

everything you couldn't grow," Petercheff remembers. She said Ky. 1675, extending from Ky. 80 to Mt. Victory, was in those days the main route from Crab Orchard to Sublimity Springs, at that time a well-known health resort near Mt. Victory.

"Stagecoaches passed by here (on the way to Sublimity Springs)," she recalled.

"We went to Somerset on 'Burden Road,'" laughed Petercheff. "It was really (through) Burdine Valley, but we called it 'Burden Valley.'"

Petercheff is from a strong Republican family. Both her Grandpa Mayfield and Grandpa John Cottongim, a deputy sheriff from 1911 to 1916, were dyed-in-the-wool Republicans.

As a professional consultant, Petercheff would cross the political divide.

"One of my proudest times was working with (Democrat) Wallace Wilkinson in 1987," Petercheff said. She was organizational coordinator during Wilkinson's successful campaign for governor, working with the now nationally famous James Carville.

"Democrats are a different breed," she remarked. "They are more open . . . a physically touchy, feelie kind . . . they don't flout their affluence.

"I am a conservative . . . a fiscal conservative, not a social conservative," Petercheff said. "I loved matching my brains against those big consultants. It's amazing how those big national consultants (are often off base)."

"The key to success in politics, Petercheff said, is to 'get organized, make a plan and then work your plan that's how you win.'"

"On the other hand, Petercheff believes politics must be enjoyed.

"I've told clients, 'Politics is fun. If it's not fun, we won't do it.'"

But an office seeker must be dedicated to the cause. "Campaigns are hard work," she assures.

If Petercheff has a political hero, it's the late Congressman Carter.

"Tim Lee . . . he was a country doctor. His first interest and first desire was to help individual people. If Tim Lee ran across a need for which he couldn't find an answer, he would dig down in his pocket and come up with the money. And you didn't have to vote for him to get help.

"Tim Lee was the ultimate politician," she said. "He knew how to (handle) things politically to get people to do what they should do."

"Petercheff recalls that she started working for Carter in 1964 . . . when women were not involved in politics . . . maybe they stuffed envelopes."

"But Petercheff never took a back seat. Few people have a more impressive profile of services.

"Among her positions as a volunteer, Petercheff served as chair of the Mayfield precinct for 30 years; secretary of the Pulaski County Young Republicans Club for four years; treasurer in 1970 for the State Young Republican Federation; chair in 1971 of 5th District Young Republicans; and secretary from 1972 to 1976 for the Pulaski County Republican Executive Committee.

"Also, in 1969 she served as president of the Pulaski County Republican Women's Club; from 1976 to 1978 she was chair of the 5th District Republican Party; from 1972 to 1978 she was a member, state-at-large, Republican State Central Committee; in 1966 she was campaign chair for the U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper and Tim Lee Carter; and served as campaign chair for now-Congressman Hal Rogers for state Young Republican chairman.

Also, she was campaign coordinator for Rogers in his quest for Pulaski County attorney; Pulaski County campaign and head-

quarters secretary during Louie Nunn's successful campaign for governor; 5th District coordinator for Tom Emberton for governor; and state organizational coordinator for Huda Jones's campaign for secretary of state.

"Also, state campaign primary coordinator for Gerald Ford for president of the United States; state campaign manager for Hal Rogers for lieutenant governor; 5th District campaign coordinator for Ronald Reagan, (Senior) George Bush, Mitch McConnell and Rogers; 5th District coordinator for Jim Bunning for governor; and 5th District campaign manager for Hal Rogers for Congress in 1980, 1982 and 1984.

"Petercheff has served in some position in every state, district and local election since 1962. She started One Acorn and Associates in 1984 with several stockholders. In April 1986, she became the sole owner and operator of One Acorn. Her list of clients is like a 'who's who' in local, state and national politics.

"Like many Pulaski Countians, to make a living, Petercheff's family—her father, Thomas O. Cottongim, and her mother, Mary Iva Mayfield Cottongim—left their home in Acorn in 1941 and moved to Indianapolis. She went to high school in the Indiana city and married her high school sweetheart, Jimmy Petercheff, now deceased.

"She and Jimmy returned to Pulaski County in 1959 and took over operation of the family's general store, originally known as J.N. Mayfield Mercantile and later Acorn Mercantile.

"They closed the store in 1967. 'I had gone to work for Dr. Carter and we had to hire somebody to run the store,' Petercheff said.

"Doris and Jimmy have four sons, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She admits to encouraging her children to be politically active.

"The Petercheff house at 4845 Highway 1675 at Acorn has a large 'P' on the chimney, apparently for identification. But it's not needed. Doris Petercheff is a household name in Somerset, Pulaski County, Kentucky and the nation.

"As she so eloquently said: 'It's been a great ride!'"

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MAJOR MICHAEL TAYLOR

FIRST SERGEANT TOM WARREN

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JOHN GARY BROWN

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, today I rise to recognize three Arkansians who served our country with dignity and honor and gave their lives to our country in Iraq: MAJ Michael Taylor, 1SG Tom Warren, and Army SFC John Gary Brown. They will be remembered by their friends and family as men who lived lives full of passion and love. Their Nation will remember them as men who dedicated themselves to protection of our freedom.

Michael Taylor's father-in-law described him as "a good guy" with a personality that attracted everyone to him since his childhood days in North Little Rock. As a National Guardsman, who worked at the Veterans' Administration, he soon learned that his true passion was in flying. He had spent a lot of time working with computers, and the relationship between modern helicopters and computers gave him a leg up when it came time to enter flight school. He retired from the VA

to become a pilot with the Arkansas National Guard flying Black Hawk helicopters. Taylor eventually reached the Bravo Company's top position and commanded the company.

The second member of the flight team was First Sergeant Tom Warren. 1st Sgt. Warren grew up in Jacksonville, AR, near Camp Robinson. He attended North Little Rock High School in 1976 and married his wife Doris on January 17, 1983. He raised five children and throughout his life was very active in church. He was a Mason, including being past master at his lodge in Levy, which was the same position his father had held. He also served as deacon at Lifehouse Christian Fellowship, where he was an active member. Outside of church, Warren loved to golf, but nothing besides his family could match his love for aviation. Warren reached the position of first sergeant, making him the top ranked enlisted soldier in the company.

Gary Brown hailed from the small town of Nashville, AR. He was born and raised there and attended Nashville High School, where he was on the track team. He graduated in 1982 and spent a year at Ouachita Baptist University. During his time in Little Rock, he was a member of Agape Church and was active in the church's children's bus ministry and men's Bible study. His twin brother said that everything Brown did in his life meant something to him, whether it was easy or hard, and he could always be found with a smile on his face.

To him, serving his country meant something, and he served for 20 years in the National Guard. Most recently Brown was the crew chief of the Arkansas National Guard's 77th Aviation Brigade. He pursued perfection and was truly dedicated to his job.

The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that First Sergeant Warren flew was what he called a limousine service. They ferried others around Iraq as part of "Task Force Dragon," but they became known as the "Catfish Air." Serving their fellow soldiers, these men risked their lives every day to make sure people got to and from dangerous areas as safely as possible.

Tragically these three men's lives intertwined on January 20, 2007, when their helicopter crashed in the area northeast of Baghdad in one of the deadliest moments of the war for our National Guard. I offer my condolences to their families, and I pray that they can find comfort in the knowledge that these three men died serving others and doing what they loved on behalf of a grateful Nation. My thoughts and prayers go out to the many people whose lives were touched by these men.

SPECIALIST JEREMY STACEY

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BRUCE SALAZAR

Madam President, it is with great sadness that I also rise to honor two young men with Arkansas ties who died on back-to-back days during the July 4 recess. Specialist Jeremy L. Stacey was killed on July 5 by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, and Army PFC

Bruce Salazar Jr., was killed on July 6 by an improvised explosive device, IED, in Muhammad Sath, Iraq.

Specialist Stacey spent a large portion of his life growing up in Amarillo, TX, and later moved with his mother, Betty Click, to Bismarck, AR, where he graduated from Bismarck High School in 2003. Shortly after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Army.

Specialist Stacey was remembered by those in Bismarck as a great guy that everyone loved. He had been called a prankster with a quick wit by those who knew him well, and his death has been devastating for his family and the Bismarck community. Specialist Stacey was the first fatality of the Bismarck graduates serving in Iraq.

Specialist Stacey was an M1 armor crewman with the 1st Cavalry Division stationed in Fort Bliss, TX, and had received the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. He was posthumously appointed to the rank of corporal and awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

After his graduation in Arkansas, Stacey's mother moved to Los Chavez, NM, and although he reenlisted in December for another 3-year term, he talked of moving to New Mexico to be near his mother once his service was complete. A talented writer who wrote fiction, Stacey also dreamed of going to college one day. He is survived by his mother and four sisters: Jessica Stacey, Shaila Stacey, Lisa Close, and Erica Close.

Just one day after Specialist Stacey was killed, Arkansas lost another one of its sons when Army PFC Bruce Salazar was killed. Salazar moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 2003 when he followed his best friend Ronnie Jacques from Davis, CA, to Northwest Arkansas. Salazar's father, Bruce Salazar Sr., lives in Springdale, and the younger Salazar worked in Springdale while completing his general equivalency degree.

The 24-year-old joined the Army and planned on being a career soldier, according to his mother and his friend. After the war, Salazar planned on helping his mother, Suzie Ruiz of Modesto, CA, buy a house, and he looked forward to moving to Florida. His mother remembered him as a good kid who was always there when she needed him. He was an avid baseball fan and wanted to be a fighter pilot. A few weeks before his death, Salazar spoke to his mom about family and friends and asked for a baseball glove to play catch. Ms. Ruiz mailed the glove and a book on becoming a pilot.

Private First Class Salazar was an infantryman with the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Stewart, GA. He is survived by his mother Suzy father Bruce sister Alicia Salazar and four half-sisters in Southern California.

The deaths of these two young men, like the thousands who have already given their lives defending our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, touch many families and many communities across our State and throughout this great land. Our Nation is grateful for their service, and in the days and weeks ahead, our thoughts and prayers are with their families and loved ones during this difficult time.

CORPORAL ZACHARY D. BAKER

Madam President, I also wish to remember a young Arkansan who paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life for our freedom in Iraq earlier this year, CPL Zachary Baker. Corporal Baker was 24 years old and is survived by his wife Christina and seven-year-old son Andrew, as well as his mother, father, brother, sister, and other relatives.

Known affectionately to his family as "Bubba," Baker was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was originally sent to Iraq in 2005 and volunteered to go back after completing that tour. His family described him as a good Christian man who thought about others before himself.

He was killed with five other members of the First Cavalry Division based out of Fort Hood, TX, when a roadside bomb exploded near the Bradley fighting vehicle they were in. His team was responding to a helicopter that Iraqi insurgents shot down north of Baghdad after two crew members radioed for help. Both crew members died in the crash.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his family. My thoughts and prayers, as well as those of so many Arkansans, are with you during this difficult time.

STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN ESTES

Madam President, Arkansas lost a fine young American this past year when SSG Justin Estes of Sims was killed while trying to assist a wounded soldier near Samarra, Iraq. According to reports, Sergeant Estes was in the third vehicle of a convoy when another vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device, IED. Without regard for himself, Sergeant Estes left his vehicle and rushed to pull an injured comrade out of the burning vehicle. He began administering first aid to the wounded soldier when another IED detonated. He died in the arms of a second soldier from the explosion.

Sergeant Estes was remembered as a fine soldier, "The Best of the Best," who put others before himself. He was serving his second tour for the 82nd Airborne and was set to return to the United States after his first tour. However, he gave his slot to a fellow soldier so that he could see his newborn son. Family and friends also recalled his fun-loving spirit.

Sergeant Estes was awarded three medals: the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He is survived by his parents, Don and Kathy Estes of Kentucky and John and Diane Salyers of Sims. He also has two older sisters, Norma and

Kelli, in addition to other family. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Estes family during this trying time.

SPECIALIST ERICH SMALLWOOD

Madam President, it is with great sadness that I also rise today to pay tribute to a Arkansan who served his country with honor, SPC Erich S. Smallwood of Trumann, AR. Specialist Smallwood died on May 26, 2007, from injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle outside of Balad, Iraq. Erich was a member of Company B of the 87th Troop Command's 875th Engineer Battalion based in Marked Tree, AR, and served with the battalion's Company A based in Jonesboro, AR. He was the first loss for the 875th during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A 2002 graduate of Trumann High School, Smallwood was a beloved member of his community. He was selected "Mr. Trumann High School" by his classmates and was a good athlete who played football, baseball, and ran track for THS. He was also selected "Most Involved" his senior year in high school and was a member of Future Farmers of America and the Spanish Club.

In the days following his death, friends and loved one remembered Smallwood for the person he was and the examples he set. In an interview in the Trumann Democrat, his high school principal, Jim Montgomery, recalled that Specialist Smallwood had a great sense of humor. "He liked to kid around, but he never got into any trouble. . . He was always doing something to make people laugh . . . He was a good student and a good person."

At his funeral on June 4, his brother-in-law, Jon Redman of Jonesboro, noted that he was an inspiration to others. "He was a special kind of person. He always had that smile on his face. . . He was the greatest brother anyone could have. He was a friend to many people and never met a stranger. He was the heart and soul of his unit."

Arkansas National Guard Adjutant GEN William B. Wofford remembered him as "a soldier both inside and outside the wire. He wanted to be an encouragement to someone. He was a true patriot, was intelligent, and loved his fellow soldiers."

At a Memorial Day service in Trumann, just 2 days after his passing, Mayor Sheila Walters read a proclamation recognizing the sacrifice of Specialist Smallwood. It read: "We honor all soldiers and their commitments to this great country by their legacy of patriotism and sacrifice. We honor our very own Erich Smallwood for giving his life in the cause of freedom. He is one of the many heroes who have protected and inspired us all."

Madam President, Specialist Smallwood was a unique person who paid the ultimate sacrifice in serving his country and protecting our freedoms. My thoughts and prayers are with his fiancée, Amanda; father, James; mother, Pamela; sister, Terah;

brother J.T., who is also currently serving in Iraq; and the rest of the Smallwood family during this trying time.

SERGEANT ROBB ROLFING

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I mourn the loss and celebrate the life of Robb Rolfing. Robb died on June 30 while engaging enemy insurgents in Baghdad. He was the 23rd South Dakotan to make the ultimate sacrifice in the war on terror. My deepest sympathies go out to Robb's family, in particular, his mother Margie, his father Rex, his brother TJ, and his sister Tiffany. With Robb's tragic death, South Dakota has lost one of its finest sons and the Army has lost a dedicated professional.

Robb was from Sioux Falls and graduated from O'Gorman High School in 1996. His love of science and ingenuity was inspired by television's MacGyver. Those who remember Robb from high school like to recount how Robb was never without duct tape or a Swiss Army knife. Another of their favorite stories is how Robb rigged up a makeshift parachute for his graduation cap so that when he threw it in the air it glided back down to the ground.

As Robb grew it was clear that he was a gifted scholar, athlete, leader, and coach. He dedicated himself to the pursuit of excellence in every aspect of his life. He was a passionate soccer player who excelled on and off the field at Vassar College. He finished his collegiate career with a degree in Astrophysics and was twice named the captain of the Vassar soccer team, scored the winning goal to advance his team to Vassar's first ever national tournament, and was the team's second all-time leader in goals, assists, and points. Following graduation from college, Robb coached soccer at Rollins College in Florida and Curry College in Massachusetts.

When the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, Robb pursued another of his dreams. He joined the U.S. Army and became a member of the Green Berets, the Army's elite experts in unconventional warfare. Based on Robb's dedication to excellence and his mechanical ingenuity it came as no surprise that Robb served as the special forces engineer for his unit, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, airborne. Special forces engineers are skilled at construction projects, building field fortifications, and using explosive demolitions. Looking back over Robb's life, it seems that his whole experience was designed to culminate in gaining the coveted Army Green Beret that is recognized the world over.

Green Berets are commonly called quiet professionals and referred to as a special breed of man. Robb was both these things and truly lived the Green Beret motto, *De Oppresso Liber*, To Liberate the Oppressed.

Mr. President, I truly mourn the loss of SGT Robb Rolfing and I extend my thoughts, prayers, and best wishes to his family, friends, and loved ones.

MRAP

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, I want to explain an amendment I hope to get adopted when we return to the Defense authorization bill and that I have filed today.

Let me be very frank. This is a very expensive amendment. It is also, literally, priceless. It makes good on this commitment: So long as a single American soldier or marine remains in Iraq, we will provide him or her with the best protection this country can provide.

Let me start with the basics. There are two critical issues facing our soldiers and marines today: improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, and explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs. IEDs are planted in roads and on the side of roads to hit the bottom of vehicles with powerful explosives. EFPs are shaped charges that come into the side armor of vehicles at high speeds.

We know that IEDs now cause about 70 percent of all American fatalities. Since 2003, in any given month, IEDs have caused between 30 and 76 percent of American fatalities. For every death, there are usually 2 to 10 Americans wounded. Over the past year, we have also seen a growing threat from EFPs. They are not yet everywhere in Iraq, but they are spreading and they are very lethal.

The military has a strategy for dealing with both. First, they seek to disrupt the organizations that produce IEDs and EFPs. They go after the people and the supplies. Second, they attempt to use tactics and technology to prevent IEDs and EFPs from being activated when American personnel are close enough to be harmed. Third, they attempt to survive a direct hit. It is the third area where we could and should have done much more to make a difference years ago but where still today we can and must make a difference.

The military has tested, both at testing centers and in the field, the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, also called an MRAP. The MRAP provides dramatically improved protection against IEDs. The military has said that it is four to five times as good as an up-armored HMMWV. More important, military commanders tell us that it will reduce deaths and casualties from IEDs by 67 to 80 percent. The Brookings Institution found that 1,400 Americans died in Iraq due to IEDs from March of 2003 through June of 2007. If we had had MRAPs in the field from the start—and we could and should have—938 to 1,120 Americans would be alive today.

And let me just clarify for my colleagues that this is not new technology. It has been used successfully in Africa, by nations much poorer than ours, since the 1970s. I don't want to get bogged down in history, but this is not rocket science. Every day we delay, another soldier or marine is killed or injured by an IED. If we just look at this year, IEDs killed 309 Americans;

207 to 247 would still be alive today if they had been in MRAPs. We need to make sure that for the second half of 2007, those MRAPs are there and those lives are saved.

What about the threat from these shaped charges that come in from the side, the EFP? The Army's Rapid Equipping Force and the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization started working on that last year. In conjunction with industry, they produced a vehicle nicknamed "the Bull" and officially called the Highly Survivable Urban Vehicle Ballistic Protection Experiment Program. This vehicle was tested and shown to defeat EFPs and also tested against the first level of MRAP requirements. That testing was completed in March of this year. For some reason, the military has not asked for another vehicle to do the MRAP level two tests. So we do not actually know how capable this vehicle might be for all threats, but we know it works against EFPs. Instead of trying to get ahead of the enemy and get this technology into the field, the military seems to be sitting on its hands while the EFP threat has increased. Why wouldn't you field something you know works?

The perfect vehicle would be a complete MRAP with EFP protection, but that appears to be many months away, although some MRAP producers tell me that their vehicles have survived EFP hits in the field. So again, we do not have the complete picture. We have also been told that Frag-Kit-6 armor can defeat EFPs, but it is too heavy for MRAPs. So vehicles must be redesigned and retested. This will take time. I understand that and support that effort, but Americans are dying today. Again, as with the MRAP, we have a technology that could keep them alive, and we should be using it while we work to perfect it.

I do not know if all of my colleagues saw the USA Today article that appeared on Monday detailing some of the history surrounding the MRAP. I will summarize a few points but will ask to have the entire article printed in the RECORD.

This article details efforts to get MRAPs going back to 2003. It also details the reasons for delay, and that is what I want to point out to my colleagues.

First, apparently, the leadership at the Pentagon did not expect this war to last this long. Well, that is no surprise. We all remember the "Mission Accomplished" speech and the promise of roses in the streets. We remember Vice President CHENEY telling us that the insurgency was in its death throes. We remember Secretary Rumsfeld telling us that crime in Baghdad was not any worse than that in Washington, DC. I remember all of that. Sadly, none of those leaders remember the hearings that Senator LUGAR and I held before the war began that predicted the need for a long-term American presence and engagement. They don't remember