

save the taxpayers money, trimming his own budget to return more than \$2 million dollars to the Washoe County general fund.

As the county assessor, Bob has always been in tune with the issues of Washoe County. He has navigated controversies over rising property values with ease, taking the time to talk with the people he serves. To this day, residents are amazed that Bob is so approachable and accessible. He can quickly put a visitor at ease with his humble demeanor and his frequent jokes. In fact, I cannot recall a time that I have met with Bob when he hasn't told me a funny anecdote or story.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Bob is a dedicated part of his community. He has served as president for Habitat for Humanity and as an executive board member of the alumni organization for the University of Nevada, Reno. Additionally, as the president of the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful organization, he led an effort to protect the pristine areas surrounding Lake Tahoe. While working to improve Washoe County, Bob also raised three wonderful children in Reno. A few years ago, I had the privilege to host his daughter, Megan, in my Washington office. A finer former employee does not exist.

Bob McGowan has been an important part of Northern Nevada for more than two decades. His retirement will leave large shoes to fill, but I am confident that Bob will continue to improve Washoe County for many years to come. It is my great pleasure to offer my congratulations to Bob and the McGowan family.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPSMAN CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise to reflect for a moment on the service and sacrifice of Navy Hospital Corpsman Christopher Anderson of Longmont, CO. Corpsman Anderson was killed in Iraq last month in the volatile Al Anbar province in service to this Nation. He was only 24, and was laid to rest late last month in Arlington National Cemetery here in our Nation's Capital.

In Longmont, they bade farewell to Hospital Corpsman Anderson with all appropriate honors that this Nation, his community and his family could bestow: A Purple Heart and 21-gun salute, a release of doves, and hundreds lining the streets to pay their final respects to a young man taken from this life all too soon.

Serving as a Navy Corpsman with a unit of Marines is no easy task. The job dates back to the Spanish-American War, and is an incredibly dangerous job which entails carrying a loaded weapon along with the tools of your trade: Saving lives.

The marines I have had the privilege of knowing are all proud, brave and honorable men whose respect must be

earned through hard work. For a Corpsman, the title of "Doc" comes only when you have earned the respect of your Marine unit, when they are prepared to risk their lives for you as they would one of their own, because they know with absolute conviction that you would do the same.

One fellow Navy Corpsman reflected on the honor of this title, saying of the Marines, "If they yell, 'Corpsman up,' they know Doc is going to be right there. . . . When the Marines call you 'Doc,' you know you'll never let them down, you'll never leave their side. That bond between a Marine and a Navy corpsman is something that will last forever. We call them 'My Marines'—they call us 'My Doc.'"

Navy Hospital Corpsman Christopher Anderson was "Doc" to his marines.

For Christopher Anderson, service was always in his blood. He was an uncommon young man of steady nerves and a unique ability to inspire others to find greatness in themselves. When he graduated Longmont High School in 2000, he sought a way to make a difference in the world, and had considered becoming a police officer or firefighter. His grandfather observed, "If he saw a wreck on the side of the road, he was the first to stop and help."

And then in 2005, a higher calling of service reached out to Christopher: America. When Christopher enlisted in the U.S. Navy in August, 2005, he was the fourth generation of his family to join the service. And he carried on his family tradition with honor and distinction.

Throughout training and during his service, Hospital Corpsman Anderson met every challenge with excellence. At his boot camp graduation, Corpsman Anderson was voted by his peers the "honor graduate" of his class, the premier member of his class. He sought advanced combat medic training and volunteered for an assignment to the front lines in Iraq. When one of his sergeants was injured by an IED in Iraq, a surgeon commented that Corpsman Anderson's emergency medical treatment was the finest he had ever seen.

A marine will tell you that he will always take a bullet for his Doc, because his Doc is the only one who can take it back out. Hospital Corpsman Christopher Anderson sacrificed his life for this Nation because he knew that our Nation needed his service. He accepted these great risks with a smile and extraordinary courage from which all of us can take a lesson. He sacrificed himself for the ideals of his country. It is a debt which we cannot repay, and a loss we cannot replace. And we are all humbled by his service and sacrifice.

To Christopher's parents, Rick and Debra, his brother Kyle, I know that no words can describe or assuage the pain you feel. I pray that you can find comfort in the knowledge that Christopher was doing something which he truly loved, and of which he was extraordinarily proud. He will endure in our hearts and prayers.

LANCE CORPORAL NICKLAS PALMER

Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the life and service of a young marine from Leadville, CO: Marine LCpl Nicklas James Palmer. Lance Corporal Palmer was killed last month in Fallujah, Iraq.

Nick Palmer was only 19 years old when he was taken from his family in Iraq. But he was serving his Nation with honor and distinction as a marine, something he had dreamed of doing as a high school student in Lake County.

Nick Palmer came to the State of Colorado as a boy, and in 2005 when he graduated from Lake County High School, he was a man prepared to find his place in the world. In high school, Nick was a football player who lettered all 4 years with the Lake County High varsity squad, a lineman to be precise.

I have known a few linemen in my day, and it tells us all something about his character and why he was drawn to the Marine Corps: Nick Palmer was a man who knew that there was tough work to be done, that it required leadership, physical skill and courage and that he was the right man for the job.

The Marine Corps was a natural fit for Nick Palmer. It was physical and independent, and allowed him the opportunity to become a leader. In fact, Nick prepared for Marine Corps boot camp by taking 10-mile runs with a 40-pound pack on his back, determined to be the finest recruit at Camp Pendleton in San Diego.

That is a lineman's mentality, and it is the steel at the very core of the U.S. Marine Corps: Through discipline, one achieves excellence.

Nick Palmer was not solely a man of serious character. His family, classmates, teachers, and community all reflected that he was a young man who always had a smile for a friend and saw the laughs to be had in life. He was a loyal friend, an independent young man who was always prepared to lend a hand or take the lead.

Lance Corporal Palmer was anxious to get to Iraq, to begin his service to his Nation. His time with the Marine Corps was marked by his continuing leadership: Lance Corporal Palmer's commanding officer in Iraq noted that he was never afraid to step forward and say, "I'll do it."

It was that spirit that moved Nick Palmer to serve this Nation in the first place as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. His character, leadership, and courage exemplified that sacred motto of the Marines: Semper Fi. Always Faithful.

To Nick's mother and father, Brad and Rachele, and his brother Dustin, know that you and Nick will remain in the thoughts and prayers of an entire Nation. We are honored by his service, we are humbled by his sacrifice, and we are forever grateful for his courage and character.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SETH STANTON

Mr. President, I rise to reflect on the loss of a Coloradan and member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Army PFC Seth

Stanton. Private First Class Stanton was fatally wounded late last month in Taji, Iraq, when a roadside bomb exploded beneath his vehicle. He was only 19 years old.

In June 2005, after graduating from Coronado High School in Colorado Springs, he enlisted in the Army. At the time the improvised explosive device destroyed the humvee in which he was riding, had been in Iraq for 2 months.

Seth Stanton was a young man who, as his uncle noted, lived every minute of his life to the fullest. He was an outstanding student who was skipped all the way up to the 12th grade, ahead of his age, after being home schooled for many years.

And he loved off-roading in his prized Jeep Cherokee with its heavy-duty suspension and oversized tires rumbling across our state's rugged terrain. He even bragged to his friends about how four fellow service members told him one day "how illegal my Jeep is."

As a man, Seth Stanton had many opportunities ahead of him. But instead of choosing to attend college or join the workforce, Seth Stanton chose a different path: the U.S. Army. Private First Class Stanton knew that his Nation, and the people of Iraq, needed his service and support, and he bravely stepped forward and volunteered for this challenging duty.

Private First Class Stanton didn't choose to follow this path, as his grandmother Georgell noted, out of politics or economics or some other motive. He chose it because he knew in his heart it was the right thing to do: dedicate himself to a cause greater than his own.

The tragedy of a life of such promise going unrealized affects everyone in this body, and in this Nation, but not as deeply or personally as it will move his parents Stephen and Anna or the rest of his family. Every American mourns your loss with you, and Seth's courage and sacrifice will be honored always.

Chapter Five of the Book of Matthew chronicles that, in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." I hope that this brings you solace in the coming days, with the knowledge that He holds Seth close, and blesses his character and sacrifice.

STAFF SERGEANT DAVID STAATS

Mr. President, I rise to call the Nation's attention to a service member whom we lost late last month in service to our country.

Army SSgt David Staats was killed in Taji, Iraq, when a roadside bomb detonated beneath his vehicle. Staff Sergeant Staats epitomized the spirit of service to his Nation. He was only a few weeks into his third tour in Iraq. He was a young man, only 30 years old, with his entire life ahead of him. He leaves behind his wife Meagan, his 8-year-old son Tyler, and stepdaughter, Katie.

He heard the call to serve his country early on, enlisting in the Army before he even graduated from high school in 1995. After his second tour, in which he was stationed in Kuwait and Iraq, he briefly left the service. But soldiering was in his blood, the core of who he was, and he reenlisted after only a year away from the Army.

In his service in Iraq, Staff Sergeant Staats was upholding the global values of human dignity, freedom and liberty. He did so not for glory or praise, but because he had absolute confidence in his values and his mission to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

Staff Sergeant Staats' mother said it best: "He was doing what he thought he should do."

David Staats was a loving son, husband and father, too. He treasured the time he spent with his son Tyler and his stepdaughter Katie, and was an adoring husband to his wife Meagan.

President Abraham Lincoln famously once said, "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." The loss of David Staats was sudden, and tragic. It reminds each America of the gravity of that which we ask of our service members, and the brief nature of our time on this Earth.

But in his service to our Nation and his family, David Staats lived a life of honor, courage, character and distinction to which every American can look with respect and admiration.

To Meagan, Tyler, and Katie, to David's parents Roger and Wanda, and his sister Bethany, I hope that this knowledge can help ease the painful sorrow each of you feel. While your anguish from his loss may never fully pass, I hope that you can take comfort in the knowledge that David's service and sacrifice on behalf of each and every American will be forever honored by a humble and grateful Nation.

RETIREMENT OF DR. PHILIP ROYAL SHIPP, JR.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to speak today to honor the career of Dr. Philip Royal Shipp, Jr., a devoted public servant who has served the Congress for nearly 30 years at the Congressional Research Service, CRS. During his tenure at the CRS, Dr. Shipp has served in several key management and leadership roles, demonstrating extraordinary levels of competence, intelligence, and intellectual creativity in each of these positions.

Most recently, Dr. Shipp has served as the Director of the Domestic Social Policy Division. The Domestic Social Policy Division offers the Congress research and analysis in many programs and policies that under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee, including the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Programs, as well as Social Security, pensions, welfare, child welfare programs.

I have been honored to serve as chairman of the Finance Committee for 4

years and am pleased to continue my service as the ranking Republican on the committee. Analysts under Dr. Shipp's supervision have worked closely with my Finance Committee staff, briefing them on complex programs and policies, helping them in the drafting of legislation and participating in Senate Finance Committee hearings.

We Members of Congress simply could not do our work effectively without the support we receive from organizations like the Congressional Research Service. There is simply no other organization with the reputation and the credibility of CRS. The work provided by CRS is always first rate, oftentimes quantitative and impeccably nonpartisan. Dr. Shipp, throughout his career, has embodied these characteristics.

Dr. Shipp began his Federal service in 1964 as an economist with the Federal Reserve. He was subsequently a program analyst with the Office of Management and Budget and later the Acting Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service. Dr. Shipp made significant contributions to the Food and Nutrition Service, including an expanded view of the public policy purposes of food assistance programs such as food stamps. He also was instrumental in establishing and expanding the agency's in-house capacity to analyze programs, study their effects, and estimate the impact of legislative and regulatory changes.

Dr. Shipp joined the Congressional Research Service in 1977 as a Senior Specialist in Social Legislation in the former Education and Public Welfare, EPW, Division. He spent a significant part of the next decade leading teams of CRS analysts in high-level, committee-requested, legislatively relevant research studies focused on health and income issues. Topics included health insurance for the uninsured, retirement income for an aging population, and work incentives in income support programs. Under Dr. Shipp's direction, CRS developed a framework and quantitative model to compare legislative options for a new retirement system for Federal workers; this model was used in the development of the Federal employee retirement system that is in place today. During this period, in 1984, Dr. Shipp also served as Executive Director of the Congressional Panel on Social Security Organization, which was charged with developing an organizational and management framework for an independent agency for Social Security. The panel's principal recommendations were reflected in the legislation that eventually created the independent Social Security Administration.

In 1989, Dr. Shipp became Associate Director of CRS for Research Planning and Coordination, where he guided efforts to evaluate and improve CRS services and operations and led several of the agency's first strategic management reviews. He returned to EPW as