

Often these trips would keep Fred away from home during the holidays, an enormous sacrifice that I cannot begin to say how much I appreciate. Whenever we traveled, my visits to other parts of the world were always greatly enhanced knowing that Fred was at my side.

Fred is respected throughout the Senate for his outstanding work and breadth of knowledge. He has built a reputation with Senators and staff from both sides of the aisle for always being willing to take into account everyone's views and work together to reach a consensus. He is a true professional in the very best sense of the word.

I am deeply grateful to Fred's wife, Claudia, for her understanding of the marathon hours and taxing travel schedule that was so often demanded of Fred. Having been lucky enough to have gotten to know her and their two daughters, Dawn Harvey and Kelly Emery, I can only surmise that they served as an endless source of strength for him as he grappled with the tough issues facing the world today.

My entire Senate staff has been extremely fortunate to work with Fred, who was always willing to share his broad knowledge and counsel with his coworkers. When things would sometimes get hectic, Fred was a beacon of calm and stability; ready to impart the wisdom he had accumulated from his vast experience to help us all weather the storm. Many new legislative aides and fellows would find that Fred was someone they could approach whenever they needed assistance, and we have all been touched by his graciousness and sense of humor. He will always remain a treasured part of our office family, and the office will never be the same without him.

I am honored to have had Fred as a trusted advisor for all these years, and I am even prouder to call him my friend. While he will be missed immensely, my staff and I wish him happiness and health, knowing that he will be equally successful in his next endeavor. On behalf of myself, my staff, and the country, I sincerely thank Fred Downey for his many years of public service.

233RD BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to wish happy birthday to the oldest branch of our Armed Forces, the U.S. Army. Two hundred and thirty-three years ago, June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress approved the creation of a Continental Army—10 companies of riflemen, to defend American liberty. From the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan, our men and women have served with bravery, selflessness and noble purpose.

Love of their country has inspired men and women to serve a cause greater than themselves. Regard for the principles our Nation was founded on

motivates them to continue to fight and defend.

To say simply our Armed Forces have shaped history is an understatement. They have not only shaped history, they have defined America, and represented our nation's highest values . . . "Duty, Honor, Country."

Every generation of soldiers since the foundation of our country has protected our democracy and helped make the world more peaceful, secure and prosperous.

The sacrifices our soldiers have made in service to our country, and the price their families have paid are worthy of America's honor and respect. So as we celebrate the Army's 233rd birthday, we really celebrate our men and women in uniform who have given so much. Thank you.

In the Army's grandest tradition and as a proud Army veteran, I proclaim my annual Senate floor . . . "HOOAH!"

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 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 hate crime that has occurred in our country.

Last month, I came to the floor to speak about the death of Sean Kennedy of Greenville, SC. This young man was attacked outside a local bar and sustained fatal injuries. His attacker, Stephen Moller, had punched him in the face and left a message on a friend of the victim's cell phone, calling Sean a faggot and bragging that he had knocked him unconscious. Sean died 20 hours later.

Sean's mother, Elke Parker, watched as Moller pled guilty to manslaughter, for which the judge gave him a 5-year sentence. The sentence was then reduced to 3 years. For the mother of a son killed in a hate crime, this is not justice. Had the Matthew Shepard Act been signed into law before Sean's death, prosecutors would have been able to charge the defendant with a violent hate crime under the law. Additionally, the Federal Government would have been authorized to provide investigatory and prosecutorial assistance, which could have led to a sentence commensurate with the brutality of this attack.

After the trial, Elke told reporters that she would push for Federal hate crime legislation. "It may not help Sean today, but I want it to help future victims that they can be assured that there is justice. If your son or daughter is different, you need to support them for who they really need to be," she said. I was honored to speak with her about this legislation last month and

look forward to working with her as we push for its passage.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARAIS DES CYGNES MASSACRE

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, last month in Kansas, I was able to be present for the commemoration of an important, but little known, event in American history. 150 years ago, May 19, 1858, a little defile in Kansas near Mine Creek was the site of one of the incidents that led up to the Civil War; the massacre of free State settlers by proslavery men.

The Marais des Cygnes Massacre is considered the last significant act of violence in Bleeding Kansas before the final cataclysm of civil war engulfed the Nation. On May 19, 1858, 30 men led by Charles Hamilton, a southern proslavery leader, crossed into Kansas from Missouri. Once there, they captured 11 free State men, none of whom was armed and none of whom had engaged in violence. Many of them knew Hamilton and didn't suspect he meant to harm them. These prisoners were led into a defile, where Hamilton ordered them shot and fired the first bullet himself. Five men were killed.

Hamilton's gang went back to Missouri, and only one man was ever brought to justice. William Griffith of Bates County, MO, was arrested in the spring of 1863 and hanged on October 30 of that year.

The incident horrified the Nation, and inspired John Greenleaf Whittier to write a poem on the murder, "Le Marais du Cygnes," which appeared in the September 1858 Atlantic Monthly. The incident and the poem strengthened the resolve of the antislavery cause around the Nation.

In 1941 the Kansas Legislature authorized acceptance of the massacre site, including Hadsall's house, as a gift to the State from the Pleasanton Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1961 it provided funds for the restoration of the building, and in 1963 the entire property was turned over to the Kansas State Historical Society for administration. A museum was established in the upper floor of the building in 1964. The Kansas Historical Society has done great work in administering the site since 1963. Just recently Riley Albert Hinds, a young man from Pleasanton, did some work for an Eagle Scout project that was very important for the restoration of this site, and contributed greatly to the existing historical research on Marais des Cygnes.

From 1854 to 1861 Kansas was the scene of a bitter struggle to determine whether the territory should enter the Union as a free or a slave State. We

paid greatly as a Nation for the “original sin” of slavery in terms of blood and treasure, and there is still much healing that needs to take place. Part of our greatness as a Nation is our ability to acknowledge both the good parts and the bad parts of our history, and to make amends for injustices of the past.

Keeping alive our historical memory is a key to understanding ourselves as a Nation and as people. Communicating the rich history of our Nation to every generation is of the utmost importance. Knowing and learning from our history is one of the keys to maintaining a healthy, democratic society.

HONORING MY CHILDREN ON FATHER'S DAY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, though the origin of Father's Day is not clear, fathers throughout the United States are made to feel special by their children every year, on the third Sunday in June.

Sunday, June 15, marks my 24th year as Dad to Mike, Jay and Shae. And in recent years, their seven children have made me a doting granddad to boot, doubling the joy of our celebration.

Throughout these years, I have never taken a Father's Day remembrance for granted—perhaps because I adopted my children when I had the wisdom and maturity to appreciate the pure joy of having them in my life. I have treasured the handmade trinkets, the interesting ties and the simple melody of their voices greeting me on that Sunday morning every year, “Happy Father's Day, Dad! We love you.”

Father's Day always has been a time of reflection for Suzanne and me—to look back fondly on our kids' achievements and to take pride in how they handled life's disappointments. I remember Shae's first date and her first breakup, Mike's first car and Jay's first soccer game.

But nothing affected me as emotionally as my children's love and loyalty during the dark days of last August.

When I was under siege by the media, by my political opponents and even by some I thought were my friends, it was my three children who surrendered their privacy and risked being tarred by those demanding my head to take on their Dad's critics.

They were relentless in correcting the record—in television interviews and in doggedly responding to newspaper reporters' endless questions. And when I appeared before the media to respond to unspeakable accusations, my kids stood with me, looking my accusers squarely in the eye. In the privacy of our home, when I would despair, they were there to lift up their Dad.

Someone once said, “If there is anything better than to be loved, it is loving.”

No father in America is prouder of his children than I. So this Sunday, the luckiest Dad in Idaho won't be just waiting around for his annual Father's

Day calls and visits. This Father's Day, Dad is honoring the three who chose me to be their father—Shae, Mike and Jay.

I am arrogant.
I am proud.

LOSS OF LIFE DURING IOWA TORNADO

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, this Saturday, June 14, our Nation celebrates Flag Day. It was on this day 231 years ago that the Second Continental Congress officially adopted the red, white, and blue flag to serve as an icon for our newly formed Nation. Living and working in the United States, one may find it easy to overlook the prevalence of our flag—it stands atop buildings, in school yards, next to libraries, and even in our neighborhoods. President Woodrow Wilson, in recognition of the significance of our flag, set aside June 14 as a day to observe our flag and take pride in our Nation.

The first flag, commonly known as the “Betsy Ross” flag—given the name after the legend that she designed the flag—contained 13 stars and stripes to symbolize the 13 original colonies. As our Nation grew, so did the stars in the constellation, finally leaving us with the 50 stars that we all recognize today.

One of the many beautiful aspects of our flag is that it can mean different things to different folks and is even open to your own personal interpretation. For many, the flag represents freedom; for others, individual rights or justice. For some, it is a reminder of those who fought to protect all Americans' right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Our first President, George Washington, had this to say about the flag's symbolism: “We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separate it by white in stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her.”

This year, we honor our flag the day before Father's Day. In light of this, I would especially like to pay tribute to all the fathers serving in our armed forces who will be unable to celebrate with their families this weekend. I ask that we keep these brave men—whose service ensures the freedom that our flag so gallantly symbolizes—in our hearts and prayers as we celebrate Flag Day.

In closing, let me read an excerpt from a poem that is familiar to many in our country, because it has been read at countless ceremonies where American citizens are gathered. It's entitled “I am the Flag,” and it was written by Howard Schnauber:

I am the flag of the United States of America.

My name is Old Glory.
I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.
I stand watch in America's halls of justice.
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.

I stand guard with power in the world.
Look up . . . and see me.
I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.
I stand for freedom.
I am confident.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to express my heartfelt sympathies for the families of four young Boy Scouts who lost their lives, and 48 other who were injured, in a terrible storm and tornado which struck last night just across the border from Nebraska in my neighboring state of Iowa.

Josh Fennen, 13; Sam Thomsen, 13; and Ben Petrzilka, 14—all of Omaha, Nebraska—and Aaron Ellerts, 14, of Eagle Grove, IA, were on what should have been a fun-filled camping trip with their Boy Scouts of America troop in a beautiful and rugged area not far from Omaha when this terrible weather hit their campsite.

At this somber time, I would like to recognize the heroism of the Scouts who came to the aid of those injured yesterday. You have the admiration of our entire State; your heroism and courage are in the finest tradition of Scouting. As an Eagle Scout, my thoughts go out to the entire Boy Scouts of America organization—nowhere is the sense of brotherhood so deep as with this wonderful group. While it is a dark hour for the Scouts, the character, strength, and sense of duty of these brave young men will help carry them through this tragedy.

Midwesterners are accustomed to violent weather, but we will never be accustomed to the tragic loss of life it sometimes brings. My thoughts and prayers are with these young victims and their families.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

2007 SLOAN AWARD WINNERS

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I congratulate the 2007 winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, which recognizes companies that successfully have used flexibility to meet both business and employee goals.

As I did last year, I wish to draw attention to the Sloan Awards because I think these companies should be commended for their excellence in providing workplace flexibility practices which benefit both employers and employees. Achieving greater flexibility in the workplace—to maximize productivity while attracting the highest quality employees—is one of the key challenges facing American companies in the 21st century.

For 2007, businesses in the following 24 cities were eligible for recognition: Aurora, CO; Boise, ID; Brockton, MA; Chandler, AZ; Chattanooga, TN; Chicago, IL; Cincinnati, OH; Dallas, TX; Dayton, OH; Detroit, MI; Durham, NC; Houston, TX; Long Beach, CA; Long Island, NY; Melbourne-Palm Bay, FL;