

my best wishes for many future successes over the next 40 years.●

REMEMBERING MATT GARCIA

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that my friend Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and I ask our colleagues to join us today in honoring the memory of an extraordinary young man, Fairfield City councilmember Matt Garcia. Matt, a dedicated public servant, was shot in a senseless act of violence on the evening of Monday, September 1, 2008. Matt passed away on Friday, September 5, 2008. He was 22 years old.

In November 2007, Matt was elected to a 4-year term on the city council of Fairfield, CA. Just 21 years old when he was elected, Matt was the youngest councilman in Fairfield City history and one of the youngest elected officials in the State of California. With a deep sense of civic pride, Matt worked tirelessly to address Fairfield's crime rate and to develop effective gang prevention programs. In his short time on the council, Matt served with distinction and passion, earning the respect of both his colleagues on the council and the youth of his beloved city.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Long before being elected to the Fairfield City Council, Matt Garcia's ambition and dedication inspired his community to be better and to do better. Since the 6th grade, friends remember Matt telling them that one day he would become the mayor of his hometown of Fairfield. Matt attended Armijo High School, where he served as vice president of his senior class and was selected as both prom king and homecoming king.

Matt Garcia was a driven young leader who cared for his community deeply, and will be remembered by friends and colleagues as honest, passionate, and full of life. Matt served Fairfield with enthusiasm and a commitment to creating a better world. His dedication to his goals and dreams of improving his community will live on in those whose lives he touched.

Mrs. BOXER. Matt Garcia is survived by his grandmother, parents, siblings, and extended family members. Senator FEINSTEIN and I will always be grateful for Matt's example of passionate public service. Our hearts go out to Matt's family, friends, and colleagues who struggle with this incomprehensible loss.●

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ED W. FREEMAN

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on August 20, America lost one of her bravest heroes, and I am honored to say he was an Idahoan. Ed "Too Tall" W. Freeman, U.S. Army, retired, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions undertaken during the battle of Ia Drang in Vietnam in November, 1965. Recounted in the book by Joseph Galloway, "We Were Soldiers Once . . . And Young," Ed's bravery became leg-

end. American forces were heavily engaged with North Vietnamese soldiers and the medical evacuation helicopters refused to fly into the battle zone to retrieve soldiers—it was deemed too dangerous. The infantry commander asked for volunteers, and young Captain Freeman, followed by LTC Bruce Crandall, stepped forward and offered to fly, unarmed, to the battlefield to bring supplies and carry out the wounded. Ed flew 14 separate missions and his actions, literally under fire, saved life and limb of 30 soldiers—all in a landing zone that was within 100 to 200 meters of the defense perimeter set up to engage the North Vietnamese Army at close range. Many of us have been to the Vietnam Wall—that tragic list is dozens of names shorter for Ed's extraordinary valor. Imagine the children and grandchildren that are here today because he saved the life of their father or grandfather. Incidentally, Ed himself had two young boys—preschool and elementary school-aged at the time.

When he retired from the Army in 1966, Ed continued flying helicopters, this time for the U.S. Department of the Interior, conducting animal censuses, herding horses and fighting fires. In 2001, Ed was presented the Congressional Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush for his actions during the Battle of Ia Drang.

Ed was laid to rest in the Idaho State Veteran's Cemetery, a beautiful place that overlooks a vista bounded to the south by the Snake River Valley and distant mountains, to the east and west by a vast expanse of open sky, and behind to the north, by foothills rising to meet their less-weathered relatives. The wind blows with reassuring regularity, and it seems that in this western meeting place of land and sky, at once comfortingly familiar and awe-inspiring, it is indeed an appropriate place for Ed.

In a tribute written upon Ed's death, author, former war correspondent and friend Joseph Galloway said:

Too Tall Ed was 80 years old when he died in a hospital in Boise, Idaho, after long being ill with Parkinson's disease. He turned down a full dress hero's funeral in Arlington National Cemetery in favor of a hometown service and burial . . . close to the rivers he loved to fish and the mountains he flew through in his second career flying for the U.S. Forest Service . . . Now Too Tall Ed Freeman, a much larger than life-size hero . . . and a much better friend than we deserved, is gone, and we are left with too large a hole in our hearts and in our dwindling ranks.

When Ed spoke to a reporter in Idaho back in 2000, he recounted those 14 harrowing hours. He said, "That Huey helicopter was my tool, and I was trained to use it. It was capable of flying into that hell hole, and I was capable of making it do that." When asked if he was afraid he said he ate "franks and beans" and chain-smoked. "God knows how many I smoked. Till I had a blister on my tongue." When asked about why he volunteered for this dan-

gerous duty, he said: "You don't think, 'I'm going to go out and win the Medal of Honor.' You're going to win a body bag if you're not real lucky."

And, in a testament to Ed's humble nature, his comment on his heroism was simply: "I did think I possibly did a little more than was required of me. But again, I had a job to do."

It is a tremendous honor for me to pay tribute to Ed W. Freeman, and my condolences go to his wife Barbara, his sons, and their families at this difficult time.●

REMEMBERING BILL GWATNEY

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with great sadness I rise to honor a great American, a great Arkansan and my friend. Bill Gwatney, a valiant public servant, was taken from us on August 13, 2008.

Bill was my friend for many years. This included his days as an elected official in Arkansas where he served as a State senator for 10 years. He was committed to improving the State of Arkansas by taking the lead on legislative redistricting, reforming ethics rules, and encouraging economic development throughout the State. While serving in the State senate he fought against insurance companies to pass the Any Willing Provider legislation. This allowed patients more flexibility in choosing their doctors. He inspired other great leaders to lift the State and the country into a prosperous future. He worked tirelessly every day to make Arkansas a better place for his children and for children from the Delta to the Ozarks.

He became chair of our State party in 2007 and was a leader in getting the party to where it is today. His work ethic and ability to bring people together were unmatched. His personality was contagious, likable, and he was an all around wonderful person. In the days following his death, he was praised on both sides of the aisle. Bill was taken from us too soon.

I echo a comment by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe who said: "Arkansas has lost a great son, and I have lost a great friend." These words ring true to any Arkansan who had the privilege of knowing him. He believed strongly in integrity and good leadership within the State of Arkansas. His death put in perspective what he believed, that public service is about people, and with his passing Arkansas has lost one of its finest.

Bill leaves behind a wife Rebecca and children, Christian and Chase, along with two step-children, Zachary and Emily.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to the life of a great family man, business leader, and public servant, Mr. Bill Gwatney.●

COMMENDING THE CANYON LAKE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate

the Rapid City Canyon Lake All-Star Little League baseball team. The Canyon Lake All-Stars, under coaches Doug Simons, Steve Nolan, and Jeff Minnick, have the honor of being the first South Dakota team to make it to the Little League World Series, held this year in Williamsport, PA.

The Rapid City Canyon Lake All-Stars went through the Central Regional Tournament with wins over such teams as Kansas, with a final score 15-3, and Iowa, 9-8. They advanced to the Little League World Series where they played the Southeast, New England, and West teams.

These young people represented Rapid City and South Dakota in an extraordinary fashion. While the final outcome of the Little League World Series was not what these young athletes had hoped for, their hard work and sportsmanship is representative of South Dakota. I would like to give credit to the coaches, parents, supporters, though especially the dedication of these young players. The community of Rapid City will recognize the hard work and sportsmanship this team has shown during the tournament with a welcome home celebration and parade Saturday. This is a well deserved victory and the team merits acknowledgment for their extraordinary achievement.

I want to recognize Manager Doug Simons, Coach Steve Nolan, and Coach Jeff Minnick for their guidance and support to help make this year's team so successful. I also want to congratulate all of this year's team members: Logan Anderson, Cale Fierro, Tanner Hagen, Jonah Hanson, William Hendricks, Matthew Minnick, TJ Nolan, Mark Petereit, Jesse Riddle, Tanner Simons, Carter Wevik, Matthew Wilson, and Alec Winter.

Again, congratulations to the Rapid City Canyon Lake All-Stars on fighting their way to the Little League World Series.●

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that today I recognize the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, for which the reunion is being held in Rapid City, SD. The Berlin Airlift Veterans Association will be holding the reunion September 29 through October 3, 2008.

The first skirmishes of the Cold War began with the Soviet blockade of Berlin in 1948, which prevented residents of West Berlin from accessing food and fuel from outside the city indefinitely. Later deemed "the greatest humanitarian airlift in history," American, British, and French Allies supplied the 2 million residents of West Berlin with coal, food, medicine, and other supplies. Through nearly 300,000 flights, 2.5 million tons of supplies were delivered before the USSR lifted the blockade in 1949.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor those involved in the Berlin

Airlift, and their outstanding service to those in a most dire situation. The 50th anniversary reunion was held in Berlin in 1998, with President Clinton in attendance. Due to the deployment of B-29s from Ellsworth Air Force Base during the airlift, the 60th anniversary celebrations will be held in Rapid City, SD. Again, I commend the hard work and dedication of the American, British, and French pilots involved, and I am very pleased that their substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF EPIPHANY, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Epiphany, SD. After 125 years, this progressive community will have a chance to reflect on its past and future, and I congratulate the people of Epiphany for all that they have accomplished.

Dating back to the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the establishment of the Dakota Territory in 1861, and the Homestead Act of 1862, Epiphany is located in Hanson County in northeast South Dakota. The town witnessed an influx of residents after the arrival of Father William Kroeger in 1893, who was known for his medical studies and work to build the Church of Epiphany. This grand, historic landmark continues to be a beautiful and inspirational symbol of pride to the community and its residents.

Epiphany originally featured several local businesses, including the J.P. Zeihen General Store, a blacksmith, saloon, barbershop, and cream station. Today, the town claims the Coonhunter Inn, the Village Hair Design, J & H Construction, and Denis & Evie Wingen's Appliance Shop.

Epiphany commemorated its anniversary with a celebration on the weekend of August 1-3. Even 125 years after its founding, Epiphany continues to be a vibrant community. I am proud to honor the accomplishments of the people of Epiphany, and congratulate them on this impressive achievement.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCANDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that today I recognize the 100th anniversary of Scandia Lutheran Church in Centerville, SD. This anniversary holds special meaning for my family and I, as my grandfather was previously blessed to be minister of Scandia Lutheran Church.

For many years, the Scandia Lutheran Church has provided extraordinary spiritual assistance to individuals throughout the Centerville community. The church's religious leadership and commitment to education serve to inspire others, and its efforts in providing compassionate and spiritual guidance have enhanced the lives of countless South Dakotans.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor those, including my grandfather, who have made Scandia Lutheran Church what it is today. The celebration will be held September 13 and 14 with Bishop David Zellmer of the South Dakota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in attendance. Again, I commend the hard work and dedication of the pastors and congregation of Scandia Lutheran Church, and congratulate them on 100 years of worship.●

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HORIZON HEALTH CARE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I honor the board of directors and dedicated staff at Horizon Health Care on its 30th anniversary. In three decades, Horizon Health Care has been transformed into a pillar of the community by providing affordable health care to residents of rural South Dakota.

Beginning as a group of concerned citizens with hopes of providing quality, affordable health care in rural southwest South Dakota, Horizon Health Care began in 1978 as Miner-Hamlin Health Care and Tri-County Health Care. With the help of Federal funding and a steady influx of various physicians, the separate health care entities in the area finally merged in 1998, continuing their mission to serve the area. Horizon Health Care is governed by a volunteer board of directors, comprised of 16 members representing the community, with John Mengenhausen being hired as the chief executive officer in 1983.

I wish to congratulate the current and past directors and caregivers of Horizon Health Care on reaching this milestone for their business, and for their years of service to the community. Once again, I commend the individuals involved in this enterprise and am pleased to see them publicly honored.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution: