

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER SERGEANT SCOTT M. CARNEY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow that I speak today in honor of a fallen soldier. American hero MSG Scott M. Carney was killed in military operations on August 24, 2007. My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Scott's wife Jeni and twin sons Jacob and Justin. I also express sincere sympathy and gratitude to his parents Geneva and John Carney and his brothers and sister.

An Ankeny, IA, resident, Scott was killed during a humvee rollover near Herat, Afghanistan. Scott was a member of the Iowa National Guard's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Division out of Boone, IA. Scott enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1989 and had been a member of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team since 2004.

Scott will be fondly remembered and missed dearly. His wife described Scott by saying he "died doing what he loved, serving his country and protecting the freedom that we enjoy and providing the people of Afghanistan with the opportunity for freedom." I know I speak on behalf of all Iowans when I express gratitude for Scott's 18 years of military service. While I speak today with great sorrow, I also speak with great pride; pride in having soldiers like Scott, willing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

A fellow soldier lent an apt description of Scott when he said "the Army was his life. He loved his family dearly and was a great family member. He was also part of the team." I ask all Americans to spend a moment today in prayerful gratitude for the family of a true American patriot, fallen hero MSG Scott M. Carney.

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

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 the night of August 9, 2007, three friends with developmental disabilities were verbally assaulted by four teens as they left a Cheektowaga, NY, restaurant. Two of the friends, a 22-year-old local man and his 19-year-old girlfriend, got into their vehicle and began to drive away. The teens continued to taunt the couple with derogatory names for the developmentally disabled. The four youths drove after the couple in two cars, reportedly swerving repeatedly at the victims' car and nearly hitting it. The disabled couple's car crashed as they tried to turn onto the Cheektowaga Thruway, causing significant damage to their vehicle. According to witnesses, the crash happened after the victim sped up to get away from the attackers' vehicles. The

teens sped away, but thanks to witnesses and restaurant surveillance tapes, the police were able to apprehend the teens. Three of them were charged with perpetrating a hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard 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.

ILLICIT GLOBAL SMALL ARMS
TRADE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, illegally traded small arms and light weapons are cheap and readily available in many areas of the world. These weapons contribute to instability and violence in developing regions, creating fertile breeding grounds for rogue actors, undisciplined militias, and even terrorists. Confronting the threat of global terrorism requires a multifaceted approach which should include efforts to curb the illegal small arms trade while promoting programs that destroy surplus and obsolete weapons so they are taken out of circulation world-wide.

The M-16 and the AK-47, both automatic rifles, and shoulder launched surface-to-air missiles, called Man-Portable Air Defense Systems, or MANPADS, are the most commonly traded weapons in the estimated \$1 billion a year illegal arms trade. I am not talking about legal and vetted government to government transfers; I am talking about the illicit arms trade that results in these weapons ending up, frequently, in the most lawless regions of the world and in places where they could be used to attack U.S. troops.

I have just returned from a trip to Africa, where I saw firsthand the devastating toll these weapons have had in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, as well as in northern Uganda. The eastern part of DRC, despite that country's successful election last summer, is rife with instability and small arms are the weapons of choice. I saw how they are used to destabilize communities and how they wreak havoc on innocent civilians. I visited a center for ex-combatants in Bunia, in the Ituri region of North Kivu, and saw the newly disarmed soldiers beginning the process of "re-entering" life without a weapon. The U.N. agency running this program had already removed the child soldiers but many of the former soldiers I saw looked exceedingly young. They couldn't have been much older than 18 or 20 and yet there they were receiving a second chance at life—a chance to live free of violence.

In Iraq, the illicit small arms trade supplies insurgent groups that continue to hamper U.S.-led efforts to stabilize and rebuild the country. In Afghanistan, illegally obtained small arms are used by warlords to attack U.S. troops and maintain areas of ref-

uge for terrorists. Much of the recent violence that has plunged Somalia into chaos has been carried out by extremists with automatic rifles. In Colombia, narcoterrorist paramilitary operations, including kidnappings and the murder of hostages, are fueled by a steady flow of small arms that are smuggled into the country. The influx of small arms into Darfur, much of which is in violation of a U.N. arms embargo, has helped perpetuate the conflict between the Sudanese government, associated Janjaweed militias, and the numerous rebel factions. Many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa—including Angola, and Liberia—have been profoundly impacted as they became victims to decades of brutal war perpetuated by these illegal arms flows.

I am pleased that the President requested, the House passed, and the Senate Appropriations Committee has provided, over \$44 million for the Small Arms and Light Weapons Destruction Program in Fiscal Year 2008. This is a significant increase for a much-needed and very successful initiative. Indeed, since 2001, this program has helped 25 countries destroy over 1 million weapons that might have otherwise been used to create unrest and chaos.

The fight against global terrorism remains the highest national security priority of the United States. The illegal global trade and ensuing use of small arms and light weapons clearly destabilizes regions that extremists and terrorists can then use as safe havens in which to operate. The United States must do all it can to curtail the illegal small arms trade world-wide while it works to simultaneously eliminate the conditions that breed extremism and instability. The Small Arms and Light Weapons Destruction Program is a critical component in that fight.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SUN YET WONG

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO, is honoring two individuals, Dr. Paul G. Kaminski and Mr. Sun Yet Wong, who have made significant contributions to the discipline of national reconnaissance. They will be inducted as members of Pioneer Hall. This prestigious award bestowed to 71 people is the NRO's highest honor.

Of these two individuals, I am honored to know Mr. Wong and I wish to congratulate him on being selected by the NRO for the 2007 Class of Pioneers. The work of technological revolutionaries, such as Mr. Sun Yet Wong, has made significant and lasting contributions to the discipline of national reconnaissance, and has set the stage for future advancements in the field. His efforts have helped advance technology by contributing to the effectiveness of

NRO satellite systems. Today, the NRO continues to build on his revolutionizing successes.

Mr. Wong's career in national reconnaissance began in 1955 and continues to the present day. Although he is being honored with this award because of his outstanding work and contributions to the effectiveness of NRO satellite systems, Mr. Wong has been a major contributor to a number of technological advancements. Among his achievements, Mr. Wong was the key designer of support equipment for ground-test deployment of satellite solar panels whose application overcame a structural on-orbit deployment anomaly. He also introduced the use of a synthetic lubricant to stabilize and extend the life of control movement gyroscopes used on NRO satellites. He currently works as a consultant for TriSept Corporation and Boeing Space Systems.

Mr. Wong is a true pioneer who continues to revolutionize technology. Again, I commend him for all that he has done and wish him the very best in future endeavors. •

NEW MEXICO MAINSTREET ACCREDITATIONS

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I recognize several cities in New Mexico that have recently received national accreditation for completing the Main Street Four-Point Approach. The National Trust Main Street Center recently named nine cities' Main Street projects as being nationally accredited. Those nine communities include Artesia, Clayton, Clovis, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, Los Alamos, Raton, and Silver City.

The work that has been done in these communities to preserve the history of downtown, as well as bring it into the 21st century, is to be honored. Main streets are a big part of every community's history. They provide a look into the past, and with these revitalizations, a positive look into the future. Downtown used to be the hub of a city. With the invention of the automobile, cities have spread out and often no longer have just one central area of activity. With these new improvements to local main streets, towns are beginning to experience businesses returning to these areas. These towns have been able to marry the past with the present. They are honoring old businesses that have been in downtown areas for years, while encouraging new businesses to open their doors in this district. The success of their efforts is evident by this award.

I congratulate these cities on the good work they are doing to bring the main street appeal back into their communities. •

30TH ANNUAL ENCHANTED CIRCLE CENTURY TOUR

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I recognize the Red River Chamber of

Commerce and the Red River Bike Club for putting on another Enchanted Circle Century Tour. This year marks the 30th anniversary of this legendary bicycle tour around northeast New Mexico.

This 100 mile tour begins in Red River, and then passes through Questa, Taos, Angel Fire, Eagle Nest and Black Lake before finishing back in Red River. What better way to see the breathtaking Sangre de Cristo Mountains than on a bicycle? This tour has given many residents and visitors of New Mexico the opportunity to experience our State in a new way. It is not for the faint of heart though. It takes incredible strength to overcome the elevation, elements, and endurance challenge this tour presents. The September 8 start will be a major milestone for this community, and it is my hope that this tradition continues for at least another 30 years. •

HONORING MARY MCALENEY

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I commend a Mainer who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in public service to our State and the Nation. On June 30 of this year, Mary McAleney retired from her position as district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Maine district Office after serving in that capacity for 9 dedicated years. Her retirement from this post is a loss to all of Maine's 151,000 small businesses. Mary has always worked with the best interests of Maine's small businesses in mind, and her efforts on behalf of our State's small firms has been widely praised. In March of this year, the Maine Small Business Development Centers named Mary their Small Business Champion for her tireless efforts to serve Mainers. Her commitment to, and enthusiasm for, small enterprises has impressed all who have had the privilege of working with her.

I will never forget when, in the spring of 2006 following devastating flooding in York County, Mary helped to organize a tour for me of the damage. On very short notice, she made arrangements to visit numerous businesses affected by the flooding, rallying business leaders to stay optimistic and begin the recovery process. Over the years, Mary proved time and again that she could be relied upon in times of crisis to assist small businesses in need, and as a Mainer herself, she knew exactly how to be helpful, knew the right person to call, and found a way to get results.

Mary's public service began with her work as a staffer in the Maine Legislature. Leaving Augusta, Mary came to Washington to work for former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, where she served as chief of staff. Prior to her appointment to the Maine SBA, Mary served as district director for the Massachusetts SBA from 1995 to 1998. Without any doubt, it is clear from the first time Mary meets anyone that

Mary McAleney's passion is Maine! She grew up in eastern Maine, in the town of Vanceboro, where she undoubtedly learned the value of sustaining a rural economy, and realized the challenges many Mainers from rural areas of the State face in order to support a family. Throughout the years, Mary has demonstrated this zeal by her remarkable ability to work with people from all sides of the spectrum, because she is among them in spirit and determination.

The State of Maine owes a debt of gratitude to Mary McAleney for the outstanding work she has done fighting for Maine's small businesses. While she will be sorely missed at the SBA, I know Mary will continue her distinguished service to Maine in innovative and beneficial ways. I wish my good friend continued success and offer my sincere appreciation for her devotion to Maine's small business community.

Thank you, Mr. President, for affording me the opportunity to speak about this truly exceptional Mainer and American. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 954. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 365 West 125th Street in New York, New York, as the "Percy Sutton Post Office Building".

H.R. 3052. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 954 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, Ohio, as the "John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 3062. An act to authorize appropriations to provide for South Pacific exchanges, provide technical and other assistance to countries in the Pacific region through the United States Agency for International Development, and authorize appropriations to provide Fulbright Scholarships for Pacific island students.

H.R. 3106. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Main Street in Ferdinand, Indiana, as the "Staff Sergeant David L. Nord Post Office".

H.R. 3218. An act to designate a portion of Interstate Route 395 located in Baltimore, Maryland, as "Cal Ripken Way".