

Another commonsense issue of national cohesion that really hits at the heart of what makes this country great was when the Senate voted in favor of an amendment by Senator INHOFE to require that English be declared our national language of the United States. As people listened to that and digested what it meant, people said: Well, of course English is a necessary tool for every aspiring American to be successful and to join the mainstream of American society.

That is just an example of a few of the amendments. Again, we have considered a number of amendments, and we will consider a number more as we go forward.

It was last October when I said we would start with border security and we would build out a comprehensive approach to this very challenging problem of thousands—indeed, hundreds of thousands—of people coming across our borders illegally and millions working in this country illegally and many taking advantage of our social services illegally in this country. So we have made real progress—again starting in October—and we will complete that process by the Memorial Day recess, with the action I took tonight.

Mr. President, given our policy meetings tomorrow afternoon, I now ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline under rule XXII be extended until 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

##### SERGEANT JAMES A. SHERRILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to reflect on the tremendous sacrifice and dedication displayed on a daily basis by our country's soldiers. In particular, I wish to call to my colleagues' attention the story of one young man who laid down his life defending our country.

While words cannot lessen the anguish of those who knew and loved him, they can illuminate his heroism and sacrifice. So it is entirely appropriate that we pause today to remember and celebrate the life of SGT James A. Sherrill of Ekron, KY.

Sergeant Sherrill served in the Kentucky Army National Guard's 2113th Transportation Company based out of Paducah, KY. Tragically, he died in Bayji, Iraq, on April 3, 2005, as he and his fellow soldiers were escorting a supply convoy. An improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. He was 27 years old.

For his valorous service, Sergeant Sherrill was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart. He had previously received both the Army Good Conduct Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and he was awarded the Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal, the second highest honor that the Commonwealth of Kentucky can bestow.

James moved around the country a bit growing up, but while he was still young, the Sherrill family settled in Kentucky—Ekron, to be precise, a small town of a few hundred people in Meade County and the birthplace of legendary Baseball Hall of Famer Pee Wee Reese. In Ekron, James and his younger brother B.J. would grow up together and become well known throughout the community.

The Sherrills are a close-knit family. William "Buddy" Sherrill and his wife Beatrice, two soft-spoken people, have a lifetime of memories of their son James. William and Beatrice raised James and B.J. to love others, respect authority, and to be true gentlemen.

Being the older brother, James took his role as his brother's keeper seriously—most of the time. Beatrice recalls, however, when James and B.J. were still very young, one time when B.J. imagined himself to be the superhero Batman. To inaugurate his career as a caped crusader and to strike fear in the hearts of criminals, B.J. decided to jump out a window.

But heights can be intimidating, especially to a small child. Even one wearing a cape and a mask. So just as he was about to jump, B.J. hesitated.

Noticing his younger brother sitting on the edge of the windowsill in the Sherrill home, James decided it was up to him to help his brother out the only way he knew how. So James came up behind B.J. and gave him the push he wasn't looking for.

Asked why he had just pushed his brother out the window, James looked up at his parents and told them sincerely he was only "trying to help his brother." Thankfully, no one was seriously hurt, and James's understanding of how best to help others, shall we say, "evolved" over time.

A few years later, James found success on the football field. He soon became cocaptain of the Meade County High School varsity football team. His drive on the field spilled over into the weight room, where he broke several of his school's weightlifting records.

James's greatest moments on the field came his senior year with brother B.J., then a sophomore, also on the team. James played fullback, blocking opponents and creating holes for his ball-carrying brother, who played half-back. Over the course of the season, this one-two brotherly combination would amass an outstanding record. "Our whole community knew him because of [the] sports he played," B.J. said of his brother James.

Beyond the yards gained or the touchdowns scored, this portrait of one

brother leading the way for the other illustrated the relationship the two shared throughout James's life. William Sherrill said:

B.J. always looked up to James. They were best friends. Losing James has been particularly hard on B.J. . . . he's more serious now.

James was a protector, not only for B.J. but for others he helped mentor, such as the children at his local church and his fellow soldiers in Iraq. Given the choice between going to college or joining the military, James opted for the Marines, where he expanded his skills, traveled the world, and developed his faith.

After completing his tour with the Marines, James returned home to Ekron, where he decided to continue serving his country and joined the Kentucky National Guard. He also became a student at Elizabethtown Community College, hoping to pursue a career in law enforcement, and he met the love of his life.

James used his experience from the Marines to, as his father put it, "become a leader that everyone looked to." He always emphasized the importance of being focused on the mission at hand to his squad. He constantly double-checked his team to make sure they all knew their roles. James knew he and his fellow soldiers would be navigating some of the most deadly stretches of highway in the world.

Whenever he called home, however, he said the dangers of his job did not worry him. James's father recalls that his son felt at peace with what he was doing, even though he knew he may never make it home. William Sherrill attributes this serenity to his son's faith.

James reached his final resting place on April 12, 2005, in a small plot of land adjacent to the Zion Grove Baptist Church in Ekron. Sergeant Sherrill was buried with full military honors. Later that afternoon, William Sherrill rested on the front porch of a neighbor's home to reflect on the day's events.

Eventually, he looked up to see, stretched out across the sky, one of the brightest rainbows he had ever witnessed. This magnificent rainbow seemed to spring up from the Sherrill family home, stretch into the sky, and then arc downward, delicately landing near the cemetery of Zion Grove Baptist Church.

Every day when William Sherrill drives his truck home from work, his route usually takes him past James's grave site. And every day he is sure to slow his vehicle and blow his son a gentle kiss.

I am grateful to William and Beatrice Sherrill today for sharing their stories of James with us. We are thinking of James's brother, B.J., today as well.

Across the Nation, other families understand the simple gesture of blowing a kiss, for they, too, have lost a loved one in the line of duty. As a nation, we all grieve with these families. Yet we feel a sense of pride as well; pride at

the notion that thousands of men and women of courage have volunteered to wear the uniform and face danger in order to protect America.

SGT James Sherrill demonstrated his courage twice over, first by joining the Marines, and again by joining the Kentucky National Guard. His devotion and his sacrifice were a gift to the rest of us. We must treasure that gift.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to keep the family of SGT James Sherrill in their thoughts and prayers. They will certainly be in mine.

LANCE CORPORAL DAVID GRAMESSANCHEZ

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 Fort Wayne. David GramesSanchez, twenty-two years old, was killed on May 11 in a tank wreck near Karmah, 50 miles west of Baghdad in the Anbar province. Leaving his life and family behind him, David risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

According to his family, joining the Marine Corps had been a lifelong dream of David's and he loved being in the Corps. An Elmhurst High School wrestler remembered for his infectious smile, David followed the family tradition of joining the service. Both his grandfathers had served, and despite the objections of some of his relatives, David enlisted shortly after his high school graduation. His aunt told a local news outlet, "I tried to talk him out of (joining the Marines) because I knew something might happen to him. But he was very independent and loved his country. It seems apparent now that David was called by God and his country to lead a purpose-driven life. He wanted to make a difference." David was on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed.

His death came as a second blow to his community, as David was the second graduate of his high school to die in Iraq. Six months ago, a roadside bomb attack killed Army Corporal Jonathan Blair, a 2002 Elmhurst graduate.

David was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. This brave soldier leaves behind his wife, Lindsay Walsh; his 2-year-old son, Corbin; his father, David Grames, and father's fiancée, Lory Burton; his mother, Guadalupe Sanchez; his sister, Emily Grames; and numerous other relatives.

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

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

It is my sad duty to enter the name of David GramesSanchez 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 David'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 David.

SERGEANT LONNIE CALVIN ALLEN, JR.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Army SGT Lonnie Calvin Allen, Jr., from Nebraska. Sergeant Allen died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle while on patrol northwest of Baghdad on May 18. He was 26 years old.

Sergeant Allen grew up in Bellevue, NE, and graduated from Bellevue East High School in 1998. After 2 years at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After his first enlistment was completed, Sergeant Allen reenlisted and was deployed to Iraq in August 2005. He was a member of the 10th Mountain Division based out of Fort Drum, NY. Sergeant Allen will be remembered as a loyal soldier who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans such as Sergeant Allen are currently serving in Iraq.

Sergeant Allen is survived by his wife Birgit, and parents, Lonnie and Sallie Allen. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of Sergeant Allen's heroic service and mourns his loss.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Sergeant Lonnie Calvin Allen, Jr.

UNLV PRESIDENT CAROL HARTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen from my home State, Dr. Carol C. Harter. As the longest serving president in the history of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Carol has brought a real vision for Nevada's future to her work and to our communities.

On June 30, 2006, Carol will step down president of the university and leave behind an extraordinary legacy of accomplishments. Under her direction, the university created 100 degree programs. She was instrumental in the creation of the William S. Boyd School of Law, the School of Architecture, and the School of Dental Medicine. She increased the size of the university, adding to the number of buildings, programs, students, and faculty. During Carol Harter's tenure as president, she raised over \$556 million in gifts and pledges, which accounts for more than 80 percent of all gifts received since the UNLV Foundation's inception in 1982.

Carol brought a style of leadership to the university that was both effective and inspirational. Her strength, vision, and compelling personality provided an example to her students, faculty, and the community. I am well acquainted with her abilities because I have had the privilege of working with her on numerous projects. One project that has great meaning to me personally was the founding of the School of Dental Medicine. Growing up, my family did not have access to good dental care, and I know what a tremendous impact the dental school's community outreach programs will have on families like mine.

Carol's dedication did more than simply benefit the university; her efforts improved the quality of life in Nevada. Under Carol's leadership, the university has grown to be an institution that attracts professionals and academics to Nevada, provides for a cultural meeting place, trains the minds of all who come through its doors, and raises the level of culture and society in our community. I wish her only the best as she continues her career as executive director of the Black Mountain Institute. Her many accomplishments as president of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, will benefit the university and the residents of Nevada for years to come.

#### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of National Trails Day, which will be celebrated on June 3. One of this country's greatest natural treasures is its trails. Trails offer an opportunity for people of all ages to recreate, exercise and explore the great outdoors. Oftentimes they are a reflection of our history—a link to our past that allows us to literally follow in the footsteps of those who came before us.

Since its inception in 1993, National Trails Day has increased the awareness