

am immensely grateful to all who have served this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

LARRY CRAIG

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I rise to recognize the service of a great public servant and an outstanding leader.

Senator CRAIG has served his home State of Idaho for 17 years in the U.S. Senate. He has been a fervent leader to the people of Idaho with unwavering devotion.

Senator CRAIG has sought to establish Federal policies that respond to the needs and interests of Idahoans by constructing strong, sustainable rural communities, seeking access to adequate, affordable health care and developing natural resource and energy policies that protect the environment and keep consistency with economic growth.

Senator CRAIG's leadership in promoting economic development and strengthening American agriculture has led to the improvement of both agricultural studies and programs. His resilient leadership has helped to foster numerous programs in Idaho that will benefit agricultural entrepreneurship and help to strengthen the partnership between State and Federal groups. Senator CRAIG has truly served the people of Idaho with distinction.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this magnificent Senator.

PETE DOMENICI

Madam President, I rise to recognize the service of a great public servant and an outstanding leader.

Senator DOMENICI has been a tremendous and dedicated servant to his home State of New Mexico. His distinguished career spans 36 years, making him the first New Mexican to serve six full 6-year terms and the longest serving Senator of his State.

Senator DOMENICI has been a devoted champion of the State of New Mexico. His relentless commitment to the people of New Mexico is evident to all who know him. As a respected leader in the Senate, he has pushed to strengthen energy security, curb nuclear proliferation, promote fiscal responsibility in the Federal budget, and has demonstrated profound leadership skills in his desire to continuously improve New Mexico's economy.

Among his many accomplishments and priorities, Senator DOMENICI has placed the importance of our future generation at the forefront. He recognizes the necessity of cultivating the young minds of today to ensure a bright future. Over a decade ago, Senator DOMENICI introduced the Character Counts Program into New Mexico's school curriculum. Under the guidance of this program, schoolchildren learn the value of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship as they build their

character. Such traits are reflected in Senator DOMENICI. His legacy of public service has truly left its mark on Congress and will forever remain in the hearts of New Mexicans.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this magnificent Senator and friend.

CHUCK HAGEL

Madam President, I rise to recognize the service of a great public servant and an outstanding leader.

Senator HAGEL has been a committed and avid servant to his home State of Nebraska. He has served in Congress for two consecutive 6-year terms with ardent fervor for the welfare of Nebraskans and all Americans.

Senator HAGEL has always placed the well-being of Nebraska and our Nation ahead of partisanship and personal feelings. He has been an earnest supporter of bipartisanship, recognizing the productivity that can accompany joint labor. His devotion to the people of his State and this Nation is apparent to any who know him. He has distinguished himself as a soldier and public servant of the people, demonstrating an exemplary character of which Nebraskans can be proud.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this magnificent Senator.

WAYNE ALLARD

Madam President, I rise to recognize the service of a great public servant and an outstanding leader.

Senator ALLARD has been a tremendous and dedicated servant to his home State of Colorado. His distinguished career spans 17 years in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

Senator ALLARD has been a devoted champion of the State of Colorado. His tireless commitment to the people of Colorado is evident to all who know him. He has been an ardent supporter of increased national attention to the importance of savings plans and investments and small business concerns.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this magnificent Senator.

JOHN WARNER

Madam President, I rise to recognize the service of a great public servant and an outstanding leader.

Senator WARNER has been a tremendous and dedicated servant to his home State of Virginia and our Nation. His distinguished career spans 30 years in the U.S. Senate, making him the second longest serving U.S. Senator from Virginia.

Senator WARNER has always placed the well-being of Virginia and the United States ahead of partisanship and personal feelings. He has been an ardent supporter for the men and women of the Armed Forces. As a respected leader, he pushed to modernize the structure and operations of the military to ensure its effectiveness in the 21st century.

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this magnificent Senator.

JOHN SUNUNU

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I rise today to honor my colleague, Senator JOHN SUNUNU, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this term. Senator SUNUNU has represented the great State of New Hampshire for 12 years in Congress, serving six of those years in the Senate. Senator SUNUNU and I both served on the Finance Committee. Although we did not always agree, I found JOHN to be willing to work in a bipartisan manner to confront the major challenges that our great Nation faces.

Raised in Salem, NH, JOHN SUNUNU became interested in public service early in life when his mother served as chair of the local school board. JOHN attended public school in Salem and later earned advanced degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Harvard Graduate School of Business.

JOHN SUNUNU was elected to represent New Hampshire's First Electoral District in the House of Representatives in 1996. In the House, JOHN served on the Budget and Appropriations Committees. He quickly rose in rank on the Budget Committee, becoming its vice chairman. In 2002, he was elected to represent the Granite State in this Chamber, becoming its youngest Member.

JOHN and I worked together on numerous occasions. We both served on the Finance Committee This summer, JOHN joined the so-called "Gang of Ten" as it expanded from 10 to 20 members. Together, we sought pragmatic, bipartisan solutions to our Nation's energy crisis. Senator SUNUNU also joined me in standing up for our Nation's senior citizens and opposing cuts to Medicare-financed nursing home care.

JOHN will be remembered for his commitment to individual liberties and limited Government. In the uncertainties of today's world, Senator SUNUNU has been a voice for preserving civil liberties in the light of increased law enforcement needs.

I thank Senator SUNUNU for his years of public service and wish him and his family the best in the future.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT MICHAEL K. CLARK

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and service of SGT Michael Clark. A member of Fort Carson's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Sergeant Clark was killed on October 7 when his foot patrol was ambushed in Mosul, Iraq. He was 24 years old.

Sergeant Clark was on his second deployment to Iraq and in his fourth year of service in the 3rd Brigade. He was assigned to the brigade's 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, and served as a fire support specialist, a job that requires quick thinking, unusually strong stamina, and a mastery of the techniques of target processing. In this urban, guerrilla-style conflict, where

the enemy's location is often difficult to acquire, Sergeant Clark played a vital role as the eyes and ears of his team.

Sergeant Clark's dedication and talent earned him a number of awards, including the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Action Badge. He was also a two-time recipient of the Army Commendation Medal, which recognizes exemplary service.

Sergeant Clark and his team were charged with maintaining security in the eastern portion of Mosul, which is Iraq's second largest city and one of the remaining centers of operation for al-Qaida in Iraq. They carried out their mission—one of the most dangerous and important of the war—with courage and tenacity.

As a result of their efforts, security conditions in Mosul have markedly improved, and neighborhoods in the city that were once under control of extremists have been reclaimed and turned over to the Iraqi people. Two days before Sergeant Clark's death, American forces in Mosul killed Abu Qaswarah, the second-in-command for al-Qaida-in-Iraq who coordinated operations in the region. Thanks in large measure to the incredible courage and skill of Sergeant Clark and his men, the tide in Mosul is turning.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that, "the characteristic of genuine heroism is its persistency. All men have wandering impulses, fits and starts of generosity. But when you have resolved to be great, abide by yourself, and do not weakly try to reconcile yourself with the world. The heroic cannot be common, nor the common heroic."

Sergeant Clark possessed the persistence and dedication to duty that is the mark of a genuine hero. He enlisted at a young age. He deployed and he redeployed. He served every day in Iraq committed to his country, his men, and his mission. He carried out his mission with distinction and honor. He was anything but common, and we are all better for it.

To Sergeant Clark's mother Cherie, his father Bradley, his wife Nalini, his son Lucas, and all his friends and family, I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss is assuaged by your pride in Michael's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

CORPORAL ADRIAN ROBLES

Mr. HAGEL. Madam President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of United States Marine Corps Corporal Adrian Robles of Scottsbluff, NE. Corporal Robles died on October 22 from injuries he sustained while supporting combat operations in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan.

A graduate of Scottsbluff High School, Corporal Robles, who was 21 years old, was an exemplary marine. Throughout his service, which included

a tour in Iraq during 2006, Corporal Robles received three medals of Good Conduct from the Marine Corps; two Sea Service Deployment Ribbons; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal; the Iraq Campaign Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the National Defense Service Medal; and the Purple Heart.

All of Nebraska is proud of Corporal Robles' service to our country, as well as the thousands of brave men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Corporal Robles is remembered as a devoted son and brother. He is survived by his parents Cesar and Yolanda; sister Beatriz; and stepsiblings Cesar and Ricardo Robles and Yovana Chaparro.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Adrian Robles.

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise today to recognize National Mentoring Month. The designation of January as National Mentoring Month allows us to focus national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us—individuals, businesses, schools and community groups—can work together to ensure brighter futures for our young people.

Mentors serve as role models, advocates, friends and advisers. Numerous studies show that mentors help young people augment social skills, enhance emotional well-being, improve cognitive skills and plan for the future. For some children, having a caring adult mentor to turn to for guidance and encouragement can make the crucial difference between success and failure in life.

As a longtime mentor myself, I certainly know that there are few things more rewarding than making a difference in the life of a child. Mentoring programs are not only advantageous to our students, but they are also rewarding to the mentor. In Delaware, mentoring has become an integral part of our school system and is one of the keys to improving academic achievement among at-risk students.

As Governor, I helped recruit 10,000 mentors as part of a statewide effort and was actively involved in encouraging individuals, churches, service clubs, students and corporations to help mentor Delaware's at-risk children. However, at the national level, 15 million children are still in need of mentors, and it is imperative that we continue to expand grant programs.

I am proud that Congress has been working toward increasing the funding for mentoring. I have cosponsored two pieces of legislation that support mentoring including the Mentoring America's Children Act, which was introduced by Senator CLINTON. This bill is based on joint recommendations of the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and the National Collaboration for

Youth. The act would broaden the reach of mentoring programs to include a number of specific populations of young people—including children in foster care and those living in communities with high rates of youth suicide. The Mentoring America's Children Act would also help students gain professional skills by implementing internship programs during the school year.

The second piece of legislation I have cosponsored is the Mentoring for All Act. This bill, introduced by Senator KERRY, would create a competitive grant fund to strengthen and grow mentoring infrastructure across the country and provide additional support and funding to direct service mentoring organizations, both at the national and local levels.

In addition to cosponsoring these two bills, I also signed onto a letter to Senators HARKIN and SPECTER encouraging increased funding for mentoring to be added into the fiscal year 2009 budget. The letter encourages the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to include \$100 million in their appropriations bills for mentoring.

There are literally millions of students in our schools who would benefit greatly from having another positive role model in their lives. I pledge to continue to fight for increased funding of mentoring programs all year, not just during National Mentoring Month. I am proud and grateful to our Nation's mentors who realize that less than an hour of our time each school week can make a lifetime of difference to a child and to each of us.

IN RECOGNITION OF TIM LITVIN

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, today I rise to make a few comments about a longtime staffer in my office, Tim Litvin.

A native of Manchester and a graduate of Central High School, Tim came to work for me first as an intern from Colgate University and then joined the office full time in 2001. Through his 7 years of service, Tim rose through the ranks from manning the front desk to becoming a legislative aide on critical defense and military issues, as well as on other matters. From making sure our veterans and soldiers received the highest level care and attention, to his work with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Tim gained respect from all those who crossed his path.

In my office, Tim always came to work with a smile, a willingness to help, and a good sense of humor. At office functions in the conference room or on the softball field, Tim would always crack a few jokes among his co-workers, sometimes at his own expense to add a bit of levity. This low-key, low-ego approach helped keep things in the office light and upbeat. Where there was laughter in my office, Tim was usually there and we all appreciated it.