

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 GRAMES-SANCHEZ

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 Grames-Sanchez, 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 Grames-Sanchez 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

of trails in our communities, and it has also provided support to the volunteer trail clubs that do so much to enhance the access and enjoyment of our trails. I extend my thanks to the volunteers who put forth so much time, passion and energy into maintaining the 200,000 miles of trails we are fortunate to call our own.

The theme for this year's National Trails Day celebration is "Experience Your Outdoors." From hiking and climbing to biking and horseback riding, there are many things we can do to experience our outdoors. I encourage all Americans to participate in National Trails Day and truly enjoy their outdoor experience.

I know that many of my fellow Nevadans will be enjoying National Trails Day this year with celebrations scheduled at The John Day Trail and the Greenhorn Cutoff of the California National Historic Trail in Elko, The Pony Express Trail in Eureka, The Tahoe Rim Trail at Lake Tahoe, Condor Canyon in Caliente and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area in Las Vegas to name a few.

Nevada's trails are rich with history and uniquely beautiful. I invite you all to visit Nevada's trails and experience all that they have to offer.

#### CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I wish to have included in the RECORD statements of support for S. 2588, the Health Care Access for Small Businesses Act, from all across the state of Michigan. I am proud to have support from organizations as diverse as providers, insurers, and elected officials.

The three share model is an innovative community-based concept that has worked across the United States from California to Arkansas, of course, to Michigan. The name, "three share" stems from the program's payment structure. Premiums are shared between the employer who pays 30 percent, the employee who pays 30 percent and the community which covers the remaining 40 percent of the cost.

I ask unanimous consent that the support letters be printed in the RECORD.

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

ASCENSION HEALTH,  
St. Louis, MO, April 28, 2006.

Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STABENOW: I am writing in strong support of the legislation you recently introduced, S. 2588, the "Health Care Access for Small Business Act of 2006," that would expand health insurance coverage for employees who work for small companies through a "Three-Share Program" modeled on a successful initiative first developed in Michigan. As you know, Ascension Health—through our sponsored hospitals and health systems in Michigan that include Standish Community Hospital; Borgess Health Alliance in Kalamazoo; St. Joseph Health System in Tawas City; Saint Mary's Medical

Center in Saginaw; Genesys Health System in Flint; and St. John Health in Detroit—has a significant presence in Michigan. We believe your legislation will help us in our work at the local level in Michigan and across the country to achieve 100% access to health care.

Over the past 6 years, Ascension Health has fostered the development of local community coalitions to expand access and improve the quality of care provided to the uninsured. Our experience led to the development of a 5 step model to expand access to care. Step One is to build a formal infrastructure that can support safety net services for the uninsured. Step Two is to fill service gaps, such as dental prescription drugs, and mental health services. Step Three is to develop and implement a care model for the uninsured that emphasizes coordinated services throughout the continuum of care. Step Four is to recruit physicians to provide medical homes and specialty care for the uninsured. Step Five is to get funding to ensure the long term sustainability of the initiative.

Since 2000, community coalitions in Michigan with an Ascension Health partner have received over \$11 million in federal support through the Healthy Community Access Program (HCAP) and approximately \$2 million in matching funds from Ascension Health. These funds have been used to develop and implement many of the steps identified above to achieve 100% access. We believe your legislation would help us reach the final step of achieving long term sustainability by providing small business, owners and their workers an opportunity to afford insurance coverage.

We enthusiastically support your legislation. Please let us know what we can do to further help you in your efforts to expand coverage for the 47 million Americans without health insurance, the additional 40 million Americans who go uninsured during some part of the year, and the additional 80 million Americans who are only partially covered.

Sincerely,

ATHONY R. TERSIGNI,  
President and Chief Executive Officer.

UPPER PENINSULA HEALTH PLAN,  
Marquette, MI, April 20, 2006.

Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STABENOW: I am writing to express my organization's support for Senator Stabenow's SB 2588, "Health Care Access for Small Business Act of 2006." SB 2588 will provide grants to eligible "three-share programs" for the start-up and operation costs of providing specific health care benefits to eligible covered individuals for a period of five years.

A "Three-Share Program" is a basic plan for health care coverage that brings together employers, workers without health care coverage and outside funding to create a health care coverage plan for those workers who have no other access to health insurance. The plan encourages employers (formerly not offering insurance coverage) to assist in the payment of modest fees for their employees' health coverage. Additional private, state, and/or federal funds are required to augment fees paid by other parties to complete the reimbursement of care. This transforms the "slow pay/no pay" patients into "assuredly-pay/discount-pay" patients.

Presently in Michigan, 1.2 million people do not have health care coverage. Sixty percent of the 1.2 million are employed and work full or part-time. Fifty percent of the 1.2 million are employed by small businesses and are not offered health care benefits. Michigan has seen two successful and separate community initiatives that began offer-

ing health care coverage for employed, low-income persons using the three-share model: HealthChoice in Wayne County (1994) and Access Health in Muskegon County (1999). Both are received grant monies for their start-up and operation costs.

The three-share program is a successful model for other regions to replicate. However, without start-up seed money in which to build community involvement, determine market needs, and establish administrative systems to carry out operational functions, these programs cannot get off the ground. In order to begin solving the health care crisis on a local level, communities need monetary supports in which to fund initiatives such as three-share programs.

Michiganders want access to high-quality, affordable health care. Thank you for initiating this legislation to help them receive it.

Sincerely,

DENNIS H. SMITH,  
President & CEO.

TRINITY HEALTH,  
Novi, MI, May 12, 2006.

Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STABENOW: I am writing to congratulate and thank you for your legislation, the Health Care Access for Small Businesses Act of 2006, and to offer Trinity Health's support and assistance in its passage.

As you know, Mercy General Health Partners, one of Trinity Health's twelve hospitals in Michigan, was instrumental in the creation of Access Health, one of the nation's most successful community-initiated programs for the working uninsured. Access Health now has a seven year track record. We are proud to be associated with Access Health, and appreciate your past contributions in helping to make it the success that it is.

The Health Care Access for Small Businesses Act of 2006 will help communities across the nation replicate the Access Health model, and thus become an important piece of the solution for the country's millions of uninsured individuals.

Specifically, your bill would leverage a federal contribution with community funds to help small businesses and their employees purchase a health coverage product developed by the community. In addition to reducing the local uninsured population, increased access to health care in a community will result in community-wide economic benefit. Employers in the community will experience less health care cost-shifting, and increased productivity and employee retention. With greater emphasis on preventive and chronic care, communities' uninsured populations will become less of a financial burden on state and local budgets.

Thank you for your very thoughtful effort to help communities, small business, and to ensure that the uninsured are not forgotten. We look forward to working with you on this national effort.

Sincerely,

MARSHA J. CASEY,  
President, Michigan Ministries.

Detroit, MI, May 9, 2006.

Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STABENOW: I am writing to express Wayne County's strong support for S. 2588, the Health Care Access for Small Businesses Act of 2006. As you know, Wayne County, Michigan has long been on the forefront of developing innovative health coverage for small business employees and the uninsured. Our experience demonstrates that