

to support recognizing the rights of a child or marriage for same-sex couples.

That is a French commission examining other European countries that have legalized same-sex unions saying this is not good for France or for the raising of the next generation.

In addition to these sources, some of the most influential sociologists in Europe agree that same-sex marriage undermines the traditional institution of marriage, even if they welcome the change. So, in other words, they are saying we might welcome the change, but this is going to hurt marriage. They agree that same-sex marriage doesn't reinforce marriage, as many of its proponents argue but, rather, upends marriage and helps foster acceptance for a variety of other forms, such as single parenting, cohabitation, and multiple partner unions, which only serve to weaken traditional marriage. This is what happens when you move away from your standard of marriage being the union of a man and a woman. It weakens the institution and moves in a lot of other types of arrangements.

Britain's Anthony Giddens, one of the most influential sociologists in all of Europe, wrote that modern marriage is being emptied of any meaning beyond the emotional bonding of adults, something he quotes as the "pure relationship." This notion of the pure relationship is being widely used by European social scientists to explain why so many parents now avoid marriage. Having a child is an experiment in an adult relationship that could possibly lead to marriage, rather than a reason to get married in the first place. It is clear that the institution of marriage has been defined down. It is simply a shared affection between two adults.

This is precisely how the advocates of same-sex marriage define marriage—no intrinsic connection to marriage. European sociologists say that a whole host of changes, like single parenting, cohabitation, and multiple partner unions, point to the unraveling of marriage as an institution designed to keep mothers and fathers together and for the sake of their children.

German sociologists, Ulrich Beck and Elizabeth Beck-Gernsheim, also highly contend that raising rates of parental cohabitation and out-of-wedlock births indicate that marriage, while seemingly alive, is in fact dying. The old notions of marriage and family are giving way to domestic situations in which individuals make up their own rules. Individual choice hollows out the old institutions, such as marriage and family, that used to guide our choices. These authors actually embrace and celebrate the instability of the brave new family system, holding that family disillusion teaches children a hard, but necessary, lesson about our new social world.

Is that the sort of message we want to send? It is the message that is coming through the courts if we don't define this legislatively. The work of

Norwegian sociologist Keri Moxnes, frequently used by European social scientists, is to put the movement in context. Moxnes welcomes same-sex marriage not as a way of ratifying marriage itself but as an innovation that affirms and advances marriage's ongoing decline. She defines marriage as being an increasingly empty institution.

Is that the message we want to send? In the U.S., many sociologists are of the same opinion. One argues that these wrenching social changes disrupt conventional sexual and domestic relations and undermine traditional marriages, but also believes that all of these are signs of the decline of the traditional family. From same-sex unions, to births, to cohabiting parents, to mothers who are single by choice, release individuals from the constraint of traditional marriage.

I want to conclude on that point to reaffirm what is really taking place here, and that is the redefining of a fundamental institution. We can say this is somehow a politicized debate, that it is not important. But from what we are seeing in countries that have taken up this debate, it is clearly important. It goes to the heart of the fundamental institution of marriage and weakens it further. It is an institution that we want to support, and this move destroys it further, takes it down further. That has been the research results that have taken place in Europe.

This is a big debate. It is a big and important problem and issue. We should not kid ourselves about what this is about by saying we don't really need to do this now. If we don't do it and it is redefined by the courts, that is the track we are on—tearing down this institution around which we have built families. Is that what the American people want to do? We have seen them vote in 45 States saying, no, we want marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

We should not kid ourselves. This is seriously about the future of the culture of the United States.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the mo-

tion to proceed to Calendar No. 435, S.J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage.

Bill Frist, Wayne Allard, Jim Bunning, Conrad Burns, Richard Burr, Tom Coburn, Jon Kyl, Craig Thomas, George Allen, Judd Gregg, Johnny Isakson, David Vitter, John Thune, Mike Crapo, Jeff Sessions, John Ensign, Rick Santorum.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the live quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction 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

LANCE CORPORAL WILLIAM JAY LEUSINK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a brave American who has made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. LCpl William Leusink died on May 22 when he struck an improvised explosive device while on a dismounted patrol in the Al Anbar Province in Iraq. Lance Corporal Leusink was a marine who was assigned to the Marine Corps Base in Kaneohe Bay, HI. He was 21 years old.

I would ask that all Americans join me today, and add to the more than 1,100 Iowans who attended his funeral, in remembering and honoring Lance Corporal Leusink. The loss of this courageous and patriotic American is felt throughout Iowa and in particular the town of Maurice where he grew up and graduated from Sioux Center High School. My thoughts and prayers are with Lance Corporal Leusink's wife, Miranda, his parents, Bill and Elaine, his brother and two sisters as well as all those other family and friends who are grieving the loss of this young man.

Lance Corporal Leusink, who I understand was known as "B. Jay" among family and friends, will be remembered for his faith, athleticism, and patriotism. His faith was especially important to him. Just as he often took with him to the football field his favorite verse, Phillipians 4:13, written on tape, it was this faith that led him to enlist to serve his country.

Pastor Wayne Sneller of the First Reformed Church of Maurice said, "B. Jay always wanted to be a Marine and to serve his country. He believed in what he was doing and knew that the Lord was going to be with him."

In an e-mail to the pastor, Lance Corporal Leusink had written, "I know where I am going. I enlisted for a reason, and that was to make a difference."

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Lance Corporal Leusink for his sacrifice. I am greatly saddened by his passing but deeply proud and grateful for what he gave for America. His loss remains tragic but he died a true patriot.

VA RESEARCH

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I rise to highlight the wonderful work being conducted by VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research Program. VA research programs continue to lead in developing innovative and effective methods of treatment that have been its trademark since World War II. From its inception, the VA research program has made landmark contributions to the welfare of veterans and the entirety of the Nation.

Past VA research projects have resulted in the first successful liver transplant performed in the United States, development of the cardiac pacemaker, and pioneered the technologies that led to the CT and MRI scans. VA research also played a vital role in treating tuberculosis, rehabilitating blind veterans, and more recently, launched the largest ever clinical trial of psychotherapy to treat PTSD.

In 2004, VA research took on leadership of a \$60 million nation wide study—funded by the National Institute on Aging and other partners—to identify brain changes linked with Alzheimer's disease. VA research also established a major center of excellence, in partnership with Brown University and MIT, to develop state-of-the-art prosthetics for veteran amputees. For the last 60 years, VA research has been extremely competitive with its private sector counterparts.

I would like to recognize a few research projects that can potentially benefit veterans living in remote and rural areas across the country, including veterans living in my home State of Hawaii, where the geography creates challenges in accessing care. One study, Telemedicine and Anger Management Groups for PTSD Veterans in the Hawaiian Islands, builds on preliminary research supporting the use of technology for improving access to mental health care for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD. The study focuses on the effectiveness of conducting anger management group therapy treatment through video-conferencing.

I also applaud the Pacific Islands Division of the National Center for PTSD in Honolulu. Their efforts have improved access to PTSD treatment in remote areas and contributed to the knowledge and understanding of cultural factors related to PTSD. I commend the Pacific Islands Division for its collaboration with the Department of Defense. I hope that VA and DOD continue to work together on future research projects aimed at providing better treatment for servicemembers and veterans alike.

In 2004, VA Research Currents, a publication that highlights the excellent work of the VA research community, reported on a study which found that men who walked less than a quarter of a mile each day were, on average, nearly twice as likely to develop dementia compared to those that walked more than 2 miles a day.

This research project was led by Robert D. Abbott, Ph.D., of the University of Virginia; senior author Helen Petrovitch, M.D.; and coauthor G. Webster Ross, M.D., of the Honolulu VA Medical Center. According to the researchers, the findings suggest that promotion of an active lifestyle could promote better health later on in life.

The last study I would like to discuss examines the correlation between drinking coffee and preventing Parkinson's disease. It has been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In this case, VA researchers and their colleagues found that consuming at least 28 ounces of coffee can lower the risk of Parkinson's disease. Lead author G. Webster Ross, M.D., along with colleagues from the Kuakini Medical Center, used participant dietary nutritional data from the Honolulu Heart Program for their findings. The study helped scientists better understand the mechanisms of Parkinson's disease and found a strong correlation between coffee drinkers and low rates of Parkinson's disease. Dr. Ross did note, however, that it was too early to recommend drinking coffee to prevent Parkinson's disease.

To ensure that VA can continue these studies and tremendous successes, VA research must be given the funds to do the job. VA research funding must be at a level that takes into account not only inflation but new challenges as well. Most importantly, adequately funding VA research helps to ensure that VA remains an attractive option to our best and brightest in medicine. Chairman CRAIG and I, along with 60 of our colleagues, have recommended \$432 million in funding for VA research next year, notwithstanding that this number is just to maintain current services and avoid any personnel or project cuts.

Just last week, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on the VA research program, hearing firsthand the challenges researchers face in not only finding new methods of treatment but in funding, too. I came away from the hearing with a better understanding of the VA research program's needs, as well as the challenges we in Congress can help them overcome.

That is why I, along with 61 of my colleagues, have recommended an addition to the VA research budget and not a decrease. Less funding for VA research at this point in time will have negative consequences down the road, when VA inherits the servicemen and women currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Let us not fail in our responsibilities of providing adequate funding so VA's Medical and Prosthetic

Research Program can continue to innovate and save lives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATION FOR SISTERS OF MERCY IN ST. LOUIS

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, June 27, 2006 marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in St. Louis, MO. Founded in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831 by Mother Catherine McAuley, the Sisters have dedicated themselves to serving the sick, poor, and uneducated, particularly women and children.

In 1856, at the request of St. Louis Archbishop Peter J. Kenrick, six Sisters of Mercy journeyed by train and boat from New York to St. Louis, arriving on June 27, 1856, to open St. Francis Xavier Parish School. During their first year in St. Louis, in addition to opening this new school, the Sisters visited the sick, poor, and jailed; started a Sunday school program for African-American women and girls; began an industrial school for children with one parent; and opened an orphanage. Despite many challenges including lack of money, food and clothing, the Sisters persevered with determination and faith. They expanded their ministry during the Civil War, visiting war prisoners at the hospital and jail.

Growing enrollment at St. Francis Xavier School necessitated the opening of a new school in 1871. The Sisters of Mercy have continued the focus on education in St. Louis. Over the past 150 years since their arrival in St. Louis, more than 177 Sisters of Mercy have served in more than 20 parish elementary schools and 5 high schools in Missouri. These schools include Christ the King School in University City, Mercy High School in University City, St. Joan of Arc School in South St. Louis, Annunciation School in Webster Groves, and Mercy Junior College in Webster Groves.

Recognizing the ever-growing health care needs of the community, in 1871 the Sisters converted the old St. Francis Xavier School to an infirmary. The hospital struggled financially because many patients were unable to pay, but the Sisters never turned patients away due to lack of funds. Instead, Sisters even sacrificed their mattresses and bedding to accommodate patients. To meet the increased need for their health care services, the Sisters moved the hospital to two other St. Louis sites before relocating to its current location on South New Ballas Road in 1963.

While better known for their work in education and health care, the Sisters have served the people of the St. Louis metropolitan area in numerous other ministries including working with immigrants, providing spiritual direction, hosting groups at their conference and retreat center, and serving the poor.