

of Monte Vista, CO, a small town in the San Luis Valley not far from my family's ranch. The close-knit community, where everyone is a neighbor, has lost a favorite son.

There was nothing, it seemed, that Glen Martinez couldn't do. In high school, he was a top student, a gifted musician, and a star athlete. He was the quarterback of the Monte Vista football team, competed for the State championship in wrestling, and led his baseball team. With college scholarship offers to choose from in all three sports, Glen accepted an academic and baseball scholarship at Ottawa University in Ottawa, KS. He graduated with a degree in mathematics in 2000, but continued his studies at Westwood College and then at the University of Colorado, in Boulder, where he took up a master's program in land surveying.

At each step, Glen earned honors, awards, and the admiration of those he met. He is remembered for his contagious smile, boundless energy, and a heart committed to service. In 2004, while living in Boulder, Glen determined he had an obligation to serve his country, and that he could contribute most by enlisting in the Marines. By donning the uniform, he joined a proud family tradition of service and followed in the footsteps of both his grandfathers, who served in World War II, and his father Ron, who was in the Air Force during the Vietnam war.

In the Marines, Glen quickly became a leader among those he served. He was a member of Combat Logistics Battalion-1, Combat Logistics Regiment-1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, out of Camp Pendleton. He rose rapidly to the rank of sergeant and, as with everything he did, earned recognition and awards for the quality of his service. He served with his wife Sgt Melissa Martinez, whom he met while training at Camp Pendleton. When Glen was killed, they were both in Al Anbar province, as part of an effort to keep the lid on the violence that once made the area among the most dangerous in Iraq.

It is hard to measure all that inspired Sergeant Martinez's service. He had a deep-rooted pride for his country and his community. He sensed an obligation to offer his talents to a cause greater than his own. And he was determined to rise to every challenge presented.

He shared what so many of our nation's great servicemembers and great leaders share—the sense, as President Woodrow Wilson described it, that “the fortunes of a nation are confided to us.”

As World War I raged in Europe, President Wilson told the 1916 class at Annapolis that meeting this “special obligation” is perilous and difficult, but it also carries the highest reward: the honor and affection of their fellow citizens.

“You are going to live your lives under the most stimulating compulsion that any man can feel,” President Wil-

son told the graduates, “the sense, not of private duty merely, but of public duty also. And then if you perform that duty, there is a reward awaiting you which is superior to any other reward in the world. That is the affectionate remembrance of your fellow men—their honor, their affection. No man could wish for more than that or find anything higher than that to strive for. . . . I wish you Godspeed, and remind you that yours is the honor of the United States.”

Sergeant Martinez answered the call of his country with the dignity and honor President Woodrow Wilson extolled. Loved and respected by those with whom he served, his optimism and leadership could lift and inspire even in the most difficult circumstances. He was an irrepressible spirit and an extraordinary professional.

Sgt Glen Martinez's achievements in life are matched only by the depth of his sacrifice—and the void he leaves behind. To Glen's family and friends, I know no words that can ease the pain you feel. I hope that in time you will find consolation in your pride in Glen's service and in the knowledge that his country and his community are eternally grateful for all that he gave. He has honored the United States, and the United States will always honor him.

SPECIALIST RONALD J. TUCKER

Mr. President, I also rise today to honor the life and service of Army Specialist Ronald J. Tucker, of Fountain, CO. Specialist Tucker was killed in Baghdad last week, at the age of 21, when a bomb exploded near his patrol. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Hood, TX.

Specialist Tucker grew up in the Pikes Peak region of Colorado and was a graduate of Fountain-Fort Carson High School. He was a hard-working, smart, good-humored young man with hopes of serving his country. In school, he devoted himself to his studies, but shared laughs and jokes with friends and teachers.

Ronald joined the Army just a few days after his 2005 graduation from high school. He trained to be a mortarman and, in 2006, was assigned to Fort Hood. He deployed earlier this year and was serving as an indirect fire infantryman in a unit that was working to calm the violence that has escalated in Baghdad over the last several weeks. Specialist Tucker worked tirelessly, courageously, and professionally to help bring calm to streets teeming with ethnic violence and to allow the Iraqi people to hope again.

Specialist Tucker followed in the footsteps of so many American soldiers who have honored their country with their service, and who General Douglas MacArthur regaled in a 1962 address to West Point soldiers for their selfless sacrifices and for their unflinching devotion to the protection of our Nation. “Duty, honor, country,” MacArthur told the young soldiers, “Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what

you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.”

These three words have been the creed of generation after generation of American soldiers. They help us understand the courage and fortitude of men like Ronald Tucker, who deployed thousands of miles from his family, lived in constant peril, and shouldered the responsibility for keeping other soldiers safe while securing a brighter future for Iraqi citizens.

Duty, honor, country. “The code which those words perpetuate,” said General MacArthur, “embraces the highest moral law and will stand the test of any ethics or philosophies ever promulgated for the things that are right and its restraints are from the things that are wrong. The soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training—sacrifice However hard the incidents of war may be, the soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country is the noblest development of mankind.”

Specialist Ronald Tucker embodied this creed: He donned the soldier's uniform at his first opportunity, he bravely entered the battlefield, and he offered and gave his life in service to his country. His is a debt we cannot repay.

To Ronald's mother Susan, his stepfather David, and to all his family and friends, I know no words that can ease the pain you are feeling. I hope that in time, however, the joy Ronald brought to all who knew him and your pride in his service will provide comfort and consolation. His country will always honor his sacrifice.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would strengthen and add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate violent crime that has occurred in our country.

On the night of April 4, 2008, a 17-year-old Black man was traveling by bus from Wilmington, DE, to New Castle, DE, when three White men engaged him in a physical altercation. David and Lloyd Walker, 27 and 23 years old respectively, were identified by witnesses and arrested, but their accomplice, known only as “Ritchie,” is still at large. According to police, the three men began to argue with the young man when he complained that they were bumping into him. When the 17-year-old man got off the bus, the three men followed and attacked him, yelling racial slurs and threatening to kill him. Police say David Walker stabbed the teen five times in the back, puncturing one of his lungs and inflicting more stab wounds on his forearm.

The three men fled the scene immediately after the stabbing. Both David and Lloyd Walker were charged with first-degree assault, possession of a deadly weapon during a felony, felony hate crime, and conspiracy.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. Federal laws intended to protect individuals from heinous and violent crimes motivated by hate are woefully inadequate. This legislation would better equip the Government to fulfill its most important obligation by providing the resources necessary to adequately investigate and prosecute violent crimes. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

WILD SKY WILDERNESS ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate a tremendous and hard-fought victory. Today, a week after this Congress approved it overwhelmingly, President Bush signed the public lands bill that includes my Wild Sky Wilderness Act. And I couldn't be more thrilled.

The path to creating the first wilderness in Washington State in more than 20 years has been long and sometimes rocky. But with the President's signature today, we have finally reached the top. Let me tell you, Mr. President, it feels great!

This wilderness designation means that over 106,000 acres of rolling hills, rushing rivers, and low-elevation forest in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest will be preserved for generations to enjoy. The bill has been the result of years of hard work by literally dozens of people in my home State of Washington who have been as passionate and excited about this bill as I have been. I could not be more proud of their hard work and enthusiasm. Even when progress seemed impossible, they never lost sight of their goal. They always believed that preserving this incredible land was possible. And this beautiful new wilderness is their reward.

When I spoke on the floor after the Wild Sky bill passed this body, I promised to return once it was signed and thank the many people who have worked so hard with me over the years to make the Wild Sky Wilderness a reality. So I want to begin by thanking Congressman RICK LARSEN. Nine years have passed since the first maps proposing this wilderness were unfurled at a meeting in my Seattle office. I have been working with Congressman LARSEN in the House for more than 7 years on the legislation. And I couldn't have asked for a better partner.

I would like to thank Chairman BINGAMAN and his staff—especially David Brooks and Bob Simon—for their help and unwavering support of Wild Sky throughout the years. I would like to thank Senator MARIA CANTWELL and

Congressman JAY INSLEE for their work in steering Wild Sky through their committees. And thank you to all of the cosponsors from the Washington delegation.

Above all, I want to thank all of the people in Washington State who worked tirelessly to turn their vision into legislation and—finally into law. The following individuals have spent countless hours to make the Wild Sky Wilderness Area a reality: Mike Town, Tom Uniack, Larry Romans, Mark Lawler, Harry Romberg, Norm Winn, Don Parks, Charlie Raines, Jon Owen, John Leary, Michael Carroll, Rick McGuire, Bill and Sue Cross, Bob Hubbard, Conway Leovy, Mark Heckert, Kem Hunter, Aaron Reardon, Peter Jackson, Michelle Ackerman, Jennifer Ekstrom, Doug Scott, Bill Arthur, Doug Walker, Nalani Askov, Dave Sommers, Jennifer Stephens, and Cynthia Wilkerson; as well as Shannon Harps and Karen Fant, whose memories will live on through Wild Sky.

And last but not least, I would like to thank the staff members who have also put their hearts and souls into this bill: John Engber, Karen Waters, Doug Clapp, Jaime Shimek, Jeff Bjornstad, Evan Schatz, Alex Glass, Pete Weissman, Matt McAlvanah, Rick Desimone, Rachelle Hein, Christy Gullion, Carrie Desmond, Jennifer Talhelm, Rita Beal, Shawn Bills, Jill McKinnie, Christian Gunter, Louis Lauter, Michael Dabbs, Kim Johnston, Brandon Hall, Amanda Mahnke, Charla Neuman, Abby Levenshush, Tracy Nagelbush, Amit Ronen, and Joel Merkel.

Those of us who live in the Northwest are truly blessed to live so close to such breathtaking natural beauty. The people of Washington State have a great respect for our amazing natural heritage and millions of people spend their weekends hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and rock-climbing in our many parks and wild lands.

The Wild Sky area is already a popular destination being enjoyed by hundreds of people from across western Washington. And today's wilderness designation means that their children and their grandchildren will be able to enjoy the land just as they do.

Today's designation is a gift to young families, lifelong outdoor enthusiasts, and everyone in between. And I am so glad to see this proposal over the finish line. Now I can't wait to lace up my tennis shoes and take those first steps into the Wild Sky Wilderness!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET AITKEN

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, Mark Twain once said: "20 years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do, than by the things you did do." Well, Mr. Twain had not met Margaret Aitken, the woman I wish to acknowledge today.

Margaret is the youngest of eight children—a born negotiator, advocate, and spirited woman who has dedicated her professional career to excellence in public service. She has served the people of Delaware and the U.S. Senate with distinction.

She began her career in the Senate as a press secretary on my staff at the young age of 27. She came to us with impeccable credentials from the county executive's team and the Department of Education. Her work ethic and energy are surpassed only by her keen wit and disarming use of humor.

Margaret's sense of justice is embedded in her character—a byproduct of her strong faith and commitment to family. Her professional constituency was well served by her 15 years in the public domain. However, Margaret recently decided that there was one constituency that needed her most of all. In August, she and her husband Chris became the proud parents of Ronan William Haggerty, and Margaret is now a full-time mom.

She understood the wisdom and the sentiment in Mark Twain's words and so—she will not be disappointed in hindsight. Margaret, a wordsmith herself, also took George Bernard Shaw to heart: "Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anyone to this country and to mankind is to bring up a family."

And so I say to you Margaret—bring up that family—in the image and likeness of the best hopes and expectations for a better world. Thank you for your service, goodness, loyalty, honor, and courage. You are a force unto yourself, and you are very appreciated.●

TRIBUTE TO VALORIA LOVELAND

• Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Valoria Loveland, who recently stepped down from her position as the director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Ms. Loveland has worked in Washington State and local governments for the past 44 years, and she has recently retired to some well-deserved relaxation in her home of Pasco, WA.

Ms. Loveland's career in government began at the Franklin County Courthouse, where she worked before and while she was the county's treasurer. In 1992, she was elected to the State senate, where she swiftly rose to become the chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and the most powerful woman in the Washington State Legislature. After 8 years in the senate, and a brief 2-year break from government, Valoria was appointed director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, where she served for the last 6 years. In her time as director, Washington's agricultural exports have risen to record highs, in large part, thanks to her leadership. Her multiple trips to China, Japan, and Mexico have extended numerous opportunities to Washington State growers, and I thank her for working towards opening those markets.