

with what we have to spend, and if used wisely, the funds in this bill will advance U.S. interests and improve the lives of countless people less fortunate than we are.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DANE BALCON

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to reflect on the life and service of a fallen Coloradan: PFC Dane Balcon of Colorado Springs.

Private Balcon graduated from Sand Creek High School in 2006, joined the Army, and was deployed to Iraq in July with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, TX. Private Balcon was killed last Wednesday alongside CPL William T. Warford, III, of Temple, TX, when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle. Dane Balcon was 19 years old.

Private Balcon was looking forward to a long career in the military. Since he was 3 years old he dreamed of being a soldier, of following the path of service that his father, John Balcon, and his mother, Carla Sizer, chose. Dane was eager for the opportunity to serve in Iraq, and was dismayed when his unit's deployment was delayed. He knew that the longer he was at Fort Hood, the longer another soldier would have to stay in theater. "Every day I stay at Fort Hood," he told his mother, "someone is away from their family." He wanted to get into the fight and lift his weight, so that the weight on others might be lifted.

Dane's loss has left a hole for his community, his friends, and his family that no words can ever fill. At Sand Creek High School, Dane's friends remember a young man dedicated to his future in the military. He joined the ROTC program, was in the drum line, and had a voracious appetite for learning the soldier's craft.

His charm won him widespread admiration and friendship. His habit of playing his drumsticks alongside an imaginary chorus during the school day exasperated his teachers, but his jokes would gain their smiles, and his heart would earn their respect. When he deployed in July, their thoughts and prayers, like those of his classmates, friends, and family, were with him.

The values that led Private Balcon to enlist and to serve on the battlefields of Iraq are the values that have guided American soldiers for more than two centuries. "Duty, honor, country," GEN Douglas MacArthur told young soldiers at West Point in 1962. "These are the words that dictate what a soldier wants to be, can be, and will be. . . . They teach you to be proud and unbending in honest failure, but humble and gentle in success; not to substitute words for action; not to seek the path of comfort, but to face the stress and spur of difficulty and challenge; to learn to stand up in the storm, but to have compassion on those who fall; to master yourself before you seek to master others; to have a heart that is clean, a goal that is high; to learn to laugh, yet never for-

get how to weep; to reach into the future, yet never neglect the past; to be serious, yet never take yourself too seriously; to be modest so that you will remember the simplicity of true greatness; the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength."

PVT Dane Balcon, who dreamt of serving his country and of devoting his life to its protection, embodied this creed. He donned the soldier's uniform at the first opportunity, he showed his bravery on the battlefield, and he perished in service.

Duty, honor, country, GEN MacArthur's "hallowed words" characterize Private Balcon's sacrifice. They are the values of America's great soldiers, the giants to whom we owe our freedom. Theirs is a debt we cannot repay.

To Carla and John, I cannot imagine the sorrow that you are feeling with the loss of your son. I hope that in time your grief will be salved by your pride in your son's extraordinary dedication to service. Dane served the Nation with honor and dignity. His sacrifice will never be forgotten.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SCOTT OSWELL

Mr. President, I rise today to reflect on the life, service, and sacrifice of CWO Scott Oswell, who died on July 4 when his helicopter went down in Mosul, Iraq. Chief Oswell was on his second tour of duty in Iraq, piloting OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopters with the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry out of Fort Lewis. He was 33.

Scott grew up the son of an Army officer and was a stoic servant of the greater good. He joined the Marines soon after graduating from Air Academy High School in Colorado Springs, CO. He later transferred to the Army, where he became a helicopter pilot and, in 2006, earned his instructor rating.

At his funeral at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, friends and family spoke of Scott's devotion to his family and to his service. He was "family man" to his wife, Cheri, and to his three children, Caitlyn, Amanda, and Ian. He was a patient "big brother" to the pilots he taught. And he was a brave soldier to those with whom he served in Iraq, willing to risk his life to defeat an enemy or to lift others to safety.

For his service to his country and his unit, and for his death on Independence Day on a mission to save another, Chief Oswell will always be remembered as a patriot. But he is also a patriot in a larger sense. Frances Wright, one of America's most famous lecturers, reminds us that patriotism is a virtue that characterizes an individual's dedication to the public good, to the preference of the interests of the many to the interests of the few, and to the love of liberty. "A patriot," she told an Indiana crowd on July 4, 1828, "is a useful member of society, capable of enlarging all minds and bettering all hearts with which he comes in contact; a useful member of the human family, capable of establishing fundamental principles and of merging his own in-

terests, those of his associates, and those of his Nation in the interests of the human race."

Chief Oswell wore his patriotism with humility. He did the job, and he did it well amid the perils of war. At Scott's memorial service, a fellow soldier recalled how they flew out to examine a suspicious flicker of light along a supply route to Baghdad. Finding an insurgent with a rocket-propelled grenade in hand, Chief Oswell hovered within the enemy's range, committed to preventing an escape. "This guy is not going to get away," he said.

Even with the best training and preparation, keeping calm and composed in difficult circumstances demands something more from an individual. Chief Oswell had what it takes. His friends recall that on missions he would often sing popular children's songs. He was steady and stoic.

CWO Scott Oswell sacrificed his life for this Nation as a patriot, in service to something larger than himself. He accepted the great risks of being a pilot with a smile and used his talents and temperament to teach others what he had learned. His extraordinary courage is a lesson to us all, a debt we cannot repay, a loss we cannot replace. He was a father, a teacher, a pilot, and a patriot. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

To Chief Oswell's wife Cheri, to his children, Caitlyn, Amanda, and Ian, and to his parents, Barry and Nancy, I know that even now, no words can fill the hole left by Scott's death. I pray that you can find comfort in knowing that he was always, and will remain always, a true patriot. He will endure in our hearts and prayers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CELEBRATING EL GRITO DE DOLORES

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, next week, Idahoans of Hispanic and Latino heritage will be joining others in the United States and Mexico to celebrate the beginning of the decade-long battle to liberate Mexico from Spain almost 200 years ago. They gather to celebrate "El Grito de Dolores," or "The Cry from Dolores," issued by Father Miguel Gregorio Antonio Ignacio Hidalgo y Costilla Gallaga Mondarte Villaseñor, better known as Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, Mexican priest and revolutionary leader. Cura Hidalgo, although ethnically a criollo, or Mexican of Spanish or European descent, became sympathetic at a young age to the terrible plight of the Indians and mestizos—those of mixed ancestry—who had been subjugated by the Spanish for 300 years in Mexico. Hidalgo was an intellectual, well-versed in a number of languages and well-read. Some historians tell that his classmates called him "el zorro," or "the Fox." He was

also known to be an entrepreneur and humanitarian. With the intention to better the plight of the indigenous people of his community, he taught them carpentry, harness-making, wool-weaving and blacksmithing and encouraged local artisans. He also cultivated vineyards and olive groves. In the early 1800s, he became involved in a movement to overthrow the Spanish-led Government of Mexico, then called "New Spain." Although led by a group of criollo intellectuals, the movement aimed to unify and energize the indigenous people and mestizos against their Spanish overlords. Due to a breach of intelligence, the conspirators were discovered, and Hidalgo gambled—and won.

Hidalgo's call to independence was obviously not recorded, and historical accounts cannot agree on the words of his exact speech, but it is understood that early on the morning of September 16, 1810, Cura Hidalgo, instead of delivering mass, rang the church bell and delivered a call to arms that has come to be known as "El Grito de Dolores," or, simply, "El Grito." The armed Indians and mestizos, under the command of Hidalgo, fellow revolutionary Ignacio Allende and others, marched to the provincial capitol, Guanajuato, and, just 2 weeks after "El Grito," won a stunning battle with their now 20,000-strong army. Although Hidalgo was captured 9 months later and executed on July 30, 1811, the storm that had been unleashed could not be stopped. Mexico successfully fought and won its independence from Spain in 1821.

Idahoans and other Americans of Mexican descent have a proud heritage in this early freedom fighter. Much like the tradition of our American Founding Fathers, the seeds of revolution sprouted in the fertile soil of intellectual debate and a recognition of the inherent equality of all human beings regardless of race, gender or ethnicity. As people in Idaho and across the United States celebrate Mexico's independence and those young freedom fighters 200 years ago, parallels are strong with Mexican Americans today who are fighting to keep the United States free from terror here at home. How fitting, then, for the week of September 11 that we also remember Hidalgo's "El Grito!"●

TRIBUTE TO DR. PHILIP R. LEE

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I recognize Dr. Philip R. Lee, a pioneering Californian and fellow San Franciscan, who has been a dynamic leader in health policy for more than 40 years. This September, the health policy program that Dr. Lee founded 35 years ago at the University of California, San Francisco, UCSF, will be renamed the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies in his honor.

Dr. Lee is a giant among health professionals. His work in health care policy continues to affect how millions of

Americans receive health care today. He served as Assistant Secretary for Health on two occasions; under President Johnson in the sixties and under President Clinton in the nineties. During the first 8 months of his tenure as Assistant Secretary in 1965, more than 80 landmark healthcare bills were passed including Medicare and Medicaid; health professions education assistance amendments; heart disease, cancer, and stroke amendments; the war on poverty; Job Corps; food stamps; and Head Start, to name a few.

Especially significant was Dr. Lee's work in developing policies for the newly created Medicare Program, his work to fund graduate medical education, and the work he is most proud of, the desegregation of 1,000 of the Nation's 7,000 hospitals at a time when discrimination was a real problem in the Nation.

I am proud to say that as mayor of San Francisco in 1985, I appointed Dr. Lee as the first president of the newly established health commission of the city and county of San Francisco. He was in charge of San Francisco's public health, mental health and substance abuse services, as well as San Francisco General Hospital. Dr. Lee served the health care needs of the residents of San Francisco during challenging times when the city was in the midst of the AIDS epidemic. He has served our city well.

Dr. Lee's influence also extends to health care education. As UCSF's third chancellor, he was charged with the instruction of future health care professionals and the running of a premier research university. As chancellor, he was known for his commitment to academic excellence and his efforts to stimulate minority recruitment and enrollment. When Dr. Lee founded the Institute of Health Policy Studies at UCSF, it was the first health policy unit in an academic health sciences center to bring together a multidisciplinary group of faculty to address complex health issues.

Dr. Lee's career has been devoted to improving health care and public health for all people. He has an unwavering commitment to the needs of the disadvantaged, including the elderly, the disabled, and those without access to care. Yet he is able to encourage evenhanded policy debate among parties with highly divergent views in a manner that encourages creative innovation.

He continues to be a valued teacher and mentor for many who are now in key positions as researchers, teachers, and as leaders in the health professions. It is fitting that the institute he founded three decades ago, the UCSF School of Medicine Institute for Health Policy Studies, will now be re-named the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies.

I wish to congratulate Dr. Lee on this tremendous honor and thank him for his service to the city of San Francisco and the State of California.●

TRIBUTE TO SHAWN JOHNSON

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on Tuesday Iowa gymnast Shawn Johnson and her USA teammates won the gold at the Gymnastics World Championships in Germany.

Shawn is a native of West Des Moines, IA, where she has trained in gymnastics with Coach Liang Chow since the age of six. How did this young girl from Iowa become a world champion gymnast? I think it may have been said best by her coach in an interview with the Des Moines Register earlier this week. Coach Chow said Shawn, "loved gymnastics. She loved to work out. She wanted to learn, and to get better."

It is that love for what she does that carried Shawn to be crowned National Champion in San Jose, CA, two weeks ago, and carried her even higher to win the World Championship this week. I hope that Shawn's dedication to this sport will inspire many others to achieve greatness within their respective fields as well.

It is with great Iowa pride that I offer my sincere congratulations to Shawn Johnson for her accomplishments.●

TRIBUTE TO PETER A. MAYER ADVERTISING, INC.

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Peter A. Mayer Advertising, Inc., which on Friday celebrated its 40th anniversary.

This firm represents that Louisiana really is "open for business" following the devastating 2005 storms, Katrina and Rita. Not only is this agency profitable and strong, but part of its business practice is to contribute to our great city and region in the aftermath of the storms that completely destroyed 18,000 businesses in Louisiana alone.

When Katrina hit, the Agency evacuated to Baton Rouge and Monroe and provided housing and accommodations for employees and their families. Soon the firm was up and running again in New Orleans and promoting the city's recovery. For instance, it was the Peter A. Mayer agency that developed the "Come fall in love all over again" television and print tourism campaign. Tourism is our State's second largest industry, and the agency's help getting the word out that we are ready for tourists was invaluable.

Not only did the agency help the city and region, but it looked inward to create a support network for its own employees whose common thread was recovering from Katrina. The agency created a Web site, LivesConnected.com, where employees, through oral history, told their Katrina stories.

Peter Mayer founded the firm in 1967 with just three employees and \$200,000 in billing. It has become one of the largest advertising, public relations and marketing agencies in the South