

the issues and events that affect their daily lives.

Through her work, Barbara Hawkins served as a teacher and a counselor, a defender of right and a pursuer of wrong, an advocate, a champion, and a friend to all in southern West Virginia.

Now, after three decades of service, Barbara has decided to retire from daily reporting. But, as much as we would expect, she is not giving up the art of writing and informing. Her columns and special projects will continue, allowing all of us to learn from her insights and her experiences.

Most of Barbara's work at the newspaper was in the public eye. But, more than anything else, Barbara's strength came from her deep devotion to her family. We have all walked the terrible journey with her after her daughter, Pam, was taken from this world, a victim of domestic violence more than 20 years ago. Barbara has never been shy about that loss nor about her efforts to prevent that shattering experience from touching other families. But what is not in the headlines is Barbara's incredible commitment to her daughter, Kimberleigh, her granddaughter, Pami, and all of the members of her family. While her work at the paper may be a great love of Barbara's, it pales in comparison to her love of family. Barbara's family is her source of strength and inspiration, now and always.

On a personal level, I will miss reading Barbara's daily reporting. I made a habit of looking for her byline. She has always shown a keen insight into not only southern West Virginia but also statewide and national issues. Her instincts, her institutional knowledge, and her commentary have always caused me, like so many others, to stop and think and to consider alternate approaches. Her commitment to the greater good in society is something for each of us to emulate.

I have often said that as long as there is a forum in which questions can be asked by men and women who do not stand in awe of a chief executive and one can speak as long as one's feet will allow one to stand, the liberties of the American people will be secure. That forum is this Senate. But the same can be said of the news media—the newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and other outlets that provide information that is important to the lives of all Americans. Freedom of the press is a key of this Republic. Without it, the American people can be led to disaster without so much as a whisper. Their freedoms can be trampled; their rights can be subverted.

Barbara Hawkins defended that freedom. She exercised it every single day. And all of us are better for her work.

I thank Barbara for her many years of service to the people of West Virginia and wish her well in the challenges that certainly are ahead of her in her life's journey.

#### NEVADA'S STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Marilyn Wills, the director of Nevada's State Health Insurance Assistance Program, for her efforts during the implementation of the Medicare drug program in my State. I would like to recognize Marilyn for not only her service to Nevada's Medicare beneficiaries, but also for her dedication to her profession and her contributions to the community.

As most of us have surely heard from beneficiaries, the enrollment period for the new drug program was a time of great stress, confusion, and frustration. As seniors, people with disabilities, and their loved ones tried to understand the complicated new drug benefit, decide whether to sign up, and then find the best drug plan to join, many found themselves overwhelmed. And with the May 15 enrollment deadline looming, it became increasingly clear that the public needed better information and better help using that information.

I commend Nevada's State Health Insurance Assistance Program, or SHIP, for heeding this call in my State. Hundreds of SHIP volunteers gave their time and energy to counsel their fellow Nevadans about the new Medicare drug benefit, as well as other components of Medicare, supplemental health insurance, and long-term care. As more Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and friends turned to Nevada SHIP for one-on-one counseling and assistance, SHIP volunteers were eventually responding to over 1,000 phone calls every month. Nevada SHIP also made arrangements for homebound seniors and held outreach events for the community at large. During one 3-day event alone, over 500 Nevadans with Medicare received help from SHIP volunteers. The work of Nevada's SHIP volunteers is truly a testament to the value of public service.

As the director of Nevada's SHIP, Marilyn Wills was at the center of its operations. In that role, she was charged with a wide range of responsibilities, including overseeing the outreach events, giving educational presentations to the public, and training new volunteers. Moreover, Marilyn and the SHIP volunteers had to carry out their work in an environment that is continually evolving with new, uncertain, or changing program rules and details. The manner with which Marilyn carried out her responsibilities has earned her high praise from her colleagues, as well.

In one of many glowing stories about Marilyn that has reached my desk, one says, "Marilyn worked tirelessly to ensure that all the community groups working on Part D outreach were aware of every event and that this was an inclusive effort. She believes in maximizing efforts to reach the entire community, but her passion focuses on every individual beneficiary and how to

help each person get the help they need." The observer continues to write, "She made sure her volunteers knew this was about people helping people. It was important to her that the volunteers and staff feel good about what they were doing, and always see how they were truly helping people that needed the information, or just the human contact to help them be comfortable in understanding all the options."

The challenge was to inform the citizens of the State of Nevada about the new Medicare drug benefit and to guide them through the enrollment process. It is my pleasure to recognize Marilyn Wills and the Nevada SHIP volunteers for their success in tackling this challenge. They are a credit to all of us working toward the success of the new Medicare drug benefit in Nevada.

#### RECOGNITION OF GARRETT HALL AND CHRIS SHEA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Garrett Hall and Chris Shea, fellow Nevadans who deserve praise for their efforts during the implementation of the new Medicare Part D drug benefit in Nevada.

As most of us have surely heard, the enrollment period was a time of great stress, confusion, and frustration for nearly everyone involved. As seniors, people with disabilities, and their loved ones tried to understand the complicated new drug benefit, decide whether to sign up, and then find the best drug plan to join, many found themselves overwhelmed. Emerging from those reports were also stories about pharmacists who struggled with the numerous implementation problems.

Garrett and Chris, who operate PAX Rx in Reno, NV, are fine examples of pharmacists across the country who did their best to assist those seeking their help and advice. However, Garrett and Chris did more than simply rise to the occasion. By all accounts, they went above and beyond the minimum bar set for them.

For one particularly vulnerable group, the Medicare-Medicaid dual eligible beneficiaries, Garrett and Chris came to the rescue countless times to ensure that they did not fall through the bureaucratic cracks. As many of us know, newspapers widely reported the numerous implementation problems that threatened to keep these dual-eligible beneficiaries from receiving their vitally important medications. Garrett and Chris know that there are real lives behind these facts and statistics because their PAX Rx pharmacy repeatedly intervened on behalf of affected customers. At no cost to such beneficiaries, they provided the needed medications, either by mail or hand delivery.

These two Nevadans' contributions extended beyond the scope of their pharmacy practice. Garrett and Chris also attended townhall meetings and

other public events, seeking out stakeholders in need of guidance and lending their expertise. In the words of one observer, Garrett and Chris “saved the day for Nevada during the early days of implementation.” They are among the countless pharmacists who deserve recognition for their efforts in Nevada and across the country.

For these deeds, Garrett and Chris are a credit to all of us working toward the success of the new Medicare drug benefit in Nevada.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

U.S. ARMY SERGEANT DANIEL R. GIONET

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Army SGT Daniel R. Gionet, a brave young American who gave his last full measure in service to our Nation while deployed with the U.S. Army to Iraq, a land far overseas from his Pelham, NH, roots.

Daniel was a 2001 graduate of Pelham High School where he was a three-season athlete competing on the school's football, baseball, and wrestling teams, winning the sportsmanship award his senior year. Friends say he was a team player and the type of guy who, no matter where you went or what you did, could have fun and make you laugh.

Daniel Webster, speaking of early American leaders said, “While others doubted, they were resolved; where others hesitated they pressed forward.” In this spirit, Daniel joined the U.S. Army when he turned 18 and left for basic training after graduating from high school. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Drum in upstate New York and served at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, from July 2003 to May 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Believing in what he was doing and wanting to make the world a safer place, he reenlisted in the U.S. Army to become a medic after his original tour ended in May 2004. After training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, he was assigned as a health care specialist in the 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX. In December 2005, Daniel deployed with his unit to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Tragically, on June 4, 2006, this brave soldier, and a comrade from his unit, died of injuries sustained while on patrol in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their M1A2 tank during combat operations. Sergeant Gionet's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon 2, Combat Medical Badge, and Expert Weapons Qualification Badge.

Patriots from the State of New Hampshire have served our Nation with honor and distinction from Bunker Hill to Baghdad—and U.S. Army SGT Daniel Gionet served in that fine tradition. Honor, humor, and huge hugs, according to family and friends, were among the qualities Daniel shared with others. They remember him as a true patriot, who had a love for his school, his town, and his country. He was dedicated to serving his Nation during these chaotic and violent times because, in his heart, he felt it was his duty.

My heartfelt sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Daniel's wife Katrina, to whom he was married in November 2005, as well as to Daniel's parents, Daniel and Denise, brother Darren, sister Alycia, and other family members and many friends who have suffered this grievous loss. The death of Daniel, only 23 years old, on a battlefield far from New Hampshire is also a great loss for our State, our benevolent Nation, and the world. He will be sorely missed by all; however, his family and friends may sense some comfort in knowing that because of his devotion, sense of duty, and selfless dedication, the safety and liberty of each and every American is more secure. In the words of Daniel Webster—may his remembrance be as long lasting as the land he honored. God bless Daniel R. Gionet.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JUSTIN KING

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a brave soldier, PFC Justin King. After graduating college and working as a civilian, Private King enlisted in the Army Reserve so he could, in his words, do something “for his country and more than himself.” While in advanced individual training, Justin was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Although his body has not responded to chemotherapy treatments and his hope to serve in the field will go unrealized, his illness has failed to break his ironclad spirit. The first time Private King's commanding officer visited him in the hospital, Private King insisted on getting into full uniform before she entered the room. He said that he wanted to “look like a soldier and stand like a soldier.”

Since returning to Robinson, IL, to be with his family, Private King told his CO: “I want to serve in some capacity to the best of my ability and until my health fails, as a soldier. I want to tell other soldiers how to deal with a terminal illness, I want to do something useful.”

I am thoroughly impressed by this young man's desire to serve and the resolve he has displayed when faced with adversity. I admire Private King's patriotism, sacrifice, and strong character. He is a role model for all Americans, and I am proud to recognize him today.

#### CLEAN WATER ACT CHALLENGES

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the Supreme Court's decision earlier this week in the consolidated cases of *Rapanos v. United States* and *Carabell v. Army Corps of Engineers* should be a source of great concern in this body and this Nation. The plurality opinion, while it did not win the support of a majority of the court, is completely at odds with the text and purpose of the Clean Water Act, would put much of the Nation's waters in jeopardy, and as many have noted, will likely lead to increased litigation.

To prevent further legal wrangling about what Congress meant when it passed what has come to be one of the country's fundamental public health and environmental statutes, Congress must pass the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act. This legislation, S. 912, which I most recently introduced in April 2005, reestablishes protection for all waters historically covered by the Clean Water Act. It also makes clear that Congress's primary concern in 1972 was to protect the Nation's waters from pollution, rather than just sustain the navigability of waterways, and it reinforces that original intent.

Mr. President, I hope that my colleagues—the 85 who are not cosponsors of the bill—will now join me, in light of this week's Supreme Court ruling, to clarify that all of the Nation's waters are important for the health and vitality of our country by supporting passage of the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act.

#### TRIBUTE TO BONNY JAIN

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to note with pride an accomplishment of one of my constituents. Bonny Jain, of Moline, IL, won the National Geographic Bee here in Washington, DC, on May 24 by correctly identifying the Cambrian Mountains on a map. I don't know if they have “phone a friend” in the bee, but it is good that he didn't call me because I thought a Cambri was a small Toyota.

His victory in this competition demonstrates a laudable dedication to scholarship. As technology makes the world smaller, knowledge of other peoples and cultures becomes more important. And cultures are shaped by geography. Geography is often the main factor in the path of national borders. Under the influence of geography, wars are won and lost, and civilizations rise and fall.

Bonny's path to victory in the 2006 bee was a long one. I am impressed not only by his comprehensive knowledge of geography but by his steady ascent through 4 years of competition. From second place at his individual school's geography bee, he rose to the national competition last year and to victory last month.

I am proud to have this young man and his family as constituents. I give them my heartiest congratulations and