-arms fire while conducting combat operations in Fallujah. He was assigned to the 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

SSG Jorge L. Pena-Romero, age 29, died July 16 in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee while his unit was conducting a mounted patrol. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, CA. He was from Fallbrook, CA.

Four hundred thirty-four soldiers who were either from California or based in California have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. I pray for these young Americans and their families.

I would also like to pay tribute to the five soldiers from or based in California who have died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom since April 26.

SFC Allen C. Johnson, age 31, died April 26 in Khanaqin, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when enemy forces using small arms fire attacked his patrol. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC. He was from Los Molinos, CA.

SFC Victor H. Cervantes, age 27, died June 10 in Orgun-e, Afghanistan, when

he came under small arms fire while on patrol. He was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC. He was from Stockton, CA.

MAJ Duane W. Dively, age 43, died June 22 in Southwest Asia in the crash of a U-2 aircraft. He had completed flying a mission and was returning to his base when the crash occurred. He was assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, CA. He was from Rancho California, CA.

LCDR Erik S. Kristensen, age 33, was killed while conducting combat operations when the MH-47 helicopter that he was aboard crashed in the Kumar province of Afghanistan on June 28. He was assigned to SEAL Team Ten, Virginia Beach, VA. He was from San Diego, CA.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew G. Axelson, age 29, died while conducting counter-terrorism operations in Kunar province, Afghanistan. Coalition forces located him while conducting a combat search and rescue operation July 10. He was assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One, Pearl Harbor, HI. He was from Cupertino, CA.

Thirty soldiers who were either from California or based in California have been killed while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom. I pray for these Americans and their families.

CHRISTOPHER HOSKINS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to speak in honor of U.S. Army SPC Christopher Hoskins, of Danielson, CT, who was killed in Iraq on June 21, 2005. He was 21 years old.

Specialist Hoskins was killed along with another soldier when his unit came under small-arms fire in Ramadi, Iraq.

Growing up, Christopher was known as quiet, passionate, and full of energy. He competed on the wrestling team at Killingly High School and was interested in graphic arts. He carried a sketchbook with him in Iraq.

Christopher enlisted in the Army simply because he thought it was the right thing to do. He was proud to be a soldier. In Iraq he drove Bradley fighting vehicles and humvees.

He served with valor and humanity. He often said that the Iraqi people are just like us. They have many of the same basic needs—food, water, clothing, and shelter. And he knew that he had extra and that they are wanting. It would have been easier for him, serving in a dangerous region, to shut himself off from the populace, but he didn't. He often shared his extra non-military supplies with Iraqi civilians.

Christopher also formed a special bond with those in his unit. Even during the short amount of time that he was able to come back home to Connecticut, he would swap pictures over the Internet with those in his unit who were still in Iraq. He sent them care packages of magazines and junk food. He had recently signed up for a second tour.

Christopher's life was defined by unselfish service to his community and

his country, and that selflessness continues after his death. He asked his mother a few months ago that, if he died, donations be made to his former school system in lieu of flowers. He was concerned about his younger brother, Sean, who is a special needs student, and the students in the art department, who do not have up-to-date software.

People like Christopher Hoskins make it possible for us to live each and every day in freedom, peace, and security. Their sacrifices, in lands thousands of miles away, keep us safe here at home. We must never forget those sacrifices.

So today I salute the courage and commitment of Christopher Hoskins, a young man who lost his life fulfilling the noblest of callings, defending our Nation and the values we hold dear. And I offer my heartfelt sympathies to his parents, Richard and Claudia, his siblings, Kristin, Erin, and Sean, and to everyone who knew and loved him.

STEVE REICH

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in tribute of U.S. Army MAJ Steve Reich, of Washington, CT, who lost his life on duty in Afghanistan on June 28, 2005. He was 34 years old.

Major Reich, a member of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment known as "The Nightstalkers," was killed along with 15 other soldiers in a helicopter crash in the eastern mountains of Afghanistan. His service to his country will not be forgotten.

Steve was respected in his small home town both for his abilities on the baseball diamond and for his caring personality.

He was a star pitcher before entering the military. With the rare combination of a blazing fastball and uncanny control, Steve was an All-Star at every level. He pitched in two championship games for Shepaug Valley High School before moving on to West Point. In his debut against the Naval Academy, he pitched a one-hitter.

He was a member of the U.S. National baseball team in 1993 and played for it in Italy, Nicaragua, and Cuba. He was rightly very proud of having carried the American flag for the team in the World University Games. He later signed with the Baltimore Orioles farm system and pitched two games before being recalled to active duty.

Major Reich was as accomplished in the military as he was on the baseball field. He learned to pilot three models of Army helicopter and became a company commander in his regiment. He was serving his fourth tour of duty after having already been stationed in Korea, Hungary, Bosnia, and Albania.

He was known in his unit for his willingness to serve by example and his composure, something that, no doubt, made him a great leader and kept those who served with him safer.

Despite the fact that he was a hero to those in his hometown, Steve was modest. He had won a bronze star for service, but he never told his family what

heroic acts he performed to deserve the award. He went out of his way to show his appreciation for the warm welcomes that he received from his community on the rare occasions that he was able to return home. On Christmas, he and his sisters would deliver treats to say thanks to his friends and neighbors.

Countless members of his community said that they admired Steve's selflessness and that they felt safer knowing that he was watching out for them.

His friends and family took great joy in the fact that he met and married Jill Blue during the past year. It warmed the hearts of those around him that he found someone to marry because he had always had so little time for a personal life. They said that his wedding day in March was the happiest day of his life. My heart truly goes out to Jill, who has suffered the kind of loss that is difficult for most of us to comprehend.

And I offer my deepest sympathies to his parents, Ray and Sue, and his sisters, AnnMarie and Megan, whose loss is too great for words.

TRIBUTE TO NAVY SEALS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the 10 courageous sailors who lost their lives in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom on 28 June 2005 by printing the eloquent words of U.S. Navy RADM Joseph Maguire, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, during a memorial speech at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek on July 8, 2005.

I ask unanimous consent to print this tribute in the RECORD.

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

(By Rear Admiral Joseph Maguire)

Good Morning. On behalf of the Commander, United States Special Operations Command, General Doug Brown, the United States Navy, the proud men and women of Naval Special Warfare, I'd like to welcome everybody to this morning's memorial service for our ten fallen Sailors.

We're honored to have with us today the leaders of our nation and our Navy. We are joined this morning in grief. The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator John Warner, Congresswoman Thelma Drake, our local Congresswoman, Ambassador Joseph Prurer and Mrs. Prurer, Undersecretary of the Navy Aviles, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Willard and Mrs. Willard. The Commander Fleet Forces Command, Admiral Nathman and Mrs. Nathman, and the General Council of the United States Navy, Mr. Mora. In addition to that we have many general officers [From the joint services, retired community, retired Flag Officers. I'd also like to extend a welcome to our many veterans here today, our combat veterans.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our families in Naval Special Warfare, especially to the families of Squadron Ten, whose husbands are still deployed and engaged in combat operations far away. But most importantly I'd like to welcome the families of the ten SEALS that we honor

here today. Earlier in this week I along with General Brown and many others have been attending memorial services for our United States Army Special Operations Aviation Regiment, the 160th, located at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Hunter Army Air Field, where as you all know we lost eight brave Special Operations Aviators.

This morning we pause to honor the memory of ten Navy SEALS, in particular the six SEALS who were home ported here at the Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek. I'd also like to extend a welcome to those who can't be with us physically in this theater right now. The theater holds 1800 people and we filled that up earlier this morning. And for those of you in the overflow where we have nearly 2000 people seated, I welcome you this morning and I apologize that we did not have space for everybody to be in here physically. But I know, spiritually, that you're with us and we sincerely appreciate you being part of the ceremony this morning.

My remarks will be short. I think it's important that you hear from the friends and loved ones, and also Commodore Pete Van Hooser has got some very important things to say.

But what I would like to say as the Commander for Naval Special Warfare and the head of this community, how proud I am to be the Commander for Naval Special Warfare and have the opportunity to lead and serve with these ten fine men. Naval Special Warfare is the smallest war fighting community in the Navy. There's 1750 enlisted men and six 600 officers. We're a small town, we literally know each other, and honestly, for those of you it may be hard to believe if you see the way we act with each other, we love one another.

Everything that you see here and everything this morning was put together by their Teammates. I'd like to call your attention to the operational equipment that we have forward here on stage. It traces its proud heritage back to World War II. The Underwater Demolition Teams and the Navy Combat Demolition Units and you'd have to go all the way back to World War II to get the number of Naval Special Warriors who died in one day in one military operation. The loss of one SEAL, the loss of one military man is more than we could possibly bear, but to have ten or our brave men perish in one day along with eight of our Nightstalkers is truly a remarkable day and one that will always be etched in our memory.

But before you though you have UDT swim fins, a UDT lifejacket, a web belt and a mask. And it may seem strange to you knowing that these Naval commandos died on a mountain top 7,500 feet in elevation in a country 300 miles from the sea. But our nation called. These are the same people that flew the planes into the Twin Towers that flew the plane into the Pentagon that also flew the plane into the ground in Pennsylvania. The Al Qaeda and the Taliban are barely distinguishable and these are the people that these brave men, these ten men, went out to meet and engage in combat. So although the operational equipment that they had on them that day on the 28th of June was not swim fins, not a UDT life jacket, not a mask, perhaps a K-Bar. We thought it's appropriate because we are first and foremost warriors from the sea, Navy men, that we honor them today as SEALS and Navy men.

The last thing I'd like to just mention is the knife that's on the web belt. The K-Bar also dates back to the knife used by the UDT in World War II. And a tradition in Naval Special Warfare when a young man finishes his training and is awarded his trident, when he is awarded his trident he is also presented

a K-Bar, and on that K-Bar is inscribed the name of a SEAL who went before him, where he died, and the date he died on. So that knife would always link him to the past and serve as an inspiration to him as a SEAL in combat in the future. These ten knives that we have up here are now etched with your husbands, your son, your brother, your father, your uncle, your nephew, your neighbor, your friend, and to us our Teammates names. You can take these home with you today, and I hope that you treasure them, but what I want you to know is that in the future when fellow SEALS become SEALS and they are presented with their K-Bars, the name of these men will be engraved to serve as an inspiration to future SEALS in combat, our teammates.

And I want to leave you with this. We have a creed, we have many things in Naval Special Warfare, but to sum it up, it is loyalty to our teammates dead or alive. These ten men are no longer with us, that doesn't mean that our allegiance and our covenant ends with them today. We will remain their teammates forever and to the family members sitting here, always know that we will always be there from them, always there for you and, we will always stay connected. God bless and thank you.

I'd like to go into the awards presentation now and I ask all of the guests and military to remain seated as we make the presentations so that all can see.

The Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Afghanistan Campaign Medal will be presented posthumously for the actions in the following citation below.

On Tuesday 28 June 2005, thirty members of Naval Special Warfare Task Unit-Afghanistan were preparing to conduct a direct action mission when they were tasked to respond as a Quick Reaction Force to reinforce a four-man Navy SEAL reconnaissance element engaged in a fierce firefight near Asadabad, Konar Province, Afghanistan.

The reconnaissance element was bravely fighting Anti-Coalition Militia, who held both a numerical and positional advantage. The ensuing firefight resulted in numerous enemy personnel killed, with several of the SEALS suffering casualties.

After receiving the task to reinforce, the Quick Reaction Force loaded aboard two MH-47 U.S. Special Operations Army helicopters planning to air assault onto a hostile battlefield, ready to engage and destroy the enemy in order to protect the lives of their fellow SEALS. Demonstrating exceptional resolve and fully comprehending the ramifications of the mission, the Quick Reaction Force, while airborne, continued to refine the plan of attack to support both the reinforcement task and hasty execution of their intended deliberate assault.

As the helicopter approached the nearly inaccessible mountainside and hovered in preparation for a daring fast-rope insertion of the SEALS, the aircraft was struck by an enemy rocket-propelled grenade fired by Anti-Coalition Militiaman. The resulting explosion and impact caused the tragic and untimely death of all SEALS and Army Night Stalkers onboard.

These men answered the call to duty with conspicuous gallantry. Their bravery and heroism in the face of severe danger while fighting a determined enemy in the Global War on Terror was extraordinary. Their courageous actions, zealous initiative and loyal dedication to duty reflected great credit upon themselves, Naval Special Warfare, and the United States Navy. For the President, Vern Clark, U.S. Navy, Chief of Naval Operations.

The presentations this morning will be made by Commodore Pete Van Hooser, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Group Two