

Sergeant Hamburger was born in Sioux City, IA, on Memorial Day, May 25, 1981. In 1985 his family moved to Lincoln, NE, where Patrick graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School in 1999. While still attending school, Patrick chose to use his talents and serve his fellow citizens as a member of the Nebraska National Guard.

Patrick met Candie Reagan and her daughter, Veronica, in 2005. In 2008 the three of them moved to Grand Island, NE, where Patrick served as a full-time helicopter flight engineer with the 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion. In January 2009, Candie gave birth to their daughter, Payton. There is no doubt that while Patrick loved being a soldier, he loved his family more.

Patrick was less than 2 weeks into his deployment when he selflessly climbed aboard a Chinook with 29 other U.S. service members and 8 Afghans, rushing to help a band of Army Rangers pinned down by enemy fire. The helicopter was shot down in what has become the single deadliest incident for the U.S. military in this 10-year operation.

Patrick knew the dangers he faced and the risks he took. He also knew the importance of the work he did in the Army on behalf of his fellow Americans. He risked—and ultimately sacrificed—his own life so that people a world away could have the chance to enjoy the freedoms he had found in America.

Patrick is survived by his girlfriend, Candie Reagan; her daughter, Veronica Reagan; their daughter, Payton; his mother and stepfather, Joyce and DeLayne Peck of Lincoln; father and stepmother, Douglas and Shaune Hamburger of Knoxville, TN; brothers, Michael of New York, NY, and Christopher of St. Louis, MO; grandparents, Willard and Jacque Hamburger of Omaha; stepsiblings Jessica, Jeremy, and Joshua Francis of Knoxville, TN; and numerous other family members and friends.

Sergeant Patrick Hamburger made the ultimate and most valiant sacrifice in service to his country, and my condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends. His heroism and selflessness will remain an inspiration for all of us.

SERGEANT JOSHUA J. ROBINSON

Mr. President, I further rise today to honor a true American hero, SGT Joshua J. Robinson of Nebraska, who was tragically killed on August 7, 2011, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Joshua grew up on a 100-acre farm near Oak, NE, where he would spend his days hunting and tracking in the back pasture. Joshua took the skills he learned in his early years with him into the Marine Corps, where he quickly excelled and became an instructor, teaching younger marines how to track the enemy and survive in the mountains. Joshua even developed an enemy-tracking course which is believed to be the first of its kind.

Joshua deployed three times to Iraq before being sent to Afghanistan, leaving at home his wife, Rhonda, and two sons, Wyatt and Kodiak. Although he was a proud, smart, tough marine, he was first and foremost a loving father and husband.

I offer my most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Robinson. He made the ultimate and most courageous sacrifice for our Nation, and his sons will grow up knowing their father was truly a hero. I join all Americans in grieving the loss of this remarkable young man and know that Sergeant Robinson's passion for serving, his leadership, and his selflessness will remain a source of inspiration for us all.

INAUGURATION OF DR. LOBSANG SANGAY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, on August 8, 2011, in the small town of Dharamsala in northern India, a modest ceremony was held to inaugurate the new Prime Minister of the Central Tibetan Administration. The new Prime Minister's name is Dr. Lobsang Sangay, and I had the opportunity, together with some of my distinguished colleagues, to meet him last month.

Dr. Sangay assumes office at an important moment in Tibetan history. Indeed, his election marks a significant milestone in the advancement of Tibetan democracy, as His Holiness the Dalai Lama earlier this year announced his decision to devolve fully his political authority to the elected leadership, now led by Dr. Sangay.

At a time when dictators in many parts of the world have proven themselves willing to slaughter their own people rather than cede an iota of power, the decision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to surrender his political authority in favor of democracy is both inspiring and significant. It was also a wise decision that will strengthen the legitimacy of the Tibetan cause among the international community and sustain it for decades to come.

The election that brought Dr. Sangay to power involved voting by tens of thousands of Tibetans living in exile in over 30 countries, from Belgium to Bhutan. In my home State of Connecticut, nearly 100 Tibetan Americans took part in this election.

Dr. Sangay, a 43-year-old academic who holds a doctorate from Harvard Law School, was elected Prime Minister with 55 percent of the vote. Now the executive authority of the Central Tibetan Authority rests solely on his shoulders.

I came away from my conversation with Dr. Sangay deeply impressed. He is a young man of considerable intellect and accomplishment, and I am certain that he will prove to be a leader of courage and conviction. The Tibetan people have chosen wisely in electing him as their Prime Minister.

During our meeting, Dr. Sangay affirmed his commitment to the Dalai

Lama's "Middle Way Approach," which seeks genuine autonomy for Tibet, not independence, and I was encouraged by his determination to meet the challenge of finding a solution for the Tibet issue.

Unfortunately, the situation for the 6 million Tibetans living under Chinese rule today remains deeply troubling. This is a community that has never been permitted to participate in a free and fair election of the sort that just took place among Tibetans in exile. In fact, this is a community that is governed by authorities who have deemed that carrying a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or a simple photograph of his Holiness the Dalai Lama to be illegal and punishable acts. It is a community that has faced brutal repression and violence and that has, for decades, been denied their fundamental rights, including the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association.

I hope that the self-fulfillment of democratic governance exercised by Tibetan refugees can provide hope and inspiration to those in Tibet and China who yearn for the fundamental freedom to choose their own government and leaders.

While the U.S. government does not officially recognize the Central Tibetan Administration, we do work with them through a variety of programs to help Tibetan refugees. As the United States continues its outreach to civil society and nongovernmental groups, and its promotion of democracy around the world, I hope we should enhance our engagement with the Central Tibetan Administration and Dr. Sangay.

Moreover, when Lobsang Sangay returns to Washington this fall, I hope many doors will be open to him. What the Dalai Lama and his fellow Tibetan refugees have accomplished is worthy and deserving of our attention and respect.

FREEDOM IN CUBA

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following articles highlighting the resilience and strength of the Cuban people as they continue to struggle under an oppressive regime. These stories and videos which continue to surface out of Cuba have underlined the Cuban Government's inhumane actions against its people. Santa Maria Fonseca is one of these brave "Ladies in White" who continue to peacefully fight for liberty in Cuba. She explained, "Our objective is that one day the people will join us." Ms. Fonseca and the Cuban people deserve our unyielding support in their courageous efforts to reclaim freedom in Cuba.

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

[From the Wall Street Journal, Aug. 29, 2011]

CASTRO VS. THE LADIES IN WHITE

(By Mary Anastasia O'Grady)

Rocks and iron bars were the weapons of choice in a government assault on a handful of unarmed women on the outskirts of Santiago de Cuba on the afternoon of Aug. 7. According to a report issued by the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the beatings were savage and "caused them injuries, some considerable."

It was not an isolated incident. In the past two months, attacks on peaceful women dissidents, organized by the state security apparatus, have escalated. Most notable is the intensity with which the regime is moving to try to crush the core group known as the Ladies in White.

This is not without risk to the regime, should the international community decide to pay attention and apply pressure on the white-elite regime the way it did in opposition to apartheid in South Africa. But the decision to take that risk suggests that the 52-year-old dictatorship in Havana is feeling increasingly insecure. The legendary bearded macho men of the "revolution," informed by the trial of a caged Hosni Mubarak in an Egyptian courtroom, apparently are terrified by the quiet, prayerful, nonviolent courage of little more than 100 women. No totalitarian regime can shrug off the fearless audacity these ladies display, or the signs that their boldness is spreading.

The Castro brothers' goons are learning that they will not be easily intimidated. Take, for example, what happened that same Aug. 7 morning in Santiago: The women, dressed in white and carrying flowers, had gathered after Sunday Mass at the cathedral for a silent procession to protest the regime's incarceration of political prisoners. Castro supporters and state security officials, "armed with sticks and other blunt objects," according to FIDH, assaulted the group both physically and verbally. The ladies were then dragged aboard a bus, taken outside the city and dropped off on the side of a highway.

Some of them regrouped and ventured out again in the afternoon, this time to hold a public vigil for their cause. That's when they were met by another Castro onslaught. On the same day thugs set upon the homes of former political prisoner José Daniel Ferrer and another activist. Six people, including Mr. Ferrer's wife and daughter, were sent to the hospital with contusions and broken bones, according to FIDH.

The Ladies in White first came on the scene in the aftermath of the infamous March 2003 crackdown in which 75 independent journalists and librarians, writers and democracy advocates were rounded up and handed prison sentences of six to 28 years. The wives, mothers and sisters of some of them began a simple act of protest. On Sundays they would gather at the Havana Cathedral for Mass and afterward they would march carrying gladiolas in a silent call for the prisoners' release.

In 2005, the Ladies in White won Europe's prestigious Sakharov prize for their courage. Cellphones that caught the regime's brutality against them on video helped get their story out. By 2010, they had so embarrassed the dictatorship internationally that a deal was struck to deport their imprisoned loved ones along with their family to Spain.

But some prisoners refused the deal and some of the ladies stayed in Cuba. Others joined them, calling themselves "Ladies in Support." The group continued its processions following Sunday Mass in Havana, and women on the eastern end of the island established the same practice in Santiago.

Laura Pollan, whose husband refused to take the offer of exile in Spain and was later

released from prison, is a key member of the group. She and her cohorts have vowed to continue their activism as long as even one political prisoner remains jailed. Last week I spoke with her by phone in Havana, and she told me that when the regime agreed to release all of the 75, "it thought that the Ladies in White would disappear. Yet the opposite happened. Sympathizers have been joining up. There are now 82 ladies in Havana and 34 in Santiago de Cuba." She said that the paramilitary mobs have the goal of creating fear in order to keep the group from growing. But the movement is spreading to other parts of the country, places where every Sunday there are now marches.

This explains the terror that has rained down on the group in Santiago and surrounding suburbs on successive Sundays since July and on other members in Havana as recently as Aug. 18.

Last Tuesday, when four women dressed in black took to the steps of the capitol building in Havana chanting "freedom," a Castro bully tried to remove them. Amazingly, the large crowd watching shouted for him to leave them alone. Eventually uniformed agents carried them off. But the incident, caught on video, is evidence of a new chapter in Cuban history, and it is being written by women. How it ends may depend heavily on whether the international community supports them or simply shields its eyes from their torment.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Aug. 26, 2011]

ON CUBA'S CAPITOL STEPS

The four Cuban women who took to the steps of the capitol in Havana last week chanting "liberty" for 40 minutes weren't exactly rebel forces. But you wouldn't know that by the way the Castro regime reacted. A video of the event shows uniformed state security forcibly dragging the women to waiting patrol cars. They must have represented a threat to the regime because they were interrogated and detained until the following day.

The regime's bigger problem may be the crowd that gathered to watch. In a rare moment of dissent in that public square, the crowd booed, hissed and insulted the agents who were sent to remove the women.

One of the four women, Sara Marta Fonseca, gave a telephone interview to the online newspaper *Diario de Cuba*, based in Spain, as she made her way home after being freed. Ms. Fonseca, who is a member of the Rosa Parks Feminist Movement for Civil Rights, said that the group was demanding "that the government cease the repression against the Ladies in White, against the opposition and against the Cuban people in general." The Ladies in White are dissidents who demand the release of all political prisoners.

Yet as Ms. Fonseca explained, the group wasn't really addressing the government. "Our objective is that one day the people will join us," she said. "Realistically we do not have the strength and the power to defeat the dictatorship. The strength and the power are to be found in the unity of the people. In this we put all our faith, in that this people will cross the barrier of fear and join the opposition to reclaim freedom."

Ms. Fonseca said her group chose the capitol because the area is crowded with locals and tourists and they wanted to "draw attention to the people of Cuba." In the end, she said that they were satisfied with the results because she heard the crowd crying "abuser, leave them alone, they are peaceful and they are telling the truth." This reaction, the seasoned dissident said, "was greater" than in the past. "I am very happy because in spite of being beaten and dragged we

could see that the people were ready to join us."

For 52 years the Cuban dictatorship has held power through fear. The poverty, isolation, broken families and lost dreams of two generations of Cubans have persisted because the regime made dissent far too dangerous. If that fear dissipates, the regime would collapse. Which is why four women on the capitol steps had to be gagged.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LAUREL SENIOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the world champion Laurel Senior League Softball team, led by manager Brad Lee, and by coaches Bo Collins and Kevin Green. By winning the Senior League Softball World Series, the young women on the team demonstrated that success comes from hard work, perseverance, and teamwork, with the help of dedicated coaching and the support of community, parents, and fans.

This spring when the softball season opened, more than 2.5 million girls around the world dreamed of winning the Senior League Softball World Series. Among them were 14 girls from the town of Laurel in Sussex County, DE, who—after suffering a heart-breaking loss in the 2010 championship game—vowed that 2011 would be their year. And that is exactly what happened.

The players are Alison Pusey, Alexis Hudson, Logan Green, Sara Jo Whaley, Whitney Toadvine, Emily Pusey, Regan Green, Erin Johnson, Kortney Lee, Kristen Collins, Nicole Ullman, Alyssa Givens, Bethany Wheatley, and Bree Venables. Led by manager Brad Lee and coaches Bo Collins and Kevin Green, these young women worked hard all season to improve their hitting, fielding, pitching, and base running.

In its 38th year, the Senior League Softball Little League division for girls ages 14 to 16 is a worldwide tournament with teams traveling to compete from as far away as Italy and the Philippines. The Senior League Softball World Series has been held for 8 years in Sussex County, DE. As the host, Delaware's top team gets a berth in the tournament, and Laurel has captured that spot 7 of the past 8 years.

While the Laurel girls have served as excellent hosts and ambassadors for Delaware and for the United States of America during those 7 years, they fell just short of the championship year after year.

The championship title almost slipped again from Laurel's grasp—not once, but twice—during the 2011 tournament. In two of the playoff games, the team came from behind in the bottom of the final inning to win. While the championship game proved to be a pitching match, clearly the many hours of practice at the plate paid off.

On August 13, under the threat of rain, 16-year-old Logan Green took the