

SPECIALIST VAL JOHN BORM

Mr. President, I rise today to honor Army SPC Val John Borm of Sidney, NE.

Specialist Borm graduated from Sidney High School in 2005. In his free time, his father Larry Borm says he liked to play computer games and was an avid paintball competitor. After graduating from high school, Specialist Borm enlisted in the Army. He was serving as an infantryman in B Company, 2nd Battalion with the 35th Infantry Division, based at Fort Shafter, HI.

On Thursday, June 14, 2007, Specialist Borm passed away when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle during operations in Kirkuk province. Two other soldiers were killed, and one was injured in the same attack. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and other military honors. Specialist Borm was 21 years old.

In addition to his father, Specialist Borm is survived by his mother Lolita and his sister Kimberly, both of Sidney. I offer my sincere condolences to SPC Val John Borm's family. He made the ultimate and most courageous sacrifice in the name of freedom and hope to defend liberty. Specialist Borm was a man of incredible bravery; he will be forever remembered as a hero who sacrificed everything for his fellow countrymen and -women.

SERGEANT ADAM G. HEROLD

Mr. President, I rise today to honor Army SGT Adam G. Herold of Omaha, NE.

Sergeant Herold attended St. Cecilia Elementary and Omaha Roncalli High School. He earned his high school equivalency certificate in 2004 and joined the Job Corps in Utah to learn a trade. In 2005, he enlisted in the Army and first served in Iraq in October 2006.

On Sunday, June 10, 2007, while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, based in Fort Richardson, AK, Sergeant Herold passed away from injuries received from the detonation of an improvised explosive device near Karbala. Two other soldiers were also killed in the attack. Then-Specialist Herold was posthumously promoted to sergeant and was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Good Conduct Award. He was 23 years old.

Sergeant Herold is survived by his parents, Lance and Debra Herold, and his brothers, Andy and Kyle Herold, all of Omaha. I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of SGT Adam Herold. He made the ultimate and most courageous sacrifice for our nation. I join all Americans in grieving the loss of this remarkable young man and know that Sergeant Herold's passion for serving, his leadership, and his selflessness will remain a source of inspiration for us all.

SPECIALIST JOSIAH HOLLOPETER

Mr. President, I rise today to honor SPC Josiah Hollopeter of Valentine, NE.

Specialist Hollopeter was born in Ainsworth and grew up in the Valentine area. He graduated from Valentine High School in 1998. Before joining the service, he worked construction jobs in Omaha, NE, and San Diego, CA. He also spent many summers working for a canoe outfitter along Nebraska's Niobrara River. Driven by a desire to join other troops fighting in Iraq after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; to further his education; and to follow the example of his younger brother's service, 1LT Tyler Hollopeter, as an Army helicopter pilot in Iraq, Specialist Hollopeter enlisted in the Army in January 2006. But simply joining the Army was not all Specialist Hollopeter wanted to achieve; he also strived to become an Army sniper. According to his father, Ken Hollopeter, of Valentine, his skill as a hunter landed him on a sniper team. "There's a 60 or 70 percent dropout rate in that program. It's a lot of emotional strength, the ability to concentrate and focus on one goal; he'd accomplished most of that in life," said his father.

Specialist Hollopeter completed basic training at Fort Knox, KY. He was assigned to the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, based in Fort Hood, TX. On Thursday, June 14, 2007, while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Specialist Hollopeter passed away in Balad after suffering wounds when his four-man sniper team came under small-arms fire in al-Muqdadiah. He was 27 years old and had been serving in Iraq since October.

In addition to his father and brother, Specialist Hollopeter is survived by his wife, Heather Hollopeter, of Killeen, Texas; and his mother, Kelly Hollopeter, sister, Anna Hollopeter, and nephew, Kalen, all of Valentine.

I offer my sincere condolences to SPC Josiah Hollopeter's family and friends. He gave his life to save and honor the liberties of America, and his selfless passion and relentless determination to achieve this end will not be forgotten. Specialist Hollopeter will be forever remembered as a hero who sacrificed everything for his fellow countrymen and women.

STAFF SERGEANT KENNETH E. LOCKER, JR.

Mr. President, I rise today to honor Army SSG Kenneth E. Locker, Jr., of Burwell, NE.

Staff Sergeant Locker enlisted for military service while he was still in high school. His father remembers that serving "was probably the greatest joy in his life." He added that Locker viewed his military service as part of his responsibility as a father to not only his own children but to all children, remarking that "I'm fighting for the children, Dad—mine, yours, theirs, everybody's—that they may have a safer world to grow up in."

In January of this year, Locker made a trip back home after an injury he sustained the prior year when his humvee was struck by a land mine. His father remembered that during that visit, both he and his son felt it would be the last time they were together.

While serving with the 82nd Airborne Division, Staff Sergeant Locker passed away after a suicide bomb exploded on his base, northeast of Baghdad, on April 23, 2007. He was 28 years old.

Together with his father, Staff Sergeant Locker leaves behind three young sons, ages 7, 4, and 2; two sisters, a half-brother, and a half-sister. My sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of this brave service-member. I join our Nation in grieving the loss of a true Nebraska hero and in celebrating his memory, his passion for service, his commitment to our Nation's future, and his love of our country.

MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

Early in the morning of June 2, 2007, in Lowell, MA, three men severely beat 22-year-old James Nickola for being gay. Nickola, a transsexual, was walking alone on his way home from a nightclub when the three men began to follow him. When the men started to yell homophobic epithets, Nickola says he quickened his pace, but the men were able to catch up to him about 200 feet from a police substation. The men then attacked, hitting Nickola repeatedly in the face, knocking him down, and continuing to beat him. The assailants, whose attack partially severed Nickola's lip, allegedly continued to utter homophobic slurs and told him, "we don't want your kind in this neighborhood."

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

REMEMBERING CHARLES W. LINDBERG

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to remember a North Dakota hero who passed away last month.

About 3 miles straight west of this Senate Chamber lies the Iwo Jima memorial. Its centerpiece is a statue of six men raising an American flag to

symbolize the capture of Mount Suribachi and the ensuing U.S. military victory at Iwo Jima.

On February 23, 1945, a 24-year-old marine from North Dakota named Charles W. Lindberg played a key role in the events immortalized by the Iwo Jima memorial. On that day, he was part of the group that raised the first American flag to fly over Japanese soil in the Second World War. Many names from that war stand out in our memories: Normandy, Midway, the Battle of the Bulge. But perhaps none stands out like Iwo Jima.

The battle for Iwo Jima was one of the fiercest of the entire war. The American attack, planned to capture the two airfields on the island and provide a staging area for B-29 bombing runs on the Japanese home islands, was the first invasion of traditionally Japanese territory in the war. Fighting on the island lasted over a month. Over 20,000 Americans were injured and 6,825 more heroically made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

And on Iwo Jima North Dakota's Marine Cpl. Charles Lindberg made his mark on history. The indelible image of the battle for Iwo Jima is of six men raising an American flag atop the island. But those six men were not the first group of men to claim Iwo Jima for the United States. That honor belongs to a patrol that included Corporal Lindberg. The distinction between the two was one he spent a lifetime explaining.

On February 23, Corporal Lindberg took his 72-pound flame-thrower to enemy pillboxes at the base of Mount Suribachi and set out for the top with five other marines, an old pipe to be used as a flagpole, and the American flag. They gained the summit and planted the flag. Lindberg recalled that the flag's raising created such a commotion of cheers and whistles that it brought the enemy back out. That threat drew Lindberg back to battle, and so he missed the raising of the second flag, which was captured for history and recreated at the Iwo Jima memorial.

Lindberg won a Silver Star for his bravery that day, and a Purple Heart for the injury that led to his evacuation from the island less than one week later. Thirty-six members of his 40-man patrol were killed or wounded while fighting on Iwo Jima, which would rage for a full month after the flag-raising. Lindberg was fortunate enough to return home, to marry, and to live out a somewhat quieter life as an electrician.

On June 24, at the age of 83, he passed away. He was the last surviving member of the group of heroes who had the honor of raising the first American flag to fly over Japanese territory.

What is it that makes a young man from a simple town like Grand Forks, ND, risk his life the way Corporal Lindberg did on Iwo Jima? Was it the fight for freedom and liberty? Was it his patriotism and his love of country?

Was it his bravery and courage? Perhaps it was all those things. In fact, I would say that the story of Charles Lindberg presents the best of all that is American. Duty. Honor. Bravery. Sacrifice. I am proud to say that Corporal Lindberg comes from my home State of North Dakota. I am proud to call Corporal Lindberg an American.

Lindberg's passing serves as a reminder to be thankful for the heroic service of all those who answered the call to serve our country. The service of the millions of young men called to duty in World War II—and in all of our nation's wars—can never be forgotten. We are all touched in some way by heroes like Charles Lindberg, whether they are our family members, our loved ones, or our neighbors. Let us always remember the debt we owe these heroes, and always cherish the freedom they successfully fought to preserve.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL WAYNE BUTLER

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to retired Colonel Michael Wayne Butler. On June 12, 2007, South Carolina lost a true patriot when Colonel Butler was killed while working for a contractor near Tikrit, Iraq. He is survived by his wife Joanne, sons Mike and Daniel, and grandson Da'Kori.

Colonel Butler's career in the Air Force began when he graduated from the U.S. Air Academy in 1976. Upon graduation, Colonel Butler was commissioned an aircraft maintenance officer. Colonel Butler's career in the Air Force was nothing less than distinguished. He had the opportunity to command the 50th Component Repair Squadron at Hahn AB, Germany, and later the 39th Logistics Group at Incirlik AB, Turkey. In many ways, Colonel Butler's final tour was one of his most complicated ones. Responsible for developing contingency plans and conducting air operations in a 25-nation area of responsibility covering a large swath of the globe, Colonel Butler served as CENTAF Director of Logistics at Shaw AFB in South Carolina. After 30 years of distinguished military service, earning a Bronze Star, a Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, and an Air Force Commendation Medal, Colonel Butler took a much deserved retirement from the Air Force in 2006.

Continuing his love of travel, Colonel Butler trekked around the world with his wife after retiring. Though Colonel Butler would soon be pursuing a new calling, the Butlers established a home in Rembert, SC. In December of 2006, Colonel Butler joined DynCorp International to be the senior deputy program manager for CIVPOL. His new occupation sent him to Iraq. Colonel Butler's experience in the region and his dedication to the cause of freedom was surely an asset in his new duties. On his final mission to advance our cause in Iraq, Colonel Butler was trans-

porting prisoners in a five-vehicle convoy with the U.S. military and Iraqi police when his vehicle was hit by an IED and small arms fire. Colonel Butler and one American soldier lost their lives.

Colonel Butler's love of life extended beyond the battlefield. An avid runner, Colonel Butler competed in and completed the Marine Corps Marathon. Completing the marathon once is quite an accomplishment, but Colonel Butler embraced the challenge of the marathon and completed it multiple times. I was moved to hear that his family will run the marathon in Colonel Butler's absence this year.

Colonel Butler will be buried at Arlington Cemetery on August 22 with full honors. As he departs on his final mission, his memory and legacy will not fade from the hearts and minds of all of the people he came across in his life. He will be missed but this Nation will never forget.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

2006 SLOAN AWARD WINNERS

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I congratulate the 2006 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, which recognizes companies that have successfully used flexibility to meet both business and employee goals.

As I did last year, I wish to draw attention to the Sloan Awards because I think these companies are to be commended for their excellence in providing workplace flexibility practices which benefit both employees and employers. Achieving greater flexibility in the workplace—to maximize productivity while attracting the highest quality employees—is one of the key challenges facing American companies in the 21st century.

For 2006, businesses in the following 17 cities were eligible for recognition: Boise, ID; Chandler, AZ; Chattanooga, TN; Chicago, IL; Greater Dallas/Fort Worth, TX; Dayton, OH; Detroit, MI; Durham, NC; Long Beach, CA; Long Island, NY; New Orleans, LA; Providence, RI; Richmond, VA; Salt Lake City, UT; Seattle, WA; Tampa, FL; and Washington, DC. The Chamber of Commerce in each city hosted an interactive business forum to share research on workplace flexibility as an important component of workplace effectiveness. In these same communities, businesses applied for, and winners were selected for, the Sloan Awards through a process that included employees' views as well as employer practices.

In Boise, ID, the winners were American Geotechnics, American Red Cross of Greater Idaho, Chatterbox, DJM Sales & Marketing Inc., Healthwise, Hewlett-Packard Company, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the Ashley Inn, and the Cat Doctor.

In Chandler, AZ, the winners were Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital, Chandler Chamber of Commerce, Civil