

Dakota hero, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony this afternoon.

Master Sergeant Keeble was born in Waubay, SD, and was a member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. He served in the Army in both World War II and the Korean war, and was highly decorated for his service having been awarded two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Distinguished Service Cross.

The action for which Master Sergeant Keeble was awarded the Medal of Honor occurred in October 1951 near Kumsong, North Korea. The accounts of his actions that day are truly worthy of a Hollywood movie. Though wounded and having fought continually for several days in brutally cold weather, Master Sergeant Keeble single-handedly took out three machine gun emplacements which had pinned down U.S. troops. As a result, U.S. troops were able to achieve their objective.

First Sergeant Joe K. Sagami described the action this way:

He worked his way down about fifty yards from the ridgeline and flanked the enemy's left pillbox; attacking it with grenades and rifle fire eliminating it. He then retreated to about the point where the First Platoon was holding the unit's first line of defense and worked down about fifty yards from the ridgeline and proceeded to outflank the enemy's right pillbox with grenades eliminating it. Then without hesitation he lobbed a grenade into the back entrance of the middle pillbox and with additional fire eliminated it. He then ordered his First Platoon forward to eliminate what little resistance was left.

In reading the words of those who fought with Master Sergeant Keeble, which have been collected by researcher Merry Helm, it is clear that everyone loved and respected the man they called Chief. Joseph Marston of George Company said, "What 'Chief' accomplished that day was common knowledge throughout the whole battalion. He was known for his bravery."

When asked about Master Sergeant Keeble, Carl Fetzner, who served in Second Platoon, said:

Sure I remember him. Nobody could forget him! I had barely gotten to the company when this happened. I didn't know much about what was going on, but I do know SGT Keeble was the finest, most courageous person I ever knew. When we pulled back in reserve—you know when we could go [back from] the lines to clean up, whatever, take a little rest . . . he knew what was going on. He took care of his men, he liked people, and he always did everything he could to help you, especially the new men . . .

After the Korean war, Master Sergeant Keeble came home and went to work at the Wahpeton Indian School. He enjoyed making copper sculptures and was active in his community. Like so many veterans, he was more concerned about taking care of his family than collecting medals. At the time, few even knew that the members of his own company had submitted a recommendation that he be awarded a Medal of Honor for his brave action in October 1951.

Because the recommendation paperwork had been lost twice, Master Sergeant Keeble did not receive the honor his fellow soldiers knew he deserved. It all might have been forgotten if the men he served with, and later his family and friends, had not kept the issue alive for the next five decades.

Master Sergeant Keeble's case was first brought to my attention in 2002 by his family and members of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. At that time, I contacted the Secretary of the Army asking that Master Sergeant Keeble's case be reconsidered based on the loss of the original recommendation paperwork. The case was bolstered by original documents and affidavits that had been saved by those who served with Master Sergeant Keeble.

Though it has taken many years of work by many people, countless letters and phone calls, and even legislation passed in May 2007 authorizing the President to act, President Bush recently approved the recommendation and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Keeble's family this afternoon.

I never had the opportunity to meet Master Sergeant Keeble who died in 1982, but it has been an honor to get to know more about him by working with his family over the past 6 years. I want to thank his family and friends, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, and all the people of South Dakota who have fought to secure this much-deserved honor for Master Sergeant Keeble. I also want to say a special word about his wife Blossom, who died last year. I wish we could have gotten Master Sergeant Keeble this recognition before Blossom passed away, but thankfully she knew how close we were to getting this done.

At a time when so many young men and women are deployed in dangerous places in defense of our country, it is important that we honor all of those who have served our nation in uniform. While we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid, I am proud that today we have properly thanked a South Dakota hero for his service.

I know I join with my colleagues and all South Dakotans in honoring Master Sergeant Keeble for his service to our nation and congratulating his family on receiving his Medal of Honor.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

NATO SUMMIT

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, from April 2 to 4, 2008, leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, will meet at a summit in Bucharest, Romania, to address issues critical to American national security and the future of the Euro-Atlantic community. NATO leaders must seize this opportunity to strengthen transatlantic ties, augment alliance members' contributions to common missions and con-

tinue to build the integrated, stable and prosperous Europe that is a vital interest of the United States.

A top priority for the summit must be to reinforce NATO's critical mission in Afghanistan. The contributions there of all the NATO allies alongside more than a dozen other countries bears testimony to how the alliance can contribute to the 21st century missions that are vital to the security of the United States and its allies. NATO's involvement provides capabilities, legitimacy, and coordination in Afghanistan that simply would not be available if NATO did not exist.

Success in Afghanistan is vital to the security of the United States, to all NATO members, and to the people of Afghanistan. NATO's leaders must therefore send an unambiguous message that every country in NATO will do whatever needs to be done to destroy terrorist networks in Afghanistan, to prevent the Taliban from returning to power, and to bring greater security and well-being to the Afghan people. This will require adequate numbers of capable military forces and civilian personnel from NATO members and putting more of an Afghan face on counter insurgency operations by providing more training and resources to the Afghan National Army and police forces, and by embedding more Afghan forces in NATO missions. We must also win long-term public support through assistance programs that make a difference in the lives of the Afghan people, including investments in infrastructure and education; the development of alternative livelihoods for poppy farmers to undermine the Taliban and other drug traffickers; and increased efforts to combat corruption through safeguards on assistance and support for the rule of law.

Success in Afghanistan will also require the removal of restrictions that some allies have placed on their forces in Afghanistan, which hamper the flexibility of commanders on the ground. The mission in Afghanistan—legitimized by a United Nations mandate, supported by the Afghan people, and endorsed by all NATO members after the United States was attacked—is central to NATO's future as a collective security organization. Afghanistan presents a test of whether NATO can carry out the crucial missions of the 21st century, and NATO must come together to meet that challenge. Now is the time for all NATO allies to recommit to this common purpose.

The summit must also address the question of the alliance expanding membership. NATO enlargement since the end of the Cold War has helped the countries of Central and Eastern Europe become more stable and democratic. It has also added to NATO military capability by facilitating contributions from new members to critical missions such as Afghanistan.

The three current candidates for NATO membership—Albania, Croatia and the Republic of Macedonia—have

each made great strides in consolidating their new democracies. They have reformed their defense establishments, worked to root out corruption, modernized their economies, and contributed to NATO security missions in the Balkans and Afghanistan. Responding to these efforts with NATO membership at the upcoming summit would add to the alliance military capabilities while contributing to stability in the Balkans, a region still suffering from the ethnic tensions left behind by the bloodshed of the 1990s.

Ukraine and Georgia have also been developing their ties with NATO. Their leaders have declared their readiness to advance a NATO Membership Action Plan, MAP, to prepare for the rights and obligations of membership. They are working to consolidate democratic reforms and to undertake new responsibilities in their relationship with the Alliance. I welcome the desire and actions of these countries to seek closer ties with NATO and hope that NATO responds favorably to their request, consistent with its criteria for membership. Whether Ukraine and Georgia ultimately join NATO will be a decision for the members of the alliance and the citizens of those countries, after a period of open and democratic debate. But they should receive our help and encouragement as they continue to develop ties to Atlantic and European institutions.

NATO enlargement is not directed against Russia. Russia has an important role to play in European and global affairs and should see NATO as a partner, not as a threat. But we should oppose any efforts by the Russian government to intimidate its neighbors or control their foreign policies. Russia cannot have a veto over which countries join the alliance. Since the end of the Cold War, Republican and Democratic administrations have supported the independence and sovereignty of all the states of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and we must continue to do so. President Putin recent threat to point missiles at Ukraine is simply not the way to promote the peaceful 21st century Europe we seek.

NATO stands as an example of how the United States can advance American national security—and the security of the world—through a strong alliance rooted in shared responsibility and shared values. NATO remains a vital asset in America's efforts to anchor democracy and stability in Europe and to defend our interests and values all over the world. The Bucharest summit provides an opportunity to advance these goals and to reinforce a vital alliance. NATO's leaders must seize that opportunity. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2272. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John "Marty" Thiels Southpark Station, in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007.

S. 2478. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the "Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office".

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 12. A bill to promote home ownership, manufacturing, and economic growth.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-5298. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure: Safe Harbors for Sections 143 and 25" (Rev. Proc. 2008-17) received on February 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-286. A resolution adopted by the Council of the County of Hawaii supporting the National Health Insurance Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-287. A collection of petitions from citizens across the country relative to establishing a more equitable method of computing cost of living adjustments for Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-288. A petition from citizens of the State of New York relative to the role of federal courts in prison reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-289. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Hawaii urging the creation of an agreement that results in an economy-wide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, the White House is convening a Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change with seventeen invited countries at the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange Between East and West, Inc. (East-West Center) on the campus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa on January 30 and 31, 2008, to discuss potential international agreements on global climate change; and

Whereas, for more than half a century, researchers have used atmospheric samples taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory on the island of Hawaii to track a steady annual increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and have concluded that concentrations are now higher than they have been in the past eight hundred thousand years; and

Whereas, scientific consensus links the anthropogenic increase in greenhouse gases to global climate change; and

Whereas, the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that global emissions of greenhouse gases need to peak in the next ten to fifteen years and be reduced to levels well below half those in 2000 by the middle of this century in order to stabilize greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere at the lowest levels assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change to date in its scenarios; and

Whereas, achieving the lowest levels assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to date and its corresponding potential damage limitation would require developed countries as a group to reduce emissions in a range of twenty-five to forty per cent below 1990 levels by 2020; and

Whereas, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the signatory nations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have recognized the special dangers of climate change to island states, territories, and nations; and

Whereas, global climate change is causing rapid melting of ice at both the north and south polar regions, which, in conjunction with thermal expansion due to warmer water temperatures, is leading to a rapid rise in sea level; and

Whereas, University of Hawaii experts have demonstrated that a one meter rise in sea level would inundate much of Hawaii's coastline, including the world renowned Waikiki resort area, the Honolulu International Airport's reef runway, the majority of Hawaii's wastewater treatment facilities, many historic sites, and many populated areas, including lands up to a mile away from the existing shoreline in parts of Honolulu; and

Whereas, global climate change also threatens Hawaii with stronger hurricanes, prolonged drought, shifting weather patterns, warmer temperatures, shifting microclimates, increased spread of invasive species, and saltwater intrusion into its aquifers; and

Whereas, increased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations foster greater carbon dioxide uptake by the world's oceans, leading to ocean acidification and the resultant decreases in reef health and decreases in survival of ocean life that rely on calcium carbonate shells; and

Whereas, Hawaii is doing its part to reduce its contribution to global climate change by