

provide search and rescue. State troopers and police officers from Nebraska and Minnesota have helped the Cedar Rapids Police Department keep the city secure as the floodwaters recede and cleanup begins.

I appreciate the sacrifice and dedication these folks have made to help Iowa in its time of need.

But it does not stop there. The Iowa National Guard has deployed over 4,000 of their members across the State, providing vital manpower to assist local communities. They have used their skills and training to help meet numerous local needs. They have helped with sandbagging, shoring up levees, saving homes and businesses, and they have secured bridges and patrolled levees. They have been assisting local law enforcement with security. They have distributed clean drinking water to communities that have no running water and provided generators to those without power.

The National Guard has also provided air support via helicopters to support the assessment of damage and transportation of vital equipment. The list of needs met by our Iowa Guardsmen goes on and on, and their dedication knows no bounds.

In fact, one Iowa Guardsman, National Guard SPC Curtis L. White, had to change his wedding plans when he was deployed in support of the flood effort. He married his wife Daniele on Thursday, June 19, on the viaduct on the corner of Highway 92 and 2nd Street in Columbus Junction where he had been assisting with the flood operations. I thank him, his new wife, and his fellow Iowa National Guard soldiers and airmen for their sacrifices and compassion for their fellow Iowans.

I also thank those in the Iowa wing of the Civil Air Patrol who flew Senator HARKIN and this Senator around the State to view the impacted areas. The Civil Air Patrol also flew photo missions to examine the extent of flooding. I commend the Civil Air Patrol for their dedication.

Finally, I thank the men and women across the State who are serving in hospitals, emergency rooms, long-term care facilities, community health centers, home health agencies, and hospices. Many of these people lost their homes to flooding, and yet they still showed up at work to do the right thing. They are to be commended for those efforts.

I know these folks were on the front-line working to evacuate patients from places such as Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids as floodwaters rose. When this happened, facilities such as Saint Luke's Hospital in the same city and others nearby jumped up without hesitation to take in these displaced hospital patients.

We cannot forget the hard work and dedication of our health care professionals during this crisis, and as they are on the road to recovery. With people such as these, I have no doubt that facilities such as Mercy Medical Center will be fully operational in no time.

As the floodwaters start to recede and Iowa moves toward rebuilding, the responsibility of public safety will still be on the shoulders of our first responders. These capable men and women who serve in law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, the National Guard, and in hospitals across the State need all the resources we can provide them in this time of need. We have a responsibility to make sure they are equipped for the job and any future natural disasters we have.

That is why I led the Iowa congressional delegation in writing to Federal agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice, asking that deadlines for law enforcement and first responder grant programs be extended for communities impacted by the flooding.

Communities in Iowa should not be penalized from receiving grants because they have not had the time to hurry up and beat a deadline that does not take into consideration such natural disasters. These communities should be given special consideration for applying for grant moneys because of the extensive damage.

Programs such as the Assistance to Firefighters and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters can provide vital assistance to fire departments that were impacted by the flooding. These departments may need new equipment, radios, computers, and repairs to their fire stations. These grants can provide that assistance.

Further, programs such as the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program, called Byrne/JAG, as we all know it around here, and the Community Oriented Policing Services, and we refer to that as the COPS Program, can also provide these same types of resources to police departments in need.

Iowans will soon be facing a long process toward rebuilding. It will not be easy. However, I am proud to say that I know Iowans will be helping others to rebuild in the Iowa spirit of hard work and generosity. We in Congress are doing all we can on our end to ensure that first responders in the field have the resources they need.

So I applaud, maybe now a third or fourth time but you cannot do it too many times, these brave men and women who serve their communities and carry on the spirit of Iowa.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. 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, with the time counting postclosure.

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

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF GLORIA HUGHES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Ms. Gloria Hughes for her committed service to Nevada. Ms. Hughes will be retiring on June 30, 2008, after over three decades of service in the Mineral County Assessor's office.

Ms. Hughes began her service in 1973 as a deputy clerk. She then served as deputy assessor, senior deputy assessor, and chief deputy assessor. In 1994, she was elected to her first of four terms as assessor.

As assessor of Mineral County, Gloria has worked tirelessly to improve the quality and efficiency of her office, never losing heart when she encountered obstacles. For example, Gloria won a 12 year battle to obtain an office vehicle, which helps the staff fulfill their appraisal duties throughout rural Mineral County. Ms. Hughes' realization of this goal and others like it ensured that her office was consistently the best it could be. Indeed, the State department of taxation repeatedly gave the Mineral County Assessor's office perfect marks in every category of methods and procedures of tax assessment.

True to her nature, Ms. Hughes expresses regret that she will not be able to see all of her goals for Mineral County realized, but is optimistic that the dedicated employees she leaves behind will fulfill them when the time is right.

Gloria will be missed by her employees—whose best interests she worked for ceaselessly—and the citizens of Mineral County who were the fortunate beneficiaries of her fervent commitment to her job, her county, and her state.

I am grateful to Ms. Hughes for her service and proud to honor her and her achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BOB STOLDAL

Mr. REID. Mr President, I rise today to recognize Bob Stoldal, a legend in Nevada news and the Las Vegas community for more than 40 years. Mr. Stoldal's first experience in a news office came in 1960, working for the Las Vegas Review Journal—first as a janitor, then as a typesetter. In the next year he was hired by KLAS radio as a graveyard-shift radio disk jockey, where he was known to his listeners as Bob Free.

Over the past five decades, Mr. Stoldal has worked as a reporter, anchor, news director, and vice president of news for KLAS. He was the first ever general manager of Las Vegas One and held that position for the past 10 years.

Bob's dedication to accuracy in media content and high ethical standards in broadcast journalism have defined his career. He demands journalistic excellence and integrity from himself and those who work for him. Bob's demand for excellence has earned KLAS countless national and regional awards and recognitions.

Besides upping the ante for Nevada journalism, Bob Stoldal has impacted the field on a national level. Mr. Stoldal has been a staunch advocate for cameras in courtrooms and pioneered the charge to allow cameras in southern Nevada's courtrooms, adding a degree of public scrutiny to our legal system.

Mr. Stoldal's dedication to Las Vegas and his community extends far beyond the realm of media. Bob Stoldal has donated countless hours to the public good, working on State and local boards, commissions, and museums. He currently serves as chairman of the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society and the Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission.

As a member of the Nevada Broadcasting Hall of Fame and the longest serving employee of KLAS, Bob Stoldal is a legend in the field of journalism; his insight, dedication, and integrity will be missed by all. I wish him an enjoyable retirement and all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL LAYTON BRADLY CRASS

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of the brave lance corporal from Richmond, IN. Layton Crass, 22 years old, died on June 14, 2008, in Farah Province, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained while his unit was conducting combat operations. He was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines from Twentynine Palms, CA.

Layton graduated from Richmond High School in 2005. Outgoing and active in school, Layton also loved rollerblading, paintball, and computers. Public service was a family tradition for Layton; his father is a veteran and his brother, Donald, serves in the U.S. Marines, as well. In high school, Layton was part of the Richmond Police Youth Cadet Program and, according to his family, surprised no one when he enlisted in the Marines. It had been his ambition since he was 16 years old.

Before his deployment in Afghanistan, Layton served an 8-month tour in Iraq. Layton never wavered in his commitment to his country or to the Armed Services. His friend, Dustin Gibbs, told a local newspaper that he joined the Marines because of Layton's inspiration. Gibbs had this to say of his comrade: "He was a true friend and an extremely brave man. He had a huge heart and made quite an impact on my life and my future to come." These words illustrate the great influence

Layton had on those lucky enough to know him. His memory will live on long past his years through the many lives he touched.

Today, I join Layton's family and friends in mourning his death. Layton will forever be remembered as a son, brother, and friend to many. He is survived by his parents Donald and Lynne Shingledecker Crass; his sister Dusty Nichole Throop and her husband Nicholas; his brother Devin James Crass and his wife Megan Elizabeth; his nephew, Brenton Isaiah Throop; and his grandparents, Mary Ann and Bob Coons, Zeb and Darlene Crass and Virginia Shingledecker.

While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Layton. Today and always, Layton will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Layton's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Layton's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Layton Bradly Crass in the official record of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that Layton's family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Layton.

SOMALIA

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. Res. 541, adopted on May 21, which is a resolution designed to support humanitarian assistance in Somalia. As you know, Somalia has seen one government after another fail to deliver for the Somali people for the better part of two decades. At the same time, the situation in Somalia and the broader Horn of Africa is of great strategic importance to the

United States and of deep concern to me personally, having traveled to the region on several occasions.

I do not think that we can overestimate the scale of the humanitarian challenges facing Somalia. At least a million people were uprooted during fighting between the Transitional Federal Government and Islamic insurgents last year, and their plight has become graver because of record food prices, drought, and hyperinflation. The 250,000 Somalis in a small corridor outside Mogadishu is now considered the largest camp of internally displaced persons in the world.

The goal of the international community has been to support the formation of a viable government of national unity in Somalia to help stabilize the situation on the ground, and this resolution is designed to support this goal. Nevertheless, we should recall that the country recently faced the terrible prospect of rule by Islamic extremists and that without Ethiopia's intervention, the TFG would not have had this opportunity to bring some measure of stability to the country.

For its part, Ethiopia eliminated the threat of a Taliban-like state taking root on its eastern border and scored a major victory in the war on terrorism. And for our part, this accomplishment furthered U.S. interests by helping ensure that the Somali government did not threaten or seek to destabilize its neighbors or provide protection for terrorists that threaten the United States and its allies.

While I support the broad goal of stability for Somalia and a sustainable peace, let me be clear on an important point. No Somali government should include factions with ties to al-Qaida or al-Shabaab.

Both groups seek to undermine the stability of the TFG, which is the internationally recognized government of Somalia, through violence and intimidation. While al-Qaida's status and animosity towards the United States has been clear for a long time, we should also not underestimate the threat that al-Shabaab also poses to stability in Somalia and the entire region. Indeed, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice designated the group as a foreign terrorist organization and as a specially designated global terrorist on February 29.

In its assessment of the group's activities, the State Department explains the organization scattered leaflets on the streets of Mogadishu warning participants in last year's reconciliation conference that they intended to bomb the conference venue. Al-Shabaab promised to shoot anyone planning to attend the conference and to blow up delegates' cars and hotels. The group has claimed responsibility for shooting deputy district administrators, as well as several bombings and shootings in Mogadishu targeting Ethiopian troops and Somali government officials. In short, terrorist organizations such as al-Qaida and al-Shabaab seek to undermine the hard-fought and tenuous