

2011 AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION STARS OF LIFE

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of the emergency medical services, EMS, profession all across the country who dedicate their lives to providing lifesaving health care and first responder services to people in need.

In particular, I would like to recognize the 81 EMS professionals being recognized today by the American Ambulance Association as "Stars of Life." These 81 Stars of Life will be on Capitol Hill for the next couple of days, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to take the time to meet with these exceptional individuals.

Every year, the dispatch of an ambulance is the first response to millions of medical emergencies. Often, the survival of a patient is enhanced by the prompt medical attention provided by paramedics and emergency medical technicians, EMTs, prior to the arrival at an emergency room. As a result of the selfless acts of these courageous and devoted men and women, the lives of thousands of Americans are saved each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for

their work, they deserve our outmost gratitude.

For the past 20 years, the American Ambulance Association has honored those paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers, and other ambulance service personnel who exemplify what is best about the EMS field. The American Ambulance Association has appropriately designated these individuals as "Stars of Life." Past Stars of Life have included paramedics and EMTs who were part of the rescue efforts at the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center or provided evacuation and response to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the recent flooding and storms in the South and Midwest. Of equal importance, this program also pays tribute to those ambulance service personnel whose heroic acts or community service activities may not have made the news but were just as meaningful to the people they aided. I consider myself fortunate to have met with many Vermont paramedics and EMTs over the years, and I have heard firsthand accounts of the tireless efforts that they perform on a daily basis for their communities. They are truly America's health care safety net.

One of the Stars of Life from Vermont left a lasting impression on

me. His name was Dale Long—a 2008 Stars of Life awardee. Just several weeks after I had the opportunity to meet him, Dale was killed in the line of duty as a paramedic with the Bennington Rescue Squad. Since Dale was employed by a private nonprofit agency, he was not covered by the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officer Benefit, PSOB, program—even though his agency is the 9-1-1 emergency ambulance service agency for Bennington, VT. In honor of Dale, I introduced the Dale Long Emergency Medical Services Provider Protection Act, S. 385, which would make paramedics and EMTs who work for a private nonprofit EMS agency eligible for the PSOB program. In February, the Senate unanimously approved the Dale Long Act as an amendment to the FAA reauthorization bill, and I am hopeful that the Dale Long provision will be retained in the final conference report.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the 2011 American Ambulance Association Stars of Life honorees be printed in the RECORD.

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

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	COMPANY	CITY	STATE
Daniel	Griswold	Arizona Ambulance Transport	Sierra Vista	AZ
John	Sullivan	Arizona Ambulance Transport	Sierra Vista	AZ
Michael	Atwell	American Medical Response	Victorville	CA
Michael	O'Grady	American Medical Response	San Mateo	CA
Kevin	Smith	American Medical Response	Sonoma	CA
Gary	Smotrys	American Medical Response	Palm Springs	CA
Forrest	Uhlund	American Medical Response	San Mateo	CA
Thomas	Westbrook	American Medical Response	Concord	CA
Matt	Berckefeldt	American Medical Response	Pueblo	CO
Autumn	DePolo	American Medical Response	Colorado Springs	CO
Chris	Erickson	Ute Pass Regional Ambulance District	Woodland Park	CO
Jim	Hollman	Ute Pass Regional Ambulance District	Woodland Park	CO
William	Broadbridge	Hunter's Ambulance Service	Meriden	CT
Kelly	Brunell	Hunter's Ambulance Service	Meriden	CT
Marisa	Carriveau	American Medical Response	West Hartford	CT
Katrina	Perrelli	Hunter's Ambulance Service	Meriden	CT
John	Pourciau	American Medical Response	Waterbury	CT
Jared	Yager	Hunter's Ambulance Service	Meriden	CT
Donald	Anderson	American Medical Response	Broward County	FL
Thomas	Dawickowski	Nature Coast EMS	Lecanto	FL
Marvin "Happy"	Montgomery	Mid Georgia Ambulance	Macon	GA
Tito	Villanueva	American Medical Response	Lihue	HI
Jane	Hagen	Iowa EMS Association	Urbandale	IA
Nathan	Wilzbacher	American Medical Response	Evansville	IN
Steven	Simon	Acadian Ambulance Service	Lafayette	LA
Todd	Weir	Acadian Ambulance Service	Lafayette	LA
Michelle	Borden	Action Ambulance Service	Wilmington	MA
Christopher	Borges	Cataldo Ambulance Service	Somerville	MA
Theodore	Crosby	Action Ambulance Service	Wilmington	MA
Clayton	Davis	Cataldo Ambulance Service	Somerville	MA
Kris	Keraghan	Armstrong Ambulance Service	Arlington	MA
Ann	McGrath	Armstrong Ambulance Service	Arlington	MA
Jeff	Simmons	Cataldo Ambulance Service	Somerville	MA
Angela	Spofford	Action Ambulance Service	Wilmington	MA
Martin	Tyrell	American Medical Response	Brockton	MA
Rachael	Goeman	American Medical Response	Grand Rapids	MI
Robert	Kirkland	Community EMS	Southfield	MI
Matt	Mills	LifeCare Ambulance Service	Battle Creek	MI
Erik	Olsen	Life EMS Ambulance	Grand Rapids	MI
Velvet	Whitt	Tri-Township EMS	Atlanta	MI
Tracy	Woodard	Huron Valley Ambulance	Ann Arbor	MI
Michelle	Anderson	Lakes Region EMS	North Branch	MN
Todd	Fisk	Lakes Region EMS	North Branch	MN
Brian	Murley	Mayo Clinic Medical Transport	Rochester	MN
Tommy	Walker	American Medical Response/Abbott EMS	St. Louis	MO
Derek	Poole	American Medical Response	Jackson	MS
Thomas	White	American Medical Response	Natchez	MS
Cathy	Jordan	Medic, Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte	NC
Virgil	Leggett	Medic, Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte	NC
Jamie	Stanford	Medic, Mecklenburg EMS Agency	Charlotte	NC
Marnie	Olson	North Dakota EMS Association	Bismarck	ND
Keith	Monaghan	American Medical Response	Egg Harbor Township	NJ
Jessica	Bauer	REMSA	Reno	NV
Debi	Kubiak	REMSA	Reno	NV
Leonard	Spice	American Medical Response	Las Vegas	NV
Mark	Camplese	Community Care Ambulance	Ashtabula	OH
Jason	Fellows	Community Care Ambulance	Ashtabula	OH
Shane	McKenzie	Community Ambulance Service	Zanesville	OH
Beth	Sundman	Community Care Ambulance	Ashtabula	OH
Ron	Causby	EMSA	Tulsa	OK
Mark E.	Hopping	Life EMS	Enid	OK
Mike	McWilliams	Oklahoma Ambulance Association	Muskogee	OK

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	COMPANY	CITY	STATE
Preston	White	EMSA	Tulsa	OK
Robert	Breihof, III	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro	OR
Rose	Durschmidt	Woodburn Ambulance Service	Woodburn	OR
Daren	Groff	Bay Cities Ambulance	Coos Bay	OR
Christopher	Pfingsten	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro	OR
Philip	Reid	Metro West Ambulance	Hillsboro	OR
Tracy	Schroeder	Medix Ambulance	Warrenton	OR
Monica	Stephens	Pacific West Ambulance	Newport	OR
Nicholas	Yoder	American Medical Response	Milwaukie	OR
Andy	Brijmohansingh	Global Medical Response	Santa Rosa Heights, Arima	Trinidad & Tobago
Rick	Dodd	LifeNet	Texarkana	TX
David	Macias	Life Ambulance Service	El Paso	TX
Alejandro	Munoz	Life Ambulance Service	El Paso	TX
Pablo	Rios	American Medical Response	San Antonio	TX
Bryan	Shelton	LifeNet	Texarkana	TX
William	Mapes	Regional Ambulance Service	Rutland	VT
Lawrence J.	Salisbury	Bennington Rescue Squad	Bennington	VT
Rebecca	Ainley	American Medical Response	Seattle	WA
Niccole	Gibbs	American Medical Response	Vancouver	WA

WOMEN'S PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I join my colleagues to come to the floor this afternoon and talk about tomorrow's votes on two different resolutions and to say that I am proud to join my female Senate Democratic colleagues in this effort and to speak out about this important issue.

To me the American people have sent us a clear message. They want us to focus on job creation, promoting innovation and putting Americans back to work. But instead tomorrow we will be on the Senate floor trying to defend access to health care for women. We will vote tomorrow on whether to defund Planned Parenthood, an agency that serves hundreds of thousands of people in my State on important exams such as breast examination and helping to prevent infections and various things.

And just a few weeks ago I talked about one of our constituents, a 22-year-old woman from Seattle, who was diagnosed with an abnormal growth on her cervix at Planned Parenthood and was able to receive life-saving treatment. She was uninsured, and without Planned Parenthood, she would not have been able to get that kind of treatment and certainly her health would have been in major danger in the future. I tell her story to emphasize the importance of Planned Parenthood on prevention and that they are centers of prevention for many, many women who have no other access to health care.

And so we cannot jeopardize the access to that preventive health care at a time when it is so important for us to reduce long-term costs. In fact, even in the investment area, every dollar invested in family planning and publicly funded family planning clinics saves about \$4 in Medicaid-related costs alone. So prevention of health care is good for us in saving dollars and it is certainly good for our individual constituents who have a lack of access to health care.

That is why I am so disappointed and the situation that we are having now where our colleagues are saying to us, you can get a budget deal, but you have to defund women's health care access to do so. The avoidance of a government shutdown has also brought on, I think, a challenge on the backs of women in the District of Columbia be-

cause it included a provision denying DC leaders the option of using locally raised funds to provide abortion services to low-income women.

For those who argue against big government this is a contradiction because this is a real imposition on the ability of elected officials in the District of Columbia to decide what to do with their locally raised funds. I know because I am in the Hart Building, what the Mayor and others on the council had to say about this. This is an imposition on the health services of low-income women in the District of Columbia and certainly has gone almost unnoticed in the eleventh hour. And I think sets a precedent for a dangerous slippery slope with what we are telling local governments to do.

But it is time for us to focus on our budget, living within our means, and getting back to work, but certainly not to try to do all of that on the backs of women. And it is not time to shut down access to women's health care. Republicans in the house have decided to wage war and to say women should be a bargaining chip.

Well, I think the American people have sent us a clear message. They want us to get back to work and they support Planned Parenthood and the efforts of Planned Parenthood on preventive health care and health care delivery services. A recent CNN poll showed that 65 percent of Americans polled support continued funding of Planned Parenthood.

And I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to say that these funds are used and helped in funding organizations that may be involved in doing full reproductive choice services. But I ask them to think about that issue and that logic. Where will they stop? It is Planned Parenthood today, but are they going to stop every institution in America from receiving Federal dollars?

It is illegal for Planned Parenthood to use Federal dollars for the full reproductive choice including abortion. It is illegal. You cannot use those funds. And yet the other side would like to say that this is an issue where they would like to stop Planned Parenthood today and then they will try to stop other organizations in the future.

It is time to say no to this tomorrow and to say no on trying to pull back

from the full health care funding bill at a time when we need to implement the reforms to keep costs down and to increase access for those who currently don't have access to health care and come back to the system with much more expensive health care needs in the future.

So I am very disappointed that at the eleventh hour of a budget debate that is about living within our means, about how we take the limited recovery we have had and move it forward economically, that instead we are saying we cannot move forward on a budget in a recovery until we take everything that we can away from women and access to women's health care.

We will fight this tomorrow and I am proud to be here with my colleagues to say we will be the last line of defense for women in America who are going about their busy lives right now, taking their kids to school, trying to juggle many things at home and work and they are every day as the budget people within their own homes trying to figure out how to live within their means and the national budget debate has broken to this point? We can only have a budget agreement if you defund women's full access to health care. That is wrong and we will be here tomorrow to fight this battle and speak up for women.

I just want to point out to my colleague, Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, that I remember in 1993, in the "year of the woman," when so many women got elected to Congress, it was the first time in the House of Representatives we had a woman on every single committee.

And the end result of that is we had an increase in funding for women's health research. So much of the research had been up to this point focused on men. Why? Because there wasn't anybody on the committee to speak up about how women had uniquely different health care needs and deserved to have a bigger share of funding for health care needs of women than were currently being funded.

That is what you get when you get representation and the women Senators will be here tomorrow to fight, to say that women deserve to have access to health care through Planned Parenthood and title X and, please, for those working moms who are out there juggling dealing with children and