

Craig did not talk a whole lot, but he always meant what he said. He communicated in a way that didn't require a whole lot of "jibber-jabber," as he would say. Everyone appreciated this quality in him. You never had any doubt about where Craig stood, something our public officials could learn from today.

Craig understood that words and rhetoric easily vanish from our memories. He recognized that honor is not won by keeping up appearances but by working hard and accomplishing what you set out to do. He understood that the best way to accomplish difficult things was to get busy doing them. To Craig, this was common sense, but oftentimes common sense is all too uncommon.

In his commonsense manner, he served the people of Wyoming who overwhelming elected him to the Senate on three occasions. Craig let the interests of the State guide his work in the Senate. He never let his ego get in the way of doing what was best for Wyoming and the country.

My wife Caryll and I grieve with Craig's wife Susan and their family. But, in our grief, we also celebrate his life. There is much to celebrate not only in Craig's accomplishments—whether on behalf of our national parks, farmers, or rural families, to name only a few of his legislative priorities—but also in his character. He was a humble servant for Wyoming who stood up for the people of his State. Even in his illness, he never wavered from his duties as a legislator.

The values of the American West are the commonsense values that make self-government possible. Craig Thomas, the cowboy and statesman, embodied these values that made this country what it is and are needed to sustain it in years to come.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I join with my fellow Senators and so many in Wyoming and throughout the country in expressing my profound sadness on the passing of my colleague and good friend, Senator Craig Thomas. I also want to offer my most sincere condolences to his wife Susan, their four children, and the entire Thomas family at this most difficult of times.

Today, we mourn the loss of a true patriot whose love of country and loyalty to its principles were always an inspiration and example to us all. A U.S. Marine captain, an advocate for rural concerns with the Wyoming Farm Bureau, American Farm Bureau, and the Wyoming Rural Electric Association, and an indefatigable public servant as a Member of the Wyoming House of Representatives, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate—Senator Thomas always placed a premium on bettering the lives of the citizens of his state, ensuring that their concerns were not only heard—but were addressed vigorously, effectively, and with results.

I recall the distinct honor and privilege of serving with Craig for more

than 17 years both in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. Indeed, we entered the Senate in the same class of 1994, and I remember with tremendous regard our service together on the Senate Foreign Relations and Senate Finance Committees. Time and again, regardless of the issue, Craig exhibited a stalwart dedication to his country and his constituents—with a steadfast devotion that was ever mindful of the public trust placed in his hands.

Senator Thomas was unwavering in his allegiance to the tenets that guided his life. True to his core beliefs and unshakable in the values he drew from his beloved Wyoming, Senator Thomas held fast to his philosophy of fiscal conservatism. And yet when he advanced his arguments, he did so without rancor and with the utmost respect and cordiality. He possessed an unyielding decorum that contributed to his esteemed presence in the Senate, and he had at his disposal that indispensable tool of politics—humor, which he used to great effect and at times with incredibly disarming outcomes. Even when we disagreed, he was never disagreeable, rather choosing to give no more than an occasional good-natured ribbing—always with a smile on his face.

As my colleague MIKE ENZI stated in his tribute, Craig Thomas was not one who necessarily sought the limelight. He lived his life and comported himself in a manner that exemplified the words President Ronald Reagan displayed on his desk in the Oval Office: "There's no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." Whether on matters of rural health, safeguarding the interest and concerns of farmers, or reducing the deficit, Craig focused on making concrete strides, not amassing accolades.

In the arena of public life, regardless of trial, tribulation, or triumph, Senator Craig Thomas remained a compassionate person of immense caliber who served the best interests of the people of Wyoming with unyielding advocacy, integrity of purpose, and uncommon civility. We will miss his benevolent nature, his good will, and his great deeds. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and staff here in Washington and in Wyoming.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER CHRIS ALLGAIER

Mr. HAGEL. Madam President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Chris Allgaier of Omaha, NE. Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier, an Army helicopter pilot, was killed on May 30 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was 33 years old.

Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier attended Creighton Prep High School, where he graduated with highest honors in 1991. He earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical administration from Saint Louis University in 1995 and

a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautic University in 2001.

After graduating from college, Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier joined the Army to pursue a longtime interest in flying. He served with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, based out of Fort Bragg, NC. This was his second tour in Afghanistan. Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier also served a year-long tour in Iraq. We are proud of Chief Warrant Officer Allgaier's service tour our country, as well as the thousands of other brave Americans serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He is survived by his wife Jennie and three children, Natalie, Gina, and Joanna, of Spring Lake, NC; his father Bob Allgaier of Omaha, and siblings Rob and Sharon, also of Omaha.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Chief Warrant Officer Chris Allgaier.

SPECIALIST WILLIAM BAILEY III

Madam President, I also rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army National Guard Specialist William Bailey III of Bellevue, NE. Specialist Bailey died on May 25 when an explosive device struck his vehicle near Taji, Iraq. He was 29 years old.

Specialist Bailey had been serving in Iraq since November with the 755th Chemical Reconnaissance/Decontamination Company. Specialist Bailey was also a volunteer with the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Department for 5 years. He was buried with full military honors and traditional fire department honors. His funeral procession included 35 firetrucks from several departments across Nebraska.

Specialist Bailey is remembered as a devoted husband, father, son, and brother, as well as a committed member of the community. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman, and he loved motorcycles.

We are proud of Specialist Bailey's service to our country, as well as the thousands of other brave Americans serving in Iraq.

He is survived by his wife Deanna and five children.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SPC William Bailey III.

TRIBUTE TO 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, on June 8, 1917, the U.S. Army officially organized the First Expeditionary Division. That means tomorrow is the 90th anniversary of what is now known as the 1st Infantry Division or the "Big Red One," headquartered at Fort Riley, KS. The Big Red One has an unsurpassed history of answering the call to duty, and it is vital to our Nation's fight against determined enemies. We are fortunate to have these fine soldiers defending our freedom.

As the oldest, continuously serving division in the history of the U.S. Army, the Big Red One enjoys a long

and proud tradition of defending America. It also has a tradition of being the first. During World War II, Big Red One was the first to reach England, the first to capture a German city, the first to fight in North Africa, and the first on the beaches of Normandy on D-day. It was the first division to deploy to Vietnam and spearheaded the armored attack into Iraq at the start of Desert Storm. The Big Red One has a long and proud heritage that we should honor and celebrate.

On August 1, 2006, I was proud to welcome the Big Red One's headquarters back to Fort Riley, KS. The division has a vital, new mission of training military transition teams for both Iraq and Afghanistan. This intense training is meant to prepare our finest military members to train their counterparts in the Iraqi and Afghani militaries. We honor those soldiers who have committed to this mission. I also want to recognize the 1st Division soldiers operating today in some of Baghdad's toughest neighborhoods. They too take their place in the Big Red One's proud history.

On this 90th anniversary, June 8, 2007, I salute the men and women of the U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One. The enormous sacrifice and dedication of these heroic men and women should make all Americans proud. As they say in the 1st Division: "No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great. Duty first."

U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I rise today to acknowledge the United States' crucial relationship with Russia. The fate of U.S.-Russia relations rests on key agreements regarding security, trade, and energy policies.

The annual G8 Summit taking place this week in Germany comes at a crucial time in our relationship with Russia, a key international trade, military, and security partner to the United States.

For decades after World War II, our military and national security policies focused mostly on the Soviet Union. At that time, both nations pursued a foreign policy dubbed "Mutually Assured Destruction."

In the early 1990s, with the support of the United States, new Russian leaders began instituting democratic reforms. As the political landscape in the Soviet Union improved, so did our relationship with Russia. Instead of destruction, our countries have pursued cooperation, though the Russians still have work to do on human rights. Certainly, recent actions by the Russian Government to limit freedoms, crack down on journalists, and inflict economic damage on its neighbors are cause for concern for the United States. Some of these concerns can and should be addressed through engagement and diplomacy with Russia.

Recently, relations between the United States and Russia have become

strained, with the rhetoric between the nations exacerbating the problem. As the G8 meetings commence, it is imperative that the U.S. Government engage Russia on the vital security, trade, and energy policies important to both nations.

Last week, as cochairman of the U.S. Senate-Russia interparliamentary working group, I held 3 days of meetings in Moscow with legislators and top Russian officials, including Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, to discuss our mutual economic and security interests.

The Russians were united on key matters. First, they question U.S. intent with regard to deployment of missile and radar systems in Poland and the Czech Republic. Second, they would prefer an extended timetable on independence for Kosovo. They also identified vital security matters where they and we Americans can work together, specifically, halting Iran's nuclear program and the spread of global terrorism. While we may have disagreed on the appropriate manner in which to address the emerging threat of Iran's nuclear program and the amount of time in which we have to do so, Russian officials were clear that, like me, they believe Iran's ultimate goal in developing nuclear power is to produce a nuclear weapon.

Our delegation's message to the Russians was clear as well: we can work out differences over missile defense, Kosovo and other issues, but the Russians need to step up and assist the global community with Iran and terrorism in Iraq. Cooperation is critical to the success of our relationship.

In addition, Russia has tremendous economic potential. They have registered 5 percent or better economic growth in each year since 1999 and 6.7 percent in 2006. Personal income grew 10 percent in 2006. However, this growth has impacted mostly urban areas such as Moscow or St. Petersburg, and more needs to be done to improve economic conditions in rural areas.

U.S. exports to Russia for the first 11 months of 2006 totaled \$7.8 billion. U.S. foreign direct investment in Russia in 2005 was \$5.5 billion, up from \$3.8 billion in 2004. Russians are buying American products and services—it seemed that every fifth car in Moscow was a Ford. But we can do better by helping to raise the standard of living in Russia to advance democratic reforms.

Russia is now working to join the World Trade Organization, WTO. The United States maintains an obscure trade law, known in Washington-speak as "Jackson-Vanik," that would limit U.S. business trade and investment in WTO-member Russia because the law prevents normalized trade relations between the two countries. While the original intent of this trade law was admirable, it is now widely believed to be antiquated and remains only as yet another Cold War relic, this time hindering future progress in opening permanent normal trade relations between

Russia and the United States. If Jackson-Vanik remains in place, Russian businesses would not suffer alone upon Russia's accession to the WTO; U.S. businesses would also suffer while businesses from around the globe prosper in Russia's increasingly valuable markets. Congress needs to "graduate" Russia from this trade provision so U.S. firms can compete with foreign firms on the economically fertile ground in Russia.

Finally, as with other allies, important and controversial matters between the United States and Russia will continue to arise. Energy production and supply, for example, is an important national security matter for the United States and its allies. Russia's state-controlled energy company, Gazprom, is building an intricate pipeline system which will control natural gas flow to European countries. It currently supplies about 25 percent of Europe's natural gas, with higher percentages to some former Soviet European states. About 40 percent of crude oil exports move to Europe through a pipeline system. They plan to expand to North America. Russia has already exploited the dependence of Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and Georgia on its energy resources. Without cooperation and understanding between our countries, this system could leave the United States vulnerable in the future to gas supplies controlled by the Russians.

Mikhail Margelov, my Russian counterpart in the working group, said that the U.S.-Russia alliance must be strong for the future of both countries. He is right. Collaboration can bring about change for the good. Negotiation can resolve conflicts. Strong relations can solidify Russia's democracy.

The administration should use the G8 Summit as an opportunity to engage Russia on these key security, trade and energy policy matters. It is in the national security interests of the United States to have a strong relationship with a democratic Russia.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SURVIVAL FLIGHT TEAM

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I wish today to pay tribute to the six members of the University of Michigan Survival Flight team who perished this past Monday when their plane tragically crashed into Lake Michigan during an organ transplant mission. On behalf of the people of Michigan, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the victims' families. These brave men put their lives on the line to save the lives of those in need of urgent medical care. They touched countless families through their work and the goodness of their hearts and stand as examples to all of us as modern-day Good Samaritans.

Richard Chenault II, 44, from Ann Arbor, was hoping to get back to Michigan on time Monday to attend