

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT MICHAEL E. RISTAU

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to the life and service of SGT Michael E. Ristau, a native of Cascade, IA. He was killed on July 13, 2012 in Qalat, Zabul Province, Afghanistan while serving his country as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He leaves behind his wife, Elizabeth, two sons, Hyle and Bradley, his parents, Randy and Suzanne, and many other family and friends. My prayers go out to them as they grieve his loss.

By all accounts, he was a brave soldier who was proud of serving his country. He had a long list of awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, with Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, with Bronze Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal, with two Bronze Service Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

Our Nation is truly blessed to have patriots like Sergeant Ristau who volunteered to serve their country, prepared to endure the daily sacrifices of a deployment and the horrors of combat, and knowing that they could make the ultimate sacrifice. About his military service, his family said, "Michael had a passion for the military and was going to re-enlist." They also said that "Michael was always looking out for others and helping them in any way possible." There is certainly no more selfless act than to give one's life to ensure that others may live in freedom. We cannot hope to ever fully repay the debt we owe Michael Ristau, but as he joins the illustrious ranks of our fallen patriots from the birth of our Nation to the present day, we have an obligation to honor his life and his sacrifice. We must always remember heroes like Michael Ristau and never take for granted the gift of liberty they have won for us.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING KENNETH SAAVEDRA, JR.

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, for a few minutes, let us recall a young patriot, a military veteran, and a Connecticut son who tragically passed away on July 15, 2012. His name was Kenneth Saavedra, Jr. He was just 29 years old.

Kenneth was born in Bridgeport, CT and lived in Shelton for most of his life. He graduated from Shelton High School and the University of Connecticut. Kenneth was an electrician and worked for Sikorsky Aircraft.

But I speak about Kenneth today because of another job a different distinc-

tion that he held for a number of years: sergeant in the U.S. Army.

Kenneth Saavedra, Jr., served with the Army's 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, including two tours of duty in Afghanistan, and served with the National Guard for almost 10 years.

Kenneth was an American patriot. He selflessly dedicated his life to serving his country and never asked what he would receive in return. And after he came home from two tours in Afghanistan, he continued to stay active in veterans' causes as vice chair of the Teamsters Veterans Caucus Connecticut Chapter 1 and an avid supporter of the Wounded Heroes Fund.

This Saturday, Kenneth will be laid to rest in the Connecticut Veterans' Cemetery in Rocky Hill with full military honors. We owe a debt of gratitude to Kenneth Saavedra, Jr., and to military men and women like him who have risked everything to protect our Nation, and served and sacrificed, often at great cost to themselves. We must keep faith with them and make sure that we leave no veteran behind.

I want to offer my sincere condolences to Kenneth's parents, Evelyn and Kenneth Sr., as well as to his many family members and friends who are mourning his loss.●

GARDEN CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of Garden City, SD. Located in northeastern Clark County, Garden City is a proud small town, known for potato farming.

The townsite of Garden City was established in 1882 on 40 acres of land donated by Clarence Hayward, an early resident. Hayward was known as the father of the town because of his steadfast dedication to the well-being and improvement of Garden City. It is said that were it not for his aggressive advocacy, Garden City would not be a town.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad was built in the town in 1887, bringing with it great prosperity. At that time, R.S. Carpenter donated a 40-acre parcel of land located just south of Garden City to the town. His wife is credited with naming the town, an honor granted to her by the railroad workers who were impressed by her hospitality. She had a love of flowers and saw parallels between the townsite and the Garden of Eden.

The year 1887 was important in the early history of Garden City. Besides the establishment of the railroad, 1887 was when the first buildings were constructed. There was a grocery store and hardware business built by William Morise and Charley Edwards, as well as a post office and a railroad depot. In following years, many business and civic organizations popped up to serve the growing population.

In the 20th century, Garden City earned notoriety for being a center of

potato farming in South Dakota. Commercial potato farming first arrived around 1908, and by the 1940s, Garden City farms were yielding half a million bushels of potatoes each year.

Residents of Garden City plan to celebrate their town's 125th anniversary with a day full of activities for the whole family. Festivities will begin with a tractor parade, followed by a pork loin dinner, bean bag and horseshoe tournaments, and musical entertainment, all held in the park. At the Opera House, numerous mementos and antiques will be on display to showcase the rich history of Garden City.

Garden City was founded by a determined group of pioneers, who fought hard for the preservation and advancement of their town. This legacy is evident to this day in the can-do spirit of its residents. I congratulate Garden City on reaching this historic milestone and wish them the best in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT J. VACCA

• Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Vincent J. Vacca, a veteran of the first Gulf War. Vince, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say thank you for your service to this nation. It is my honor to share the story of Vince Vacca's service in Operation Desert Storm, because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

Vince was born in New York but grew up in Libby, MT. When he was just a junior in high school, Vince decided to join the Navy headed to boot camp right after he graduated. On his first deployment, he was stationed on the U.S.S. Sylvania as an electrician's mate.

Vince served in Operation Desert Storm from 1990 to 1991. He separated from the Navy in May of 1992 but re-enlisted in the Armed Services, this time in the U.S. Army in December of 1992.

In the Army, Vince graduated third in his class as a fire direction specialist in field artillery. Vince served in the Army until 1999. After his service, Vincent Vacca never received the medals he earned from either the Army or the Navy. Vince recently received his Army medals but couldn't get his Navy medals.

Earlier this month, in the presence of his family, it was my honor to finally present to Vince: the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze stars, and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon. I also had the honor of presenting to Vince, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, based in Kuwait, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one bronze star, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal, based in Saudi Arabia.

These seven decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful Nation.●

LANDSAT SATELLITE PROGRAM

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I wish to recognize and commemorate the Landsat satellite program on the 40th anniversary of the launch of the first Landsat satellite. While perhaps not as well known as some of our other satellite programs, the Landsat satellites are nevertheless wildly successful and critically important to scientific research and policymaking.

On September 21, 1966, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall announced the commencement of Project EROS—Earth Resources Observation Satellites. The goal of Project EROS was to create a program responsible for mapping the characteristics of the surface of the Earth, thereby helping us better understand Earth's natural resources and changing climate.

In the years following, the Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Geological Survey and partnering with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, established the EROS Program, and on July 23, 1972, launched the first Landsat satellite responsible for Earth surface imaging. Over the last 40 years the United States launched six more Landsat satellites, ensuring continuous observation and creating a national archive of natural resource information. The next Landsat is scheduled to be launched in 2013.

Today Landsat is crucial, not only to environmental research and study, but to national policy and decisionmakers at all levels. Landsat collects data from across the United States from the forests of Washington and Oregon, to the changing wetlands and waterways of coastal Louisiana. It also collects data globally, mapping, for example, the arid regions of Saudi Arabia and Mexico and the shrinking Aral Sea and Lake Chad. Using the information gathered by these satellites, researchers are able to catalogue and compare changes in the land due to urbanization, deforestation, population growth, climate change, and natural disasters. This kind of analysis is critically important to local governments, farmers and ranchers, land managers, and many other decisionmakers.

For example, my home State of Colorado has been deeply affected by wildfires this year. Drought, climate change, and fire suppression have combined to make this one of the most destructive wildfire seasons in Colorado history. Landsat satellites collect data measuring water consumption by plants, bark beetle infestation, forest health, fuel loads, and even environmental recovery data from these damaging fires. Given this information, we can better combat wildfires both on the front lines and through our decisions here in Washington.

Not only does Landsat data benefit Colorado decisionmakers, but the satellites themselves have a strong Colorado pedigree. Ball Aerospace, located in Boulder, CO, is a key contributor to

the development and progress of the Landsat program. Ball developed and constructed several vital components of the Landsat mission, most notably the Operational Land Imager, which allows for detailed imaging and a complete scan of the entire globe every 16 days.

I want to congratulate all those who have been associated with the Landsat legacy over the past 40 years on fulfilling Secretary Udall's vision so ably. Their tireless dedication has been a true benefit to all Americans and the world. •

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13536 ON APRIL 12, 2010 WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE JULY 20, 2012—PM 58

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") taking additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010 (E.O. 13536).

In E.O. 13536, I found that the deterioration of the security situation and the persistence of violence in Somalia, and acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, which have repeatedly been the subject of United Nations Security Council resolutions, and violations of the arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 733 of January 23, 1992, and elaborated upon and amended by subsequent resolutions, constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. To address that threat, E.O. 13536 blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to E.O. 13536 or determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet criteria specified in E.O. 13536.

In view of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2036 of February 22, 2012, and Resolution 2002 of July 29, 2011, I am issuing the order to take additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in E.O. 13536 and to address exports of charcoal from Somalia, which generate significant revenue for al-Shabaab; the misappropriation of Somali public assets; and certain acts of violence committed against civilians in Somalia, all of which contribute to the deterioration of the security situation and the persistence of violence in Somalia.

The order prohibits the importation into the United States, directly or indirectly, of charcoal from Somalia. It also amends the designation criteria specified in E.O. 13536. As amended by the order, E.O. 13536 provides for the designation of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to:

Have engaged in acts that directly or indirectly threaten the peace, security, or stability of Somalia, including but not limited to: Acts that threaten the Djibouti Agreement of August 18, 2008, or the political process; acts that threaten the Transitional Federal Institutions or future Somali governing institutions, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), or other future international peacekeeping operations related to Somalia; or acts to misappropriate Somali public assets;

Have obstructed the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Somalia, or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in Somalia;

Have directly or indirectly supplied, sold or transferred to Somalia, or to have been the recipient in the territory of Somalia of, arms or any related materiel, or any technical advice, training, or assistance, including financing and financial assistance, related to military activities;

Be responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, or to have participated in, the commission of acts of violence targeting civilians in Somalia, including killing and maiming, sexual and gender-based violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, taking hostages, and forced displacement;

Be a political or military leader recruiting or using children in armed conflict in Somalia;

Have engaged, directly or indirectly, in the import or export of charcoal from Somalia on or after February 22, 2012;

Have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical or technical support for, or goods or services in support of, the activities described above or any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13536; or

Be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13536.

The designation criteria will be applied in accordance with applicable Federal law including, where appropriate, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. In view of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2002 of July 29, 2011, persons who engage in non-local commerce via al-Shabaab-controlled ports that constitutes support for a person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13536 may be subject to designation pursuant to E.O. 13536, as amended by the order.