

Ruzicka traveled alone to Afghanistan where she soon learned about incidents where U.S. bombs had missed their targets and killed civilians. The international press ran stories about those tragedies but nothing was being done to take responsibility for what had happened or help the families of the victims.

Marla decided to do something about it, and she organized protests at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, rallied the media, and not long after was in Washington urging Congress to help the families and show that the United States does not turn its back on innocent victims of our own mistakes.

It was because of Marla that we started a new program, now known as the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program, ACAP, which is managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented by the Afghan staff of the International Organization for Migration. Over the past 8 years, ACAP has provided millions of dollars in small grants to families and communities that have suffered losses as a result of the military operations. The funds have been used for such things as to rebuild a house that was damaged or destroyed, buy a herd of sheep, start a small grocery or weaving business, or provide medical care or vocational training.

After the invasion of Iraq, Marla moved on to Baghdad and, to make a long story short, again thanks to her advocacy we started a similar program there. Tragically, on April 16, 2005, she too became an innocent victim, and died, along with her Iraqi colleague Faiz Ali Salim, in a car bombing. That program is now known as the Marla Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund, and it has helped the families of thousands of innocent Iraqi victims rebuild their lives.

Earlier this week I received from USAID some descriptions of recent ACAP assistance to Afghan families. While they describe exceedingly tragic losses of innocent life, they also illustrate the difference a program like this makes and why it is so important to our larger goals in that country. I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

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

NORTHERN REGION

DAWRI RABAT VILLAGE, CHARDARA DISTRICT,
KUNDUZ

School teacher Ghulam Sakhi was shot dead during a firefight between international military forces and the Taliban. The incident happened in the village of Nahri Suf, Chardara District, in February 2010. Ghulam Sakhi was the breadwinner for his family. He left behind his wife, four daughters and five sons.

His eldest son Zabihullah is 20 years old and a student. After the death of his father, Zabihullah was forced to take responsibility for his family. He decided to leave school in search of work. He was unsure how he would be able to support his family.

ACAP provided Ghulam Sakhi's family with a livestock business, together with the

full range of standard kits, plus a livestock kit.

Zabihullah said: "After my father was killed, life was very hard for us. We asked for help from Allah. We were very happy when a worker from ACAP came to interview us and offered help. We were told we would be given help setting up our own small business. We chose a livestock business because my mother, sisters and brothers could take care of the animals, leaving me with the time to resume my education. We sell the milk from the cows to a dairy and make enough money not to be worried. Without this help, my family would find it very difficult to live. Now we can earn a living for ourselves."

WESTERN REGION

ESHAQ SULEIMAN VILLAGE, INJIL DISTRICT,
HERAT

Widow Zubaida lost her son during an air strike on her village in October 2001. A total of 26 civilians were killed and 62 injured in the incident. Fourteen families suffered serious damage to their property.

ACAP was informed of the incident several years later and recently completed a monitoring report in order to measure the impact of assistance on one widow's life.

Zubaida had received a small livestock business. Her children and grandchildren received educational lessons. ACAP also provided Zubaida with the full range of the program's standard kits, which include household goods, as well as educational, tailoring, and livestock items.

She told the ACAP monitoring assistant: "After the death of my husband in an IED explosion in late 2000, my son Abdullah was the only supporter of our family. He was running a shop and we could handle the difficulties of life. Abdullah and I were living in a small rented house happily but it did not last long.

"One year later there was a conflict in Eshaq Suleiman, where I am originally from. We were bombarded due to the presence of Taliban fighters in the area. In the morning Abdullah left the house to work but he did not come back again. After the death of Abdullah I not only lost my son but my only supporter."

She added: "I was not able to pay the rent any more so I left the house and went to live in my daughter's house. I tried to find a job. I did everything I could. I worked as a housemaid—cooking, cleaning, and washing. Life was passing with difficulties but then your colleague came to meet me six months ago.

"I received the livestock through which I now earn my living. Before I felt that I was a burden on my daughter and resting on her husband's shoulder but now I have a source of income that pays for the house expenditures. Farzanah and Khalil Ahmad, my granddaughter and son, are enjoying the education assistances of your office. They are both attending an English course. I received all the needed equipment for keeping my livestock. Receiving the assistance from ACAP has changed my life and that is why I am really grateful for this program."

Another victim of the incident whom ACAP has helped is mother-of-three Rezagul. She lost her husband in the fierce bombardment. Rezagul has two sons and one daughter. After her husband died, her eldest son Gul Ahmad, who was 13 at the time, was forced to abandon school to become the breadwinner for the family. He tried his best to continue his education in his spare time but it proved too difficult for him.

He was responsible for financially supporting his mother as well as his younger brother Basir Ahmad and sister Sima Gul. He knew that if he did not work full-time then his family would face severe hardship.

An ACAP field assistant assessed the family's requirements. A small business grant

was approved which was used to set up a grocery shop. Rezagul's daughter Sima Gul received English lessons. ACAP also provided standard kits.

Sima now helps her brother run their family grocery business. She packs the dry fruit which is sold to export companies. Rezagul told how she no longer has money worries. She said: "My husband was the only financial supporter of the family. Losing him was extremely difficult. My son did not have a fixed job." She added: "We always wanted to have a family business where my younger son and I could help in the absence of my eldest son. But we could not afford that. But we have been given that opportunity through your generosity."

NORTHERN REGION

OMARKHIL VILLAGE, ALI ABAD DISTRICT,
KUNDUZ

An ISAF air-strike on two oil tankers captured by the Taliban resulted in a high civilian death toll. It is estimated that 70 civilians were killed and dozens injured. ACAP has helped 59 families affected by the incident. One beneficiary said that assistance from ACAP helped prevent up to 600 men from joining the Taliban. The air-strikes took place in September 2009 in Kunduz province. The Taliban had hijacked two NATO oil tankers but one of the vehicles became stuck in mud at a riverbank. German forces called in air support and a U.S. Air Force F-15E was dispatched to destroy the tankers. Local villagers had flocked to the abandoned tankers in order to siphon off fuel. They were mistaken for insurgents.

One of the affected families which ACAP helped is that of widow Lailoma. When her husband was killed in the air-strike, she was left unable to financially support her five children.

Lailoma had to rely on friends' charity until ACAP stepped in. Lailoma received the full range of standard kits, which include household goods, as well as educational, tailoring, and livestock items. Lailoma decided to use her ACAP small business grant to buy a pick-up truck. She teamed up with a business partner and now the business generates enough money so that she can comfortably support her family.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise in celebration of Black History Month and to acknowledge the unique contributions of Colorado's African-American communities to my home State and our Nation.

The history of Colorado's African-American communities is long, rich and diverse; it spans from our earliest days as a territory to modern times. I think it safe to say that all Coloradans have benefited tremendously from African-American communities' hard work and dedication to continuously making Colorado a better place to live.

Last year in my remarks on Black History Month, I made special note of the diversity of settlers who moved west during the expansion of the United States. Like other settlers, African Americans moved west in search of new opportunity—some to be free, others to become entrepreneurs, traders, and leaders, but all played an active role in the formation of Colorado as a territory and then a State.

A watercolor painting hangs in my Senate office to remind me of the early

presence of African-American westerners. The painting "One of the First" by noted African-American artist and Coloradan James Wider depicts a Buffalo soldier during a snowstorm, reminiscent of a time of great hardship in our State's early history. For me, this image portrays the struggles and determination of all the people who shaped the West we know today. I am appreciative to the artist, as well as Dr. Anthony Young, the vice chairman of the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center, for allowing me the privilege to temporarily hang the painting in my office.

While this painting highlights the early presence of African-Americans in the West, it also reminds me of the countless individuals in Colorado's Black community who have served and continue to serve their communities, our State and our Nation in more contemporary times. I would like to highlight two Coloradans who reflect this influence: Dr. Evie Dennis and Rev. Milton Proby.

Dr. Evie Dennis rose in her career as a teacher to become the superintendent of Denver public schools from 1990 to 1994, when she worked to improve the education of all of Denver's schoolchildren. In 2008, Dr. Dennis was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, and she continues to work in support of communities across the State.

Rev. Milton Proby was a prominent figure during his 47 years in southern Colorado, where he proudly faced adversity in championing against inequality and injustice. The reverend served under three Colorado Governors and helped to establish Colorado's Civil Rights Commission, among many other notable achievements and awards.

People like Dr. Dennis and Reverend Proby have overcome struggle to serve—and lead—our State. Their contributions remind us of how vital African-American communities have been to our State's history, and I have no doubt that the same communities will continue to be a driving force toward a better future.

Mr. President, Black History Month is a time for all Coloradans and Americans to reflect on the contributions of African Americans to our State and throughout our great Nation. I encourage my fellow Coloradans to celebrate these contributions not only during this month but throughout the entire year.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACK LALANNE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Jack LaLanne, a fitness pioneer who inspired generations of Americans to exercise regularly and eat healthily. Mr. LaLanne passed away on January 23rd at his home in Morro Bay, CA. He was 96 years old.

Francois Henri LaLanne was born in San Francisco on September 26, 1914, and was nicknamed "Jack" by his brother. He spent his early years in Bakersfield before his family moved to Oakland.

As a child, Jack was a self-described sugar addict who had an affinity for junk food. At the age of 15, he heard a lecture on healthy living by nutritionist Paul Bragg at the Oakland Women's City Club that would change his life. Inspired by the lecture to become healthier and more fit, Jack developed a zeal for physical fitness and good nutrition that he would later pass on to millions of people in America and around the world.

In 1936, he opened the Jack LaLanne Physical Cultural Studio in downtown Oakland. Mr. LaLanne's devotion to help others adopt healthier exercise and eating habits was apparent as he would often call his clients at home to check why they had missed scheduled workouts. His reputation as a fitness enthusiast grew quickly.

In 1952, he began hosting a morning workout show on a local television station. The Jack LaLanne Show was especially appealing to children who he encouraged to exercise with their parents. The television show was eventually syndicated and ran for 34 years in the United States and Europe.

Mr. LaLanne's rise to prominence came during a time when many people doubted the benefits of regular exercise and a healthy diet. To overcome this skepticism, he participated in a series of public demonstrations to prove the positive impacts of his teachings. At age 40, he swam from Alcatraz to San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf while towing a 2,000-pound cabin cruiser. At 60, he swam the Golden Gate Channel while handcuffed and shackled and towing a 1,000-pound boat. At 70, he towed a flotilla of 70 boats for a mile in Long Beach Harbor, once again, handcuffed and shackled.

A man with an unparalleled fervor for healthy living and an appreciation for life that was an inspiration to so many over the years, Mr. LaLanne accomplished his goal of getting people of all ages and from all walks of life to adopt a more active and healthy lifestyle. He will be missed.

I send my deepest sympathies to his family, especially to his wife of 51 years Elaine, daughter Yvonne, son Jon, and stepson Dan Doyle.●

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE W. R. "BOB" HOLCOMB

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in reflecting on the life, accomplishments and service of the late W. R. "Bob" Holcomb. Mr. Holcomb was well-known as a committed civil rights activist and visionary on behalf of the city. Mr. Holcomb held the distinction of being the longest serving mayor in the city of San Bernardino's history, serving for a total of 18 years, from 1971 to 1985 and

1989 to 1993. Mr. Holcomb passed away on November 29, 2010.

Mr. Holcomb grew up in San Bernardino and attended San Bernardino High School, graduating in 1940. After high school, Mr. Holcomb continued his education at UC Berkeley. Like many others of his generation, he grew into adulthood in a military uniform. Mr. Holcomb left UC Berkeley to join the U.S. Army in 1942, serving as a bomber pilot. After the war, Mr. Holcomb married Pearl Pennington in 1946 and returned to UC Berkeley, graduating in 1949. He continued his studies on the other side of San Francisco Bay and earned his law degree from UC Hastings College of Law in 1950.

Mr. Holcomb's experiences in the military and later as an attorney helped to mature him into being the extraordinarily effective leader for the people of San Bernardino that he was. Mayor Holcomb helped further the socioeconomic progress of San Bernardino, spearheading projects such as the establishment of the city's first affirmative action office; the relocation of Little League Baseball regional headquarters to San Bernardino; the founding of California State University, San Bernardino; and forging an alliance with neighboring cities to create Omnitrans—the region's first transportation agency—to represent the area's best interest. According to longtime San Bernardino journalist Cassie McDuff, "He did what he thought was best for the city . . . and didn't care if he got credit or not."

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Mr. Holcomb's family and friends. He will be missed.●

RETIREMENT OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ROBIN SHIPLEY

• Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on the occasion of CSM Robin Shipley's retirement after 42 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army Reserve.

A native of Ogden, UT, he rose to the highest rank of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps, command sergeant major—a crowning achievement after a long distinguished career. I am most impressed in his recent role as operations sergeant major for the Joint and Special Troops Support Command.

The Joint and Special Troops Support Command only recently was activated at Fort Douglas, UT. The difficult task of activating a new command requires tremendous leadership and tireless commitment. True to the finest traditions of the United States Army and the Noncommissioned Officer Corps, Sergeant Major Shipley rose to the challenge and performed his duties in an outstanding manner. This capstone performance was a fitting end to his long remarkable career.

Accordingly, as recognition of his exemplary service, Command Sergeant Major Shipley was awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal