

Christopher Degiovine of Lone Tree, CO. Corporal Degiovine lost his life late last month in Fallujah, Iraq. He was just 25 years old.

Christopher Degiovine was a native of Essex Junction, VT, and had made Colorado his home for only a few months. He majored in criminal justice at Champlain College, where he graduated in 2005, and was looking to pursue a career in law enforcement.

After moving to Colorado, Christopher Degiovine answered his Nation's call and joined the Marine Corps in December 2005. He was excited about the opportunity, and proud to be serving his Nation. He was promoted to corporal a year later, and had only just been sent to Iraq when he was killed.

Christopher Degiovine's life was one of extraordinary promise cut far too short. His patriotism compelled him to a higher calling, and for that every American is humbled and grateful. His service to each of us and his sacrifice on behalf of all us is a debt we can never repay.

Matthew 5:9 reminds us: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Corporal Degiovine was one of these very peacemakers, and his place will always be reserved in our hearts. He and his family will remain in my prayers, and those of the Nation, tonight and always.

CORPORAL WADE OGLESBY

Mr. President, I rise to reflect on the memory of Army Cpl Wade Oglesby, of Grand Junction, CO. Corporal Oglesby was killed late last month in Taji, Iraq. He was only 28 years old and was looking forward to returning home and joining the Mesa County Sheriff's Office.

Wade Oglesby's life was not an easy one. He was a young man who had to grow up far too soon. His father left his family when Wade was just 5, and his mother relocated the family from Denver to the city Grand Junction, on the other side of the Great Divide.

As a sophomore in high school, Wade Oglesby's mother Linda fell terribly ill, and Wade left high school to care for his dying mother. After she passed on, Wade stayed with his younger sister Samantha until she became an adult.

August 2004 was a turning point for Corporal Oglesby he found his "true calling in life," as his family said. He joined the Army and found a place that he belonged. Wade's brother Richard observed that Wade "was a soldier long before joining the Army."

In the Army, Corporal Oglesby found his mission. He was proud of his service to his Nation. It makes perfect sense that serving his country fit so naturally to Corporal Oglesby's character: he had spent his whole life in selfless service to those around him whom he loved. Helping and protecting others came naturally to him, and the Army carried him on his way.

One newspaper in my home State reported that Wade Oglesby's motto in life was "float on." Even as his life be-

came heavy as a young man, Corporal Oglesby found a way to "float on" and to continue moving forward.

To his sister Samantha and brother Richard: As you mourn the loss of your brother, know that our Nation mourns with you the loss of another exemplary soldier and American. He will live on our memories for his courage, service, and sacrifice.

SPECIALIST DAVID W. BEHRLE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I announce to the Senate today that SPC David W. Behrle has lost his life in Iraq. David Behrle died in the service of his country, and it is absolutely appropriate that we take this opportunity to salute his patriotism and his sacrifice.

Specialist Behrle died Saturday night, May 19, 2007, after his patrol vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb south of Baghdad. My thoughts, prayers, and sincere condolences go out to his mother, Dixie Pelzer of Tipton, IA, and his father, John Behrle of Columbus, NE, as well as the Tipton community that is now dealing with the loss of their second native son in Iraq. While we try to prepare ourselves for the loss of life that comes with war, it is impossible to prepare for the very personal experience of losing a young life so close to home. David is best described by a former classmate as "not only our class president, he's now our class hero." He served his country with vigor and enthusiasm, and his presence will be missed in both Tipton and our Armed Forces.

TRIBUTE TO VERMONT FALLEN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, words and numbers are often used on this floor to describe the ongoing war in Iraq. In recent weeks, we have found ourselves debating the policy decisions that created the current climate in Iraq, the current strategy in Baghdad, and the policy shifts that need to occur to bring our men and women home. We frequently cite the fast-rising numbers of military fatalities and injuries and the growing number of innocent civilian deaths.

A central element of this picture and of this discussion should always be the sacrifices and the suffering of the families at home. Vermont, small State that we are, bears the burden of the highest fatality rate in the country, with more deaths per capita in Iraq than any other State. These losses have left dozens of families searching for comfort as they mourn their loved ones.

But in the darkest and saddest of times, a new Vermont family has emerged, brought together by the efforts of students at Norwich University, the Nation's oldest military college, which calls Northfield, VT, its home. "Vermont Fallen," developed and produced by students at Norwich for a media course, profiles the jour-

neys of families from across our State as they grieve the loss of their sons, fathers, husbands, and friends. Many of these families, brought together by community screenings of the documentary, now are able to turn to each other for comfort.

With this remarkable project, these students from Norwich University—many of whom have friends, family, and colleagues serving on the front lines of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—have given a great gift to these families and to us all. They have honored in this special way those from Vermont who have fallen and they have offered a glimpse into the searing and highly personal grief and mourning that have touched thousands of American families and scores of American communities, across Vermont and across the country. They have produced a tribute that speaks directly to each human heart.

NBC's "Today" recently aired a segment about "Vermont Fallen." I ask unanimous consent that the transcript be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

NBC'S TODAY—MAY 9, 2007

Class project by students at Norwich University pays tribute to Vermont soldiers lost in Iraq and Afghanistan

ANCHORS: DAVID GREGORY

REPORTERS: DAWN FRATANGELO

DAVID GREGORY, co-host:

Vermont has lost more soldiers per capita in Iraq than any other state. Now students at Vermont's Norwich University, the nation's oldest military academy, are paying tribute in a unique way. Here's NBC's Dawn Fratangelo.

(Beginning of clip of "Vermont Fallen")

Unidentified Woman #1: I screamed and said, 'No, not Eric. My only boy.'

Unidentified Woman #2: Colonel Williams told me immediately that Mark didn't make it.

(End of clip)

DAWN FRATANGELO reporting:

Three of them were named Mark. There were also three Chrises. Half of them were under the age of 24. They are the Vermont fallen, 25 men from this small state killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, subjects of a powerful documentary told through the shattered families left behind.

Unidentified Man: (From "Vermont Fallen") You're upset with everybody when your son dies, and you don't think rationally. I don't know if I'll ever think rationally again.

FRATANGELO: There was something more here than just the raw pain and tears you see on screen. It's about those behind the camera, and the incredible bond that it formed.

So as young filmmakers, were you intimidated at all about approaching these families?

Ms. AMANDA BENSON: Yes. Absolutely.

FRATANGELO: Amanda Benson and Steve Robitaille, along with Craig McGrath, are the senior producers of the film. They're students—college students at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, the nation's oldest military school. The film was their media project. But Amanda knew from that first interview, this was more than just school work.

Ms. BENSON: So walking into it, I really didn't think too much of it. But after about

maybe 25 minutes, you know, sitting right across from Marion, she started crying, and then I would start crying.

Unidentified Woman #3: (From "Vermont Fallen") My last words to him . . .

Ms. BENSON: No way did we think we'd be so emotionally involved in the interview.

FRATANGELO: Word spread, and eventually the students, guided by Professor Bill Estill . . .

Professor BILL ESTILL: Go frame by frame.

FRATANGELO: . . . had 50 hours worth of interviews with families all over Vermont. Every interview is heartbreaking.

Mr. CRAIG McGRATH: This is Patty Holmes, whose son Jeffrey was a lance corporal in the Marines, was killed in Iraq.

Ms. PATTY HOLMES: (From "Vermont Fallen") When he had been home in April, I said, 'Jeff, I have to ask you something.' And he goes 'What?' 'I have to ask you for your forgiveness.' And he said 'Why?' And I said, 'Because I wasn't the mother I wanted to be.' All he did was hug me, and he told me he loved me.

FRATANGELO: Patty Holmes, and her husband Scott would have never guessed that simply taking part in this project would help them heal.

Ms. HOLMES: I just felt that nobody knew how I felt, and nobody could possibly understand. And meeting these other families, they understand.

FRATANGELO: Because of a documentary, all the families get together now for dinners, a trip to Washington, mostly for support.

It's as though this—being involved in this gave you permission to sort of let . . .

Mr. SCOTT HOLMES: Let your heart out. Let your heart—let the world know how you feel.

FRATANGELO: And people are listening. The film is being shown at the same high schools the fallen servicemen attended.

While the students at Norwich were documenting the pain of the Vermont families, they themselves were not immune to it. Four of their classmates have been killed in Iraq.

Ms. BENSON: Thank you to both—for I guess, is the second family for some of us.

FRATANGELO: All this talk about loss has made the young filmmakers reflect on their own lives. Steve will join the military after graduation. Amanda's sister is about to be deployed.

Have you had these conversations with your sister?

Ms. BENSON: Not yet.

FRATANGELO: Will you?

Ms. BENSON: Yeah, I think so. But I really, I just—I can't imagine.

FRATANGELO: No one imagined the lessons of this class project.

Mr. STEVE ROBITAILLE: Just unbelievable feeling knowing that you didn't just make a documentary, you know, you changed people's lives, and they changed ours.

FRATANGELO: Changed lives. Twenty-five families sat before cameras to talk about lost loved ones, and a new family emerged. For TODAY, Dawn Fratangelo, NBC News, Northfield, Vermont.

VISIT OF VICE PREMIER WU YI

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I wish to comment on the visit of Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi to Washington. This visit comes at an important time for the U.S.-China relationship and highlights the enormous stakes involved.

As I have said in the past, China's rise offers great opportunity but also

poses serious challenges. It is critical the U.S. do all it can to ensure that China's rise is peaceful and its trade practices fair, and under those conditions, the United States should welcome China's continuing emergence and prosperity.

At the same time, we must remain prepared to respond should China's rise take a problematic turn. This means maintaining our military presence in the Asia-Pacific region, strengthening our alliances, and making clear to both Beijing and Taipei that a unilateral change in the status quo in the Taiwan Strait is unacceptable. Also, though today China's military spending is one-tenth of ours, we must monitor closely China's strategic capabilities while also pushing for greater transparency of its defense activities.

Although we must remain vigilant in monitoring these potential developments, our two nations also should strive to build a relationship that broadens areas of cooperation where we share mutual interests, as we have done to respond to the nonproliferation challenge posed by North Korea. And we should strengthen our ability to manage our differences effectively. While we must never hesitate to be clear and consistent with China where we disagree—whether on protection of intellectual property rights, the manipulation of its currency, human rights, or the right stance on Sudan and Iran—these differences, as a general rule, should not prevent progress in areas where our interests intersect.

Trade and economic issues, the subject of the upcoming Strategic Economic Dialogue, are one crucial example of the significant opportunities and challenges China's rise presents.

China is now the third largest economy in the world and is an increasingly formidable commercial competitor. But China also is our fastest growing overseas market, fueling over \$50 billion in U.S. exports that help support thousands of export-related jobs. Many Americans also benefit from inexpensive Chinese products that keep down our cost of living, and China is an important link in the global supply chain that benefits U.S. commercial interests.

But none of that constitutes a reason to turn a blind eye to those areas of the economic relationship that are troubling. China ran a trade surplus with the United States of over \$200 billion last year—the largest ever between any two countries—accounting for nearly a third of our total global trade deficit. Neither America nor the world can accept such imbalances, and if they remain, it is inevitable that there will be demands for protection in America and elsewhere.

I believe that the answer to the Chinese economic challenge is not to build walls of protection but to knock down barriers, demand fair treatment for our products and services, and increase our own competitiveness.

Much of the hard work to be done lies at home. We must implement policies

to reduce our budget deficits and increase national savings—in order to reduce our dependence on borrowing to finance our deficits. We must ensure that our companies and workers have the tools they need to compete in the global economy. Among other things, this means stepping up our investments in education, training, and science and technology. We must make sure those Americans whose livelihoods are threatened by our changing economic relationship with China have access to the resources and support they need.

But China must bear a substantial share of the responsibility for restoring greater balance in its economic relations with the United States and the rest of the world. Just as the United States cannot unilaterally restore balance to China's economic relations, the United States alone cannot mute protectionist demands. China must itself act to bring greater balance in its global trade, so that all countries benefit from its growth.

I commend Treasury Secretary Paulson for pursuing a strategic economic dialogue with China, but it must produce meaningful and lasting results. Even as we develop a better understanding of how Chinese leaders view their own economic priorities, we need to confirm that these same leaders understand how the policies they pursue affect the United States and the global economy.

As a principal beneficiary of globalization, China needs to support and strengthen the international economic system as well. For example, it can and should take steps to increase consumption—drawing in more imports and reducing dependence on exports for growth. China needs a modern financial system to achieve this. American companies can help develop such a system but not if the playing field is unfairly tilted toward Chinese companies.

China can and should contribute to bolstering the world's economic system by allowing its currency, the renminbi, to be determined by market forces. Today, Beijing amasses as much as \$20 billion a month in foreign currency, with the effects of keeping the renminbi substantially undervalued and giving China an undue advantage in trade. The recent move to widen the currency trading band is useful, but China must move more quickly toward a market-based currency.

China can and should contribute to the success of globalization by providing stronger protection of intellectual property rights. The fact that 80 percent of the pirated goods seized by U.S. Customs come from China is unacceptable. It suggests just how much work needs to be done in this area.

China can and should contribute to the world's economic health by altering its energy policies—addressing the needs of its people at home while not exacerbating problems abroad. Domestically, China's priority should be to increase energy efficiency. A system