

comprehensive immigration reform was not passed. On two separate occasions, as Republicans filibustered the legislation to its legislative death, we tried to move this to conference on comprehensive immigration reform, and it was filibustered both times. We had knowledge there were not enough Republican votes to pass it. The last time we got 12 Republican Senators.

Part of that vital legislation was something we called the DREAM Act. This legislation's advocates have moved very hard. The primary advocate for this, and its primary sponsor, has been Senator RICHARD DURBIN of Illinois. He has worked tirelessly in his efforts to pass the DREAM Act. He has spoken within the Senate on many occasions, both here on the Senate floor, in the committee, and in press conferences we have had regarding immigration. I have never known Senator DURBIN to feel more strongly about anything than this, and we have been together for 5 years.

The DREAM Act recognizes that children should not be penalized for the actions of their parents. Many of these youth come to America very young. Many do not even remember their country of origin because they were too young when they left, nor do they speak the language of their home country. They think of themselves as Americans.

Many of these children are so desperate to be able to go to school. Only children who come to the United States when they were 15 years old or younger and have been in the United States for at least 5 years can apply under the DREAM Act. They would have to meet certain criteria, including earning a high school diploma, demonstrated good moral character, and passing criminal and security clearances. That is what the DREAM Act requires. To qualify for permanent status you must go to college or serve in the military for at least 2 years.

I have met star students in Nevada, for lack of a better description, who had qualified for the DREAM Act. With it their future is limitless. Without it, their future is very limited. Their future is diminished, of course, if they can't go to school.

Many of the children this bill would help are extremely talented and have graduated in the top of their classes, yet cannot go to a State school. What a waste it is to make it more difficult for them to go to college or prohibit them from getting jobs where they could be making meaningful contributions to their communities and to our country. What good does it do anybody to prevent these young people from having a future? Is gang membership better? Is a minimum wage job for life better? Is a life of crime better?

I hoped we would be able to offer this legislation as an amendment to the pending legislation, the Defense Authorization Act, but we have been unable to do that. Enacting the DREAM Act will give more of our children an opportunity to succeed.

Senator DURBIN and all who care about this matter should know that we will move to proceed to this matter before we leave here. I am going to do my utmost to do it by November 16. This is important legislation. We have a commitment to the young people to do this. It was part of the comprehensive immigration reform. It was a key part of comprehensive immigration reform. It was there that Senator DURBIN began talking about it—some would think incessantly—but he talked about it all the time, and he still feels strongly about this.

I send a message to him tonight and all who care about this legislation, we are going to try to move to this legislation. We should have been able to do it on this bill. We are going to be unable to do it, but we are going to move forward on this legislation as I have outlined.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT EDMUND J. JEFFERS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today I wish to reflect on the life of SGT Edmund Jeffers, who died last Wednesday in a vehicle accident in Taqqadum, Iraq. Sergeant Jeffers served in the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. At the age of 23 he was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Eddie Jeffers grew up in Daleville, AL, just south of Fort Rucker. The son of a master sergeant, he learned the value of military service early in life. He enlisted in the Army Reserve in 2002 after his graduation, feeling the call of duty after the events of September 11.

Those who knew Sergeant Jeffers describe him as a man of conviction, principle, and faith. His Christian values, his father recounts, guided his work as a soldier. They strengthened his resolve to defeat those who commit evils against innocents, and they kept alive his hope for a future of freedom and security for Iraqis. He saw the threat of terrorism as the struggle of his generation, a long war that will require sacrifice and commitment from all Americans.

Sergeant Jeffers, like so many soldiers before him, documented his experiences in war with pen and paper. He kept a journal in Iraq, posted updates for his friends and family online, and shared some of his writings with the world. He was eloquent and sharp. One of his essays, entitled "Hope Rides Alone," has circulated widely on the internet, and newspapers have reprinted portions in recent days.

In the essay, Eddie worried that the political debate at home was weakening our resolve to achieve success in Iraq and was driving a wedge between the country and the military.

He noted that this war is being fought on the backs of our men and women in uniform, while the "American people have not been asked to sacrifice anything. Unless you are in the military or the family member of a

servicemember, it's life as usual . . . the war doesn't affect you. But it affects us."

The political debate here in Washington, Sergeant Jeffers argued, has become a national preoccupation that is distracting our focus from our goals in Iraq. As Sergeant Jeffers notes, there is strong disagreement in this country about the course we should take in Iraq. Our soldiers, too, have many different opinions. Much of this debate is necessary and healthy for a democracy, but, as Sergeant Jeffers cautions, the discussion should neither distract us from our efforts to protect national security nor lessen our commitment to helping secure a better future for Iraqis.

In the end, Iraqis "want what everyone else wants in life: safety, security, somewhere to call home," Sergeant Jeffers wrote. "They want a country that is safe to raise their children in."

General MacArthur once said that it is "the soldier, above all other people, who prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest scars of war." This was true for Eddie. Amid the chaos and violence in Iraq, Sergeant Jeffers never lost sight of the simple aspirations and the basic humanity that bind the vast majority of Iraqis.

I admire Sergeant Jeffers' life and service, all the more for his courage to share his thoughts with the world. His writings are powerful and challenge us to better account for the costs of freedom and for the sacrifices that all Americans should be prepared to make on its behalf.

One cannot adequately honor Eddie Jeffers' service and sacrifice. His actions need no praise to be commendable, and his writings stand alone with the force of his convictions. We are humbled by his life and saddened by his loss.

To Eddie's wife Stephanie, and to his parents Tina and David, my thoughts and prayers are with you. I know of no words that can lessen the pain that you feel, but I hope that one day you will find comfort in knowing that Eddie's sacrifice will never be forgotten. He challenges us to do better by our soldiers, to never let "hope walk alone." His voice is heard, and his country is grateful. He will endure in our hearts and our prayers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY EWING WAXTER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the life of Peggy Ewing Waxter, a woman who worked tirelessly to promote positive social change and civil rights. Mrs. Waxter passed away last Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at the age of 103. The State of Maryland and our Nation have lost a remarkable woman.

In the 1930s, Mrs. Waxter helped found the Waxter Center for Seniors in

Baltimore City. She also aided in the founding of various other organizations, including the University of Maryland Center for Infant Study, the Children's Guild of Baltimore, and the Maryland Committee for Children. She also helped establish the Baltimore Metropolitan Association for Mental Health.

In addition to working to improve the lives of seniors, women, and minorities, Peggy Waxter also served as chairwoman of the Volunteers Advisory Committee at Baltimore City Hospital, which is now the Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital, and as head of the Northeast Symphony Society. Through these and numerous other service organizations, she influenced nearly every aspect of Baltimore society and was rightfully named by Baltimore Magazine one of the city's 11 most powerful women in 1978.

Baltimore is a better city because of Peggy Waxter's guiding hand. She is survived by her family: a daughter, Margaret Waxter Maher; a son, retired Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Thomas J.S. Waxter, Jr., with whom I was privileged to serve in the Maryland General Assembly from 1967 until 1971; 6 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to the Waxter family, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering her today.●

RECOGNIZING THE CONRATH POST OFFICE

- Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to recognize and congratulate the Conrath Post Office, located in Conrath, WI, on its 100th anniversary.

In 1904, the Conrath brothers settled in what would later become the village of Conrath. Located in northwest Wisconsin, the village sat on the Wisconsin Central Railroad line between Owen, WI, and Duluth, MN. In 1905, Frank Conrath sent 10 possible names to the railroad general passenger agent for the naming of the village. The general passenger agent decided on the name that still stands today: Conrath.

Mrs. Frank Conrath wrote to the postmaster general in 1905 to request that a post office be established in the village. The post office moved into the Rusk Farm Company Store where George W. Kendall became the first postmaster in 1907.

The first rural mail carrier in Conrath was Joseph Hahn, who delivered the mail in a single-cylinder, chain-drive, high-wheel-car. Throughout the past century, there have been 21 postmasters and postmistresses, as well as numerous rural route carriers, who have diligently served the residents of Conrath.

Just as Mrs. Conrath did over 100 years ago, residents in Conrath have continued to express the need for the Conrath Post Office as well as value the service and benefit to their community. That is why I am proud to

have worked with the residents of the village in support of their efforts to maintain this post office. When they told me it might close, I worked with residents to convey these concerns to the U.S. Postal Service in order to ensure that this historic post office remains open and that rural residents continue to have effective and consistent postal service.

On behalf of our State and Nation, I congratulate the Conrath Post Office on its 100th anniversary and send my best wishes to all residents of the village of Conrath.●

HONORING AUDREY KIRKPATRICK

- Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Audrey Kirkpatrick, one of South Dakota's 2007 Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Angels in Adoption Award recipients. Audrey has worked with Catholic Social Services in Rapid City, SD for 30 years, exhibiting empathy and dedication to birth families, adoptive parents, and adoptees. I am pleased to recognize Audrey for her years of service, and extend my congratulations to her on this special occasion.

Audrey was among the first social workers employed by Catholic Social Services in Rapid City when she began her work with pregnancy counseling and infant adoption in 1977. She remained with the agency until November 2002. At that time, Audrey believed the time had come for her to retire. However, when the program director of the agency resigned, Audrey was called upon to return to Catholic Social Services and fill in the gap during that critical time, despite suffering from ongoing health problems.

Audrey continues to be active in the agency on a part-time basis, and is often tapped by other social workers to answer questions, direct people to resources, and provide ideas on how to continue expanding and fulfilling the agency's mission to facilitate the adoption process, in addition to her role working directly with families.

Stories of Audrey's intense commitment abound. She has been available to families 24 hours a day, going so far as to venture out in the middle of the night to help a young birth mother whose car had broken down. On another occasion, she was present for a reunion of a birth mother and adult son, who she had helped to place in adoption as a child. The mother offered her thanks to Audrey, who had been such a comforting presence at the beginning and end of the adoption experience. It is not uncommon for people to come back to the agency to express their gratitude to Audrey, even years after she helped them through the adoption process.

Audrey is truly an Angel in Adoption. Her contributions to the communities of western South Dakota are inestimable. In the words of one of her coworkers, "I can say with confidence

that the gift Audrey offered to these individuals is stronger than words can express. Dedication, alone, cannot describe it." Audrey is beyond a doubt deserving of recognition for her commitment to ensuring that countless children in South Dakota have loving families and safe homes. It is clear that Audrey's legacy will be one of compassion and caring.●

HONORING BREWER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

- Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Brewer Federal Credit Union for being named the City of Brewer's 2007 Business of the Year. Founded in 1960, the Brewer Federal Credit Union has continually expanded its operations to serve an increasing number of communities in the Brewer area. With slightly over 20 employees, two branches, ATMs throughout the region, and Internet banking services, the credit union aims to make banking simpler for its roughly 8,400 members. Additionally, the Brewer Federal Credit Union's monthly newsletter provides useful information to assist customers, including updated information, news, and financial tips.

The city of Brewer recognized the Brewer Federal Credit Union for its outstanding service to the communities that it serves. Indeed, countless acts of generosity demonstrate well the commitment of the credit union to community service. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the credit union assists the Brewer Community Service Council in collecting nonperishable foods that are put together in baskets to be distributed to local families in need. When a student from the town of Orrington was selected for the People to People program, the Brewer Federal Credit Union helped the student collect old cell phones and used ink cartridges which, in turn, were given to local businesses for recycling, to help finance his trip to Australia. During the annual Brewer Days, a fun-filled celebration held in September, the Brewer Federal Credit Union sponsors specific events, including a block party and street dance. In a similar vein, the credit union has sponsored events like the Brewer waterfront winter festival. Finally, the credit union generously supports local youth sports leagues, as well as Brewer High School athletic programs, various student musical ensembles, and the Boosters Club.

Helping others is clearly an integral part of the Brewer Federal Credit Union's equation for success. By providing a friendly and welcoming business atmosphere, combined with compassionate assistance to individuals and groups within the community, the credit union sets a truly remarkable example by leaving a positive mark on those whose lives it touches. The credit union's selection as Brewer's Business of the Year is a recognition of the positive impact that the credit union