

same number who are going to die from breast cancer, 40,000 of which have no relationship to smoking, but you do not see anybody on the floor telling the NIH to do a study between the environmental effects and nonsmoking-related lung cancer.

The reason it is important is a little example of penicillin. It is a great example. We stumbled onto that through the science of microbiology, but we would never have gotten there if we had told the NIH: Study scarlet fever and find a cure; study strep tonsillitis and find a cure; study syphilis and find a cure; study gonorrhea, and we had gone four or five different ways. The point I am making is basic research is what we ought to be doing.

In the mid-nineties, I was one of the strong advocates for increasing the size of the NIH budget. It ought to be twice what it is today. The reason it is not \$60 billion a year instead of \$29 billion is because we will not fix the waste in Medicaid of \$42 billion over 5 years, we will not fix the \$90 billion in fraud in Medicare, we will not fix the \$8 billion that was paid out by the Pentagon for performance bonuses that nobody earned last year, we will not fix the \$50 billion that is associated with waste within the Pentagon. Nobody will fix it. We had one wheelchair that was sold multiple times for \$5 million to Medicare in Florida alone—one wheelchair. We will not do the hard work that creates the long-term best interest for our country, but we will certainly respond to—granted, very real issues, but in an inappropriate way that does not get us where we want to go.

The NIH budget spends more on breast cancer research than any other research. We are going to spend \$100 million on research on the link between breast cancer and the environment. Plus, the Defense Department is going to spend another \$138 million, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention combined is greater than \$1 billion. There is not any other disease we do that on right now. Yet we are going to tell them to do more of the same they are already doing, and we are never going to think about the other people with other diseases, the other 2,037 diseases that are not as well organized and have nowhere close to the same investment at NIH.

The point is, the hardcore, heavy-duty, peer-reviewed science ought to guide us, not emotion, not my poor cousin Sharon Wetz who died 6, 7 years ago of breast cancer, not my sister who has breast cancer, not my sister-in-law who has breast cancer. What we ought to be doing is what is in the best overall good for this country as a whole. And if we need to spend more money on breast cancer, then the way to do that is to get rid of some of the waste and double NIH, but any dollar we spend on breast cancer is a dollar we are not going to spend on colon cancer, it is a dollar we are not going to spend on thyroid cancer, it is a dollar we are not going to spend on lymphoma, because we are going to take it away.

In this bill, it says this should not interfere with peer-reviewed research. If that is the case, then this will never get appropriated. So either this bill is about doing research or it is about a press event for a politician. I will tell you, I think it is the latter.

In 2006, we modernized the NIH to keep exactly this thing from not happening. We took away all the silos. We gave the Director the power and the authority to start making great decisions based on what the raw science was telling him so when we invest in raw science, we magnify the potential benefits that come from it. Now we are going to go back and say we are going to start picking diseases; we are going to start managing it. Why do we need a staff at NIH? Let's let the Senate pick every disease and how much we are going to spend on every one of them; we obviously are qualified.

We are not qualified.

I find it amazing—I do not doubt Senator REID's story, but as a surgical resident in 1984, I was doing cystoscopies and diagnosing interstitial cystitis. We didn't think it was psychosomatic. We knew it was a real disease 3 years before Senator REID came to the Senate.

The question politicians ought to be asking is what is NIH doing? Where is the oversight on what they are doing? Find out what they are doing. How does their work rank in comparison to the other disease initiatives at NIH? We have not had a hearing on that issue.

The HELP Committee has had hearings on multiple speciality disease bills. So we are back into answering a real need, but maybe it is not the best priority. What if we spent the same money we are going to spend on this disease and we got a breakthrough that cured all cancers, but because we decided we were going to reconnect with one specific aspect of one potential risk for one cancer, we missed it?

The wisdom of this body has to be to think in the big picture and in the long term. I have diagnosed breast cancer over 500 times in my medical practice. It is a gut-wrenching, life-changing disease. Fortunately, we have had great improvements in it and our diagnostic skills are getting better, especially with digital MRI on breast examination. Early diagnosis has an impact, but what we do and how we do it is going to matter.

I will put forward that Senator REID can bring this bill to the floor, and if he brings it and we take the time—and I am more than happy to take 4 or 5 days to talk about how we should work at NIH, and I am happy to do that—and the bill will pass, but then are we going to do the same thing with every other disease the HELP Committee brought out? There are about eight other bills just like this bill. We are going to tell NIH: You have to spend this money here, you have to do it here. Regardless of what the raw molecular science says, regardless of what the peer-re-

viewed literature says, we are going to tell them what to do. Consequently, we are going to delay scientific discovery.

My opposition is not that I don't want to cure breast cancer. My opposition is not that I don't want us to find a cure. I want to find a cure for all of them. I am a two-time cancer survivor. I would love to prevent colon cancer. I don't like walking around with half a colon. There are a lot of consequences to it. I don't like having melanoma and having half my neck taken away. I don't like it, but I don't want colon cancer to displace possible cures for everybody and in the best interest of this country.

Will I object? Every time I come to the floor I will object because I think the ultimate underlying policy is wrong. The way we solve breast cancer in this country is double the NIH funding and let science drive the way we need to go. The way we double NIH funding is get rid of the \$300 billion waste, fraud, and abuse that is in the discretionary budget every year which most of us don't have the courage to attack because it might gore somebody's ox.

To those who have breast cancer, as a physician and somebody who has been through cancer, I know your fear. I have been there. I have experienced the questions. I have experienced the chemotherapy. I have experienced the losing of 30 or 40 pounds. I have experienced the nausea and vomiting that is persistent with you for 4 or 6 months. Most of all, what I have experienced is, we have a great health care system and great research in this country that is saving a lot of lives. If we will get our hands out of it as politicians, they will be able to save a whole lot more lives than when we put our hands into it and tell them what they must and shall do.

I thank the good Lord for the time he has given me. I am 5 years out this month from colon cancer. There is no guarantee, but while I am alive, I am going to do things that are in the best long-term interest of our research for health care, that give us the most life for the dollars that we invest. If that is pleasing politically, great. If it is displeasing politically, it is OK too. What is important is we are good stewards—not just with the money but with the direction to allow science to lead us to cures.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed

to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL BENJAMIN K. BROSH

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Army Corporal Benjamin Brosh, of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, out of Fort Campbell, KY. Corporal Brosh was killed last week in Balad, Iraq, when a car packed with explosives detonated near his position at Forward Operating Base Anaconda. He was 22 years old.

Corporal Brosh has roots in Mississippi and Colorado, where his mother still lives and where he loved to ski. Those who knew him remember his energy, sense of humor, his love for his family, and his commitment to the Army and to the soldiers with whom he served.

He entered the Army in 2006, shortly after experiencing and enduring the devastation that Hurricane Katrina wrought on his community. The storm stirred Benjamin to understand his gift for helping others in times of need. Although the storm had badly damaged his own crabbing business, which he had built out of his childhood love for fishing, Benjamin spent the days and weeks after the storm helping his family and friends dig out from the wreckage. "He just worked like a Trojan, and didn't want anything from it," recalls a family friend whose home Benjamin cleared of mud and debris.

He carried his dreams of helping others into the Army and then to Iraq, where, amid the violence of firefighting and roadside bombs, he remained focused on doing what he could to help ordinary Iraqis rebuild their lives. Benjamin's father recalls how much he enjoyed delivering soccer balls to Iraqi children and then challenging them to a pickup game. In a war zone wrought with confusion and tragedy it is hard to imagine a gesture of humanity more powerful than that of an American soldier joining with Iraqi kids in a soccer match.

Corporal Brosh's passion for assisting others was matched only by his commitment to protecting the soldier next to him. He was a pillar of his unit, sustaining his fellow soldiers with his good spirits, optimism, and courage. He dispensed advice and encouragement and, ultimately, offered his life to protect his unit.

The words we offer to honor Corporal Brosh cannot begin to describe the heroism of his daily work or the depth of his character and convictions. From his memory, though, we draw a model for service and duty to which we can all aspire.

At a 1963 gathering remembering the life of the poet Robert Frost, President John F. Kennedy reminded the crowd

that, "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers."

Our Nation tends to recognize those men and women of wide acclaim, with whose accomplishments we are already familiar. This, however, is a time of heroes. Over a million and a half Americans have left their families for deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Benjamin Brosh, a young man who learned his power to help others in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, gave even more than most. He lent his character, he lent his optimism, and he lent his life to his country. If a nation, as President Kennedy suggests, reveals itself by the citizens it produces, then Corporal Brosh is America at our finest. He is a patriot and a hero.

To Benjamin Brosh's parents, James and Barbara, and to all his friends and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you. I hope that, in time, your grief will be assuaged by the pride you must feel in Benjamin's service and by the honor he bestowed upon his country. This Nation will never forget him.

SERGEANT DAVID "DJ" STELMAT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Sergeant David Stelmat of Littleton, NH. On March 22, 2008, Sergeant Stelmat was tragically taken from us, along with two fellow soldiers from the North Carolina Army National Guard's 1132 Military Police Company, when his humvee encountered an improvised explosive device in Bagdad, Iraq. At only 27 years old, SGT David Stelmat, or DJ as he was known to his friends and family, will always be remembered as an adventurous, fun-loving young man who enjoyed the outdoors.

The attacks of September 11, 2001, were the worst our Nation has ever experienced. Terrorists hijacked commercial airplanes, turned them into weapons, and brutally steered them into the World Trade Center Towers in New York, the Pentagon only miles from here, and the last plane lost on a field in Pennsylvania as a result of the heroic stance of the passengers aboard. It has become part of New Hampshire lore that in the wake of this tragedy, when our Nation was looking to heal itself, DJ, a 1998 graduate of Profile High School, along with a friend, climbed to the top of the Old Man of the Mountain and placed an American flag in the iconic profile. Pictures of DJ's action quickly spread and served as a patriotic symbol of our State and our country.

Upon returning home from military service to our Nation as part of the infantry in Afghanistan, DJ attended the New Hampshire Technical Institute in his ardent desire to become an emergency medical technician. I am sure that this patriotic need to help our Nation heal after September 11 came from the same source of motivation which led to his burning desire to achieve his goal of military service as a combat medic.

In January 2006, DJ joined the New Hampshire National Guard's 237th Mili-

tary Police Company. In August of that year he completed training as a health care specialist. After receiving training, he deployed with the 1132nd Military Police Company. As a testament to his service, Sergeant Stelmat's awards include a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, Expert Rifle Weapons Qualification Badge, and an Overseas Service Bar.

My deepest sympathy, condolences and prayers go out to DJ's loved ones, especially his parents. The service and sacrifice of Sergeant Stelmat remind me of the words of another son of New Hampshire, Daniel Webster, who said, "What a man does for others, not what they do for him, gives him immortality." As combat medic, there is no doubt but that DJ put his country and his fellow soldiers before himself. For this selflessness, we are eternally grateful. May God bless U.S. Army Sergeant DJ Stelmat.

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE 265TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on April 13, 2008, America celebrated the 265th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, who first served as Vice President and then subsequently was elected as the Nation's third President in 1801. He deemed his proudest achievement to be the "Father of the University of Virginia."

As part of the national celebration, President and Mrs. Bush invited distinguished scholars and others to pay tribute to the extraordinary achievements of this great American. I was privileged to attend along with John Casteen, current president of the University of Virginia, and many other invited guests from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Given the importance of this occasion and the respectful tributes delivered by the President, the First Lady, and two eminent scholars, I wish to record this event for the American people.

#### TRIBUTE TO BARB HESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to pay tribute to a remarkable teacher who has touched the lives of countless students in Davenport, IA. Miss Barb Hess is retiring after 46 years teaching various social studies courses at Davenport Central High School.

Many of us can think back to one favorite teacher who stands out amongst all the rest; who because of a unique combination of personality and teaching skills, was able to spark an interest in a certain subject or learning in general. Miss Hess has been such a teacher