

led an active life. He was a parishioner of St. Thomas Roman Catholic church there, and he enjoyed reading, skiing, tennis, and watching his son, John, play ice hockey.

No one is immune to cancer not even those individuals who, like Dr. Murren, dedicate their life's work to cancer research and treating individuals suffering from cancer. If we in Congress want to honor the life of Dr. Murren and the 1 million Americans who will be diagnosed with cancer this year, then we must invest more Federal money into cancer research. Otherwise, we will continue to lose too many of our family members and friends to this devastating illness.

In closing, I extend to his family, friends, and associates, my sympathy on the passing of a good American, Dr. John Murren. It is my wish that his legacy will be a country that defeats the dreaded disease we call cancer.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT TOBIAS MEISTER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an heroic American who has fallen while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. First Sergeant Tobias Meister died December 28, 2005, when a bomb was detonated near his humvee just south of Asadabad, Afghanistan. First Sergeant Meister was part of the Sand Springs based 486th Civil Affairs Battalion and was assigned to the Army Reserve's 321st Civil Affairs Brigade based in San Antonio, TX. My deepest sympathies go out to his wife Alicia, his 1 year old son Will, his parents David and Judy, his brother and many more family and friends.

First Sergeant Meister was born in Kingsley, IA and graduated from Remsen-Union High School in 1994. He was employed by Horizon Natural Resources, an oil and gas firm, after he had successfully completed a business administration degree with a concentration in international business from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Tobias Meister joined the Iowa National Guard in 1992 and served as an infantryman before transferring to the U.S. Army Reserve in 1998. He was named Drill Sergeant of the Year in 2002, the award for the Nation's top Army Reserve drill sergeant. He will be remembered for his patriotism, his love for his country and his fellow soldiers. As written by comrades on his website, he had "so much passion for what he was doing, so much patriotism it was a privilege and an honor to work with him." I urge all of my colleagues here and all Americans to extend their prayers to the family of a truly heroic American, First Sergeant Tobias Meister.

ROLAND CARROLL BARVELS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Roland Carroll Barvels who died in Iraq on January 18,

2006. Roland was employed with DynCorp International and was assigned to the Civilian Police Advisory Training Team in Iraq. He was helping to train and equip a 350,000-member Iraqi security force. Sadly, he was killed when a roadside bomb struck his convoy near Basra.

Prior to joining DynCorp in November 2005, Barvels answered his Nation's call to duty to protect and defend this great country. After serving for 12 years in the military, he became a police officer. Beginning his career in Minnesota, Barvels eventually served in law enforcement for nearly 20 years including his most recent position with the Aberdeen Police Department.

Friends and former co-workers at the Aberdeen Police Department remember Roland with deep admiration. One colleague remarked, "During his time at the police department, he diligently patrolled the streets of our city providing safety and security to the citizens in our community. Roland possessed an incredible ability to talk to people and [to] make anyone he talked to feel at ease."

Roland Barvels bravely served our country in so many ways. His wife and children are in the thoughts and prayers of my family during this difficult time. It is my sincere hope that they will take comfort knowing Ronald's long and distinguished career of protecting those most in need is truly admirable, and his dedication to helping others is an inspiration to us all.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Roland Barvels. He will be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

SPECIALIST MATTHEW C. FRANTZ

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 Lafayette. Matthew Frantz, 23 years old, died on January 20 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during a patrol near Al Huwijah in Iraq. With his entire life before him, Matthew risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Following in the family tradition of service, Matthew had been committed to joining the military since he was in the second grade. A 2001 graduate of Lafayette Jefferson High School, his teachers recalled how eager he was to join the service, as well as what a decent and friendly student he was. One of his teachers told a local news outlet, "Matt was very excited about being part of the military. It was what he wanted to do. He was just a young man that wanted to serve his country." Matthew had been in the military for nearly 2 years, but this was his first deployment to Iraq. He arrived there only 4 months ago as a counterintelligence specialist.

Matthew was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He was a member of the 1st Special Troops Battalion in the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, KY. This brave young soldier leaves behind his father and mother, James and Marilyn Frantz; his brothers, Chris and Eric, who also serve in the military; and his fiance, Amalia Cerbin.

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

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

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Matthew C. Frantz 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 Matthew'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 Matthew.

SERGEANT CLIFTON YAZZIE

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I humbly rise today to pay tribute to SGT Clifton Yazzie. Sadly, this outstanding and brave young man was killed in Hawijah, Iraq, on January 20, 2006.

As a cross-country runner and basketball player in high school, SGT Yazzie was not known for his innate athletic ability. Instead, his coaches and teammates remember him as a consummate team player who worked to improve his skills in every practice and every game. He enlisted after the

terrible attacks of September 11, 2001, fully knowing that his country would soon be going to war abroad. His quiet demeanor and steadfast service is at the core of what the American military service is about: honor, duty, humility, and loyalty.

His wife Michelle, children Chaynitta and Cayden, and parents Clifford and Jeanette will be in all of our thoughts. He and Michelle, who met at a high school dance, had been planning to renew their vows this spring.

He was on his second tour of duty as an infantryman in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. We can never fully express our gratitude for our veterans' service; I ask that we stop now to honor Sergeant Yazzie and acknowledge his sacrifice, and that of his family and friends, for our Nation.

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.

On October 4, 2002, Gwen Araujo was killed by three men in Hayward, CA. Araujo was beaten up, tied, and then strangled. The apparent motivation for this crime was that Araujo was a transgendered teen.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that are born 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.

RECOGNIZING MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, earlier this week, our Nation celebrated Martin Luther King Day. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would have been 77 years old on January 16. It was a day to reflect on the life of a man admired for the dream he dreamed for America, and for his words and deeds in pursuit of it.

He dreamed, as he famously said, "that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'" Dr. King argued, in words that stir the heart, that racial segregation must end in the South and that Black Americans must be granted their citizenship rights throughout the land and throughout our institutions: in education, in employment, in housing, and in the voting booth.

His role in the push for full voting rights for African Americans is well known but bears repeating. In the spring of 1965, a national television audience was shocked by broadcasts of State troopers and sheriff's deputies brutally repulsing voting rights protesters in Selma, AL. Hours later, Dr. King declared: "No American is without responsibility." He went to Alabama and led a march, under Federal protection, from Selma to the State capital. The event garnered national support and provided momentum for congressional passage of the Voting Rights Act later that year.

Dr. King appreciated the blessings of freedom; he wanted them for his people, and for all people. We remember this Protestant minister's eloquence and also his sense of spiritual mission—he was an ecumenical religious leader who brought people of all faiths, all races, together in mutual respect for one another.

As Taylor Branch, his biographer, put it: "His oratory fused the political promise of equal votes with the spiritual doctrine of equal souls."

His belief in nonviolent protest convinced those who listened to him that here was the high road to vindicating the rights of Black people in this country. It is a bitter fact that he lost his life to violence—he was only 39 when an assassin's bullet cut him down in Memphis—and it makes us understand his great courage in taking on the burden of leadership.

In officially celebrating the life of Dr. King, we celebrate the end of legal segregation and the many inroads we have made against racism and discrimination. Of course, there is more we must do to make sure all Americans enjoy the blessings of freedom. He would tell us that, if he were here. He would also insist that we continue on in his way: with passion and with civility, calling on our fellow human beings to act on their best instincts, not their worst.

Dr. King, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, is a model here and around the world—from China, and the 1989 antigovernment protests in Tiananmen Square, to South Africa, where apartheid rule gave way in 1990 without provoking the civil war many had feared. In encouraging the holding of free elections and the formation of institutions of civil society in faraway places today, we promote the idea that Martin Luther King put forward so well: that the nonviolent settling of differences among men is the bedrock of democracy.

Let us all take inspiration from the King legacy this week, Mr. President, and every week.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on January 1, 2006, the administration launched the Medicare prescription drug benefit, a program long touted by

President Bush as the vehicle that would provide affordable, easily accessed prescription drugs for seniors. The program has fallen far short of that goal so far. The outcries that I have heard from pharmacists, beneficiaries, and health care providers over the past few weeks make clear that the implementation of the program has been a disaster. This program has not provided either affordable or easily accessed drugs to many Medicare beneficiaries. Instead, it has presented many seniors and the disabled with frustration, confusion, expensive medications, and sometimes no medications at all. It is unacceptable for individuals to go without lifesaving medications, yet this is what has been happening across the country since this program commenced. This situation is an emergency, and Congress needs to address it right away.

Since the beginning of January, I have received panicked phone calls from people in my State saying that they were unable to receive drugs that they have been routinely getting at their pharmacy every other month. Many calls were from people who could not receive essential drugs such as insulin, antipsychotics, or immunosuppressants for transplant patients. At the same time as I was hearing from people suffering from pain because they did not receive their pain medications, I received press releases from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid that expressed satisfaction with the launch of the program and boasted of the millions of participants in the program. There may be millions participating in the program, but too many of them cannot receive their drugs, and too many pharmacists are unable to comply with the complicated regulations in the program. CMS should be focusing its efforts on addressing this emergency rather than disseminating public relations messages.

All anyone needs to do is visit their local pharmacy in order to see the problems with the benefit firsthand. There, they are likely to see harried pharmacists on the phone with Medicare or private drug plans. Chances are high that they are on hold. There are often long waiting lines of people in need of medications, sometimes in desperate need, and there are customers being charged incorrectly for their prescriptions. Sometimes they are charged so much that they cannot afford it because the costs exceed what they have in the bank or what their credit limits will allow. Tragically, many of the most vulnerable beneficiaries have been forced to walk out of the pharmacies without their drugs.

It is clear that, in many respects, the plan and the contingency plans for implementation have failed. For instance, the drug plan automatically enrolled millions of individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid into drug plans, and although these individuals were supposed to be notified of this, many were not. Imagine the surprise when