

requesting the Chinese Government to make this matter right. I am very grateful he has taken the time to come and tell us about Mr. Gao as well as this wonderful woman who is being held in Iran. I wish to compliment him for it and say that I wish to be identified with his remarks.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, another 5 months have passed, and more American troops have lost their lives overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. I wish to honor their service and sacrifice by including their names in the RECORD.

Since I last included the names of our fallen troops on November 20, 2008, the Pentagon has announced the deaths of 123 troops in Iraq and in Operation Enduring Freedom, which includes Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten and today I submit their names into the RECORD:

LCpl Ray A. Spencer II, of Ridgecrest, CA; PFC Richard A. Dewater, of Topeka, KS; CPL Francisco X. Aguila, of Bayamon, Puerto Rico; SGT Raul Moncada, of Madera, CA; SPC Michael J. Anaya, of Crestview, FL; SSG Gary L. Woods Jr., of Lebanon Junction, KY; SFC Bryan E. Hall, of Elk Grove, CA; SGT Edward W. Forrest Jr., of St. Louis, MO; CPL Jason G. Pautsch, of Davenport, IA; PFC Bryce E. Gautier, of Cypress, CA; A1C Jacob I. Ramsey, of Hesperia, CA; LCpl Blaise A. Oleski, of Holland Patent, NY; LCpl Stephen F. Dearmon, of Crossville, TN; SPC Adam M. Kuligowski, of Arlington, VA; SPC Israel Candelaria Mejias, of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico; SGT Daniel J. Beard, of Buffalo, NY; TSgt Phillip A. Myers, of Hopewell, VA; SGT Devin C. Poche, of Jacksonville, NC; LCpl Nelson M. Lantigua, of Miami, FL; LTJG Francis L. Toner IV, of Narragansett, RI; LT Florence B. Choe, of El Cajon, CA; SSG Raphael A. Futrell, of Anderson, SC; SGT Jose R. Escobedo Jr., of Albuquerque, NM; Cpl Michael W. Ouellette, of Manchester, NH; Cpl Anthony L. Williams, of Oxford, PA; LCpl Daniel J. Geary, of Rome, NY; PFC Adam J. Hardt, of Avondale, AZ; SPC Gary L. Moore, of Del City, OK; SGT Christopher P. Abeyta, of Midlothian, IL; SGT Robert M. Weinger, of Round Lake Beach, IL; SPC Norman L. Cain III, of Oregon, IL; SSgt Archie A. Taylor, of Tomball, TX; SSgt Timothy L. Bowles, of Tucson, AZ; PO1 Theophilus K. Ansong, of Bristow, VA; LCpl Patrick A. Malone, of Ocala, FL; PFC Patrick A. Devoe, II, of Auburn, NY; 1LT Daniel B. Hyde, of Modesto, CA; SPC Jessica Y. Sarandrea, of Miami, FL; SGT Jeffery A. Reed, of Chesterfield, VA; Cpl Donte J. Whitworth, of Nobelsville, IN; SGT Simone A. Robinson, of Dixmoor, IL; CPL Brian M. Connelly, of Union Beach, NJ; CPT Brian M. Bunting, of Potomac, MD; SGT Schuyler B. Patch, of Owasso, OK; SGT Scott B. Stream, of Mattoon, IL;

SGT Daniel J. Thompson, of Madison, WI; 1LT William E. Emmert, of Lincoln, TN; CPL Michael L. Mayne, of Burlington Flats, NY; CPL Michael B. Alleman, of Logan, UT; CPL Zachary R. Nordmeyer, of Indianapolis, IN; SSG Mark C. Baum, of Telford, PA; SSG Jeremy E. Bessa, of Woodridge, IL; MSG David L. Hurt, of Tucson, AZ; PFC Cwislyn K. Walter, of Honolulu, HA; SSgt Timothy P. Davis, of Aberdeen, WA; SFC Raymond J. Munden, of Mesquite, TX; SSG Daniel L. Hansen, of Tracy, CA; CPL Stephen S. Thompson, of Tulsa, OK; SSG Sean D. Diamond, of Dublin, CA; SSG Marc J. Small, of Collegeville, PA; LTC Garnet R. Derby, of Missoula, MT; SGT Joshua A. Ward, of Scottsville, KY; SPC Albert R. Jex, of Phoenix, AZ; PFC Jonathan R. Roberge, of Leominster, MA; LCpl Kevin T. Preach, of Bridgewater, MA; SSG Jason E. Burkholder, of Elda, OH; 1LT Jared W. Southworth, of Oakland, IL; SPC Christopher P. Sweet, of Kahului, HI; SGT James M. Dorsey, of Beardstown, IL; SGT Darrell L. Fernandez, of Truth or Consequences, NM; CW4 Milton E. Suggs, of Lockport, LA; CWO Phillip Windorski Jr., of Bovey, MN; CWO Matthew G. Kelley, of Cameron, MO; CWO Joshua M. Tillery, of Beaverton, OR; CWO Benjamin H. Todd, of Colville, WA; Sgt David W. Wallace III, of Sharpville, PA; Sgt Trevor J. Johnson, of Forsyth, MT; PVT Grant A. Cotting, of Corona, CA; LCpl Julian T. Brennan, of Brooklyn, NY; SGT Kyle J. Harrington, of Swansea, MA; SPC Matthew M. Pollini, of Rockland, MA; SGT Ezra Dawson, of Las Vegas, NV; SSG Carlo M. Robinson, of Lawton, OK; PFC Ricky L. Turner, of Athens, AL; SSG Roberto Andrade Jr., of Chicago, IL; SSG Joshua R. Townsend, of Solvang, CA; SrA Omar J. McKnight, of Marrero, LA; Sgt Marquis R. Porter, of Brighton, MA; LCpl Daniel R. Bennett, of Clifton, VA; PVT Sean P. McCune, of Euless, TX; SGT Joshua L. Rath, of Decatur, AL; SPC Keith E. Essary, of Dyersburg, TN; SSG Justin L. Bauer, of Loveland, CO; MAJ Brian M. Mescall, of Hopkinton, MA; SPC Joseph M. Hernandez, of Hammond, IN; SGT Jason R. Parsons, of Lenoir, NC; LCpl Jessie A. Cassada, of Hendersonville, NC; SSG Anthony D. Davis, of Daytona Beach, FL; LCpl Chadwick A. Gilliam, of Mayking, KY; LCpl Alberto Francesconi, of Bronx, NY; PFC Christopher W. Lotter, of Chester Heights, PA; PFC Benjamin B. Tollefson, of Concord, CA; SPC Tony J. Gonzales, of Newman, CA; LCpl Robert L. Johnson, of Central Point, OR; CPL Charles P. Gaffney Jr., of Phoenix, AZ; MASA Joshua D. Seitz, of Sinking Springs, PA; MAJ John P. Pryor, of Moorestown, NJ; SSG Christopher G. Smith, of Grand Rapids, MI; SPC Stephen M. Okray, of St. Clair Shores, MI; SPC Stephen G. Zapasnik, of Broken Arrow, OK; LCpl Thomas Reilly Jr., of London, KY; PFC Coleman W. Hinkefent, of Coweta, OK; SSG Jonathan W. Dean, of Henagar, AL; PVT Colman J. Meadows III, of Senoia, GA;

SSG Solomon T. Sam, of Majuro, Marshall Islands; SGT John J. Savage, of Weatherford, TX; CPT Robert J. Yllescas, of Lincoln, NE; MSG Anthony Davis, of Deerfield, FL; Capt Warren A. Frank, of Cincinnati, OH; 1LT William K. Jernigan, of Doraville, GA; SFC Miguel A. Wilson, of Bonham, TX; PVT Charles Yi Barnett, of Bel Air, MD; GySgt Marcelo R. Velasco, of Miami, FL;

We cannot forget these men and women and their sacrifice. These brave souls left behind parents, spouses, children, siblings, and friends. We want them to know the country pledges to preserve the memory of our lost soldiers who gave their lives for our country.

STAFF SERGEANT GARY LEE WOODS, JR.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of SSG Gary Lee Woods, Jr., from Shepherdsville, KY. Gary was 24 years old when he lost his life on April 10, 2009, from injuries sustained from a truck bomb that detonated near his vehicle in Mosul, Iraq. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 4th Infantry Division of Fort Carson, CO.

Today, I join Gary's family and friends in mourning his death. Gary, who was known to family and friends by his middle name, Lee, will forever be remembered as a loving husband, son, and friend to many. He is survived by his devoted wife, Christie; his father and stepmother Gary and Debbie Woods; his mother and stepfather Becky and Pat Johnson; sisters Britteny and Heather Woods and Mandy Maraman; brothers Courtney and Troy Woods and Newman and Corey Johnson; grandparents Marilyn Waters and Nancy and Charlie Ratliff; in-laws Rick and Elaine Houston; and a host of other friends and relatives.

Gary, a member of the JROTC at Bullitt Central High School, joined the Army following his graduation from high school. A gifted musician, Gary sang and played the trombone, drums, piano and guitar. He was also an accomplished athlete and a member of Bullitt's football team.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in the example Gary set as a soldier. Today and always, he will be remembered by family and friends as a true American hero, and we cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

As I search for words to do justice to this valiant fallen soldier, I recall President Abraham Lincoln's words as he addressed the families of soldiers who died at 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 we can take some measure of solace in

knowing that Gary's heroism and memory will outlive the record of the words here spoken.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Gary Lee Woods, Jr. in the RECORD of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. I pray that Gary'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 Gary.

WILDFIRE IN NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, our hearts go out to the people of North Myrtle Beach, SC, today. As you may know, North Myrtle Beach firefighters, along with firefighters from around South Carolina, are battling the worst wildfire to hit that area since 1976.

While the cause of the fire is unknown at this point, high winds have fanned the flames resulting in a total damage of nearly 15,000 acres—23 square miles. My understanding is that officials on the scene estimate that the wildfire is about 75 to 80 percent contained at this point which is good news. Ninety firefighters from eight different departments from across South Carolina are currently battling this blaze.

It is at times like these when you really appreciate the hard work that our firefighters do on our behalf. You also appreciate the dangers. I understand that last night, two of our South Carolina firefighters had to deploy their emergency fire shelters when they became surrounded by flames. Both, I am told, are unhurt.

At this point, no injuries or fatalities have been reported and we should be very thankful for that. However, many have lost their homes. Seventy homes have been destroyed with another 29 severely damaged. I expect that that number, unfortunately, will likely go up. Anyone who has ever lost a home to a fire understands the sense of terrible loss—the loss of the house they grew up in and the loss of irreplaceable family heirlooms.

I want to thank North Myrtle Beach Mayor Marilyn Hatley, the Governor, his emergency management team, the Forestry Commission, the State Fire Marshall, the State national guard, the officials of Horry County, the South Carolina Red Cross, and the others who are pitching in right now to put out this fire. My understanding is that the Red Cross has shelters open in North Myrtle Beach and is housing several hundred people tonight.

I want to applaud our firefighters for always standing ready to answer the call to action. I pray that they accomplish their mission soon and come home safely to their families. And I pray for the families who have suffered devastating losses.

STATE OF THE INDIAN NATION

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, Montana has a long history with its first citizens, the Native American Indian people that comprise my State's eight tribes. Montana's history with our tribes, like those at the Federal level, has fluctuated greatly over the years. At first treatment was shameful, characterized by war and violence. After the wars, the Federal Government engaged in neglect, by placing Indians on remote reservations and trying to forget about them. At long last, we have moved to the more progressive and enlightened policy of today—self-determination. This shift has been a long time in coming, but it is critical. Under this new policy, we appreciate tribes as sovereign units of government and work with them in that capacity to become self-sufficient through self-determination.

One of the good things Montana does on a biennial basis is ask an elected tribal chairman to address a joint session of the Montana Legislature and present a State of the Indian Nations speech. On March 10, 2009, James Steele, Jr., who is both chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation and, the recently elected Chairman of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council, addressed my former colleagues in the legislature. I found his speech to be a thoughtful call for cooperation in addressing the current economic problems we face. It was also a fascinating description of the history of State/tribal relations. I think my colleagues in Congress will appreciate, and learn from it. I therefore ask unanimous consent to have Chairman Steele's speech printed in today's RECORD.

There being no objection the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Good afternoon.

Thank you House Speaker Bob Bergren.

Thank you Senate President Robert Story.

Thank you also to Margaret Campbell, a Fort Peck Tribal member and the first Indian House Majority Floor Leader.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in this distinguished chamber and for the opportunity to speak to the leaders of Montana, who have gathered here for this State of the Tribal Nations address.

I also thank the Montana National Guard that presented the colors. You have served our Nation well in putting yourself in harms way and you continue to serve through your community service. As United States Senators John McCain and Dan Inouye—themselves both war heroes have often pointed out—American Indians have a proud tradition of serving in the military in the highest percentage of any ethnic group in the United States. We ask our Creator for Godspeed for all Americans that serve this great country in places far away and pray for their families who also make tremendous sacrifices for the freedoms we have.

May I ask Bruce Sun Child from the Chipewewa Cree Tribe to lead us in a prayer.

(Sun Child speaks in the Cree language.)

Thank you Bruce for your words of prayer.

I am pleased to introduce the Tribal Government leaders that have joined us today.

(Identifies tribal leaders by name)

Tribal leaders, I am honored to represent you today, as Chairman of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council and as Chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Honorable Governor Brian Schweitzer and Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger, thank you. Throughout your administration, you have opened the front doors of the Capitol to the Tribes and we have walked through those doors many times. We look forward to continuing our government-to-government relationship throughout the next four years.

I thank the distinguished members of the Senate and House of Representatives and in particular, the American Indian legislators of Montana:

Representative Shannon Augare, House Majority Whip

Representative Tony Belcourt

Representative, Frosty Calf Boss Ribs

Representative Carolyn Pease-Lopez

Representative David Roundstone

Senator Carol Juneau

Senator Sharon Stewart-Peregoy, and Senator Jonathan Windy Boy

We look to you for leadership and guidance as the legislative session continues.

I would also like to recognize the state-wide elected officials in attendance today Superintendent of Public Instruction, Denise Juneau, the first Indian woman to be elected to state-wide public office; Attorney General Steve Bullock; Secretary of State Linda McCulloch and State Auditor Monica Lindeen.

There are members of the Governor's cabinet present today, as well as representatives from the offices of Senator Baucus, Senator Tester, and Representative Rehberg.

I would especially like to thank and honor today Mr. Gilbert Horn, Sr. an Assiniboine of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, who, like the more storied Navajos, used the Assiniboine language with Gerald Red Elk of the Ft. Peck reservation to create a code our enemies in World War II were never able to break. At one point in the war Gilbert Horn successfully attacked a Japanese machine gun post and despite finding his uniform riddled with machine gun bullets managed to survive unscathed. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor but this humble man felt like he didn't deserve special recognition because he was only doing his job. Thank you Gilbert Horn for your service to this country.

Thank you all.

Elected leaders, tribal elders, ladies and gentlemen: On behalf of the Tribal Nations across the State of Montana, I am honored to present the State of the Tribal Nations address. My name is James Steele, Jr., and I am the Chairman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Chairman of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council.

We live in times of tremendous change, politically and economically. We have seen history made in the election of President Barack Obama and his appointments of the most diverse cabinet in the history of the nation.

And we have also lost a great leader. This past month, Crow Tribal Chairman Carl Venne passed away—a tremendous loss for the Crow Nation, Montana, and the Country. Carl was a former Chairman of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council and gave this address during the 2007 legislative session. Please let us honor the passing of this great leader, this great man, and my friend, with a moment of silence.

The Charles M. Russell painting that dominates this Chamber serves as a reminder of the historic relationship between the Tribes and those who came west to this great country. Charlie Russell recognized that the coming of Lewis and Clark had a profound impact on the Indian people, as our way of life