

a cross-country train trip to live with their unwelcoming grandparents in California. By her early teens, she had to leave their home and begin working as a nanny.

Dorothy worked as a secretary in Chicago before marrying Hugh Rodham and raising their three children: Hillary, Hugh, and Tony. Throughout her life, Mrs. Rodham worked hard to ensure that her children and grandchildren had the opportunities she had been denied.

Dorothy and I shared a great joy—our grandson Zachary. I saw first-hand what a wonderful influence she was for Zach, always there for him in every way. She was that way for all her grandchildren, including her first remarkable grandchild—Chelsea.

When Hillary Rodham Clinton was asked who inspired her to succeed in public life, she credited the women's movement and Dorothy Rodham, "who never got a chance to go to college, who had a very difficult childhood, but who gave me a belief that I could do whatever I set my mind to."

Dorothy Rodham was an extraordinary woman—strong, compassionate and loving. She will be sorely missed by her loved ones, by her friends, and by the American people.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL LARRY GENE BAILEY II

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of one of Illinois' most heroic sons, LCpl Larry Gene Bailey II of Zion. Lance Corporal Bailey joined the Marines in October 2007, and like his father, a Vietnam Veteran, he too wanted to serve his country. His parents and his country are very proud of his service and sacrifice.

On June 23, 2011 in Helmand province, Lance Corporal Bailey ran to a rooftop to provide cover for his unit under heavy fire. An improvised explosive device took both of his legs and one of his arms. This young man's will to live and recover are an inspiration to us all.

With the support of his parents Mary and Larry, he has made great strides in his recovery. This Veterans Day, our nation owes a great debt of gratitude to families like the Baileys, whose service to our nation continues to preserve our American way of life.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a poem penned in honor of Lance Corporal Bailey by Albert Caswell.

MAKE MY FATHER PROUD

IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO LANCE CORPORAL LARRY GENE BAILEY II. LIMA CO. 3/4 BATTALION 7TH MARINES DIVISION THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

A son is born . . .
Out of a love so very warm . . .
His dad, an American hero . . . who for our Nation so wore the uniform . . .
As day after day, a love built up . . . that which time could not so take away, or so harm!
Until, like father like son . . . He too, would serve his country tis of thee one!
As a United States Marine, all in those most magnificent shades of green!

For in his heart, he so wanted to be . . . just like his Dad . . . his father he!
His Dad, in the Navy, so served in Vietnam aboard a submarine . . .
But, his fine son Larry . . . Hooo . . . rah!
Became a United States Marine!
And they have better uniforms Dad, all in his most heroic shades of green!
And oh what a striking figure he'd so cast . . .
As this quiet hero, stood tall . . . and so did all that they so asked!
As into the face of hell, as Lance Corporal Bailey II . . . so stood fast!
So strong, with combat ribbons on his chest!
As he so wanted, to make his Father proud!
When, on that fateful day . . .
As a IED, almost took his fine life away . . .
As this mountain of a man, so lost his arm and both of his legs . . .
So close to death, as when this quiet hero's courage would so crest!
As his new battle began on that day, but To Be The Best!
As this quiet hero, so courageously so wiped all of those tears away!
And his Father with tears in his eyes, and mother too upon their knees for his son so prayed!
As this hero from Zion, his Father's son . . . got up that day!
And ran all with his heart of courage full, and so made his way!
A way of hope and courage, to so show us all! what faith in hearts can so nourish!
For he is his Father's son, and Mother's child . . .
as over the years so much from them he had so learned!
But, now the tides have changed . . . as now its his Father, who so calls out his name!
As he so wants to be, just like his son . . . you see!
As now, he is the one who so makes his Father proud . . .
and like his son wants to be!
As to our nation, and our hearts . . . his Strength In Honor so speaks!
As one of The Illini's, most courageous of all sons!
This American Hero, his Father's Son!
For some people are put on this earth, to so Teach us all in their great worth!
To so make us all so very proud!
To show us all, where faith and honor so lives now!
And how a Father's and Mother's love, can so raise a splendid child so how!
That's right Marine, you make us all so proud!
As we watch you and your fine heart and soul, so rebuild so now . . .
As to one and all, your most magnificent heart speaks so loud!
Because, Marine's don't cry or pout!
Because, Marines they get things done . . . as they move up and out!
And if ever I have a son Larry,
I wish he could make me half as proud, as you've made your parents my son!
Because this Marine from Zion, even makes his fellow Marines cheer Hoo rah . . . so now!
So keep you heard up my son,
Because your Father is so Proud of you for all that you've done!
And so too is our Lord, who'll one day up in Heaven with you he will run!
Moments, upon this earth . . . are all we have! To make a difference with it all!
To change the world! To go off with hearts of courage full, as so unfurled!
As it's you Larry, who so makes us all so proud . . .
Above us all, Lance Corporal Bailey . . . you stand so tall!

TRIBUTE TO GERARD AND LILO LEEDS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friends Gerry and Lilo Leeds for their passionate commitment to improving the Nation's education system and helping all students reach their maximum potential.

Gerard and Lilo Leeds arrived in the United States after fleeing Germany in 1939 with virtually no money. But armed with their education, they eventually became successful entrepreneurs. In time, they built and then sold a sizable media corporation and have devoted their lives to ensuring that all students have access to an excellent education.

Initially, the Leeds founded the nonpartisan Institute for Student Achievement an organization that works in low-income middle and high schools to improve student achievement for at-risk youth. They were major supporters of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, a coalition of concerned parents and education advocates working to reform New York State's school finance system. The Leeds also established the nonpartisan Caroline and Sigmund Schott Foundation an organization that works on early childhood education and care, gender equity, and education financing issues.

However, Gerry and Lilo Leeds did not stop there. After seeing the Institute for Student Achievement boost graduation rates in low-performing schools up as high as 90 percent, they founded the nonpartisan Alliance for Excellent Education in 2001 to singularly focus on advancing public policy to decrease dropout rates and prepare all students to succeed at the postsecondary level. The Alliance for Excellent Education has advocated on behalf of secondary school youth now for over 10 years thanks to the leadership and support of the Leeds family.

Mr. and Mrs. Leeds have worked to improve the education of students from every background, location, and age. Lilo Leeds has made education for students in less affluent communities, universal early education, and the advancement of women the focus of her work. She is also the co-founder of the Great Neck/Manhasset Community Child Care partnership. Gerry Leeds is the co-founder of the National Academy for Excellent Teacher, NAFET at Teachers College, Columbia University. Together, they are recipients of humanitarian awards from the Urban League, NAACP, New York State United Teachers Association, and the American Jewish Committee. They were listed by Newsday in the top 100 people who have shaped the century, an amazing feat especially considering the obstacles they both had to overcome.

This couple has provided countless opportunities for children to succeed. I believe they have been so committed to this cause in part because they see themselves in children who have to overcome tremendous obstacles to thrive. Fundamentally, the Leeds feel a

responsibility to act to improve the world around them; and their actions have made a difference for the Nation's students.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Gerry and Lilo for their contributions and dedication to young people all across this country.

OPEN BURN PITS REGISTRY ACT

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, President Obama recently announced that our long war and military involvement in Iraq would be coming to a close.

For nearly a decade, our armed forces served honorably in Iraq and got the job done. While I opposed the Iraq war from the beginning, my commitment to our troops and our veterans has been resolute. We must always remain mindful of the sacrifice and the obligations we hold to every veteran.

It is because of those obligations that I rise today to speak about the hidden wounds facing the veterans of the Iraq and Afghan wars. These wounds were not caused by insurgents or terrorists, but by exposure to environmental pollution caused by our own open air burn pits.

Open air burn pits were widely used at forward operating bases, where disposing of trash and other debris was a major challenge, and the solution that was chosen had serious medical and environmental risks. Pits of waste were set on fire and they would turn the sky black. At this and other bases, disposing of trash and other debris was a major challenge, a challenge which was solved using a method fraught with medical and environmental risks.

Over 10 acres of land at Joint Base Balad in Iraq were used for burning toxic debris. This is a base, that at the height of its operations, hosted approximately 25,000 military, civilian and coalition personnel. Among the toxic soup released into the atmosphere from Balad were particulates from plastics and Styrofoam, metal, chemicals from paints and solvents, petroleum and lubricants, jet fuel and unexploded ordinance, medical and other dangerous waste—all in the air and being inhaled into the lungs of service members.

Air samples at Joint Base Balad turned up some nasty stuff: Particulate matter—chemicals that form from the incomplete burning of coal, oil and gas, garbage, or other organic substances; volatile organic compounds such as acetone and benzene. Benzene is known to cause leukemia and dioxins which are associated with Agent Orange.

Our veterans have slowly begun to raise the alarm as they learn why, after returning home, they are short of breath, or experiencing headaches or other symptoms, and in some cases developing cancer. Many other independent organizations have also urged action on this issue, including the American Lung Association which has stated:

Emissions from burning waste contain fine particulate matter, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds and various irritant gases such as nitrogen oxides that can scar the lungs.

The organizations have called on the VA and Defense Department to begin to monitor our troops and veterans who have been exposed.

Last week I added my voice to that call. The Open Burn Pits Registry Act of 2011 will give the VA the tools to help our veterans who are suffering as a result of their exposure. Establishing an open burn pit registry for those who may have been exposed is just a preliminary step. A public information campaign, to help bring veterans forward, will also be required. Once veterans are identified in the registry, they will be able to receive information about significant developments associated with their exposure. Furthermore, the identification of affected veterans could help improve the VA's ability to treat and understand the causes of these veterans' ailments.

As was noted this week, the Institute of Medicine released a report which concluded that while there was not conclusive evidence of a link between burn pits and medical ailments, that there was insufficient evidence to rule out a link as well. An online summary of the report stated a recommendation that:

a study be conducted that would evaluate the health status of service members from their time of deployment to Joint Base Balad over many years to determine their incidence of chronic diseases, including cancers, that tend to not show up for decades.

This registry will help our medical and scientific experts better analyze who was exposed and who is suffering. In New Mexico, veterans have begun to come forward about their medical conditions. Some, like MSG Jessey Baca, a member of the New Mexico Air National Guard who was stationed in Balad, Iraq, are facing serious ailments such as cancer and chronic bronchiolitis. It is stories like Master Sergeant Baca's which have motivated me to take action on this issue and I urge my colleagues to hear the stories of veterans like him in all 50 States.

The Open Burn Pits Registry Act has bipartisan and bicameral support. In the House, Representative AKIN, a Republican, is sponsoring this important piece of legislation with a strong bipartisan group. On the Senate side I would like to thank my colleagues who are also addressing this important issue facing our veterans. Senator CORKER and I, who is the Republican lead, have been joined by Senators MCCASKILL, BINGAMAN, SCHUMER, ALEXANDER, and BILL NELSON, who have all signed on to lead this charge as original cosponsors. In addition, Senator WYDEN has also indicated that he will join as a cosponsor. I thank them for being champions for our veterans suffering from these hidden wounds, and I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MUSIC IN JOPLIN, MISSOURI

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I want to spotlight a generous act that will help a school and a community recover from a terrible natural disaster.

Joplin, MO, was devastated this past May by the worst tornado to strike the United States in 60 years. This horrific storm cut a 6-mile swath through Joplin, killing 162 people and destroying more than 8,000 buildings, including thousands of homes and many of the city's schools.

The people of Joplin have worked heroically to rebuild their community. At the end of August, students returned to school. Thanks to donations from people across America and around the world, every student received a backpack with school supplies and a new laptop computer.

Barry Manilow saw one need that had not been met: Among the countless losses in the tornado were all the musical instruments used by students in the band at Joplin High School and other city schools.

Last month, Barry arrived in Joplin with three truckloads of instruments, worth about \$300,000. He presented the donation personally on the football field at Joplin High. Barry noted that his own high school music program in Brooklyn, NY, had nurtured his talent and opened the way for his amazing musical career.

Barry Manilow's gift to Joplin was tremendous but not unique for him. Through his nonprofit Manilow Music Project, Barry has helped public schools across the country to survive despite drastic cuts to school funding for the arts. He not only writes the songs; he also writes checks that enable school music programs to keep bringing the gift of music to our students, schools, and communities.

I salute Barry Manilow today and am deeply moved by his act of kindness. It brings me great pride to call him not only a Californian, but also a friend.●

REMEMBERING PAT TAKASUGI

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Idaho State Representative Pat Takasugi. I join his family and friends in mourning the passing of this great Idahoan.

Pat's efforts and input on behalf of Idaho agriculture were indispensable. He had the experience and association through his role as the director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and a number of agricultural organizations and the on-the-ground knowledge of an innovative farmer that were instrumental in improving agricultural policy. His advocacy for Idaho agriculture advanced its position in domestic and foreign markets, and he leaves behind a legacy of skilled support.

We are all better for having known Pat Takasugi. His intelligence, humility and dedication were exemplary. He