

I commend Dr. Freed for his outstanding career and his achievements in improving the quality of care for children and young people with congenital heart disease in Boston and throughout the world, and I wish him well in retirement.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL D. ELLEDGE

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of SSG Michael Elledge of Fort Carson, CO. On March 17, a bomb exploded near the humvee Sergeant Elledge was driving, killing him and SPC Christopher C. Simpson, of Hampton, VA. Sergeant Elledge was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, CO. He was 41 years old.

Those who knew Mike Elledge describe him as a man committed to his family, faith, and duty to his country. He first donned a uniform after graduating from high school in Michigan in 1985. He served 4 years with the Marines. After discharging, he became a licensed aircraft mechanic and moved to Indiana, where he took a job with United Airlines. For 14 years he worked for United, lived in Brownsburg, and raised three children—Christopher, Caleb, and Cassidy—with his wife Carleen.

But Mike's life changed after the attacks of September 11, 2001. We cannot forget that the tragedies of that day were not confined to New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. The ripples quickly spread to all corners of the country as people learned of friends and family members who were hurt or killed and as the economic impacts hit home with job losses and dislocations.

Mike was among the tens of thousands of Americans who lost their job in the wake of the September 11 attacks. United Airlines, struggling to recover after the disaster, closed the doors on its Brownsburg facility, leaving Mike without a job.

We each have our own way of confronting adversity in our lives. For Michael Elledge, the terror and tragedy of September 11 was a call to service—a call to reenlist. So, at age 38, Sergeant Elledge joined the Army. In 2005, he deployed to Iraq for a 1-year rotation. Last December, he and the Third Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Carson deployed again, this time for a projected 15-month tour.

Sergeant Elledge carried his deeply rooted faith into battle with him. His friends say he was passionately committed to helping Iraqis build a country where they could enjoy freedom and security. For this, Sergeant Elledge embodied the best of a soldier—he was devoted to his duty with the knowledge that his service could make others' lives better.

This is the type of citizen that Americans have celebrated for generations. President Theodore Roosevelt, in a speech at the Sorbonne in Paris in 1910,

praised the values that Sergeant Elledge embodied and claimed that it is the "man in the arena" who makes history.

"It is not the critic who counts," said President Roosevelt, "not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Mr. President, Sergeant Elledge knew what a difference he could make and was not afraid to make it. He was the "man in the arena" for whom President Roosevelt had such high praise.

No words or ceremony, of course, can properly honor the life and loss of a soldier like Sergeant Elledge, but we wish to console his friends and family and remember his contributions. That is why scores of firefighters lined the overpasses of Sacramento, CA, to honor his return; that is why flags are flying in his hometown of Placerville, MI; and that is why the bugles will sound at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs.

To Sergeant Elledge's wife, Carleen, his sons, Christopher and Caleb, his daughter, Cassidy, his parents, Marion and Christopher, and to all his friends and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you. No words can lessen the pain and grief that you feel, but I hope that in time your sorrow will be salved by the knowledge that Mike served his country with honor and that we are all grateful for his courage, his sacrifice, and his heroism. He will never be forgotten.

STAFF SERGEANT DAVID D. JULIAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to express our Nation's deepest thanks and gratitude to a special young man and his family. I was saddened to receive word that on March 10, 2008, SSG David Julian of Evanston, WY, was killed in the line of duty while serving our country in the war on terrorism. Along with four of his fellow soldiers, Staff Sergeant Julian died from injuries he sustained in a suicide bomber attack in Baghdad, Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Julian was assigned to D Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. He joined the Army right after his graduation from Evanston High School in 1994. He loved the Army and his country and was serving his fourth tour of duty in Iraq. Following his first tour, he laid the wreath for

the dedication of the Fallen Comrade Memorial in downtown Evanston. He was laid to rest in his hometown, where he was remembered by family and friends as a determined and courageous warrior, an honorable soldier, and a loving husband and father.

It is because of David Julian that we continue to live safe and free. America's men and women who answer the call to service and wear our Nation's uniform deserve respect and recognition for the enormous burden that they willingly bear. They put everything on the line every day, and because of them and their families, our Nation remains free and strong in the face of danger.

In the Book of John, Jesus said that, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay his life down for his friend." SSG David Julian gave his life, that last full measure of devotion, for you, me, and every single American. He gave his life defending his country and its people, and we honor him for this selfless sacrifice.

Staff Sergeant Julian is survived by his wife Erin and baby daughter Elizabeth, his mother Bonnie and father Wally, brothers Eric, Chris, and Mark, and sisters Misty, Becky, and Kellee. He is also survived by his brothers and sisters in arms of the U.S. Army. We say goodbye to a husband, a father, a son, a brother, and an American soldier. Our Nation pays its deepest respect to SSG David D. Julian for his courage, his love of country, and his sacrifice, so that we may remain free. He was a hero in life and he remains a hero in death. All of Wyoming, and indeed the entire Nation, is proud of him. May God bless him and his family and welcome him with open arms.

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

SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I wish to speak in favor of the Second Chance Act of 2007, a bill to strengthen community safety by improving the reintegration of people returning from prison. The Senate recently passed this measure, and I am proud to have worked over the past few years with Senators BIDEN, BROWNBACK, and SPENCER to see this important bill reach this point. Having passed in the House as well, the Second Chance Act is now ready for President Bush's signature, and I urge him to sign this bill into law as soon as possible.

We have a broken criminal justice system and too many people are caught in its web, especially African-American men, nearly a third of whom will enter State or Federal prison during their lives. What is equally tragic is that nearly two-thirds of the 1,800 people released from prison every day return to jail within 3 years.

The stark reality is that most communities where prisoners go upon release already struggle with highly concentrated poverty, unemployment,

fragile families, and a dearth of jobs. And even if released prisoners do find a promising job opportunity, they often face employer resistance to hiring people with criminal backgrounds. In many cases, they will fail to become fully rehabilitated and go on to commit more crimes.

We must end this revolving door of failure. We must create a pathway for people coming out of jail to get the jobs, skills, and education they need to reject a life of crime in favor of honest contributions to their communities.

There is no question that breaking the law should have consequences. And it is true that we have to do more as parents to teach our children that violence is always wrong. But if convicted offenders are not given the tools they need to become constructive members of our communities after they serve their time, we all suffer the consequences.

That is why the passage of the Second Chance Act is so important. This measure will support faith- and community-based organizations working with State and local authorities to give former prisoners a second chance at a meaningful life. It makes funding available for transitional jobs programs and housing, for support health services, and educational needs. Moreover, priority is given to projects that serve communities with large ex-prisoner populations and to those that do a good job of reintegrating their participants.

Again, I commend my colleagues in the Senate and House of Representatives, Democrats and Republicans, who supported the Second Chance Act. I urge the President of the United States to act quickly to enact this bill into law.●

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VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER KEVIN RUDD

● Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I would like to extend my sincere welcome to the Honorable Kevin Rudd, who is making his first trip to the United States as the newly elected Prime Minister of Australia. This is a historic visit during a time of transition for both our nations.

Yesterday, I spoke with Prime Minister Rudd and congratulated him on his election as the first Labor Party Prime Minister in 11 years. I assured him of my personal commitment to maintaining a strong bilateral relationship between our nations in the years to come and discussed our common interest in advancing peace and prosperity for the people of the United States, Australia, and the world.

The alliance between the United States and Australia is deep and strong and has stood the test of changing times. Labor Party leader John Curtin, along with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, established the United

States-Australia alliance in 1942. Prime Minister Rudd's trip affirms the strategic value of this relationship and the friendship between our people, which has endured across generations and administrations.

The United States-Australia alliance is a cornerstone of security and prosperity both in the Asia-Pacific region and globally. Our two nations are bound by shared interests, shared values, and a common heritage—bonds that were forged in all major wars the United States was involved in during the 20th century, a distinction unique to Australia. And, as a new century dawns, we are beginning to write a new and important chapter in the bilateral relationship.

Indeed, during his first press conference the day after his election, Prime Minister Rudd reiterated his strong commitment to the United States-Australia alliance, a deep commitment to a partnership of equals that I share.

Like the United States, Australia is trans-Pacific in orientation, and for this reason our perspectives and perceptions about regional and global affairs are often tightly aligned. The United States benefits from an Australia that can act as a regional leader in East Asia but one with global interests and capabilities as well.

The Prime Minister's visit provides an opportunity for the people of America to express our deep appreciation for Australia's contributions in combating al-Qaida. We will never forget that following the attacks on September 11, 2001, Australia invoked the ANZUS treaty in support of the United States.

Australia has deployed some 1,000 troops in Afghanistan to the International Security Assistance Force, as well as about 1,500 combat and support troops in Iraq. Prime Minister Rudd has also demonstrated real leadership in tackling the critical global challenge of climate change. Within a few weeks of assuming office, the Prime Minister successfully pushed for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol as one of the first official acts of his administration. He personally led Australia's delegation to Bali, Indonesia, to participate in international negotiations on a post-Kyoto protocol.

In Asia, the quality of our alliance and scope of our diplomatic partnership shine brightly. We both face a rapidly evolving security order defined by traditional and nontraditional security problems. These include changing regional power dynamics and rivalries, territorial disputes, resource competition, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, failed states, environmental degradation, and pandemic diseases. Managing this complex blend of security challenges requires leveraging both bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, organization, in which Australia took the lead in creating in 1989, has advanced economic liberaliza-

tion and integration throughout the Asia-Pacific. Australia's involvement in the East Asia Summit since its inception is a welcome development. The Trilateral Security Dialogue among the United States, Australia, and Japan has become an important channel for coordinating policy and combining capabilities in addressing emerging security challenges in the Asia-Pacific.

As the security order in Asia evolves, Australian participation, leadership, and defense of our common values and interests are critical to building open, inclusive, transparent, and flexible regional structures and arrangements. The new arrangements cannot replace America's bilateral alliances—alliances which are not directed at any one nation but which have served as the foundation for peace and stability in Asia for nearly half a century. But these new mechanisms, building on our traditional alliances, can help sustain the conditions for Asia's peace and prosperity to continue.

Prime Minister Rudd brings special skills and experiences to this new chapter in United States-Australia relations. His progressive domestic policy agenda, innovative and realistic diplomacy, and optimistic vision enrich the already solid base of our bilateral dialogue, reminding us that we can accomplish more when we listen to our friends and allies than when we lecture them.

Prime Minister Rudd's visit is an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the United States-Australia alliance and to our broader bilateral relationship. America's foreign policy, national security and economic interests gain greatly from the deep ties with our friends down under.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President the first small business incubator in St. Charles County was opened 15 years ago in March 1993 by the Economic Development Center at 5988 Mid Rivers Mall Drive in St. Peters, MO.

The EDC business incubator has become a landmark in the heart of St. Charles County serving as a beacon for new entrepreneurs and business owners and hosting countless special events for the business community and general public.

More than 150 companies with 500 jobs have graduated from the EDC incubator into the general marketplace and grown those jobs into more than 1,000 impacting St. Charles County and the St. Louis region.

The EDC incubator facilities provide startup assistance, month-to-month leases, shared office equipment, conference rooms, professional support staff, and access to important resources such as training and financial assistance; and,