

Lasky, Aaron Latimer, Robert Edward Lee, Henry W. Linck, James T. Lindsey, Norman Lewis Lingley, Joseph I. Love-Fowler, Jeremy M. Loveless, Bryan C. Luckey, Bradley W. Marshall, Thomas M. Martin, Brian McElroy, Jackie L. McFarlane Jr., Patrick M. McInerney, Jacob Gerald McMillan, Philip David McNeill.

Benjamin E. Mejia, Jacob Eugene Melson, Kenneth Bruce Millhouse, Johnathon Miles Millican, Robert J. Montgomery, Trista L. Moretti, Christopher R. Moringstar, Shawn Matthew Murphy, Jason L. Norton, Toby Richard Olsen, Warren Paulsen, Joshua M. Pearce, Cody J. Phelps, William Francis Piaskowski, Heath K. Pickard, Larry Joe Plett, David Shelton Prentice, Cody A. Putman, Lloyd Steven Rainey, Daniel F. Reyes.

Stanley B. Reynolds, Andrew William Rice Jr., Floyd Whitley Richardson, Norman Franklin Ridley, Michelle R. Ring, Timothy J. Roark, Donald Robert Robison, Jessie S. Rogers, Jonathan Rojas, Donald Ray Sanders, Daniel R. Sexton, Frederick M. Simeonoff, Nicholas R. Sowinski, Donald Walter Sperl, Clifford A. Spohn III, Lance Craig Springer II, Derek T. Stenroos, Joseph A. Strong, Stephen Sutherland, William Arthur Thompson.

Douglas L. Tinsley, Chester William Troxel, Colby J. Umbrell, Joe Wayne Vanderpool, John S. Vaughan, Dustin S. Wakeman, Mark A. Wall, William Francis Walters, Shannon Weaver, Mason Douglas Whetstone, Arthur Joseph Whitney Jr., Jamie Duggan Wilson, Daniel Eugene Woodcock, Shane William Woods, James R. Worster, David Reese Young Jr.

POST-DEPLOYMENT HEALTH ASSESSMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my support for the Post-Deployment Health Assessment Act of 2009. I am pleased to join my colleague, the senior Senator from Montana, in cosponsoring this important legislation.

The Post Deployment Health Assessment Act requires the Defense Department to increase mandatory mental health screenings for military personnel who deploy to combat. This legislation is important and necessary because of the alarming increase in combat-related psychological injuries suffered by our soldiers overseas.

A RAND study in 2008 concludes that nearly 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or depression. That is nearly 300,000 returning American servicemembers. It also finds that rates of marital stress, substance abuse, and suicide are all increasing.

According to a report released earlier this year, the Army's suicide rate hit a record high last year, putting the suicide-per-capita rate higher than the national population. In the first three months of this year, there have already been 56 reported suicides in the Army. If that rate is maintained for the rest of this year, we will have another unfortunate, record-breaking year for military suicides.

Soldiers returning from deployment are already required to receive an in-person mental health assessment when they return home. The Post Deploy-

ment Health Assessment Act requires that soldiers receive an assessment from personnel trained to conduct such screenings before they deploy. That way, the screening personnel has a reference point and can monitor the soldier's progress and any serious changes that may have occurred during the soldier's deployment. The Post Deployment Health Assessment Act also requires soldiers to receive mental health assessments every six months for two years after they return from combat. The periodic assessments allow health personnel to monitor a soldier's adjustment from the combat zone back into normal society. By providing the mental health screening program called for in the Post Deployment Health Assessment Act, we will give the Defense Department an effective system for diagnosing the unseen scars that are so prevalent amongst our combat veterans.

The program proposed by this bill is based on a pilot program developed by the Montana National Guard. When I heard about it, the program made a great deal of sense to me. That unit has improved the mental health care its servicemembers receive, and it seems natural to implement such a program to benefit all of our warriors and veterans.

Since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Congress has acted to protect the physical health of the soldiers on the front lines. Congress responded to the needs of our fighting men and women by funding more body armor and reinforced vehicles. Now, we must do more to protect the mental health of our war fighters by giving them the access to mental health screenings that can help them get ahead of debilitating depression and other disorders that result from intense combat experiences.

Finally, I point out that my colleagues need look no further for support than to the veterans whom this bill will help. It has been endorsed by groups representing our brave warriors such as the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Guard Association, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard.

I urge my colleagues to support the Post-Deployment Health Assessment Act of 2009, and I look forward to its swift passage so that our soldiers and veterans can get the treatment and protection they need.

TRIBUTE TO LTC JOHN H. BURSON III, MD

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the selfless commitment to the U.S. Army Reserve and to this Nation, of a true American patriot, LTC John H. Burson III, MD.

Lieutenant Colonel Burson is a citizen of Carrollton, GA, and earned his bachelor's, medical, doctor of philosophy and doctor of medicine degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University.

During his medical career, Dr. Burson pioneered a new health care facility with outpatient surgery in Villa Rica, GA, that served as the forerunner for a new Villa Rica hospital with multiclinic services.

Later, he led and personally funded college students to visit various World War II historical sites including an extended tour of Normandy and related battlefields in order to educate America's youth about American history, especially the military. I would like to yield to my friend, Senator ISAKSON for further remarks.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for yielding and also rise in recognition of Lieutenant Colonel Burson and his incredible life story. Lieutenant Colonel Burson volunteered for reserve duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom at the age of 70 in order to relieve active-duty doctors so they could carry out other duties. To this end, he searched nationwide for military units in need of a medical doctor and even delayed the celebration of his 50th wedding anniversary for his upcoming deployment with the medical unit of the Indiana National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Burson was assigned as medical officer for the U.S. Embassy in Iraq from November 2005 to March 2006 and served as one of the doctors overseeing treatment of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. During this time, he was part of the team that successfully convinced Hussein to end his hunger strike. He did this while also performing surgery and treating patients at a nearby trauma/emergency care unit. Lieutenant Colonel Burson was 71 by the time he completed this deployment.

At such a point in life, many men and women are well into their retirements. However, after his first deployment to Iraq, Lieutenant Colonel Burson instead renewed his search for a combat arms unit in need of a doctor during the 2007 troop surge in Iraq. He served an additional deployment with an Army Reserve military police battalion from Raleigh, NC, from August 2007 to November 2007 at age 73.

Today, as we stand before you on this floor, this extraordinary American will have just returned home after his third combat deployment. At 75 years of age, he has just completed another full tour, this time in Afghanistan.

MR. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his kind observations regarding Dr. Burson's service. Lieutenant Colonel Burson illustrates the selflessness, commitment to excellence, and courage that exemplifies American character. We applaud the altruistic manner with which he has undertaken and completed each mission. Three combat tours can wear on the best of men, but Lieutenant Colonel Burson has met these challenges head on and succeeded. As long as this great Nation has men like Colonel Burson, who hold true to the values that reveal the best in us, we will remain a world leader.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DAVID D. RASLEY

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a Mr. David D. Rasley, Sr., who passed away on May 8, 2009. Mr. Rasley was a 50-year resident of Alaska. Working in the construction field, he was highly regarded in the Fairbanks labor community. He also gave tirelessly to community causes before and after his retirement. Dave was very proud of his Army service.

I have included his obituary below and ask that it be printed in the RECORD. Interior Alaskans mourn the loss of Dave Rasley and join in offering condolences to his wife of nearly 58 years, Luella, sons David, Ron and Brian and his grandchildren, Michael and Carolyn.

The information follows:

David Dale Rasley Sr. died May 8, 2009, after a long battle with cancer.

He was born on December 2, 1928, in Deer River, MN. Dave lived in Fairbanks for more than 50 years and came to Alaska for good in 1959 shortly after statehood.

Dave had come first to Alaska in 1948 with some family and friends to work on post-World War II projects in Anchorage, Kodiak and Fairbanks. He returned to Minnesota and was drafted into the Army in 1950.

Dave married his wife, Luella, June 7, 1951, in Port Townsend, WA, while he was in the Army. He loved Luella very much, and they were married for almost 58 years. He was proud of his military service and was stationed at Camp Desert Rock, NV, and participated in at least three atomic bomb tests during the early 1950s. His unit helped build some of the test facilities and participated in what are now known to be dangerous post blast tests.

Shortly after moving to Alaska in 1959, he worked on the Cold War DEW line installations at Barter Island and Clear Air Force Station. In 1961 he was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis, a rare neuromuscular disease and was told he might not survive long, or would be wheelchair-bound. He underwent experimental surgery at the University of Washington and with medication was able to function normally.

He began classes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business in 1966. He worked in the construction industry for two years, then took a job with the Operating Engineers Union Local 302 as a field agent. He eventually became the head agent for the northern region of the state and was involved in the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and related work contract agreements for IUOE Local 302 until his retirement in 1989.

Dave was also proud of his 32 years of work as a board member of the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and a past president of the board. He was involved in FMH projects such as the Denali Center, Imaging Center, Cancer Treatment Center and several general hospital expansions.

Dave and Luella were big sports fans supporting UAF hockey, men and women's basketball, volleyball, and other UAF activities. They were fixtures and season ticket holders for Gold Kings, Ice Dogs, UAF hockey teams and Fairbanks Goldpanners baseball team. Dave was a Goldpanner board member for many years and was not afraid to get involved when a volunteer was needed.

David is survived by his wife, Luella; sons, David Jr. (Beverly), Ron (Stephanie), Brian;

and by his grandchildren, Michael and Carolyn. David was a true Alaskan and will be missed.●

REMEMBERING L. WILLIAM SEIDMAN

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life of Bill Seidman who passed away last week.

Bill was a man whose love for his country was matched only by his love for his family. Bill's life is heavily marked with numerous accomplishments in both his personal and professional lives that had a profound impact on many individuals and families who knew him and on those who never knew him.

To many of my Senate colleagues, Bill will be most remembered as the man who rescued our economy during the Savings and Loan Crisis in the late 1980's. As the Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC, and head of the Resolution Trust Corporation, RTC, he faced down a national economic crisis, the likes of which had not been seen since the Great Depression, and fundamentally changed the way the government dealt with failing banks.

In that time of fear and deep economic uncertainty, Bill stood out as the leader who stood on principle, talked straight, and told it like it was. It did not always make him popular and angered those who wanted him to "toe the line." However, it earned him the trust, respect, and credibility of policymakers, government officials, financial industry officials, and millions of citizens all across America.

But there was more to Bill than his public service achievements. His accomplishments were so numerous—and his humility so great—that many of them went unnoticed. He served his country during World War II and received the Bronze Star for his service as a communications officer on a destroyer while serving in the invasion of the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He spoke very little about his service during the war, like many of his great generation.

Bill earned degrees from some of the finest institutions in the Nation—his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth, a law degree from Harvard, and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

Bill was born in Grand Rapids, MI, where he maintained strong roots throughout his life. He began his career there at his family's accounting firm, Seidman and Seidman, and became a respected member of the local business community. But his greatest contribution to Grand Rapids was his role as a principal founder of Grand Valley State University in 1960. He was named the first honorary life member of Grand Valley's board, and the university's Seidman College of Business is named after his father.

In 1962, Bill ran unsuccessfully to be Michigan's State auditor general—his only attempt at elected office. He went

on to become an economic adviser to Michigan Governor George Romney, and later joined President Gerald Ford's Administration as the Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs.

In the early 1980s, he returned to academia as dean of Arizona State University's College of Business.

These are just a few of the many things Americans may not know about Bill Seidman—and he accomplished all of this before becoming Chairman of the FDIC, establishing the RTC, and brilliantly guiding America out of the economic wilderness—the role which brought him fame.

But with all he had accomplished, Bill never stopped to rest. He went on to author two books, "Productivity—The American Advantage," with Steven Shancke, and "Full Faith and Credit," a memoir of his time at the FDIC and his role in establishing and running the RTC. President Gerald Ford hailed "Full Faith and Credit" as "a fascinating story by a straight talker. The author dramatically tells how the Federal agencies sought to confront the challenge of the banking and S&L crisis."

In recent years, already well into his eighties, Bill stayed as active as ever, working as CNBC's chief commentator, regularly contributing opinion pieces to major newspapers, serving on numerous boards, and advising top officials—and me—on the current economic crisis.

In his most recent piece, published by the Wall Street Journal on May 8, he addressed the staffing and management challenges now confronting the FDIC. In it, he drew parallels between the hurdles that current Chairman Sheila Bair faces and the obstacles he faced in getting the FDIC and the new RTC properly "staffed up" to deal with the S&L crisis nearly two decades ago.

Bill wrote "The Resolution Trust Corporation had to handle the assets from failed institutions when I ran it in the aftermath of the savings and loan crisis of 1985–1992. The RTC experience provides a useful guide for what the FDIC has to do now." Amen.

With the country again facing the same fear and uncertainty that Bill saw during his tenure at the FDIC, he provided what few others could: a brilliant and straightforward voice with years of experience, wisdom, and unquestionable integrity. The loss of his voice simply cannot be replaced.

But perhaps what was most remarkable about Bill is that for all of his brilliance, myriad accomplishments and worldwide recognition, there was a deep humility and kindness about Bill that was evident the moment you met him. Although he had the ears of presidents and the respect of the elite, he famously rode his bike to work. When asked about his accomplishments at the FDIC in a 1991 interview, he dismissed them as "primarily luck." But everyone knew better.

The passing of Bill Seidman is a loss for all of America. He dedicated his life